

## Taiwan Railway Jiji Line

# The Nostalgic Railway

Follow the Railway Tracks -  
Let's Embark on a Trip Filled with Fragrant  
Woods and Tasty Fruits ~

## Travel Information

24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information Hotline  
Service Line: +886-800-011-765  
Taiwan Tourism Information Website:  
[taiwan.net.tw](http://taiwan.net.tw)

Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Headquarters  
Checheng Visitor Center  
Telephone: +886-49-2774981  
[www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw](http://www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw)

Jiji Township Office, Nantou County  
Telephone: +886-49-2762034  
[www.jiji.gov.tw](http://www.jiji.gov.tw)

Shuili Township Office, Nantou County  
Telephone: +886-49-2772141  
[www.shli.gov.tw](http://www.shli.gov.tw)

Our administration has opened a service for making applications to the archive (where one can read, make notes and make copies). We welcome visitors to take advantage of this service. Call the service line at +886-49-2341206 or visit our official website for information.

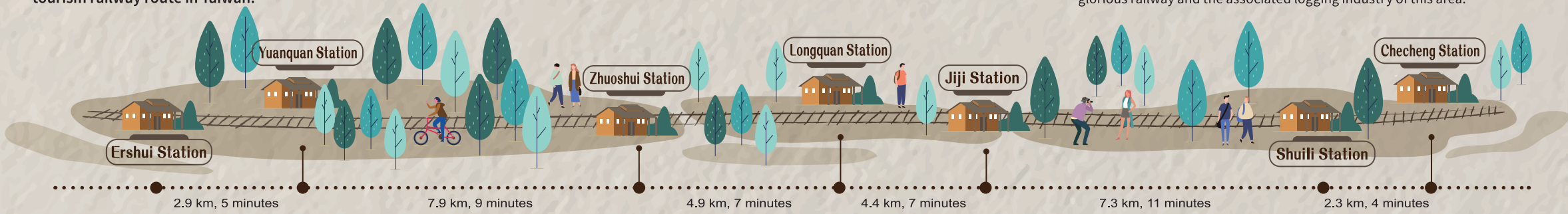
**Publishing Unit:**  
Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Headquarters  
**Publishing date:** June 2024

## Jiji Line

Construction of the Jiji railway line began in 1919. It was originally built to transport materials used to construct the Daguan Power Plant at Sun Moon Lake. The Jiji line was completed in October 1921, and passenger service began on January 14, 1922. Even after the Daguan Power Plant was completed in 1934, and all the construction workers had left, the vibrancy of the Jiji line didn't decline. Rather, it continued to be a passenger and freight line to Nantou.

The Jiji line diverges from the main rail line running through Ershui Station. The 29.7 km railway passes 6 stations: Yuanquan, Zhuoshui, Longquan, Jiji, Shuili, and the final station - Checheng. Travelling eastbound along the Zhuoshui River towards Nantou, one passes through lush green farmlands and tree-lined roads. The train leads passengers on a green and scenic excursion, where they also have a chance to learn about the rich natural landscape as well as the local culture and history.

During the "921 Earthquake" in 1999, the Jiji line suffered some damage. However, through the hard work of many people, it became the star tourist rail line after the natural disaster once it was up and running again in 2001. With the support of its rich tourism resources, such as the nostalgic Jiji Station, Green Tunnel, Jiji scenery and Shuili Kiln, large numbers of tourists travel here. It has become the most popular tourism railway route in Taiwan.



### Ershui Station

Ershui Station began its operations during the Japanese colonial period in the Meiji era. It was renovated in 1935, and is a 10-minute walk from Ershui Park on the right side of the station. The two vintage steam locomotives - CT278 and CT345 - from Taiwan Railways and the Taiwan Sugar Factory, respectively, are in the park and offer good picture taking opportunities for visitors.



### Yuanquan Station

Yuanquan Station was once known as "Bizitou." In May 1975 it became solely a "request stop" station. Currently, there is no ticket booth in the station. The waiting room is only furnished with a few wooden benches for passengers, while it also offers shade and shelter from rain.



