

# ■ ■ MT. JADE (YUSHAN) HIKE

March 26–27, 2023 | 3,952m | Yushan National Park, Taiwan

Asian Trilogy Peak #2 | Taiwan's Highest Summit | Source: [mariasometimesniskie.wordpress.com](https://mariasometimesniskie.wordpress.com)

## ■ ■ QUICK FACTS

<b>Mountain</b>	Mt. Jade (Yushan / ■ ■) — 3,952m (12,966 ft) above sea level
<b>Significance</b>	Highest peak in Taiwan and Northeast Asia   Part of the Asian Trilogy: Mt. Kinabalu · Mt. Jade · Mt. Fuji
<b>Location</b>	Yushan National Park (Nantou County, central Taiwan)
<b>Hike Date</b>	March 26–27, 2023 (2 Days, 1 Night)
<b>Historic Event</b>	Witnessed the FIRST SNOWFALL in Yushan for 2023 — the latest first snow in 80 years!
<b>Temperature</b>	Paiyun Lodge (Base Camp): -8°C   Summit: -12°C
<b>Trail Length</b>	Jump-off → Paiyun Lodge: 8.5 km   Lodge → Summit: 2.9 km
<b>Permit System</b>	Lottery/raffle system   Limited to ~116 hikers/day   Must apply online in advance
<b>Guides/Porters</b>	NOT required — well-established trail with clear signage throughout
<b>Internet</b>	Internet connection available throughout the entire hike
<b>Visa</b>	Philippine passport holders — VISA FREE up to 14 days   Passport valid 6+ months required
<b>Group Size</b>	11 people (DIY group led by experienced Filipino hikers)

## ■ ■ COST SUMMARY (Rate: 1 NTD = ~■ 1.85 PHP)

Item	NTD	PHP
2D1N package — accommodation at Paiyun Lodge, meals, sleeping bag rental	3,500 NTD	~PHP 6,200
Shuttle: Taichung → Yushan Park border + return (shared among 11 pax)	400 NTD	~PHP 740
Shuttle: Park entrance → Mt. Jade trailhead jump-off (per person)	200 NTD	~PHP 370
TOTAL (all-in per person)	4,000 NTD	~PHP 7,110

★ *This is one of the most affordable 2D1N mountain hikes — no guide or porter fees needed*

★ *Permits were secured by hiker friends (Jim and team) — applied a month in advance*

■ *Other organizers were charging 5x more — DIY group hike saved significant cost*

## ■ ■ PERMIT & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Mt. Jade is the **ONLY mountain in Taiwan** with a lottery permit system
- Lodge capacity: approximately **116 hikers per day**
- Apply online at: [npm.cpami.gov.tw](https://npm.cpami.gov.tw) | Check availability and apply for permit

- Permits must be applied **well in advance** — minimum 1 month recommended
- Permits issued ~1 week before the hike date | Can be **printed at any 7-Eleven in Taiwan**
  - *7-Eleven offers printing/copying services — very convenient!*
- At checkpoint: Show printed permit + passport + valid IDs (returned after verification)
- Philippine passport holders: **VISA FREE** up to 14 days | No visa application needed
- *Permits are non-transferable — each hiker must be registered individually*

## ■■ PAIYUN LODGE (BASE CAMP) — INFO

- Located at the top of the 8.5km ascent from the jump-off point
- Facilities: water supply, toilets, kitchen, beds with mattresses
- **Sleeping bags provided** — included in the package cost
- **No heating system** — temperatures at lodge: -8°C | Layer up heavily
- Meals provided: dinner upon arrival (chicken) + breakfast served at 2:30 AM
- Lights out: 7:00 PM | Wake-up: 5:30 AM for summit assault
- Lodge closes at **noon every day** — vacate before 12 PM to allow incoming hikers
- No shower facilities effectively usable at -8°C — plan to clean up in Taipei
- *Shower not recommended at -8°C — swap wet gloves and socks immediately upon arrival*
- ★ *Bring hand/body warmers (Daiso brand works well) — essential at these temperatures*

