

张家界旅游精品丛书

Zhangjiajie Classified Travel Guides

孙建华 摄影

Photo by Sun Jianhua

神奇的张家界

MIRACULOUS ZHANGJIAJIE



中国水利水电出版社

www.waterpub.com.cn

Photo by Sun Jianhua

重重解不开的疑惑，笼罩着一颗颗好奇的心；声声难以遏止的惊叹，轰然坠落在僻远的崇山峻岭。这一切，都发自于一个充满魅力的名字——张家界。是谁种下这方险、奇、幽、野的莽莽峰林，是谁栽下这片高、大、刚、直的巍巍石柱？是谁叩开这扇深远厚重的闺门，是谁揭开她那轻柔神秘的面纱？是谁的脚步惊醒这沉睡的群山，是谁的呼唤引来那忘情的客人？张家界，这雄奇壮丽的自然之子，这高耸入云的天工之碑，她正以向王天子留下的巨大“御笔”，以广阔的蓝天作纸，书写着自己辉煌的形象。

也许，只有走进这片石头的、森林的、溪流的世界，我们才能更真切、更深刻地体会什么是“自然之美”。她不加修饰、浑然天成、丰富多彩、变化万端，她一切的层次、一切的色彩、一切的声音、一切的流动，都随意而绝不杂乱地排列着，都精确而不露痕迹地组合着。这就是张家界，一个使意会之美和言传之美完美地结合在一起，一个将阳刚之美和阴柔之美巧妙地搭配在一起的神奇的地方。

Incomprehensible wonders fill every curious heart. Irrepressible admiration remarks resound in the remote high mountains. All of these are happening to an enchanting place. Its name is ZHANGJIAJIE.

Who has planted this vast stone forest? Perilous, strange, tranquil and wild! Who has set up those lofty pillars? Tall, huge, strong and erect! Who has knocked open this mysterious boudoir? Who has lifted up her soft veil? Whose steps have awakened the sleeping mountains? Whose calls have invited so many bewildered guests? ZHANGJIAJIE, majestic son of the nature and sky towering monument to the nature, is drawing his splendid image on the broad blue shy using the huge Imperial Pen inherited from Xiangwang Tianzi.

Only when we are in this world of stones, forests and brooks, we could fully comprehend the meaning of natural beauty. She is an undecorated born integration with colorfulness and unpredictability. All her layers, her colors, her sounds and her flows exist at will yet non is disorderly. The combination is so accurate yet without deliberation. This is ZHANGJIAJIE, a magical place where dream and reality merges, where nature's masculine strength ingeniously matches its famine beauty.



