

Dagang Bridge

- OWritten by Huang Da-wei
- ©English translation by Hou Ya-ting
- OPhotos by Huang Jing-wen

agang Bridge is located in Yancheng District and was officially opened to the public this July. Constructed by Taiwan International Ports Corporation Ltd. Dagang Bridge connects Pier-2 Art Center with Peng-lai Harbor Commercial District. It has become the city's most attractive new landmark.

Before the bridge was built, pedestrians had to walk a kilometer from Pier-2 Art Center to Peng-lai Harbor Commercial District. However, with the

construction of the bridge, it is now only a three-minute (110-meter) walk. Dagang Bridge is the first pedestrians only swing bridge in Taiwan. It rotates approximately 90 degrees, to allow boats through and then rotates back for pedestrians. It is open every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and rotates once a day at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. It also has an observation deck, which provides panoramic views of the port. It is situated in close proximity to Kaohsiung's Light Rail's Dayi Pier-2





Station, at the heart of Pier-2 on Dayi Street. Since the bridge is designated for pedestrians only, cyclists must walk their bicycles across.

Pier-2 Art Center is one of Taiwan's most prominent heritage sites. It was built to support small creative and cultural businesses that now operate out of beautifully renovated old warehouses. There are also several exhibition spaces, where visitors can enjoy cultural activities year round.

Nearby Pier-2 is Penglai Commercial Port area, which was developed by Taiwan International Ports Corporation Ltd., as an initiative to promote the area as a recreational and commercial district. From 1949 to 2018, Penglai Commercial Port area was a controlled access, military zone that was devoted to defending Kaohsiung. In December 2018, it was rezoned to become a commercial district. Now visitors can stroll from piers 1 to 10. Its two most popular sites are Kao Port Park and the KW2 Mall. Kao Port Park encompasses





14,256 square meters and has 50 million plants, which gives visitors the feeling of walking through a tropical garden. The KW2 Mall was constructed out of Kaohsiung Port Warehouse No. 2 (aka Jhan-2 Warehouse) and offers unobstructed ocean views, numerous restaurants, and shops that sell cultural and artistic products.

Preserving the Pheasant-tailed Jacanas around Meinong Lake OWritten by Winnie OEnglish translation by Hou Ya-ting OPhotos by Carter

The Executive Yuan's Council of Agriculture has listed Pheasant-tailed jacanas as rare and valuable wild animals. They can be identified by their pronounced elongated tail feathers; from autumn to winter, they migrate to Meinong Lake and its surrounding wetlands. Pheasant-tailed jacanas are a polyandrous breed; therefore, females usually have multiple male partners. They usually mate between April and September. Although the females lay the eggs, it is the male birds that are responsible for hatching and caring for the young.

Retired couple Liou Siao-shen and Huang Shu-mei have been watching the Pheasant-tailed jacanas around the lake for many years. In January 2017, they began renting the wetlands around the lake to preserve the birds' habitat and make sure they had a safe place to breed. The couple then enlisted volunteers and together they worked on a soil preservation project while planting 1,500 floating water chestnuts.

That year the Pheasant-tailed jacanas successfully hatched two young. This greatly encouraged the volunteers, and the couple increased their work in spreading awareness about endangered birds. This year, they hope to inform more people about the jacanas in the Meinong area and increase participation in their preservation projects. Mr. Liou Siao-shen has also begun fund raising. He hopes to increase wetland preservation and create an even safer habitat for the birds.

Since June, volunteers have observed





female Pheasant-tailed jacanas standing on the floating water chestnuts while searching for food. They have also recorded ten infant jacanas peeking out from under male jacanas' wings. The volunteers were thrilled to see that jacanas were beginning to thrive again in the region. Mr. Jhong Yi-sin, Chairperson of Pheasant-tailed jacanas Meinong Preservation Society, was glad that volunteers had been observing and recording more jacanas and Ms. Huang Shu-mei also felt very relieved that larger populations of jacanas were coming back.

