

Yehliu's Stone Leopard Rock can only be seen 18 days each year

一年僅露十八天 野柳金錢豹現身



Above: The Leopard Rock at Yehliu in Taipei County is seen here from the best viewing position on May 25. The spot is only accessible 18 days a year, when tides allow.
Below: Seen from the front, the Leopard Rock formation looks like as if it is being worn atop the head of a tribal chief.
PHOTOS: CHEN CHING-MIN, LIBERTY TIMES
上圖：五月二十五日，台北縣野柳「金錢豹」地景的最佳欣賞位置，受潮汐影響，每年僅有十八天可達。
下圖：台北縣野柳「金錢豹」地景，從正面看豹頭，感覺像是披在土著酋長頭頂的獸首。



TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **glimpse** /ɡlɪmps/ n.
瞥見 (pie1 jian4)
例：I caught a glimpse of the actors as they left the theater.
(我瞥見演員們步出戲院。)

2. **pristine** /ˈprɪstɪn/ adj.
原始的 (yuan2 shi3 de5)
例：The book was in pristine condition when I bought it.
(我買那本書的時候它是全新的。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

jaw-dropping
令人驚嘆的

If something is **jaw-dropping**, it is amazing or remarkable.
Example: "The winning dancers put in a **jaw-dropping** performance in the final."
若用「jaw-dropping」來形容某事，就表示這件事很驚人或很了不起。
例如：「決賽時贏得冠軍的舞團演出令人驚嘆」。

The **jaw-dropping** scenery of Yehliu Geopark in Taipei County's Wanli Township is famous at home and abroad. Most people know about the Queen's Head Rock — a national treasure — but they may not know that Yehliu also has a Leopard Rock. This unusual piece of scenery, eroded by the sea, is only accessible on 18 days each year, when the tides allow it. Only then is it possible to catch a rare **glimpse** of the noble leopard, head held high, chest thrown out, its mouth slightly open, crouching on the ground as if ready to pounce.

The Geopark's deputy general manager Tang Chin-hui explained that, because of factors like the tides, access path and viewing angle, optimal viewing times for the Leopard Rock are restricted to just 18 days a year. It can only be viewed in the third to fifth months of the Lunar Calendar, at low tide when there are spring tides, which occur on the first to third and 15th to 17th days of the lunar month.

According to Hsiao Shih-chi of the park's site management office, if you want to get to the area near the Leopard Rock, you have to climb sideways around the steep cliffs of Yehliu, at the risk of being thrown onto submerged rocks by a rogue wave or strong gust of wind. Then you have to cross "bean curd rocks" (also known as "chessboard rocks") covered with sea lettuce and hair moss. For this reason, the area is not open for tourists to visit, and the animal and plant ecology of this part of the coast remains in **pristine** condition.

Tang told us about a group of park workers who went on an inspection tour of the natural ecology of this restricted area four years ago. Stopping for a rest, they surveyed the "bean curd rocks" at the sea's edge, which have been carved by differential erosion and weathering. That was when they spotted the Leopard Rock, which they now think of as Yehliu's guardian rock.

Chou Shu-wen, the park's business manager, pointed out that a single section of eroded landscape can be interpreted in different ways in different people's imaginations, and depending on the angle from which it is viewed. Observing the Leopard Rock from the reverse side, she thought it looked rather like a poodle or shar-pei dog, but from the front the leopard's head looks as if it is being worn as a symbol of power atop the head of a tribal chief.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY JULIAN CLEGG)

台北縣萬里鄉野柳地質公園以景觀特殊聞名海內外，多數人都知道國寶級的「女王頭」，卻不知道野柳也有「金錢豹」！這處造形獨特的海蝕地景受潮汐影響，每年只有十八天能目睹它「昂首、挺頸、微微開口、臥坐地面」蓄勢待發的英姿。

地質公園副總經理湯錦惠說，受到潮汐、通道、觀賞角度等因素影響，「金錢豹」最佳觀賞時機每年只有十八天，農曆三至五月的初一至初三、十五至十七「大潮日的乾潮時段」，才有機會目睹。

場務部經理蕭式棋說，要到金錢豹這一區，須側身攀爬野柳岬懸崖，冒著被瘋狗浪及強風捲落海中暗礁的危險，再走過布滿石蓴、髮菜的豆腐岩（又稱棋盤岩）才能抵達，所以未開放遊客參觀，也讓該區的海岸地景、動植物生態維持原始風貌。

湯錦惠說，四年前員工踏勘管制區的自然生態，半途休息之際，巡望臨海的豆腐岩上受到差異侵蝕、風化的岩石，意外發現「金錢豹」，將此視為野柳的守護石。

企劃部經理周淑文強調，同一海蝕地景，在民眾發揮想像力下，加上觀察角度不同，可能就有不一樣的解讀，她從金錢豹的反面來觀賞，有點像貴賓狗或沙皮狗，正面看豹頭又宛如披在土著酋長頭頂的獸首，相當威武。

(自由時報記者陳璟民)