## DAY 1 — March 26 (Sunday) | TAICHUNG → PAIYUN LODGE

- 4:30 AM** Picked up from hotel in **Taichung City** by shuttle | ~3-hour drive to Yushan Park
- 8:00 AM** Arrived at **checkpoint** | Registered, submitted permits, showed passports and IDs
- 8:33 AM** Boarded shuttle from checkpoint to **Mt. Jade trailhead jump-off point**
- 8:45 AM** **ASCENT BEGINS!** Trek from jump-off → Paiyun Lodge = **8.5 km**
- *It had been raining all the way from Taichung to the trailhead this morning*
  - *No porters — first time carrying own full pack | North Face gear used throughout*
- 3:35 PM** ■■ **FIRST SNOWFALL BEGINS!** — Unexpected and magical
- *First snowfall in Yushan for 2023 — and the latest first snow in 80 years!*
  - *Snow fell gently and brightly as the group hiked — described as 'straight out of a movie'*
  - *No crampons packed — group was caught completely off guard*
- 4:15 PM** Arrived at **Paiyun Lodge** (Base Camp) | Temperature: -8°C
- *Welcomed with chicken dinner (a bit bland but warm)*
  - *Cannot shower — -8°C makes it impossible | Changed into dry socks and gloves immediately*
  - *Ayen had body warmers from Daiso — a lifesaver for the group*
- 7:00 PM** Lights out | Jim (permit coordinator) announces: **summit attempt is too dangerous**
- *Reason: Snow + no crampons = high risk of slipping on icy trail*
  - *Group had pre-agreed: if conditions are hazardous, no summit push*
  - *Decision made to reassess in the morning and attempt at first light*

## DAY 2 — March 27 (Monday) | SUMMIT ASSAULT & DESCENT

- 2:30 AM** Breakfast served at the lodge
- 5:30 AM** Wake-up call | Brushed teeth, layered up all trekking gear | Summit attempt GO!
- 6:00 AM** **SUMMIT ASSAULT BEGINS** | Lodge → Summit = **2.9 km**
- *Freezing temperatures, near-zero visibility, thinning air | Every breath a struggle*
  - *Held onto rails along the mountain trail the entire way up*
  - *Praying for sun and warmth even before reaching the peak*
- 8:41 AM** ■■ **SUMMIT REACHED!** Mt. Jade — 3,952m | Temperature: **-12°C**
- *Duration from lodge to summit: ~2 hrs 41 min*
  - *Hands and feet completely numb — serious concern about frostbite*
  - *Wind was not too strong — otherwise conditions would have been even more dangerous*
  - *'Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd scale this mountain'*
- 9:00 AM** **DESCENT BEGINS** from summit | Slippery snow surface — extremely cautious
- *Had to hold onto rails and take each step slowly and carefully*
  - *At times had to sit and slide down the snowy stairs to avoid slipping*
- 11:00 AM** Arrived back at **Paiyun Lodge** (base camp)
- 12:00 PM** **Lodge closes** — begin descent back to trailhead | Lodge → Jump-off = 8.5 km
- 3:45 PM** Reached the **trailhead jump-off point** — end of descent
- 3:50 PM** Boarded shuttle to the park checkpoint
- 4:20 PM** Boarded shuttle back to **Taipei**
- 11:20 PM** Arrived at **Meander Hostel**, Taipei Ximending
- 12:00 AM** Showered and finally rested ■

## ■ PACKING CHECKLIST

- Trekking clothes
- Passport + valid IDs (for registration)
- Gloves (bring extra pairs!)
- Jacket + raincoat / rain jacket
- Down jacket
- Headlamp
- Small summit assault backpack
- Trail food + snacks
- Pocket money (cash)
- Trekking poles
- Yushan Park entry permit (printed)
- Extra socks (bring multiple pairs!)
- Fleece jacket
- Windbreaker
- Bonnet / headbuff / face mask
- Trash bag
- Water (sufficient supply)
- Body/hand warmers (Daiso brand)