The Pheasant-tailed Jacanas Preservation Society has now planted many aquatic plants around Meinong Lake and its surrounding wetlands, including Euryale ferox (prickly water lily), wild lotus and water chestnuts. Due to

these efforts, more frogs and Chinese strip-necked turtles have also come back to the region. Dragonfly larvae, damselflies, and dragonflies are also gradually increasing. This is all due to the society's efforts in preserving the environment and making sure there is an abundancy of food.

The Pheasant-tailed jacanas preservation society has been leading in the efforts to preserve jacanas' habitat in Meinong. Kaohsiung Wild Bird Society has also been joining these efforts by working on wetland adoption and preservation projects. They too hope to increase the numbers of Pheasant-tailed jacanas. Thanks to these preservation projects, Meinong's wetlands now flourish with aquatic plants and wildlife.



Chen Yi-jin: Dough-Figurine Folk Artist

- Written by Chen Ting-fang
- ©English translation by Hou Ya-ting
- OPhotos by Zeng Sin-yao
- OPhotos courtesy of Ying-Ming Junior High School



Dough-figurine vendors who sold colorful figurines inspired by classic novels, mythological creatures, or even cartoon characters, were a common sight on Taiwan's streets as recently as the 1980s. Today, it is almost impossible to find a dough-figurine vendor.

Mr. Chen Yi-jin is a dough-figurine folk artist who has been teaching students how to make dough figurines for the past 27 years. He has taught at elementary, junior high, and senior high schools in

Kaohsiung, including Yingming Junior High School, where he has been leading workshops for the entire 27-year period.

According to legend, Mr. Chen says, Kongming — a famous politician and military strategist during China's Eastern Han Dynasty — invented dough figurines. When Kongming's soldiers were going to cross a river, demons in the water pushed the tide higher, trapping the army. In response, Kongming ordered his men to sculpt



human faces using glutinous rice. These were filled with beef or mutton, then thrown into the river as offerings.

The day after the sacrifice was made, Kongming led his soldiers to the water's edge. The river was calm and tranquil, flowing gently, and his army was able to cross it safely.

Mr. Chen began learning dough-figurine skills while attending a temple's summer camp. He stresses the importance of modeling and accurate proportions, while expressing gratitude that — before he ever tried his hand at dough figurines — he had the opportunity to take basic art classes which introduced these skills.

In addition to applying every doughfigurine technique in existence, Mr. Chen has invented specialist tools to help him with his art.

Mr. Chen has made figurines of the main characters in Journey to the West, a 16th-century Chinese novel, such as Sun Wu-kong (also known as the Monkey King) and Zhu Bajie (who is part human, part pig). Thanks to his craftmanship, his figurines look

animated. Mr. Chen can even create oillike landscape paintings via the pitching flour technique.

Mr. Chen's students are fond of creating figurines inspired by cartoon characters, and he praises the way they interpret modern culture in order to come up with new faces for traditional dough figurines.

When Mr. Chen teaches the art of dough figurines, he insists on conducting demonstrations using traditional materials, which are made of glutinous rice flour. He teaches his students how to make their own dough.

In the past, traditional dough figurines were edible, because they were made of rice flour. Nowadays, certain additives are mixed into the dough to prevent mildew and cracking. What is more, resin clay in various colors is easy to find in stores. Mr. Chen, who will soon turn 70, did not take any shortcuts when learning and promoting this traditional folk craft, and his passion for dough-figurine artistry has never dimmed.



Wushanding Mud Volcano Nature Reserve

Written by Huang Da-wei, Chen Ting-fang

- ©English translation by Hou Ya-ting
- OPhotos by Hou Ya-ting

Wushanding Mud Volcano Nature Reserve covers 3.88 hectares in Kaohsiung's Yanchao District. Known for its unique mud volcano scenery and desolate beauty, this fragile landscape has been a conservation zone administered by the central government's Council of Agriculture since 1992.

The reserve currently has five volcanoes. The tallest and most active one is a dome-shaped mud-spewing vent. It displays constant geothermal activity, with mud bubbling and oozing out. Three other small ridge-shaped



volcanoes can be found in close proximity to the tallest volcano, while the oldest volcano on the site is now extinct.

