

Reminiscent Trip to a Charcoal Scent

# 尋幽炭古行

陽明山國家公園大屯社區人文之旅

A Historical Tour to Datun community of Yangmingshan

採訪撰文 Interview & Text / 藍嘉俊 Jia-jun Lan 特別感謝 Special thanks to / 陽明山國家公園解說課陳吾妹小姐 Ms. Wu-mei Chen of Interpretation & Education Section of YMSNP、解說志工蔡勝進先生 Volunteer docent Mr. Sheng-jin Cai、陳弘毅先生 Mr. Hong-yi Chen  
翻譯 Translator / 卓君威 Cary Chuo



大屯山的珍貴之處不僅限於火山資源或秋芒景觀，還有更多深藏於山中的古道歷史值得我們去探尋 / 陽管處提供，蔡東欽攝  
Treasures on Datun Mountain are not only the volcano and autumn silvergrass, there are also historical old trails deep in the mountain worth our visit. / Photo provided by YMSNPH, taken by Dong-qin Cai



一般來說，火山型的國家公園多是遺世獨立、遠離塵囂，但陽明山是個例外。

由於緊鄰著大台北地區，使得陽明山國家公園與民衆的發展多了一層密切關係。換言之，除了豐富的自然生態資源，這兒的人文景觀，同樣精彩。在熟悉的花季、秋芒以及火山地形之外，這次陽管處推出了一條人文的路線，為民衆開啓另一扇窗。以下，我們就跟著策劃人陳吾妹女士與蔡勝進、陳弘毅兩位解說志工的腳步，先睹為快。

提到陽明山的產業，溫泉與硫磺開採，往往是最先跳出來的畫面。然而對部分昔日北投居民來說，木炭，才是他們的經濟來源。以此為主題，本次路徑從十八份開始，前半段經過一座百年炭窯，堪稱一條挑炭古道；後半段通往永春寮、粗坑等老聚落，領略大屯地區另外一種建築之美。

Mountainous national parks are generally distant and otherworldly, yet Yangmingshan is an exception.

Located in suburban Taipei, Yangmingshan National Park has developed a special bond with the citizens, and its human landscape is just as appealing as the natural one. The park's headquarters has just presented a new trip route highlighting the cultural and historical side of Yangmingshan. A sneak peek introduction is given as follows by Wu-mei Chen, the route planner, and two volunteer docents Sheng-jin Cai and Hong-yi Chen.

Hot spring tourism and sulfur mining are the two industries most often associated with Yangmingshan, but many ex-residents of Beitou actually earned their living from charcoal production, which is the theme of this route. The first half of it features a century-old kiln, and the second half presents a different kind of architectural beauty of Datun.

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4 5

1. 擁有 160 年歷史的木炭窯，位於陽明山國家公園境內的中正山山腰上 / 彭小軒攝

A 160-year-old charcoal kiln is located halfway up Mt. Chungcheng in YMSNP. / by Xiao-xuan Peng

2-5. 由於陽管處服務的志工李成華小姐指導其子女所繪製的木炭窯示意圖，珍貴的簽筆線稿，代表著另一種親子間寓教於樂的學習精神 / 陽管處提供，陳怡君繪

Taught by volunteer Ms. Cheng-hua Li of YMSNP, children learned how to draw charcoal kiln diagram. These precious sketches show that the activity is both entertaining and educational. / Photo provided by YMSNP, illustrated by Yi-jun Chen

## 重見木炭產業歷史

本區開墾時間早，祖先之所以挑上這裡，是因為地理條件好。除了有水源，更因位於山谷凹地的南面向陽處，背後有大屯山與觀音山坐鎮，阻擋了東北季風，所以氣候相對溫暖、穩定。安居之後，接著就是如何謀生的問題了。由於燒製木炭的主要原料——相思樹可就近取得，木炭產業成了許多居民的選擇。極盛時期，北投山區の木炭窯曾超過50座。只不過隨著瓦斯與電力的普及，木炭市場萎縮了，連帶的相關設施也任其荒廢，這段風華逐漸為人淡忘。

所幸，在北投文化基金會洪德仁董事長的支持，基金會大力奔走下，社區與地方耆老於去年(2009)依傳統工法及材料，修復了一座原有的木炭窯。其位置，就在國家公園境內的中正山山腰上，算一算，它已經擁有160年的歷史了。