■ Crampons ■■ ESSENTIAL if snow expected

■ Waterproof bag for documents

▲ *CRAMPONS are a MUST if hiking during or after snowfall — do not skip this*

▲ *Pack extra gloves and socks — wet gear at -8°C is dangerous*

★ *North Face gear was used and performed excellently throughout the hike*

★ *Body warmers from Daiso were described as lifesavers at the lodge*

## ■■ WEATHER & TRAIL CONDITIONS

- Spring hike (March) — weather is unpredictable; can shift from rain to snow rapidly
- It rained from Taichung all the way to the trailhead on Day 1 morning
- Snowfall began at **3:35 PM** on Day 1 — first snow of 2023 and latest in 80 years
- Snow accumulated to **5 cm** — described as 'insane' to hike through
- Lodge temperature: **-8°C** | Summit temperature: **-12°C**
- Near-zero visibility on summit morning | Thin air at altitude made breathing difficult
- Wind was manageable — stronger winds would have made summit attempt impossible
- *No heating at Paiyun Lodge — sleeping bags are provided but pack all warm layers*
- *Without crampons, the icy descent required extreme caution — sitting/sliding down stairs*
- ★ *Internet was available throughout the entire trail — a pleasant surprise*

## ■■ KEY NOTES & SURVIVAL TIPS

### Before the Hike

- Apply for permits **at least 1 month in advance** via [npm.cpami.gov.tw](http://npm.cpami.gov.tw)
- Permits can be printed at any **7-Eleven in Taiwan** (printing service available)
- Coordinate with experienced hikers — they can help secure group slots
- Check weather forecast before departure — snow/rain changes gear requirements drastically
- Buy crampons if any snow is forecast — non-negotiable for safety
- Stock up on body/hand warmers at Daiso before the hike

### During the Hike

- No guides or porters needed — trail is well-marked with clear signage
- Hold the rails along the trail — especially critical on icy and snowy sections
- Change wet socks and gloves immediately upon reaching the lodge — prevents frostbite
- The lodge closes at noon — make sure to be on your way down before 12 PM
- Group decision-making is key: agree beforehand on weather cutoffs for summit attempt
- Carry your own full pack — no porter option; train beforehand for load-bearing endurance

### Summit Day Tips

- Start the summit push at **6:00 AM** to allow enough time for ascent and descent
- 2.9 km from lodge to summit — takes ~2.5 to 3 hours in cold/snow conditions
- On the descent, **sit and slide** on icy stairs if needed — safer than walking

- Must be back at lodge by **noon** to begin the 8.5 km return to jump-off
- Return shuttle departs from checkpoint — coordinate timing with your group

## ■ THE ASIAN TRILOGY — Context

<b>Peak 1</b>	Mt. Kinabalu — 4,095m   Sabah, Malaysia   Highest peak in Southeast Asia
<b>Peak 2 ■</b>	Mt. Jade (Yushan) — 3,952m   Taiwan   Highest peak in Northeast Asia — COMPLETED March 2023
<b>Peak 3</b>	Mt. Fuji — 3,776m   Japan   Iconic volcanic peak — completed Summer 2024
<b>Significance</b>	Completing all three peaks is an achievement among Filipino mountaineers in Asia

*"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd try to scale this mountain. This was without a doubt the greatest adventure of my life to date. Mount Fuji is the last mountain to climb to complete the Asian mountain trilogy. Japan, I'm certainly coming for you!"*

— Maria ([mariasometimesniskie.wordpress.com](https://mariasometimesniskie.wordpress.com))

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Source: [mariasometimesniskie.wordpress.com](https://mariasometimesniskie.wordpress.com) | Mt. Jade Hike Blog — March 26–27, 2023

Currency: 1 NTD = -■1.85 PHP (March 2023 rate)