The height of these five mud volcanoes varies. When standing next to the most active one, visitors can hear an extraterrestrial gurgling sound. Wushanding Mud Volcano Nature



Reserve offers a variety of beguiling landforms created by mudflows, including dried flows and small craters.

The moving mud is a captivating sight. It oozes slowly, then gradually solidifies, resulting in cracked beds of clay-like mud. The surface is constantly changing its texture, revealing the beauty of nature. Wushanding Mud Volcano Nature Reserve is, indeed, a living landscape.

Due to the high level of salinity in the mud, the land around the volcanoes has a barren appearance. Nonetheless, within the nature reserve, various types of tree have been planted, among them mahogany and Formosan date palm, creating an ecologically diverse environment. Within this woodland, after rain, it is sometimes possible to spot White-lipped tree frogs. Between mid-May and the end of June, visitors can see rhinoceros beetles. Barbets and Crested serpent eagles are commonly seen avian species.

Wushanding Mud Volcano Nature Reserve relies on visitors to behave correctly so as to preserve the mud volcanoes and the entire site. Outsiders should take care to not damage anything when visiting the reserve. Yuanjiao



Cultural Association, a local group promoting conservation of the local environment, offers guides on site from 9 am to 4 pm every Saturday and Sunday. Yuanjiao Cultural Association hopes to cultivate awareness of these remarkable mud volcanoes. Mr. Chen Shih-wen, the association's chairperson, points out that entry is restricted during wet weather because the ground can become wet and slippery.



While in the area, sightseers should also visit Sun Valley, which is known for its magnificent badlands. The dramatic ridges and gullies are very different to the lush countryside that is common in Taiwan. It is said that the layers of mud which created Sun Valley contain magnesia and sulfate, hence the valley's shimmering silvery color when the moon is full.

Wushanding Mud Volcano Nature Reserve

No. 183-8, Shenshuei Sec., Jinshan Village, Yanchao Dist., Kaohsiung City

Visiting hours: 9 am to 5pm

Note: Visitors are requested to fill a form on arrival before entering the nature reserve; please bring an identification card/resident certificate/passport so that staff at the entrance gate can verify the information on the form.

Eighteen Arhats Mountain Nature Reserve

- Written by Chen Ting-fang
- ©English translation by Hou Ya-ting
- OPhotos by Zeng Sin-yao
- ©Photos courtesy of Eighteen Arhats Mountain Cultural Association

ighteen Arhats Mountain is Liouguei district's most famous landmark. The shape of Eighteen Arhats Mountain resembles the eighteen disciples of Buddha. Laonong River runs alongside Eighteen Arhats Mountain.

The Eighteen Arhats Mountain Nature Reserve has a long history that goes back to Japanese colonialism, which lasted in Taiwan from 1895 to 1945. From 1927 to 1937, five tunnels were constructed to facilitate Liouguei's lucrative camphor logging industry. In 1943, a sixth tunnel was completed. In 1990, the Forestry Bureau turned the Eighteen Arhats Mountain and its tunnels (which were now no longer in use) into a 193-hectare nature reserve. The region has an amazing variety of flora, including the Ania hookeriana, Common Lophatherum, Auatic Panic Grass, and Capparis floribunda.









Ms. Jhong Cai-niang is a tour guide that knows the region very well. She is an expert at presenting the area's spectacular scenery and the Eighteen Arhats Mountain Nature Reserve. She explains that there are actually more than forty mountains, with some of the most interesting topography that includes a U-shaped valley and a dry ravine.

She also gives tours of the disused tunnels that she says are always cool, even during the hot summers. Inside the tunnel are gravel stones typical of the local geology. She also explained how many years of rains had created calcite rocks that have rings similar to trees. For approximately twenty years, no one visited the tunnels so pacific swallows,

bats, and other species have set up habitats in the fourth, fifth and sixth tunnels. Ms. Jhong Cai-niang asks visitors to respect nature and remain silent when visiting the tunnels.

Eighteen Arhats Mountain Nature Reserve is definitely worth a visit. However, the nature reserve can only be entered accompanied by a guide. Applications for tours must be made at least five days before. Visitors can apply for permits online at https://pa.forest.gov.tw/ and book a guide by calling 0905-635-652. Tours only offered in Mandarin, Taiwanese and Hakkanese. They cost NT\$1600 for any number of participants (with a maximum of fifteen).





