# Gem of the Sea

Liuqiu, the only coral reef island in Taiwan, is 29 minutes from Donggang by speedboat. Despite that it is only 6.8 square kilometers, Liuqiu boasts high ecological diversity and spectacular natural views. All the tourist attractions are linked by the only round-the-island highway. You may make a visit to the slumping cliff in the south and the sand beach on its west coast. You may also drive along the highway in the inner part of the island to visit temples and local old houses. Since the island is not affected by winter monsoon, the weather is fine for travelling anytime.

#### Beauty Cave

Scenic **Spots** 

The Beauty Cave is composed of barrier reefs and is situated in a mountain with one side facing the sea. Inside the cave are rare, odd-shaped rocks, and outside the cave is a stretch of endless sea. Pay a visit to the Beauty Cave, and you will be enlightened by listening to the waves in tranquility and looking up to the rare rocks in awe. There are 13 major scenes: A Crooked Trail to Tranquility, A Higher Sky, Bat Cave, Valentines Platform, Fairy Cave, Fairy Spring, Yiran Garden, Labyrinth, A Thread of Sky, Banyan Rock Valley, Serenity Valley, Sea View Pavilion, and Beauty Cave. Each scene has its unique feature and all worth paying a visit.



S Admission fee required



## The Liugiu Management Station and Visitor Center

The Liuqiu Ranger Station & Visitor Center incorporates various architectural elements, such as European-style steeple roof, pillar and The second second second second cloister. Its appearance is very different from those of other buildings on the island. Because it is located in the highland, visitors can have a panorama view of the beautiful Baisha Port. Providing travel guidance.

## **Travel Information**

- 💎 Liuqiu Visitor Center 08-8614615 Liuqiu Police Station · 08-8612231
- Liuqiu Township Health Center 08-8612513
- 08-8612501 Liuqiu Township Office

## **Travel Reminders**

- For the conservation of Duzaiping, Geban Bay, Shanfu(Maximum 300 visitors are allowed at the demonstration zones at once. Please be reminded that all visitors must follow qualified guides and may not trespass the restricted areas), Yuchengwei, Zhongao Beach and intertidal zones, hunting or disturbing rotected animals is illegal.
- To protect the green turtles, Duozaiping, Geban bay, and the intertidal zones are controlled from 20:00 to 05:00 during May 1st to Oct 31st every year.
- Two-day itinerary is highly recommended. Visitors can check with various B&B for itinerary suggestions. Snorkeling, stargazing and ecological tours are weather-dependent activities. Visitors must be accompanied by a professional guide to enter the intertidal zones.
- Fireworks are prohibited and please refrain from making loud noises at night.
- You can rent an electric scooter or bicycle for eco-friendly travel on the island.

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電子摺頁

Dapeng Bay National Scenic Area AD Add: No.169, Datan Rd., Donggang Township, Pingtung County Tel: 08-8338100

Liuqiu Ranger Station & Visitor Center Add: No.20-1, Minzu Rd., Liuqiu Township, Pingtung County Tel: 08-8614615

#### Black Devil Cave

The Black Devil Cave, located at the southwest of Liqiu, is famous for its prevailing limestone caves which are like a huge maze of coral reef rocks. A century-old banyan tree at the entrance, with its intricate roots growing on the rock and evergreen leaves, makes a spectacular view.

**\$** Admission fee required



### Biyun Temple & Bamboo Ecology Pond

Biyun Temple, built in 1763, is a religious center for local residents. They worship Guanyin Buddha, and ask for her guidance on personal matters, such as the wedding date or the future fortune. In front of the temple lies a wooden path which leads to the Bamboo Ecology Pond. Strolling through the path, you may be fed with fresh air and sunlight penetrating through leaves. Frog calls everywhere create a tranquil atmosphere at night.





## Houshi Fringing Reef

The Houshi Fringing Reef, lying along the southeastern cost of Liuqiu, is famous for diverse coral reefs rocks. The "Hongfan Rock," standing beside a hill in the middle of the Dafu Port and Haitzukou, is a coral reef rock with dense banyan trees on its top, and therefore it is named the "Indian's Head" after its shape. The Parrot Rock, Mountain-climbing Tiger Rock and Guanyin Rock and other amazing nature-formed rocks can be spotted along the road.