### Longquan Station

Longquan Station was once known as "Ailiao," and was changed to a "request stop" station in May 1979. Although the station is simple, there are two platforms, and because of the famous Green Tunnel, many tourists make a stop here. The hundred-year-old Chinaberry tree next to the station provides a huge natural canopy and is a major landmark in Longquan Station.



### Jiji Station

Jiji Station was constructed in 1933 with False Cypress, but suffered a collapse during the 921 Earthquake in 1999. With the help of computer simulation technology, Jiji Station has been returned to its full glory. The classically built Jiji Station has wood framed windows, and is furnished with wood benches in the waiting area. Such a well-preserved and intact vintage station is quite rare nowadays.



### Shuili Station

Shuili Station is the largest station on the Jiji line. As the train comes into the station, many old warehouses and meandering railway tracks come to view. As the station is on higher ground, you have to walk down some steps to get to the street-level entrance/exit. During Shuili's heyday, many timber merchants gathered here, so it was also known as "Little Taipei."



## Jiji

### Jiji Station

Built in 1933, Jiji Station is a pure False Cypress wooden structure built using Japanese architecture. It boasts some of the most distinguished features in Taiwan. The building's elegant façade has graced the area for almost 100 years since the Japanese occupation. After the 921 Earthquake, the building was rebuilt, including its original façade, without foregoing its original flavor. This station is a must-see tourism destination.



### Mingxin Academy

Mingxin Academy is located next to the Yongchang Elementary School in Jiji Township, and was once a school for the children of farmers. This third-class historic site is a classic Chinese "sanheyuan" compound. Traditional rural folk relics are displayed next to the academy, reflecting the local simple lifestyle. In recent years, cultural activities that tie to various festivals are often held here, and have been well received.



① No. 4, Dongchang Lane, Jiji Township, Nantou County

### Jiji Weir Water Resources Agency, (MOEA)

The function of the weir is to store and utilize water travelling downstream from the Zhuoshui River. The water is also used to irrigate the farmlands in Central and Southern Taiwan, as well as other purposes. The Jiji Weir Administration Center located above the weir provides information about water resources and ecology to tourists. The observation deck offers an expansive view of the Zhuoshui River and the nearby spectacular dam.



### Breaking New Ground, Transform to Civilization

A large stone tablet with the characters "Kai-Pi-Hong-Huang" (meaning "breaking new ground") boldly carved into it can be seen along the Zhuoshui River near the area of Caolingjiao, Jijibu. This first-class ancient historic monument was inscribed upon by Wu Guang-liang during the reign of Tongzhi in the Qing Dynasty when he was assigned to come to Taiwan to develop this area. During the reign of Guangxu, the Batongguan Ancient Road was established and benefitted future generations immensely. The "Kai-Pi-Hong-Huang" stone tablet is a testament to the spirit of determination, and will stand and be admired eternally.

In addition, a stone tablet with the characters "Hua-Ji-Man-Mo" (meaning "transform to civilization") was erected during the 13th Year of the Emperor Guangxu (1887), at which time Liu Ming-chuan was assigned to oversee Taiwan. He strongly pushed for policies of transformation and reclamation, and set up bureaus all over Taiwan to push his policies forward. This stone tablet was ordered by Chen Shi-lie, a member of the reclamation bureau in Yunlin at the time, and was created to praise the reclamation and transformation efforts that were taking place at that time.

## Longquan · Jiji Tour Map



### Taiwan Biodiversity Research Institute

The Conservation Education Center introduces Taiwan's rich and natural ecology in detail. Various special exhibitions and environmental education activities are held periodically, making it an interesting and fun learning center in Jiji Township.



① No. 1 Minsheng E. Road, Jiji Township, Nantou County  
② +886-49-2761331 ③ Closed on Monday

### Green Tunnel



This 4.5 km camphor-tree-lined natural landscape is like a shaded green tunnel. Visitors can ride their bikes through the tunnel and enjoy nature. Alongside the green tunnel is the tourism railway, making this the ideal attraction for experiencing the railway and biking.

