

April 2023

西風

WESTSIDE BREEZE



Westside Chinese School

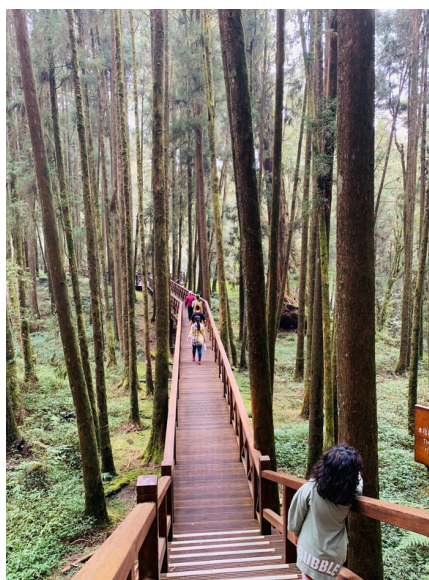
Alishan Mountain Range (阿里山山脈) in Chiayi County, Taiwan

By Kayee Mays

In the summer of 2021, when I was 8 years old, my mom, brother, and I went by train to Alishan. I saw lots of big trees.



This is a red cypress tree that is over 3,000 years old. It is located next to the Alishan Forest Railway's Sacred Tree Station.



Alishan has a lot of trails. The most famous is the Giant Tree Trail which has lots of red cypress trees.

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The average height of Alishan Mountain Range is 2,500 meters or about 8,000 ft.

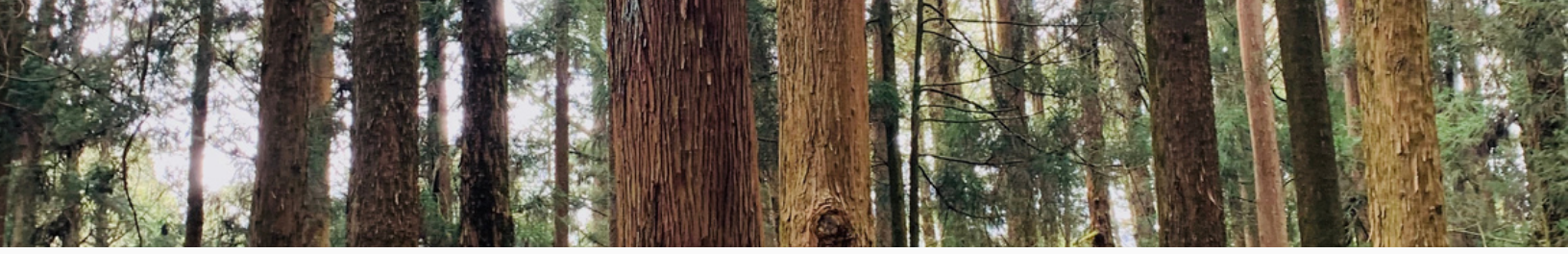


The highest mountain is Datashan (大塔山) which is 2,663 meters (about 8,736 feet).



Sister Pond: Based on hearsay, two Taiwanese indigenous women of the Tsou tribe committed suicide here because they could not find love.





Fenqihu Old Street

Built in 1912 by the Japanese, this small village in the mountains was built along the Alishan Forest Railway to be used as a train stop for trains to refuel and for loggers to rest and eat their bento boxes. Now, the village has a lot of boutique shops that sell snacks and handicrafts. There are also great hiking spots here.

Tea Plantations

Alishan is famous for its high mountain tea. A lot of tea plantations also are open to guests as hotels, hosting families to stay and learn about the tea. The tea plantations are not in the Alishan National Scenic Area. Rather, it is in Chiayi County, which is on the way to the Scenic Area. Just keep in mind, don't go all the way up the mountain without stopping to see the plantations (if interested).



Ciyun Temple

This temple was built by the Japanese in 1919. Formerly known as Alishan Temple, it is a terrific place to view a sea of red clouds at sunset and sunrise. The Buddhist statue of Karmuni is enshrined here.



Alishan is famous for producing high mountain tea and wasabi.

Welcome!



There are 18 mountains in Alishan.



The Alishan area was originally settled by the Tsou tribe (Taiwanese aboriginal people).