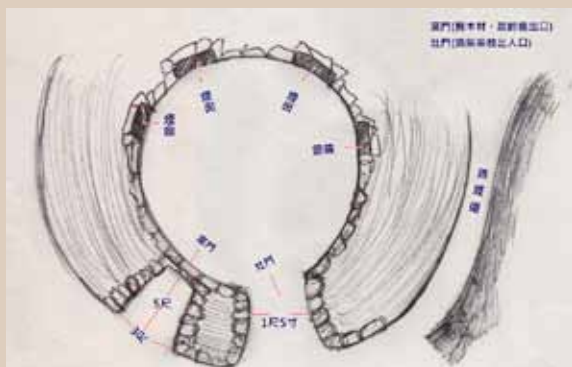
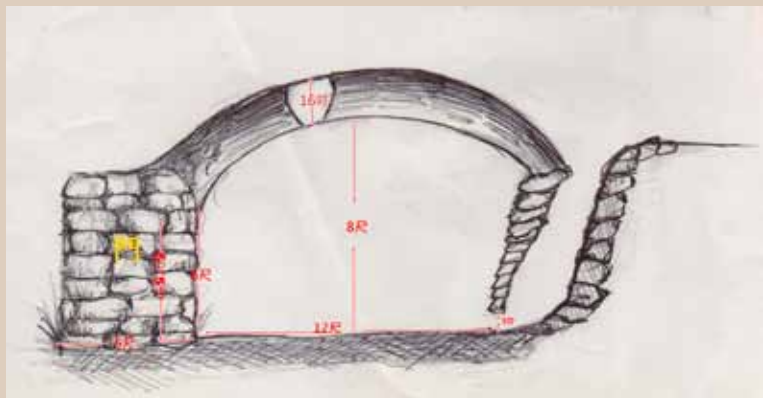
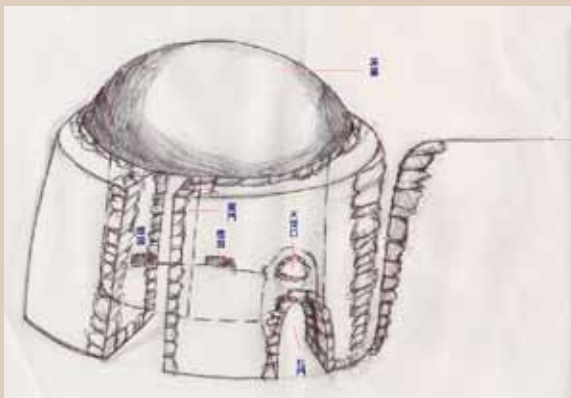
製炭是一件非常辛苦的工作，當年參與的長輩，如今回憶起，仍舊是辛酸不已。如果砍了100斤的原料去燒，成品只有25斤，也就是只有四分之一的產量。再者是作業時間長。從擺放到後期的悶燒，需要數週時間。至於進度，則由煙的顏色甚至味道來判斷。通常，木炭窯旁還要搭建一個工寮，供人留守。而夫妻為了輪流看顧，這段時間就很難碰上面，像牛郎織女一樣。經由志工的解說，可知早期能源是如何得之不易，在歷經石油過渡消耗、呼籲節能減碳的今日，我們回首這段能源史，顯得格外有意義。

## History of Charcoal Industry Revisited

Due to its geographical advantages, this area was chosen for development very early. Blessed with sun-facing location and ample water supply, it is also shielded by Mt. Datun and Mt. Guanyin in the back from the northeastern monsoon, so its climate is relatively mild and stable. As the raw materials for charcoal, Taiwan acacias (*Acacia confusa*), could be easily obtained there, the charcoal industry soon prospered, with over 50 kilns in its heyday. Yet the rise of gas and electricity eventually pushed it into decline, with its equipment now deserted and its glories forgotten.

Fortunately, a 160-year-old charcoal kiln, located halfway up Mt. Chungcheng, was successfully restored last year through the joint efforts of chairman De-ren Hong of Peitou Culture Foundation, senior residents and the entire community.

Charcoal making was a demanding and grueling process, which often took several weeks. The end products weighed only a quarter as much as the raw materials. In order to control the production progress, workers had to take shifts to watch the fire and stay in a shack built near the kiln. Husbands and wives on different shifts might even find it hard to see each other. Stories like this illustrate how hard it was to obtain energy back then, and they bear an especially significant message for us at a time when energy efficiency becomes an urgent issue.