### Mt. Jiji

Mt. Jiji is located at the junction of three townships - Jiji, Zhongliao and Shuili. It's the highest mountain west of Sun Moon Lake, with an altitude of 1,391 meters. The observation deck at the top of the mountain provides a panoramic view of the eight beautiful towns around Sun Moon Lake in the distance. This is a great destination for people who like hiking, as the scenery along the way is quite pleasant. There are beautiful flowers and birds chirping as you hike up the mountain trails. The views are just breathtaking.



### Tianxing Kiln

Tianxing Kiln is the only kiln in the Nantou area that fires tiles and other pottery items. In 1980, in order to cope with the transformation of the ceramic industry in Taiwan, they began to transform their business to a modern ceramic art production. It is currently the oldest production-based kiln in Taiwan. The old snake kiln (known as Jiji Snake Kiln), is retained to fire pottery items and is over 60 years old.

① No. 10, Fenglin Lane, Tianliao Li, Jiji Township, Nantou County ② +886-49-2781130

## Checheng Station

Checheng Station is the final station on the Jiji line. Surrounded by mountains and the clear Shuili River nearby, it's known as the most beautiful station on the line. After the 921 Earthquake, the station was renovated with the original wood material. Near the station are the Checheng Railway Culture Park and the Logging Industry Exhibition Hall. The rebuilding of the Taiwan Railways' old Japanese-style dormitory recreates early scenes of life along the railway. The railway tracks and platform in the Logging Industry Exhibition Hall are great backdrops for the locomotives and train cars, which together serve to display the development of the railway and logging industry during that time. The preserved items offer visitors a glimpse of the once glorious railway and the associated logging industry of this area.



## Delicious Food in Jiji

Special items include "Jiji train ticket cookies," banana egg rolls, Jiji big cow horns, lychees, Jiji bananas, and dragon fruit.



# Shuili • Checheng Tour Map



## Shuili



### ● Shuili Riverside Park ●

The water from Shuili River comes via the Mingtan Power Station, Jugong Branch. The township office built a children's waterpark in the downtown area on the banks of the Shuili River. During the popular summer months of July and August, many families come to enjoy the various facilities, such as Stone Spring, Silver Waterway and Welcome Water Feature. Hourly shows are provided on the hour at the five large water fountains. The lights displaying their colors amid the mists are beautiful.



### ● Erpingshan / Popsicles ●

Located in Jugong Village, Shuili Township, Erping Popsicles has more than 30 years of history. The scenery on the way to the shop is beautiful, and one can see the Shuili city landscape in the distance. The popsicles are made by a Taiwan Power Company snack shop. Because the water is pure here, the popsicles are especially good. They have enticed students from the nearby elementary school and tourists alike to come here to taste this old-time favorite snack.

### ● Yushan National Park Headquarter Shuili Visitor Center ●

Yushan National Park is located in the center of Taiwan, and its administration building is next to the Shuili Provincial Highway. Before hiking up the mountain, hikers tend to take a break at the Shuili Visitor Center, where they can grab more information about their hike, or buy some snacks. The visitor center has designated staff to answer questions. A variety of audiovisual media is also available for visitors that provides comprehensive information about Yushan National Park.

📍 No. 21, Ln. 512, Sec. 1, Shuixin Rd., Shuili Township, Nantou County  
☎ +886-49-2773121 #605, 606

### ● Shuili Snake Kiln ●

The Shuili Snake Kiln was established in 1927. Ultimately, the ceramic industry was greatly impacted by the rise of the plastic industry. Shuili Snake Kiln, in order to keep its multi-generation business operating, changed their operating model in 1993 and became the first pottery cultural park in Taiwan. The kiln now incorporates elements of local life, culture, art, tourism and education into their operations.