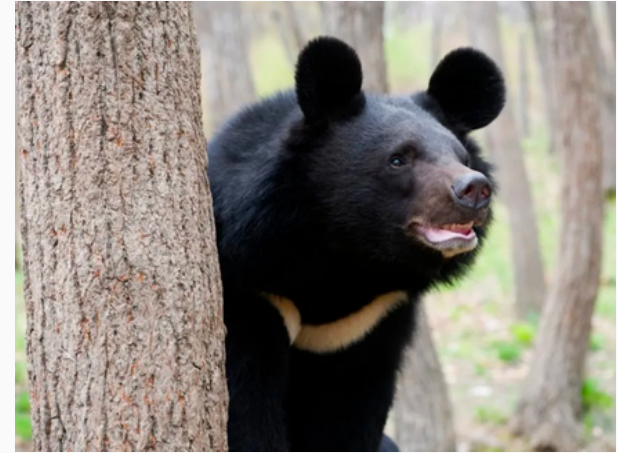


For a few weeks in March, certain areas of Alishan blooms with cherry blossoms.



Formosan Black Bears

Taiwan is home to 1,257 **endemic** (found in only one location) species. Of these, 70 are mammals. One of Taiwan's most famous endemic species is the **Formosan black bear**, a subspecies of the Asiatic black bear. It is the largest land animal and the only native bear in Taiwan, and was voted as the nation's representative animal in 2001. As their name suggests, Formosan black bears have all black fur except for their signature **white V stripe** on their chests.



Species Facts

Formosan black bears are classified as **vulnerable**. They used to live all over Taiwan, but now there are only **200 to 300 left in the wild**. These few wild bears live in the mountains at high elevations where they can be away from humans. Traditionally, Taiwanese Indigenous tribes forbade the killing of Formosan black bears because they believed it would bring bad luck. Unfortunately, in the present day, Formosan black bears are hunted for their meat and for traditional Chinese medicine. Volunteers in Taiwan are working to protect them from such hunters.

Scientific name	<i>Ursus thibetanus formosanus</i>
Size	130 to 180 cm, 60 to 150 kg
Diet	Omnivorous (plants and insects)
Speed	30-40 km per hour
Reproduction	1-3 cubs per reproductive cycle (2 years)
Behavior	Territorial and solitary

Formosan black bears have been protected since **1989**. The **Taipei Zoo** has implemented a conservation and breeding program to save the Formosan black bear population. In **2008**, a cub was successfully bred from this program and was given the name **Heitang** (brown sugar) via public vote.

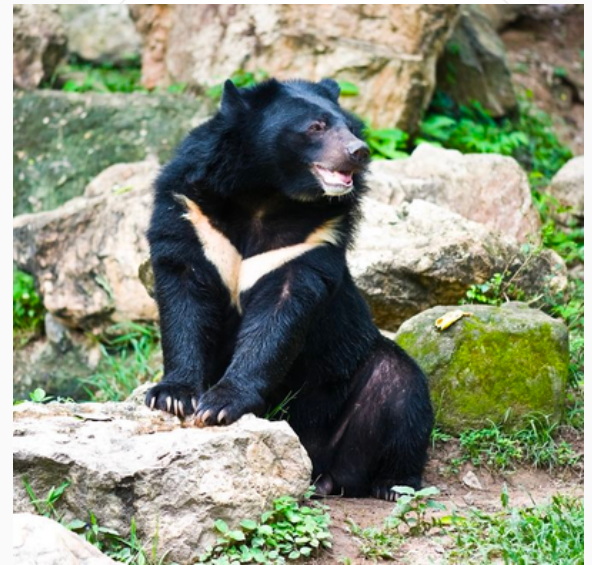


Formosan Black Bears

台灣有一千兩百五十七種地方特有的物種，**只有當地才有**。而這其中有七十種是哺乳動物。台灣最著名的特有物種之一是**台灣黑熊**，牠是亞洲黑熊的一個亞種。牠也是台灣最大的陸生動物，更是台灣唯一的本土熊，並於 2001 年被選為國家代表動物。台灣黑熊顧名思義，除了胸部標誌性的**白色 V 條紋**外，全身都是黑色的皮毛。