中国水利水电出版社
www.waterpub.com.cn

张家界旅游精品丛书

Zhangjiajie Classified Travel Guides

神奇的张家界

MIRACULOUS ZHANGJIAJIE

孙建华 摄影

Photo by Sun Jianhua

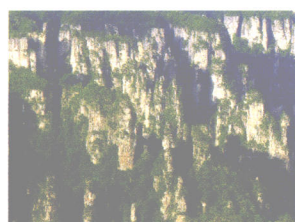


中国水利水电出版社

www.waterpub.com.cn

神奇的张家界 7

Miraculous Zhangjiajie



地质地貌 13

Geology and Landforms



自然风光 31

Natural Scenery

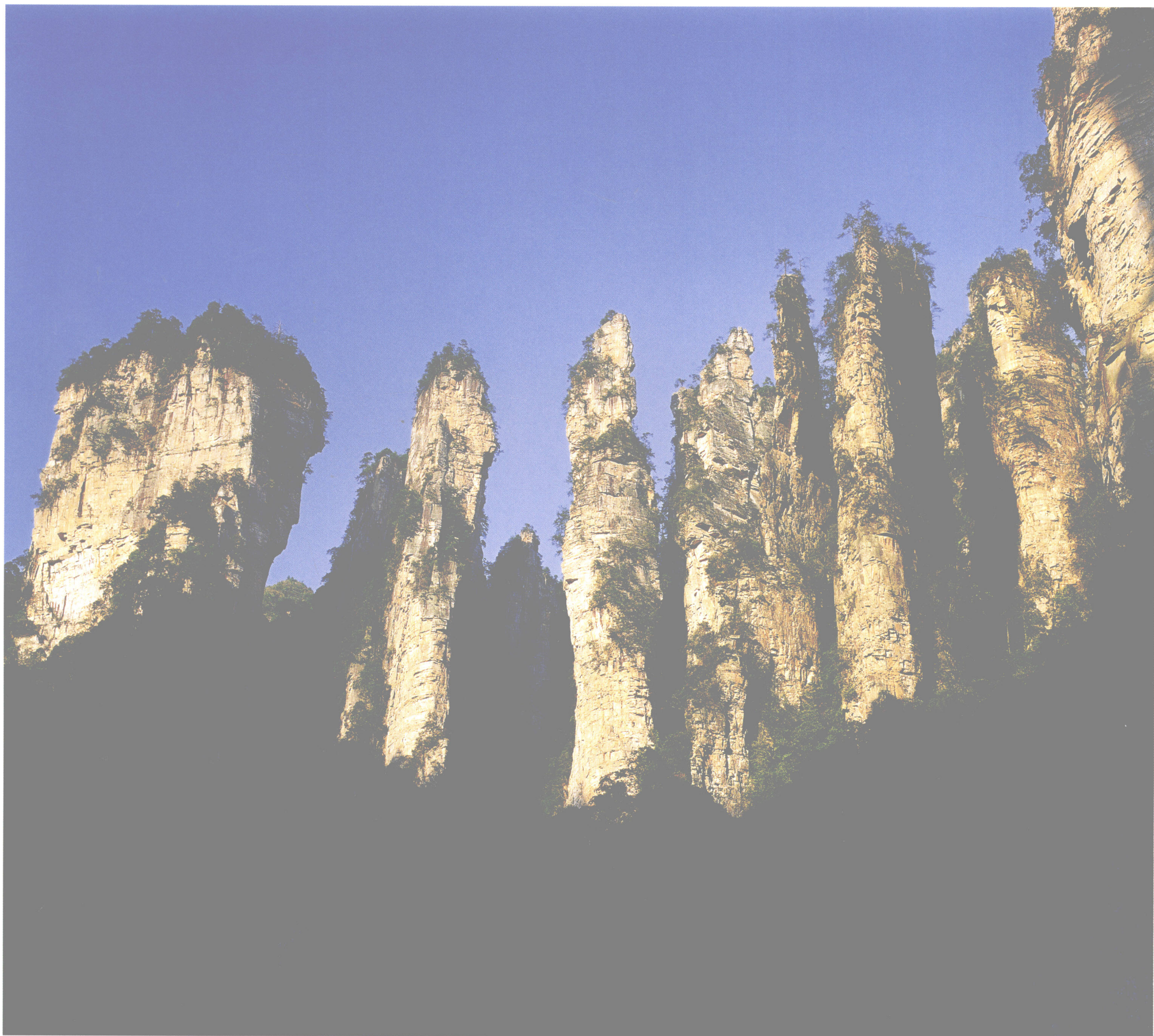


历史文化 195

History and Culture







神奇的张家界

毫无疑问，与众多名冠古今的老资格的名山大川相比，张家界充其量只能算是一个“小妹妹”，因为她真正的旅游开发史只能上溯到1980年。然而，长时间“养在深闺”的“委曲”，却丝毫无损她“芳容一展天下惊”的风光。自从1980年吴冠中先生一声惊呼“如获失落在深山的明珠”，张家界便如一位绝代佳人款款走进千千万万寻美之人的眼中，并引爆了一浪高过一浪的惊叹声。于是乎，“大自然的博物馆”、“大自然的纪念碑”、“天下奇山”、“山的钟馗”、“缩小的仙境，扩大的盆景”等各种响亮的名头接踵而来，几乎在一夜之间，张家界成了旅游界的新宠。

张家界作为一个新兴的旅游区，之所以在如此短暂的时间里名声大振，完全得益于它独步世界的武陵峰林。在其核心景区武陵源264平方公里的土地上，共矗立着3103座高百米以上的直立石峰。这些不同凡响的石峰完全打破了传统意义上“山”的概念，就如同一名衣饰华丽、风情万种的时装模特突然挤进衣衫平常、普通的人群，立即就被密密麻麻的惊讶的目光所包围。人们不敢相信，“山”也可以以这样一种奇异的形态出现——如林似柱，摩肩而立，比起青螺般撒落的桂林奇峰，它更加朴拙，更加险峻，更加密集，更加气魄，人们无以名状，只能以“峰林”命之。