大港橋

- ◎文/黄大為
- ◎翻訳/新垣李加子
- ◎撮影/黄敬文





雄港で今年7月に開通した「大港 「一」橋」は、台湾港務公司により建設された、台湾初の旋回橋だ。駁二芸術特区 と蓬莱商港区をつなぎ、両エリア間で歩 行者の行き来が可能になった。旋回橋は 決まった時間に旋回して船を通らせた後、 再び元どおりの橋へと戻る。現在、高雄 の新たな観光スポットとして注目を浴びて いる。

大港橋がつなぐのは、高雄ライトレールの駁二大義駅を中心とした駁二芸術特区と、その対岸にある蓬莱商港区である。駁二芸術特区から蓬莱商港区までの距離は1キロメートル以上あるが、大港橋

の長さはたったの110メートル。大港橋の 開通によって、徒歩3分で対岸に着ける ようになったのだ。

駁二芸術特区は台湾を代表するカルチャースポットの一つだが、その中心が 駁二倉庫群だ。一年中様々な展覧会が 行われているほか、アートギャラリーや ショップ、飲食店が集まっており、高雄市 でも人気のエリアとなっている。

観光客で賑わう駁二芸術特区に比べ、 その対岸の蓬莱商港区は知る人ぞ知る 「穴場」だ。台湾港務公司は、この蓬莱商 港区が高雄港エリアにおける観光の休憩 やショッピングの空間として発展する可能 性を示している。蓬莱商港区は1949年か らおよそ70年間、港の安全を守るために 政府によって管理区に指定されていたが、 2018年12月に解除された。現在では台湾 港務公司により蓬莱商港区の1~10番埠 頭が開放され、観光客が埠頭を自由に行 き来できるようになっている。蓬莱商港区 の目玉は「高雄水花園」と「棧貳庫KW2」 だ。高雄水花園は、高雄の熱帯の気候を 生かした庭園で、4.300坪の敷地に 5.000万本もの植物が植えられている。市 街地にありながら自然を味わえる貴重な 場所だ。一方、棧貳庫は商業エリアと壮 大な海の景色が合わさった場所で、アー トギャラリーやショップ、飲食店が集まる 多種多様な空間である。

大港橋は午前8時から午後10時まで通ることができる。毎日午後3時に橋が開く様子が見られ、金曜日から日曜日には、ほかの日より一回多く開く。また、橋に設置された展望台からは、高雄の風景を眺めることができる。









十洪烯

高雄ライトレール「駁二大義」駅(塩埕区駁二特区、大 義街路口)近く

注意:大港橋は歩道のみです。自転車で渡る場合は、 押して歩くようにしてください。

美濃湖 水鳥の保護増殖活動

- ◎文/Winnie
- ◎翻訳/新垣李加子
- ◎撮影/Carter
- ◎写真提供/「美濃湖レンカク生息地」 ボランティア・鄭智仁

ンカク(蓮鶴)は、政府により第二級希少貴重保護動物に指定されている水鳥だ。鮮やかな長い尻尾を持し、レンカクは、秋や冬になると高雄市美濃区の美濃湖に飛んできて冬を越す。定年退職し、セカンドライフを送る劉孝伸さん・黄淑玫さん夫妻は、美しいが数の少ないレンカクを見て、レンカクが美濃湖にあるだけでなく、そこで繁殖できるようにする方法を考えた。2017年1月、二人は美濃湖そばの湿地を借りて、レンカクの住みかを作ったのだ。

レンカクの繁殖期は、4月から9月の間にあたる。レンカクは一妻多夫型の鳥で、雌鳥が数羽の雄鳥と交配して産卵する。雄鳥が卵を温めてヒナを育てている間、雌鳥はほかの雄鳥と交配し、産卵するのだ。

夫妻は湿地を借りたあと地ならしをし、 レンカクの繁殖期が訪れる前に1,500もの



ヒシの苗を植えた。幸いにも、一年目に すぐ繁殖が成功し、2つの卵が産み落と された。

今年、劉孝伸さんは「美濃湖レンカク生息地」の保全活動のため、初めてクラウド・ファンディングを行った。より多くの人にレンカクについて知ってもらい、その生息地保全活動に関わってもらうことが目











