



# THE MOON WORLD THAT YOU MAY BE CURIOUS ABOUT

Mudstone Badland Geopark  
Kaohsiung, TAIWAN



## More than a global Geopark!

The unique geological, ecological and cultural heritages in the mudstone badland of Kaohsiung are much qualified to be an United Nations Global Geopark. The hidden patches of greens and meandering creeks are crouching in this badland, in which surprises are everywhere and wait for your visit! It is a badland home to many good people.

Directed by Forestry Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Taiwan  
Organizer : Project for Promoting Kaohsiung Mudstone Badland Geopark  
Department of Geography, National Taiwan Normal University



woW



## What is a Geopark?

In 1997, the 29th session of the UNESCO General Conference approved a decision to commence steps to "promote a global network of geosites with special values". It led to integrate the international conservation of geosites to form a global alliance. This act both conserve unique, representative and irreplaceable geosites, and document the planet's knowledge for society. With knowledge and local involvement, conservation can be active and socio-cultural heritage can be passed on to future generations in the name of Geopark.

Geoparks are to conserve geosites of special value and to integrate local traditional ways of life and socio-economy for sustainable development. Both natural and cultural resources are important. By raising public awareness of the planet's heritage and its value, environmental carrying capacity may be better understood. Wise use and the balanced relationship between society and environment thus may be achieved.

Taiwan's geoparks take root in many aspects. They include landscape conservation, environmental education, geo-tourism, and local participation. Understanding local geology and its fragility is good environmental education. With local participation, geological knowledge becomes a source for good story telling, which is fundamental for geo-tourism. Story-telling goes a long way and stimulates local identity.

## Isn't it the time now?

Here is a group of good people in Kaohsiung mudstone badland! They have inherited and prepared iconic and beautiful culture and scenery awaiting your visit.

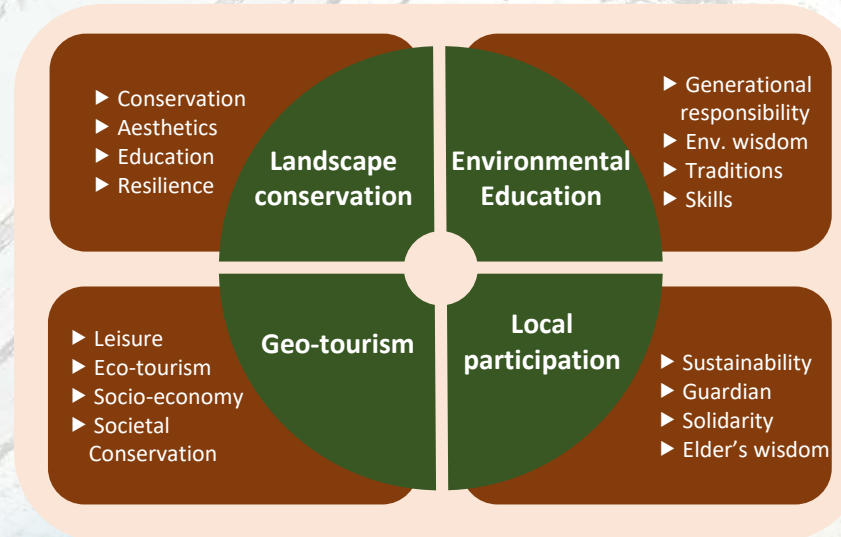
**Kaohsiung Mudstone Badland Geopark** is enriched by the local culture and heritage of the vast and seemingly barren badland. Inspired by global geopark spirits, the people work diligently to achieve a resilient and sustainable future.



A geopark does not mean a "geological park", nor "the geology of a park", but a park where its geology and landform is recognized as the foundation of local environment, livelihood and socio-cultural assets. Understanding the foundation, the locals make sense of their relation to the environment. They become guardians of the local ways of life and cultures.

The core values of the UNESCO Global Geopark include landscape conservation, environmental education, geo-tourism and local participation.

Landscape conservation protects significant geosites. The protection enables the local strength to act for their unique rocks, fossils, landforms and cultural landscapes. A well-managed geopark provides knowledge of the earth and man-land relationship which ensures an embedded understanding of local environment. Geoparks are excellent places to conduct environmental education.