📍 No. 21, Ln. 512, Sec. 1, Shuixin Rd., Shuili Township, Nantou County ☎ +886-49-2770967

### ● Mutao Kiln ●

As its Chinese name suggests, Mutao Kiln is immersed in the world of art. The interior is decorated with years of collections of famous calligraphy, paintings, pottery items produced by the kiln, simple furniture and bamboo shades. Stacks of books are spread throughout, and elegant traditional Chinese music plays in the background. The space is filled with a leisurely, simple, natural and serene aura. Simply delightful!

📍 No. 33, Lane 7, Yangming Road, Dingkan Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County  
☎ +886-49-2776315

### ● NTU Experimental Forest Administration – Wood Utilization & Product Workshop ●

In years past, Shuili Township was an important site for Taiwan's logging industry. In 1958, a Wood Utilization and Product Workshop was established there by the National Taiwan University (NTU) Experimental Forest Administration. The workshop also provides internships for NTU Forest study students at which they can conduct research and experiments using various raw materials, as well as design wood furniture and produce other wood items. In 2009, the Wood Utilization and Product Exhibition Center was established to exhibit their creations and highlight the significant historic role of Shuili Township in Taiwan's logging industry.

📍 No. 547, Sec. 1, Shuixin road, Yongfeng Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County

### 👍 Delicious Food in Shuili

Erpingshan popsicles, Shuili dumplings, grapes, peaches, green plums, sweet oranges, Murcott tangerines, Naval oranges, grapefruits.

# Checheng

## Railway Culture



### ● Railway Sightseeing School ●

The former vacant Checheng Elementary School has been revitalized. The auditorium was converted into the Checheng Visitor Center and the new location for the Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Administration – Checheng Administration office. The visitor center has an area that shows films of train rides on the Jiji line, and a simulation of actual scenes of passenger trains and settings in the early days. The film also shows all the well-known attractions along the Jiji line, allowing visitors a virtual experience.



In addition, the Checheng Visitor Center has a powered model train that travels along the elevated tracks around the surrounding walls. The electronic clock inside the train car posts the current time, and adds a bit of whimsy. Next to the information desk in the visitor center are pictures of logging and transportation in Checheng in the old days. The interesting scenes in the visitor center create a wonderful railway sightseeing atmosphere.

### ● Outdoor Train Car Exhibition – Taiwan Railway R100 Model Diesel Locomotive ●

In order to improve transportation efficiency, the Taiwan Railways Administration introduced the R100 Diesel locomotive model in 1970. In the beginning, it was mainly used to carry the Juguang cars traveling on the western route. In 1979, when the western rail line was completely electrified, the locomotive was transferred to the eastern line. Since diesel power start up acceleration is slow, mechanical structures are relatively simple and no tramlines are needed, the train can operate on any standard route and service any railway station in the system. This locomotive also serves as a training vehicle for new operators hired by the Taiwan Railways Administration.



### ● Daguan Tunnel ●

The historic Daguan Tunnel is a 280-meter S-shaped tunnel that has been around since the Japanese colonial era (built c. 1919). The tunnel's walls were built with stone and red brick. Inside the cool and comfortable tunnel are six arched concave spots for cars to pull over and park. The exit faces the Shuili river valley.



### ● Checheng Station ●

Checheng Station is the final station on the Jiji line; therefore, it's also simply known as "The Final Station." This old station was originally a reinforced concrete structure. However, it was severely damaged in the 921 Earthquake, and was subsequently rebuilt by the Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Administration. The new station has a mainly wooden exterior with a façade that is simple yet elegant. The ingenious architectural style complements the landscape of this mountain town perfectly. As a result, it's often known as "The Most Beautiful Train Station."

### ● Coal Replenishing Platform, Water Crane, Signal Tower ●



In the old days, trains traveling on the Jiji line were steam trains. At Checheng Station they could stop to replenish their water and coal supplies. Although these supplies are no longer needed by modern trains, the station still retains its coal replenishing platform and water crane (water column). In addition, the Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Administration moved a signal tower from Zhunan to this station, and it now serves as a railway historical site.

