

## **Fascinating Mine Mountain**

**--A visit to heartwarming mountain town**

**--Jinguashi--Love it without reason, gain happiness without waiting**

By Damon

I walked carefully along a narrow mountain trail. Cracked old water pipes and drenches seem to be the code leading to a secret place; a deep river valley is down there. At a turn, a huge rock tunnel appears in front, though artificially opened yet very beautiful. It only allows two persons to sidle to pass at the same time. Wu Chien-jeng ( Brother A-Jeng, a local resident) said: “If you want to enjoy beautiful scenery, just go along the difficult road.”

In the past, there was gold rush in Jinguashi; today, pretty mine mountains become local attraction. The zigzag trails often give tourists pleasant surprises at every turn. The old houses are still standing, while Africa balsams blossom in the wilderness. Attracted by this fascinating beauty, I did not know I had run into the relics of an irrigation water channel under Sancheng (3-level) Bridge and unexpectedly found the secret garden of the old miner in panning gold. And I happened to witness the blossoming of the precious *Bretschneidera sinensis* Hemsl. The crematory left from Japanese occupation period is still kept intact. Standing at the place which was a forbidden place in childhood but a secret garden in adulthood, Ah-Cheng said, “Isn’t it interesting to have a cup of coffee and chat about life philosophy at the crematory?”

Indeed, we should enjoy relaxation in countryside. Regrettably, many people come to Jinguashi as a passer-by. After getting off car, we should step down with both feet to feel the earth, and slow down the pace to explore its history. Just take a rest at a corner and have more interactions with local residents. So why not take a walk along the Slow-down Road, or take a stroll at the Romantic Road? You will feel happy at Jinguashi even simply doing nothing.

#Transportation

To enjoy fascinating mine mountains, please call Slow-Down Hostel or Er-jie (Second Sister) of Cloud Village Lodge

Add: Guashan Elementary School (306, Road No. 5, Rueifang Dist., New Taipei City)

National Freeway No. 1 (northbound) → connect Expressway No. 62 → exit by Rueifang intersection → connect County Highway No. 102 to Jioufen → connect northbound Township Road No. 34 to Jinguashi → After arriving Guashan Elementary School, turn left and get to Jinfu Temple → Water irrigation channel trail and the

Gentleman Alley are down there. (Gentleman Alley is quite narrow. Only one person is allowed to pass. If two persons are passing at the same time, they would rub each other. Thus it is also called “breast touching alley”.)

#Highly recommended accommodation:

The Adagio--

Add: 93-1, Sanjian Road, Shisan Borough, Rueifang Dist., New Taipei City

Tel: 02-2496-1111

Here you can enjoy tranquil mountain life as well as beautiful ocean and mountain views. Its interior design is in simple Japanese style, making visitors feel so carefree. The host greets guests with warmth and hospitality. Just take your time to enjoy its food and scenery. Life here is so comfortable that you just don't want to leave.