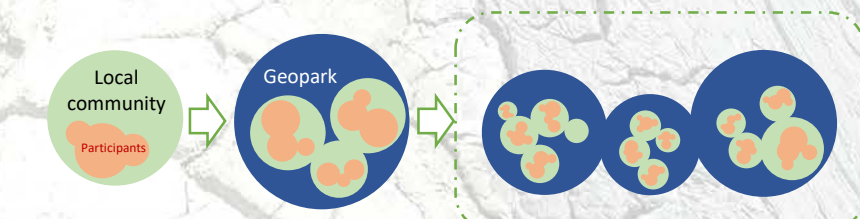


As an area for developing authentic and sustainable socio-economy, a geopark needs local participation. Through local mobilization and learning, a geopark is able to build momentum for the better.



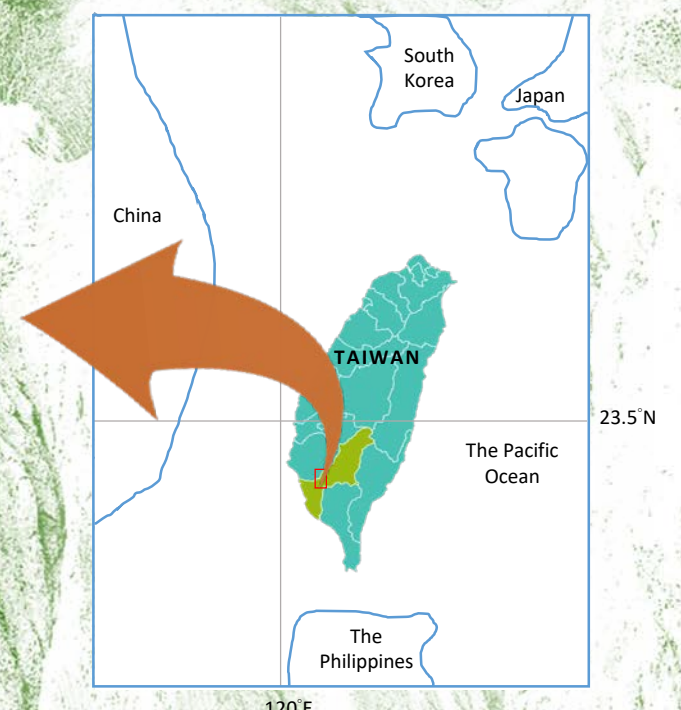
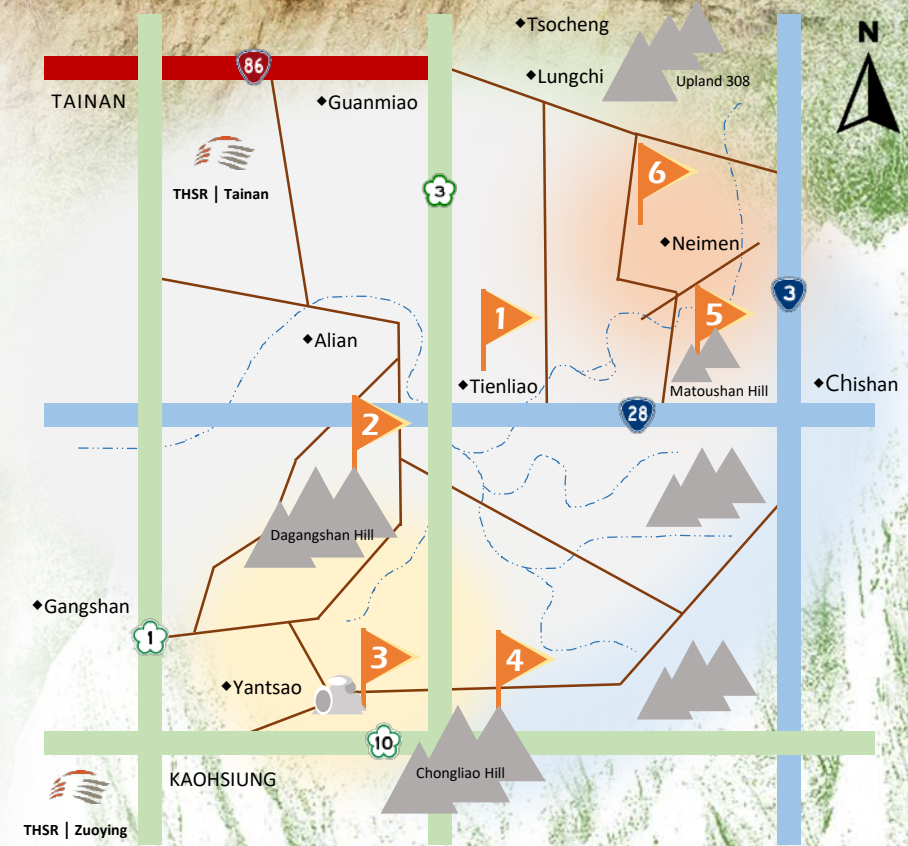
The unique geological and geographical environment, in which local material and spiritual life takes root, is the arena for geo-tourism. Local interpreters tell authentically good stories which should be results of local environmental education. Story telling along with creative economy is crucial for local socio-economy.