台灣黑熊被歸類為**瀕臨絕種**的動物。以前台灣黑熊遍布台灣各地，但是現在**野外只剩下200到300隻左右**。這些為數不多的野熊生活在遠離人類的高海拔山區。傳統上，台灣原住民部落禁止獵殺台灣黑熊，因為他們認為這會為部落帶來厄運。不幸的是，如今人們獵殺台灣黑熊是為了獲取牠們的肉和中藥所需藥材。台灣的愛護動物志工正在努力保護牠們，讓台灣黑熊免於受到獵人的傷害。



台灣黑熊自 **1989** 年起受到保護。**台北動物園**還實施了一系列保護和繁殖計劃，以拯救台灣黑熊。**2008** 年的時候，這個保護計劃更成功地繁育出一隻幼熊，並由一般大眾投票取名為**黑糖**。

Interested in Journalism?

Come join Westside Breeze next year! Together, students will work on their own articles to produce three issues a year. Along the way, they will learn valuable skills in layout and journalism etiquette. Come have fun with us!



Preferably 5th grade and up.
Younger kids can draw.

Dolphins or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Marine Mammals

By Jason Durkee

I didn't always hate dolphins. There was a point in my life where I too would stare at them, finding wonder in clicks and whistles and the way their dorsal fins jut playfully out of the water. That point was replaced with a rounded corner of disgust as I learned more: their intelligence is alarming (yet all they do is swim?); their bodies look rather goofy swimming around, and their sense of morality is significantly impaired when it comes to ethical pufferfish treatment. My uneducated contempt became a part of my personality. Cute dolphin stickers on your backpack? Anti-dolphin tirade, courtesy of yours truly. And yet, after all these years of contented cetacean desecration, I wonder why. Should people dislike dolphins? Are dolphins really so bad? Why did I reference Dr. Strangelove in the title of this article when I've never seen that movie?

These are good questions, and I hope to answer them.

There are around 40 known dolphin species, making up an estimated eight million or more living dolphins. Six million of those dolphins are Common dolphins. although the most popular image of dolphins is of the Bottlenose dolphins, which hold a population of 600,000. Bottlenose dolphins have been used in the US Navy since 1959 to search for sea-mines, and while they lose some points for being part of the military industrial complex (40 million dollars spent on dolphins each year?!), they gain those points back and more for the earnestness of the program. The Navy has devised dolphin-friendly heart trackers in hopes of studying and bettering the lives of aging [dolphin] veterans, technology which can only benefit humans. I learned to better empathize with the world by seeing what's worth saving in geriatric dolphins with heart problems.

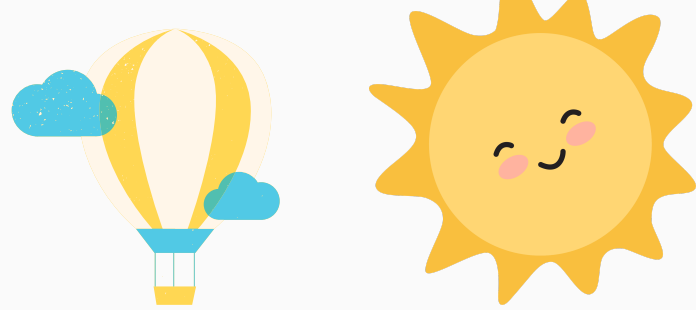


Happy dolphin picture (Bottlenose)

Looking past the uniquely American experience of NYT Op-eds about dolphins in the military, I researched a dolphin more appropriate for a *Chinese* school newspaper article: the Baiji. Baiji's were a dolphin endemic to the Yangtze river whose extinction was caused by ever growing industrial activity. It's depressing to think of the millions of years of evolution that have been lost in their extinction and saddening to realize that in our lifetimes, we will never get to see another Baiji. But for me what was most sad was the subtle linguistic change regarding the Baiji; articles from before and after their officially declared extinction in 2002 change their diction from "are alive, can be saved" to "were alive, could have been saved". Reading about the small little river dolphin's extinction isn't fun, but it is important. People have not stopped thinking about the Baiji even though it is gone, a fact evidenced by the Hong Kong Science Museum's exhibition which created digital renditions of the Baiji, and by the hundreds of other articles propounding the importance of remembering the species we lost, and saving the ones that are still here. I like dolphins now. They're not so bad. Yay!

