

## **We Love Hakka**

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Below are two excerpts from the book, *We Love Hakka*, which anthologized my scripts. Originally these were scripts for a minute-long radio segment that explored the rich history and culture of the Hakka people, their language, and important landmarks in Taiwan.

### **Shi-tou / Lion's Head Mountain**

Shi-tou, or Lion's Head Mountain, gets its name from its unique shape. Resting between Miaoli's Nanchuang Township and Hsinchu's Emei Township, the "lion" is five kilometers long from head to tail. The mountain is famous for its many Buddhist shrines with 11 temples scattered along its hillsides.

If you're looking to scale Shitou Mountain, it features two climbing trails. For the easy route, start at the lion's head and work your way to the Wang-Yue pavilion, a relatively flat route taking about two hours. If you're looking for a more challenging hike, start at the tail end and work your way up the steep climb to the lion's head, a three hour hike for more experienced climbers.

### **Toufen, Miaoli / Oriental Beauty Tea**

The hilly terrain in Toufen, Miaoli is perfect for Dongfang Meiren tea (Oriental Beauty Tea). Located in a moist mountain range with ample sun and very little pollution, it's the best area for this aromatic tea to take root. The tea green leafhopper works its magic by biting the leaves and a chemical reaction takes place, which gives the tea its distinct sweet aroma and flavor.

Legend has it that the tea got its name from Queen Victoria. The queen loved the tea so much and believed that the women in Eastern paintings got their beauty from drinking it, therefore naming it Oriental Beauty Tea.