炭業的式微，反而讓相思樹逃過被砍伐的命運，庇佑更多生物。/ 彭小軒攝  
Thanks to the decay of charcoal industry, Taiwan acacias (*Acacia confusa*) could escape being hew down and shield other creatures. / by Xiao-xuan Peng

### 奇妙的相思樹

和其他木材相比，相思樹具有成長快、質地堅硬、耐燒火力強等優點，很適合製炭；而比較細的枝幹，就直接拿來當柴火。因此，本區到處種有成排的相思樹。除了相思樹林，山徑兩旁還有竹林，當作圍籬。這些人工栽植的樹林，以及周圍的農作，迥異於陽明山國家公園其他步道的原生植物，人的活動痕跡清晰可見。因此，這是一條頗「入世」的山徑。而昔日黃金時期已過，人口老化與產業萎縮，讓這裡呈現另一種蕭瑟的氣息。不過相對的，有些相思樹也因此逃過砍伐的命運，得以繼續成長，庇護更多的生物。這次修復的炭窯旁，就矗立著一棵高大英挺的相思樹。

有一句閩南的諺語是這麼說的：「門前一棵相思樹，相思病起不知人，醫生來看講無望，貼心的來看水嘴嘴」，說明了「相思」的力量。

相思樹還有得說。我們所看到的細長葉子，其實是由葉柄特化而成的假葉，作用是減少水分的蒸發。這是熱帶植物的特性之一，而相思樹的原產地正位於恆春、菲律賓一帶。此外，相思樹的根部能與土壤的根瘤菌

### The Amazing Taiwan Acacias

Fast-growing, hard, and long-burning, Taiwan acacia is ideal for charcoal-making, and some of its thinner branches could be directly used as fuel. Due to these practical qualities, rows of Taiwan acacias have been planted throughout the area. In addition, groves of bamboo have been grown on both sides of the paths, serving as fences. In striking contrast to the wild plants seen elsewhere in the park, these plantations bear distinct marks of human activities. While the heyday of coal-making has long gone, and the aging local population gives the area a sense of decay, many Taiwan acacias, on the other hand, have been preserved as a result, exemplified by the one towering beside the newly restored kiln.

A Taiwanese saying about acacias, nicknamed “lovesick trees,” goes like this: “In a house by the lovesick tree, lay a girl deeply lovesick; her illness no doctor could treat, the only cure being the man she missed.”

There is more to learn about acacias. Their long and thin leaves seen outside are actually fake leaves developed from the stems to preserve moisture—a characteristic of tropical



沿途所看到的早期人工設施，包括步道、駁坎、矮牆等，都是因地制宜、就地取用自然材料。圖為由安山岩所建構成的人字砌民宅矮牆 / 賴宛靖攝

All the early artificial equipment seen along the path, such as pavements and retaining walls, were constructed with local natural materials. This picture is the wall made of andesites with patterns of “人 (ren).” / by Wan-ching Lai

結合，加上根系發達，兼具了改良土質與水土保持的功能，在生態保育上具有一定的價值。相思樹能在北台灣立足，也和清末北部經濟產業的變遷有關。隨著茶葉大量外銷，為了栽種和烘焙，相思樹既可當防風林，又可當薪材。此外，它更是北部採煤坑道支柱的主要材料。當坑道快崩塌時，樹幹斷裂前會發出“霹哩啪啦”聲響，可警告礦工趕緊逃命、減低災難死傷。

### 就地取材的智慧

值得一提的，沿途所看到的早期人工設施，包括步道、駁坎、矮牆等，都是因地制宜、就地取用自然材料。這是最符合生態原則的建築方式，古老的智慧，卻最呼應著新時代需求。以民宅為例，無論是人字砌、番字砌還是亂石砌，牆壁的構成建材——安山岩，就是道地的大屯山特產。安山岩屬於火山岩，由早期大屯山爆發後、岩漿噴出地面快速冷卻而成。至於木炭窯，從建造到木炭的燒製，所有的原料，也無一不是取自當地。這些東西，包括了覆蓋在木材上的筆筒樹樹葉、網綁用的月桃葉鞘，以及幫助生火的火管竹等等。

本次陽管處解說教育課所規劃的這條路線，位於大屯山脈與中正山的南麓，全長約7公里，行進路線大約呈U字形。從登山路口開始，就是直上的陡坡石階，出發前最好先稍做暖身。但沿途樹叢成蔭，不用擔心

plants. Moreover, acacias' roots can interact effectively with root-nodule bacteria in the soil to help with its fertilization and preservation. From the social perspective, the introduction of acacias from the tropics to northern Taiwan was related to its industrial changes in the late Ching Dynasty. There, acacias were not only used for windbreaks and firewood to support tea production, but also for pillars in mine tunnels, which would produce cracking sounds before breaking, warning the workers in advance.