张家界之横空出世，为探寻自然之美的人们开拓了一片新的天地。面对这扇突然打开的自然之窗，人们被深深地陶醉了。一位专程到张家界写生的日本画家叹道：“过去，我总以为中国画是虚构的，现在才知道，在中国，还真有这样自然生成的奇观。张家界就是一幅巨大的中国画。”我国著名地质学家吴正镒教授的评价更是直截了当：“张家界就是中国画的原本。”1979年，正在湘西写生的当代著名画家吴冠中先生，在朋友的“怂恿”下，有些不“情愿”地前往张家界林场（即现在的张家界国家森林公园）写生。然而，当不情愿的吴先生一路疑疑乎乎地走进张家界时，心情却一下子豁然开朗。面对林立的奇峰，他直呼：“张家界林场意外地使我兴奋，如获失落在深山的明珠。”1980年1月，他迫不及待地公开发表《失落的风景明珠——张家界》一文，将自己的感受传达给更多的人。在这篇公认的张家界宣传发轫之作中，素称沉稳的吴先生以少有的动情笔调写道：“我不了解连绵不断如此密集的石峰的地质价值，但那崖壁直戳云霄，石峰石壁直线林立，横断线曲折有致，相互交错皆成文章。不，不是文章，是形式结构之美，可说是‘画’章吧……为了探求绘画之美，我辛辛苦苦跑过不少名山，觉得雁荡、武夷、青城

都比不上这无名的张家界美”。

10年以后，1989年9月，张家界已经名闻遐迩，美国科罗拉多州副州长南希·迪克女士来到张家界。地质界、旅游界早有把张家界比作科罗拉多大峡谷的流行说法。现在，科罗拉多故乡的人来了，她会对张家界有什么评价，人们对此抱有极大的兴趣。南希女士在张家界整整考察了两天，走遍了主要景点，临走，她写道：“张家界美极了，太奇了。人说大峡谷神奇，我看张家界更加美丽。这是世界上最美的地方。”人们既信服于南希女士的坦诚，更信服于张家界的美丽。

面对这样一片雄奇壮美的峰林，人们会问，它们到底是怎样形成的呢？国际地科联砂床大地构造委员会副主席兼地洼研究组主席、国际地洼构造与成矿研究中心主席陈国达教授，曾写过一篇名为《海陆无静止，风云永流迁——武陵源峰林地貌成因及其开始保护浅说》的专文，对此进行科学探讨。在这篇专文里，陈教授将武陵峰林的地质演变归纳为“石英砂原料准备期”、“石英砂岩形成期”、“升上地平线期”、“峰林雕凿形成期”四个时期，并强调，这一完整的过程长达15亿年。在15亿年前的地质学上的“中元古代”，湘西北地区正处于强烈的地壳运动阶段，包含大量花岗岩体的岩浆不断喷涌，大量石英亦于此时来到地面，为此后石英砂岩的形成准备了充足的原料。大约3.8亿年以前，到了古生代中期的“中泥盆世”，这一带地面开始沉降，海水渐渐浸进，武陵源成为近海地带，几条河流汇聚于此，不断带来石英砂。经过了约1亿年的积累，这一带的石英砂岩堆集已厚达千米，经过不断的压实固结，形成了今天的石英砂岩。到了大约2亿年前的“三叠纪末”，湘西北地区地壳运动更为强烈，在新的造山运动中，地层开始褶皱成连绵不断的山脉，武陵源的石英砂岩层也整体抬升。从这时起，大自然便摆开庞大的作坊，运用“风化作用”、“水蚀作用”、“重力作用”三件工具，施展灵巧的技艺，开始进行漫长的雕刻。所谓“风化作用”，就是通过化学风化、物理风化、生物风化三种形式，加速岩石的破裂；所谓“水蚀作用”，就是水在流动中挟带砂粒不断研磨，像锯子样对岩体进行切割，形成以后的干沟万壑；所谓“重力作用”，就是利用重心不稳的岩石的不断坠落和崩塌，加速雕凿的速度。在这几种工具的交替作用下，武陵峰林终于渐渐形成。

今天，站在我们眼前的3103座石峰，就如同一座座巨大的雕像兀立于天地之间，使人惊心动魄，令人顶礼膜拜。三千奇峰，峰峰不相同，峰峰有玄机，状物之奇，拟人之妙，近于极致。先看看著名的夫妻岩吧。乍一望去，不过一普通石

