

**CP ORCHID ISLAND / LANYU BIRTHDAY JAUNT**  
**TRAVEL SIDE-BAR** **The China Post, 1998** (405 words)

Springtime is a magical time to visit Lanyu. The balmy weather brings forth blue skies and thousands of silvery flying fish. But off-season can be great too – that’s when the locals are at their friendliest.

Do try to catch one of the traditional celebrations: the June Boat Festival, the Millet Festival in May or June, or the Flying Fish Festival, held 13 times between March and May. The Tourism Bureau website provides updates and a good map: <http://www.tboc.gov.tw>. These festivals offer great photo ops but use discretion - the villagers detest rude snap-happy tourists. Ask first or use a long lens.

There is no local tourist office but Mr. Yin in Yuren’s Lan-An Center is said to have an interesting collection of Yami video and photos. If you need English-speaking assistance, just call on a local church pastor or schoolteacher. Cash may be obtained at the Hongtong Post Office ATM.

From Taitung’s Fu-Kang Harbor, the ferry is a great way to travel but you’ll need a Chinese-speaker to make a reservation. The schedule varies according to weather and passenger demand.

The stately Changan Lun (089-281-047) makes a daily one hour trip to Lanyu, NT\$568 one way. The Lanyu Lun (089-328-015) is a “day trip” tour boat, splitting the day between Green Island and Lanyu, for NT\$400.

From Taitung, it’s a short 15 minute hop by Uni Air or Formosa Air, NT\$1,154 one way. Helicopter service (089-352-511) is available anytime for NT\$2,800 one way. Credit cards are accepted.

Wanna go local? Try a guest house at NT\$400 per night. Their English-speaking contacts are: Uren: Mr. Tung (09-33-913-195); Yehyin: Pastor Tsow (089-732-292); Tongching: Pastor Stephen (089-732-885); Langtao: Mr. Shieh (089-732-137). Catered meals are available.

Both hotels provide airport pickup and offer adequate rooms for NT\$1,800 to NT3,000, (20% off if you book directly.) They also rent scooters by the day. Yeyiu’s Orchid Island Hotel (089-732-032) has scooters for NT\$700. Hungtao’s Lanyu Hotel (089-732-111) rents scooters for NT\$500, bicycles for NT\$200, and can arrange an authentic Yami dance for NT\$7,000.

The most popular restaurants are all in Hungtong: Lanya, Yiliu Seafood, and my favorite, Amay’s Yugun, which serves up curry and charm for NT\$100.

There are plenty of water sports. Scuba rates range from NT\$2,000 –3300 for two dives with gear. Contact Nauti instructor, Wang Ruei Ching (089-732-410 or Blue Sea Diving Shop (089-333-442). (Caution - tides and currents change seasonally.) Or try deep sea fishing with Lai-Yu (089-732-898 evenings).