### Wise Use of Local Materials

All the early equipment seen along the path, such as pavements and retaining walls, were constructed with local natural materials, proving that the eco-friendly requirements of our time has long been met through ancient wisdom. Walls of residences here, whatever the pattern, were all made of andesites — volcanic rocks from Mt. Datun itself. And everything used in the charcoal production process, such as kilns, raw materials, wood-covering leaves, shell flower leaf blades used to tie things up, and Blow Pipe Bamboos for building a fire, came invariably from local sources.

The 7-km new trip route, planned by the park's Interpretation and Education Section, is located on the southern side of Mt. Datun and Mt. Chungcheng. Shaped like an inverted 'U,' it starts with a steep stone stairway. One doesn't have to worry about scorching sunlight, as there are plenty of shades along the way. The mid-section of the route is even and smooth, with various plants waiting to greet the hikers.

大太陽，中段的路也相當平坦，走來舒服。除了木炭窯和相思樹，一路上還有許多花草植物等著相認；張開耳朵，則可聽到五色鳥和大冠鷲的叫聲，從林中和天上傳來。

接近路程中段，腳力好的話，可以選擇繼續上中正山山頂。中正山標高雖然只有646公尺，但觀景樓四方毫無遮蔽物，使得周圍景色一覽無遺。若不上山頂，可轉到停車場附近的開闊地，視野亦佳。霧氣未起時，能遠眺觀音山，俯視淡水河、基隆河穿越台北盆地，101大樓就在眼前。在這裡，你也可以抬頭，尋找大冠鷲或松雀鷹這類猛禽滑翔的身影。或者低頭，對著一旁由安山岩砌成的小土地公廟，虔誠膜拜。

### 老人、老樹、老屋

過了停車場，就是明顯的下坡了。步道和產業道路交錯，其中有幾段路坡度較陡或路面較滑，需多留意。這個時期，山櫻花已經開了，像一把把粉紅色的火焰，在綠色的山徑兩側蔓延。在櫻花林身後，是零散、已沒落的橘子園。早期交通不發達，果農要運送一籃籃的桶柑下山販售，必須要藉助流籠。這條運輸動脈橫互在山溝上空，遺跡仍清晰可見。

山溝旁，分立著永春寮、粗坑兩個聚落。由於地屬大屯一帶開發較早的區域，行走期間，不難發現許多石造的老房子。帶隊的陽管處陳姐早已是熟門熟徑，穿堂入室，和仍守著這塊土地的老人家們問好。永春寮有一棟百年古厝，像這樣的老房子石牆雖堅固，但屋頂不耐風雨，難維護，常有屋主為了一勞永逸而換成鐵皮屋頂。然而這間仍維持舊瓦原貌，相當難得。樸實的木門上，還留著不同時期的舊門牌，見證昔日的戶政演變。

The chirping of Muller's Barbets (*Megalaima nuchalis*) and Crested Serpent Eagles (*Spilornis cheela*) can even be heard from the sky.

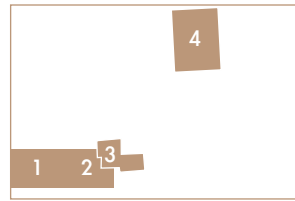
Near the halfway point of the route, one can choose to reach the top of Mt. Chungcheng, with nothing around to block the view. Yet one can also choose to go to the open field by the parking lot, where, on a clear day, Mt. Guanyin, Tamsui River and Keelung River, and Taipei 101 tower all come into view. Looking up, one may get a glimpse of eagles gliding by; looking down, one may see the little temple nearby built with andesites and have a spiritual moment.

### Old Residents, Old Trees, Old Houses

Past the parking lot, the route goes downhill. In this section, hikers' path crosses with the main road, and some parts are especially steep or slippery. At this time of the year, blossoming Taiwan Cherries spread like pink flames from both sides of the green path. Behind the cherry groves lies an abandoned tangerine orchard. In the early days, tangerines had to be transported downhill through cages on a cable, and the relics of the system can still be seen today.