### ● National Treasure Train Park ●

The Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Administration worked together with the Taiwan Railways Administration to create Taiwan's only outdoor railway museum, a must-see for railway enthusiasts. The facility utilizes pre-existing tracks, platforms and railway signs to create a historic railway scene, within which are also displayed dozens of national treasure antique trains, such as a 10C1216 carriage, a 10R104 refrigerator car, and an S316 passenger car.

### ● Railway Warehouse, Japanese-style Dormitory, Factory Site ●

Checheng Station is the first and final stop on the Jiji line. When the last train pulls into Checheng Station, the conductor and railway employees can rest in the staff dormitory until departing again the next day. The trains are parked in the factory for maintenance and repair. The Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Administration renovated the railway warehouse that was used for storage, and transformed it into offices for the Checheng management station and a visitor center (the latter was moved to the Railway Sightseeing School in September 2019). It has now become a railway culture park with railway facilities and businesses. The Japanese-style staff dormitory was renovated according to its original architectural style and retains the dorm lifestyle of the railway station manager and staff. Visitors can have a sense of Japanese styles of the colonial era and experience railway life in the old days.



## Logging Industry



### ● Checheng Logging Industry Exhibition Hall ●

In 1958, logging industry titan Chairman Sun Hai of Zhen Chang Enterprises obtained logging rights to Nantou's Danda Forest area. Realizing the advantages of convenient transportation in the area, he purchased land in Checheng and built a factory to produce timber for both the domestic and foreign markets. His operations resulted in a bustling economy in Checheng. In 1986, the government banned logging, and Zhen Chang closed down at the end of that year. In order to promote Checheng's tourism and recreation resources, and increase visitors' understanding of the logging industry's development, the Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area Administration took the old factory - regarded as a precious industrial site and preserved historic site - and renovated it as the Checheng Logging Industry Exhibition Hall.

📍 No. 110-2, Minquan Lane, Checheng Village, Shuili Township, Nantou County

## Hydro Power History

Sun Moon Lake is an important area for Taiwan's hydropower plants. Over nearly 80 years, Taiwan Power built a series of plants along the lake and the nearby Shuili River, namely Daguan, Jugong, Minghu and Mingtan (including the Shuili unit). They also built the Minghu and Mingtan reservoirs and nearby power plants in Checheng to supply pumped hydroelectricity. The large number of reservoirs in the area is quite rare in the world. Tourists visiting the various power plants and reservoirs can see how hydropower becomes electricity, and learn to cherish nature's resources.

### ● Mingtan Pumped Hydropower Reservoir ●

The Mingtan Reservoir above the town of Checheng is a dam built according to the terrain of the Shuili river valley. Water coming down from Sun Moon Lake is blocked to create the environmentally friendly "pumped hydropower storage plant." This is a recreational attraction surrounded by mountains and beautiful scenery.

### ● Checheng Crane, Wood Soaking Pond ●

The wood-soaking pond was originally used to store logs. In the 1960s and 1970s, when Checheng's logging industry was bustling, the crane used to hoist wood and place it in the wood pond to soak and extend its usage. As times changed, the area surrounding the wood pond became a home to maple, camphor, and Bald cypress trees. It's very worthwhile to stop here and enjoy the beautiful scenery surrounded by the lovely mountain landscape!



### ● Experience Factory ●

Checheng's logging industry has a famous reputation and was once home to a bustling business. In order to promote logging industry crafts and the concept of a sustainable forest environment, visitors can experience the fun of DIY woodworking and take their creations home as souvenirs. You'll also find the wood barrel lunch, a traditional lunch item contained in a wood barrel that's unique to Checheng.

### 👍 Delicious Food in Checheng

Wood barrel lunch, plum wine, plum vinegar, plum jam, plum noodles, plum soy sauce, plum wine sausage, plum wine popsicles, Boat orchid and bamboo shoots