Made up of fine broken pieces of white coral and seashells, Zhongao Beach is a popular place for snorkeling, swimming, and other water activities. The beach is also a place for holding the "King Boat Ceremony," consisting of rites like "Inviting Water" and "Burning the King Boat."

紅番石 黃浤瑄攝

# Geban Bay

The Geban Bay, also called the "Venice Beach," is a 100-meterlong white shell beach with a graceful shoreline. It is a perfect place for walking on bare foot, listening to ocean waves and seeing the sunset.



#### Wild Boar Trench

The Wild Boar Trench, formed by long cliffs, boasts well-preserved primitive plants and uplifted coral reef rocks. The magnificent view of abundant banyan trees and their aerial roots along the path often make visitors feel like stepping into a tropical rain forest.





#### White Lighthouse

The White Lighthouse, built in 1929 during the Japanese Occupation Era, enjoys a global reputation as the Eluanbi Lighthouse. It serves as a compass for local fishing boats and for to-and-fro ships in the Taiwan Strait.



### Vase Rock

The Vase Rock is a coral-limestone. Due to sea erosion, the head of the rock is big and the neck is thin. The name was given that plants including malbau (Premnaserratifolia) and Indian jalap (Operculinaturpethum) grow on the head of the rock, and makes it looks like a vase full of flowers. The crystal clear water around the rock makes it a must-visit sight for tourists.







海龜明星 刀疤 蘇淮攝影

## **Fauna**

Abundant in coral resources, Xiao Liuqiu has more than 200 stony corals (Scleractinia). Purple crabs (Gecarcoidealalandii) are all over the Wild Boar Trench in the summer night after rain. Rock-boring urchin (Echinometramathaei) and millipede brittle star (Ophiocomascolopendrina) are the most advantageous "spiny-skinned" animals (Echinoderms) which take shelter in rock crevices in intertidal zone. Green sea turtles are also plenty at Xiao Liuqiu. To observe the turtles, simply go to the scenic pavilion at the Beauty Cave!





## Flora

Since Liuqiu is a coral island, the plants on the island are generally tolerant of wind, moisture, salt, and drought. In particular, banyan trees are everywhere because their powerful roots can break deep into the coral grounds that contain lots of calcium carbonate. It is common to see local residents take a break from daily chores under the trees. Beach morning-glory, beach bean, and beach sun-flow grow on the Geban Bay Beach. Taiwan gray edamame (Tephro saltbush (Atriplexmaximowic

## Local Delicacies

Located at the intersection of two Kuroshio currents in the west side of Pacific Ocean, Liuqiu is a well-known fishing ground where sailfish, tuna, whitefish, dolphin fish, and flying fish are often caught. While having delicious seafood and seaweed, don't forget to take a bite of dried fish, dried shredded squid, sailfish floss , and grilled squid! Other local delicacies include:

#### **Liuqiu Sausages**

Sesame Twists

Liuqiu Sausage is a very delicate meat product as a the cartilage and tendon in the pork is removed. It is often used as sacrificial offering for gods. Liuqiu Sausage is well-known for its length and its fin texture. Its length symbolizes longevity in Chine culture. Tendon-free and long are its two most salient features!





Here comes the hottest local delicacy! Unlike other kind of twists, Liuqiu Twist is long, crispy and firm! In Liuqiu, families would get together to make this special snack. and the twists are made with an hearty effort.

#### Liugiu Rice Cake & scallion-flavored Chinese donut

Liuqiu Rice Cake is a common Chinese snack make of rice. It comes in two flavors: pumpkin and taro, and tastes soft and firm. Scallion-flavored Chinese donut is shorter than other types of Chinese donut. Its strong fragrant is wonderful, and its taste is unique.

### Stewed meat with squid

Unlike traditional stewed meat, stewed meat of Liugiu is stewed with squid to ensure the best flavor. Fresh squid caught from the sea always brings extra smoothness and sweetness to this dish.

#### **Beehive shrimp**

"Beehive shrimp" is also called the "pizza of Liuqiu." In the beautiful shape of a beehive, it is made through two simple steps: First, deep-dry floured shrimps. Then, trickle whipped duck egg yolks from a sift down to the pan. Beehive shrimp is ready to serve!