On either side of the mountain gully stand two settlements: Yongchunliao and Cukeng, which were developed quite early in Datun. A regular guest of the community, the tour guide Wu-mei Chen is on very friendly terms with the senior residents. Here, a century-old house with a tile roof still exists, which is unique since most other ancient houses have already been fitted with new tin roofs. Doorplates of different ages are all kept on the wooden door, bearing witness to the history of household registration.





1. 早期運貨下山的流籠。其遺跡目前仍清晰可見 / 藍嘉俊攝  
In the early times, goods were transported downhill through cages on a cable and the relics of the system can still be seen today. / by Jia-jun Lan
2. 永春寮中的一棟百年古厝，不同時期的舊門牌，可見證昔日的戶政演變 / 藍嘉俊攝  
Old doorplates of different ages are left in a century-old house in Yongchunliao, bearing witness to the history of household registration. / by Jia-jun Lan
4. 直上的陡坡石階旁有成叢的樹蔭遮蔽著，行走起來相當舒適 / 陽管處提供，彭小軒攝  
Climbing the steep stone stairway is comfortable because there are plenty of shades along the way. / Photo provided by YMSNP, taken by Xiao-xuan Peng

遙遙相對的粗坑，也有百年古厝，但聚落的規模較大。一棟棟的石屋，在山谷坡地向兩旁展開，圍繞著中間的大屯國小。粗坑聚落的老樹很多，包括樟樹、榕樹、杜英等，伴隨著一代代的居民成長。其中最醒目的，是車道旁兩棵緊鄰的九重吹和茄苳，身形巨大，各自超過了百歲和兩百歲。

大屯國小是一座迷你的森林小學，在國家公園的環抱下，融入自然山林、蟲鳴鳥叫中，環境之好無庸置疑。更特別的是，每年農曆5月17日，小朋友都會有一天獨步全國的假期。為什麼？原來校地原為廟宇，祭祀清水祖師。後來廟方捐作教育之用，只有在神明回娘家繞境這一天，才要求學校開放活動使用。大屯國小是旅程的美麗終點，這個典故，為這條路徑劃上了另一個人文的句點。

過完年後的3月天，春風徐徐吹來，正適合爬山！請放慢腳步，路上，你或許會看到不少毛毛蟲，別驚動牠們，那是陽明山下一季蝴蝶飛舞的預告。🐛

On the opposite side, the larger settlement of Cukeng also boasts of century-old houses. Stone houses here seem to spread organically on the slope, surrounding Datun Elementary School. Cukeng has many old trees, including Camphor Trees (*Cinnamomum camphora*), Marabutans (*Ficus microcarpa*) and Common Elaeocarpus (*Elaeocarpus sylvestris*). But the most extraordinary are a Mountain Fig (*Ficus nervosa*) and a Red Cedar (*Bischofia javanica*), aged over 100 and 200, respectively.

Datun Elementary School is a mini forest school with two privileges: a national-park-caliber environment, and a unique holiday (on May 17 of lunar calendar) that no other school in Taiwan has. It turns out that the school properties were once owned by a temple, which later donated them for education on the condition that the school be used for religious activities once a year. The story of such a lovely school marks an ideal ending of our historical tour of Yangmingshan.

March comes in the wake of the Chinese New Year, and it's perfect for mountain climbing! Please do so at a leisurely pace, and remember that all the caterpillars you see along the way are harbingers of the upcoming butterfly season. 🐛

## 解說人簡介 Profile of the Tour Guides

路線策劃人陳吾妹女士(中)，現任職陽明山國家公園解說教育課。蔡勝進先生(左)，陽管處資深解說志工，國小老師退休，在地人。陳弘毅先生(右)，陽管處資深解說志工，現為榮總醫師。三位皆為熱愛自然的熱心人士。

Ms. Wu-mei Chen(middle), the route planner, now serves at the Interpretation and Education Section of YMSNP. Mr. Sheng-jin Cai(left), senior volunteer docent of YMSNP, is a retired elementary school teacher. Mr. Hong-yi Chen(right), senior volunteer docent of YMSNP, is a doctor of Taipei Veterans General Hospital. All three of them are nature lovers.