的だ。保全活動では、ボランティアの存在が不可欠となる。今年6月、美濃湖レンカク生息地のボランティアたちがレンカクを観察していると、湖面で雌鳥が水草のるき集めていた頃、巣では雄鳥が見鳥が見いるを集めていた頃、巣では雄鳥が見鳥が見いるその姿を見て、ボランティアたちがしているその姿を見て、ボランティアたちによると、彼らはレンカクの観察とおいぶんのはよると、彼らはレンカクの観察とおいるととでも癒されると、は、レンカクを見ているととても癒されるとは、レンカクを見ているととても癒されると話す。

美濃湖レンカク生息地には、ヒシのほかにもオニバスや野蓮といった水生植物の苗が植えられ、カエル、ハナガメといった水生動物やヤゴ、トンボ、イトトンボといった昆虫も増えてきた。このような環境は、レンカクのえさ探しを助け、彼らの住みかを守ることにもつながっている。現在、10羽のレンカクが、雄鳥のもとですくすくと育っている。

「美濃湖レンカク生息地」のボランティアたちの指揮のもと、高雄鳥会もレンカクの保護活動に協力している。この活動を通して、美濃湖の豊かな水生植物の環境が作り上げられることが期待されている。



練り粉人形「捏麵人」師 陳義進

- ◎文/陳婷芳
- ◎撮影/曽信耀
- ◎翻訳/新垣李加子
- ◎写真提供/英明中学校

1980年代、台湾の町では「捏麵人(練り粉人形)」の行商人がよく見かけた。 色鮮やかな捏麵人に子どもたちは心を奪われ、夢中になったものだった。ほどなく、捏麵人が町で見られることはほとんどなくなったが、現在捏麵人を広める活動を精力的に行っている人がいる。七十代の捏麵人師・陳義進さんだ。陳さんは高雄市の小中高校を回り、各校の捏麵人クラブで指導を行ってきた。その中でも、英明中学校は陳さんが最も長く関わっている学



校で、活動を始めて二十七年にもなる。

陳さんは語る。捏麵人を発明したのは、 三国時代、才知に長けた政治家であった 諸葛孔明だと言われている。孔明が軍を 率いて川を渡ろうとしたとき、妖怪が出現 して祟りを起こし、大波が渦巻いて渡ることができなくなった。すると孔明はもち米







で人形を作らせ、牛肉と羊肉を包み、それを捧げものとして川の中に投げ込んだ。 翌日川のそばに来ると、昨日の大波が嘘 のように静まっており、川を越えることが できたという。

陳さんは、お寺の主催していたサマーキャンプで捏麵人の技術を学んだ。捏麵人作りに重要なのは、人形の形状やバランスであるが、陳さんは以前学んだ美術の基礎をもとに、それらの技術を磨いて捏麵人を作り出すのだ。その中には、誰もが知っている中国明代の物語・西路記の孫悟空や猪八戒などのキャラクターもいる。練り粉を駆使して作られた人形たちはどれも今にも動き出しそうなほど生き生きとしており、また油彩の風景画のように鮮やかでもある。また、捏麵人は伝統



工芸であるが、陳さんは新しいタイプの 捏麵人も受け入れてきた。児童や生徒た ちが見るマンガやアニメのキャラクターを 題材にした作品も、新しい時代の捏麵人 として肯定的に受け止めているのだ。

陳さんの授業では、必ず白玉粉でできた伝統的な生地を使う。授業の際には、そのような自家製の白玉粉の生地を使う理由について説明している。捏麵人作りには、以前は白玉粉だけが用いられ、作ったあとに食べられるものだった。その後、小麦粉を用い、カビやひびを避ける処理が施された柔らかな材料が使われるようになった。しかし、陳さんが用いるのはあくまで伝統的な手法だ。捏麵人用の樹脂粘土を販売する店もある中で、近道をせず、失われつつある捏麵人の技術を次の世代に繋いでいるのだ。



