

Excursions

Tours to the National Museum of Natural Science and National Palace Museum are arranged on September 16. If you are interested in the following tours, please sign up upon registration, and tour fees will be at your own cost. Please be reminded that reservations are limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Excursion I: National Museum of Natural Science & National Plant Genetic Resources Center

Date : Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007

Introduction:

National Plant Genetic Resources Center

http://192.192.196.1/npgrc1/index_e.html

Germplasm (genetic resources) is the basis of crop improvement. Genetic variations and diversity of plant are the motivating force for continuous process in breeding. In recent years agricultural production and management have adopted a more specialized economic production model. Cultivars is usually based on hybrid seeds or fixed commercial varieties so that the survival of native varieties and wild plants become threatened. These primitive types have genetically high disease resistance or environment tolerance (e.g. high, low temperature, arid environment, etc.) and maybe a precious source for crop improvement in the future. In view of the long term needs of mankind, countries all over the world have set up seed storage vaults for the preservation of genetic materials of plants so as to maintain the genetic diversity for further improvement and biotechnologic studies. In the way, ecologic balance among biological entities can be maintained.



National Museum of Natural Science

<http://www.nmns.edu.tw>

As one of the most heavily attended museums in Taiwan, and one of the most attended venues in Taichung, the Museum is in the distinguished company of the National Palace Museum in Taipei and the National Science and Technology Museum in Kaohsiung.



Across 22 exquisite acres, the Museum is a six-venue complex housing the Space IMAX Theater, Science Center, Life Science Hall, Chinese Science Hall, Global Environment Hall and the Botanical Garden, excluding the Earthquake Museum in Wufong. Over 30 permanent exhibit areas cover subjects on astronomy, space science, paleontology, ecology, gems and minerals, Taiwanese Aborigines, and tropical plants. Rotating special exhibits are a constant occurrence. It is also a place filled with hands-on exhibits that will delight children and adults of all ages. The Museum is also a major science learning center with over a half million school children visiting annually.

As a unique educational opportunity available to people in Taiwan, the 921 Earthquake Museum located 10 kilometers east of the Museum in Wufong is a division of the Museum. It reminds people of the disaster happening on Sep. 21 of 1999, and allows people to foster a better understanding of earthquakes and increase awareness of our natural world.

Excursion II: National Palace Museum & Yangmingshan National Park

Date: Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007

Introduction:

Hsiaoyukeng

<http://www.ymsnp.gov.tw/>

Hsiaoyukeng is the best-known recreation site in Yangmingshan National Park, and offers some of the most typical scenery. Located above the Tatung Bridge along the Yangmingshan-Chinshan Highway, Hsiaoyukeng is at an elevation of 800 meters and contains a host of volcanically-created fumaroles, sulfur crystals, hot springs, and landslides. Sulfur vents noisily spew forth gases, and hot springs discharge endless streams of boiling water. The bright yellow sulfur crystals that can be seen here are exceptionally lovely. Mt. Chihsing provides breathtaking views in all directions.



The National Palace Museum

<http://www.npm.gov.tw/>

The National Palace Museum is considered one of world's five great museums. It collects, preserves, and promotes the essence of Chinese art and crafts. Accumulated over a thousand years by Chinese emperors and royal families, its collections include ceramics, porcelain, calligraphy, and ritual bronzes. The National Palace Museum is a must-see destination for foreigners visiting Taiwan.