Geopark is a tool for landscape conservation. With good management, local culture and socio-economy may be revitalized. Good geopark practice is conducive to local identity and sense of place. The local willingness to involve in environmental conservation will thus increase.



From local alliance and empowerment to geopark network

Public Transport	THSR Tainan	8042 Moon World Express	Chishan Terminal	<p>Kaohsiung City Bus Hotline 07-749-7100 Real Time Bus Information System <a href="https://bus.tbkc.gov.tw/bus/BusRoute.aspx">https://bus.tbkc.gov.tw/bus/BusRoute.aspx</a></p>
	THSR Kaohsiung	E01 Chimei HW		
Driving	HW 3	Tienliao Exit Provincial 28	Dagangshan Moon World Neimen	
	HW 10	Yantsao Exit Thru-city	Wushangding Jiguanshan Chongliao Shan	





## 1 Moon World Park

In 1969, American astronaut Armstrong took a small step on the moon, but it gained worldwide attention. A road entitled Moon Road connects the hills of this south-western badland! Would you like to experience landing on the Moon as if you were an astronaut? Come to the Moon World, you are surely to enjoy local ways of life and delicacies! Original to this seemingly barren land, dishes like bamboo shoots, wild herbs, free-range chickens, and saltwater fish are authentic!



28

## 2 Dagang Hill (Dagangshan)

Moving between Tainan and Kaohsiung on the rail or highways, you may observe hills straddling in the plain. The hills silently accompany travelers. The morning sun light and evening high sky greet the travelers against the hills in silhouette. Among all is Dagangshan that has religious important and water source.

Dagangshan is composed of limestone, with a thick mudstone to its bottom. To the north of the hill is the alluvial plain of Er-ren River. To the south is Agongdian Reservoir that was important for irrigation. The porous limestone makes the area critical for water reservoir and livelihood. Many limestone landscapes are turned into local stories with attractive names, such as sky-line, slimming hole and breastfeeding stone.

Local guardian team :  
Dagangshan Humanity Association

### 3.1 Cockscomb Hill (Jiguanshan)

Cockscomb Hill is mainly limestone protruding out of mudstone. On the exposed mudstone wall, there are fossils of shells and corals. The hill is bountiful for local livelihood. Bamboo shoots can be harvested from hillside. Bamboo shoots during the Dragon Boat festival season are local delicacy. Home-made bamboo shoot recipes passed down from generations are authentic and delicious.

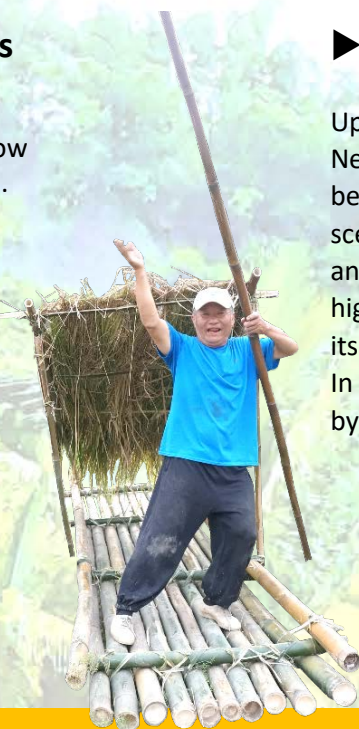
Local guardian team:  
Jinshan Community Development Association



### 1.1 Gutingkang meanders and oxbow lakes

Mudstone is easily eroded by weathering to form various landforms. With winding Er-ren River, meanders and oxbow lakes are developed up to the foothill of Dagangshan area. Some wide angle oxbows are captured by river water to become oxbow lakes and even dry up to become fertile land for farms and orchards.

Local guardian teams:  
Chongde Community Development Association  
Guting Community Development Association  
Lupu Community Development Association



### 6.1 Upland 308

Upland 308 or Highland 308 is a site neighboring Tainan and Neimen of Kaohsiung. Because of its sandstone formation and being surrounded by low hills, Upland 308 is prominent. The scenery adjacent to the highland is full of meandering rivers and low lying hills to make it attractive. Viewing east from the highland, you may observe various central mountain ranges. To its west is the Taiwan Strait water which gleams under sunlight. In between the dark and the light, hills and plains are patched by meandering rivers!