奇峰 十八羅漢山

- ◎文/陳婷芳
- ◎翻訳/新垣李加子
- ◎撮影/曽信耀
- ◎写真提供/十八羅漢山自然人文協会

濃渓の対岸には六亀区を代表する景勝地、十八羅漢山がある。十八羅漢とは、仏教において最高の悟りを得た十八人の聖者のことである。遠くから見ると十八羅漢に見えることから、この名がつけられた。この地の言い伝えでは、荖濃渓は巨大な蛇で、十八羅漢山は六亀を守っているという。蛇が川になり、十八羅漢が山になって川辺を守っているというのだ。

「実は、十八羅漢山は十八に留まらず、四十以上の円錐状の山脈が組み合わさってできたものなんです」こう話すのは、十八羅漢山自然保護区環境保護及び解説担当の鐘彩嬢さんだ。十八羅漢山区では、U字谷や峡谷、山頂、蛇行した川、乾いた渓谷といった特殊な地形が見られる。

日本統治時代、日本人は当時六亀区に豊富にあったクスノキを伐採して輸送



するために、十八羅漢山にトンネルを開いた。1927年から1937年にかけて五本のトンネルが相次いで開通し、1943年には六本目のトンネルが開通して、1990年にその役目を終えるまで使用された。トンネルを含んだ周囲一帯は保存状態がよく、1992年に林務局によって「十八羅漢山自然保護区」に指定され、六号以外のトンネルはすべて保護区に入ることとなった。

まだ暑い盛りの時期、鐘さんの案内でトンネルの中に入ると、外とは打って変わって涼しさを感じた。トンネル内の礫岩はさまざまな地質の情報を秘めている。鐘さんは「水が岩石に均等に染み込むときにミネラルがゆっくりと酸化していき、木の





年輪のような跡が残るんです」と説明して くれた。

トンネル内の切り立った岩壁は、リュウキュウツバメたちの住みかになっている。 岩壁が風化して椀状に剥がれ落ちたあと、彼らは椀の中に巣を作るのだ。その姿を見ることができるのは四号から六号トンネルで、トンネル内では他にも逆さ吊りのコウモリの群れも見ることができる。鐘さ







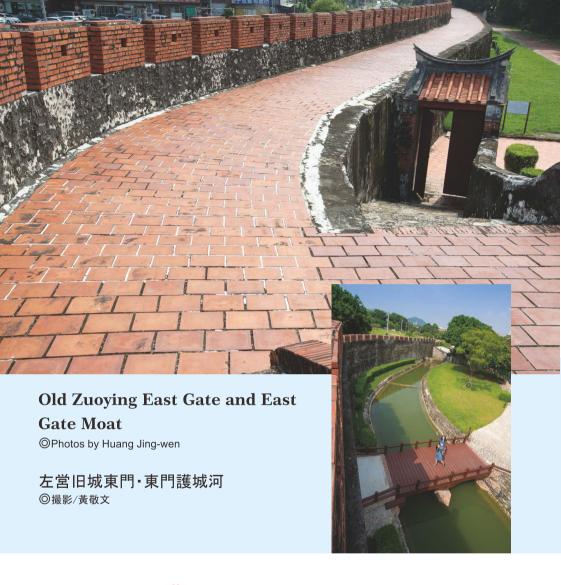
んによると、十八羅漢山のトンネルは20年もの間人の出入りがなく、さまざまな種類のコウモリの住みかになっているとのことだ。コウモリは音に敏感なので、トンネル内では静かにする必要があるとのことだった。

193ヘクタールの土地を持つ十八羅漢山自然保護区の植物相は、実に多様だ。保護区中には、緑化安蘭や假淡竹葉、類蘆、多花山柑といった珍しい種類の植物もあって、かけがえのない大自然が存在している。

「十八羅漢山生態之旅」の予約

電話:0905-635-652

十八羅漢山自然保護区に入るには解説員の案内が必要です。来訪五日前までに「林務局—自然保護区」でオンライン申請をし、解説員のガイドを予約してください(ガイドは有料です)。ガイドの言語は中国語・台湾語・客家語です。



Love Kaohsiung

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