2A 作文集錦

Artwork by Kayee Mays



自我介紹 唐友甫

有一個小男生, 他今年七歲. 他很愛他的家人. 他的家人有媽媽, 爸爸和婆婆. 他喜歡跟媽媽一起看書, 跟爸爸一起打電動, 還有跟婆婆一起包餃子. 他最愛的運動是足球. 他每天都努力的練習, 希望可以像梅西 (Messi) 一樣. 這個小男生就是我---唐友甫.

;



我最喜欢的动物 子鑫玉成

我最喜欢的动物是考拉. 澳大利亞有很多考拉. 我喜欢考拉因为它们很可爱. 牠们有灰色的毛和短短的尾巴. 牠們很喜欢睡觉. 我最喜欢的动物是考拉. 你最喜欢的动物是什么?

自我介紹 周立慧

你好! 我的名字是周立慧. 今天我要介紹我自己. 我的家人是爸爸, 爸爸寫影片. 媽媽. 媽媽檢察官. 我也有妹妹, 我愛妹妹. 我上二年級. 我喜歡跳芭蕾舞, 做體操和溜冰. 我喜歡吃很多東西. 我喜歡冰淇淋. 我很喜歡小籠包! 我是好女孩.



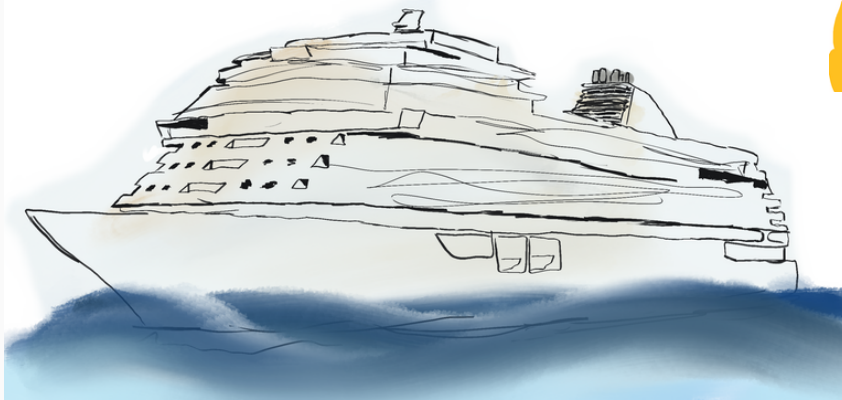
難忘的假期 吳悠悠

2022年的夏天, 我和爸爸, 妈妈和奶奶去了冰川公园. 我看见了雪山, 冰川, 小河, 还看见了山羊. 冰蛇鱼. 我和妈妈打了雪仗. 我们在小木屋住了几天, 玩得很高兴.



我迷失的時間

當我去迪斯尼樂園時, 我迷路了. 我們一進遊樂園, 我就找不到我的家人了. 我左右看了看, 但仍然沒有看到任何人. 我喊爸爸媽媽, 幸運的是, 媽媽聽到了, 跑過來給了我一個大大的擁抱.



一次有趣的澳大利亞 劉健平

我跟我家人到澳大利亞. 我家人有我媽媽, 爸爸, 哥哥, 公公和婆婆. 我們大家一起去. 首先, 我們都去飛機場. 我們從洛杉磯到悉尼, 澳大利亞坐的飛機差不多十八個小時. 我們看了很多電影很多電視. 吃了一兩段餐在飛機上. 十八個小時後我們終於到了! 我們在悉尼過了四天看動物園又觀光. 過了四天, 我們坐了一個大船. 我們坐了十一天看它們的黃金海岸. 我們下了船之後我們要回到悉尼. 我們一家人爬了悉尼最高的橋. 它有130m (440ft)高. 我喜歡在澳大利亞跟我家人旅行.

漢字文化節 Chinese Character Festival

3/19/2023 中文學校聯合會在洛杉磯僑教中心舉辦漢字文化節活動。西區中文學校參與了文化節活動，共襄盛舉。我們製作節慶的紅包燈籠、紅包魚、紅包鞭炮、兔子摺紙以及書寫吉祥話。

On 3/19/2023, The Southern California Council of Chinese Schools held a Chinese Character Culture Festival at the Overseas Chinese Education Center in Los Angeles. Westside Chinese School participated in the grand occasion, teaching event participants how to make festive lanterns, fish, and firecrackers out of red envelopes, fold origami rabbits, and write auspicious Chinese characters.



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