## Good people and great taste in the badland!

The hilly mudstone of Yantsao, Tienliao and Neimen of Kaohsiung City is the most representative mudstone landform of Taiwan. Er-ren River, originating in isolated hilly Neimen and meandering through remote Tienliao, empties into the ocean at the bustling fishing village of Jiading. It is dynamically powerful to shape the mudstone landforms.

This rugged badland had an intense history in the past 400 years. In the remote hilly area, livelihood was only possible by collecting, hunting, logging, farming, and animal husbandry. The social life of inter-ethnic marriage and various religions all weaved together to pave for its rich culture. These historical heritages are assets for today's socio-economic development.

People living in this badland inherit traditional ways of life with good sense of physical environment and temporal seasons. With its remoteness and isolation, diverse ecology and vernacular architecture are well preserved. Come to visit this land of abundance, you will understand how people's life, free-range chickens, orchards, bamboo forest and ponds are well blended to form balanced ecology.

Experiencing this badland, you will taste the reversal of time that bring you back to simple traditional mudstone badland countryside milieu.

### 3 Wushanding Mud Volcano

Strolling the lush green trails of Wushanding, you may hear faint humming sounds. They are the slow eruption of muddy fluid out of mud volcanoes. You may see through the bamboo woods to peek a couple of mounds that outflow muddy liquid. Emitted gas along with the liquid may be ignited, which spikes curiosity for the science of mud volcanoes.

Wushanding is the smallest nature reserve in Taiwan, but it has mud volcanoes of various sizes and shapes that worth scientific exploration!

Local guardian team:  
Yentsao Humanity Association



### 4 Chongliao Hill (Chongliaoashan)

Chongliaoashan was an important passage for Tienliao and Yantsao connecting to Chishan. At the elevation of 421 meters, Chongliao village was the highest settlement on the passage and had a population of 3,000. With gradual loss of population, the only primary school was abolished.

The water spring that the villagers used to rely on dried up due to the excavation of Chongliao Tunnel for the national highway. Nonetheless, the villagers are warm and local cuisines are tasty. Examples are fiber-free gingers and traditional hand-made ginger candies.

Spending a moment in a quiet corner of the hill, you will experience the tranquility among all surrounding hills.

Local guardian team:  
Chongliao Community Development Association



## 6 Puppets up in the Sky

Roads are created by human activities! The ancient paths in the badland are a history book. History had it that 300 years ago when Chu Yigui fought against Chinese Qing dynasty to claim himself a Taiwan emperor, the paths were critical fighting routes. They were important for going to the southern capital of Tainan.

When traveling along the paths, people saw their hometown from afar where numerous shapes of mudstone gullies and fingers resembled human figures. The locals thus described the pretty homey scene as puppets (up) in the sky.

The winding paths were difficulty for transportation. Transportation on Er-ren River was critical. During rainy season, badland was muddy and river transportation was challenging. However, the people still decided to settle in such environment. Why?

Historical accidents and geographical inevitabilities haped the badland and its people. You are invited to explore local history and geography to realize, for example, the past 300 years of inter-ethnic marriage and trade between the indigenous people and Han people to understand the unique culture.

Local guardian teams: Rhohan Neimen Cultural Studio; Shannan Temple

### 5 Horse Head Hill (Mataoshan)

The Horse Head Hill has been a landmark among Neimen, Chishan and Tienliao. With protruding sandstone to form a horse shape, the hill was named accordingly. Looking from distance, it is like a mustang racing from north-east to south-west. The locals regard the mustang as a guardian protecting the village and called it "White Horse General".

Mataoshan was an important water source for the village. Village elders talk about the horse manger as a landform and horse urine as water out of a spring. It is not only the oasis of the area, but also the place where the locals and all other living beings call home.

When visit, please slow down and pay attention to sika deer, pangolin, crab-eating mongoose, yellow-grey crab, beetles and emperor moth. All these lives show lively ecology and bring you to surprisingly encounter with the nature.

Local guardian team:  
Mataoshan Nature and Humanity Association

### 4.1 Sun Valley

The mudstone of Yantsao is neighboring Tienliao and Neimen. With random appearance of sandstone, the area has unique landforms. The terrain of the badland and its lush bushes and trees become heavens for goats to graze in the old time.

Small streams erode hills to form countless gullies and divide the badland into individual mudstone blocks making farming difficult.