峰，但若细加品味，便可发现那两个紧偎的山头，分明就是两个“人头”，且一大一小，一男一女，五官齐全。看上去，男头略大，面目粗犷，正张嘴大笑；女头略小，低眉含羞，忸怩之态跃然面上。尤其有趣的是，此岩刻划人物，居然到了细部，你看，那丈夫笑裂的大嘴中，分明排着能一一历数的大牙。如果说夫妻岩只是一种静止的形态的话，在张家界国家森林公园，还有一处以“动”置景的名胜，这就是“望郎峰”。望郎峰乃黄石寨下琵琶溪旁的一座石峰。远望去，此峰就像一位妙龄少女的侧身剪影，长发垂肩，身姿绰约。但奇怪的是，如果你沿溪而下，每往前走一段，再停下来抬头往上看，“少女”会逐一显现“少妇”、“中年妇女”、“老太婆”的体态面目特征。一峰四景，本已奇了，却不料奇中还有奇，就在望郎峰“目光”所及的前方，有一石壁，石上恰有一小洞穿壁而过，如一白珠，清晰可见。于是，人们又把这一景观组合起来，叫做“望穿石壁”。其情其景，颇为感人。大自然造化之妙，真是令人匪夷所思。

大自然的神奇造化，赋予了张家界独一无二的武陵峰林，也赋予了张家界不胜枚举的众多美景，人们称之为“卫星景点”，其中出名的有八大公山自然保护区、“中华最佳洞府”黄龙洞、“武陵之魂”天门山、“百里画廊”茅岩河、“亚洲第一洞”九天洞、“水上世界”江垭湖等10多个。这些分散的景点尽管只在张家界的旅游布局中处于从属地位，但它们同样有很高的旅游价值，其名声在旅游界也颇为响亮，黄龙洞曾因为其标志景点“定海神针”投保1亿元人民币，首创国内为自然景点投保之先河，名噪海内外；天门山曾因举办“穿越天门、奔向21世纪”为主题的世界特技飞行大奖赛而引起世界瞩目。此次活动中，人类第一次驾驶飞机穿越自然山洞，创造了新的吉尼斯世界纪录；茅岩河则因在国内首创旅游漂流项目而被誉为“中国旅游第一漂”。造化钟神秀，神秀聚武陵，如此众多的自然绝景密布于张家界仅仅9516平方公里的土地上，不能不说是一个奇迹。

张家界山灵水秀，自然也就成了动植物的乐园。在相当长的一段时间里，由于地处偏僻、出产不丰，湘西北地区曾经是一块被遗忘的角落。然而，正是这种遗忘，这里反而成了动植物理想的安身之所。1980年，一支科考队来到这里，经过详细考察，确认这里尚生活着国家一级保护动物华南虎、云豹、金钱豹、红腹角雉，国家二级保护动物猕猴、穿山甲、黑熊、水獭、大鲵等10余种。时至今日，虎豹之类的猛兽，因各种原因已很难见到，但其余动物仍在，其中最为出名的当数红腹角雉，当地人又把它叫做“背水鸡”。据说其平日多居于绝壁之上，脖颈之下天生一

个小皮囊。每隔四五天，背水鸡便要下溪“背水”，每次皮囊可盛水200克左右。背水鸡羽毛艳丽，行为警觉，平日深居简出，人们很难一睹芳容。由于历史和自然的原因，如今的张家界，还保存着一个庞大的植物王国。据专家考证，这里仅乔木树种就有107科820种，是整个欧洲的5倍，其中一、二级珍稀树种就有19种。在这些珍稀树种中，最出名的是有“活化石”之称的珙桐树。这是一种躲过了250万年前第四纪冰川的孑遗植物，曾一度被认为已从地球上绝迹，直到19世纪中叶，人类才重新发现它的踪影。在张家界的八大公山国家级自然保护区，有一个长满野生珙桐的小山湾，人称珙桐湾。这是一个名副其实的珙桐世界，所生长的珙桐树超过1万株，其中最大的一棵“珙桐王”，高30米，树干直径1.5米，树叶覆盖面积600平方米，堪称世界之最。

现在，人们提起张家界，大多会以为这只是一片纯自然的风景区，殊不知，这里也是一片历史的厚土。据考证，早在10万年前的旧石器时代，这里就有人类的活动。在中国进入有文字记载的文明史以后，这里还曾“热闹”过一阵子。传说神农氏雨师、鬼谷子都曾在此隐居；尧舜时期，舜帝曾将“四大恶人”之一的叛臣欢兜流放于此；东周末年，周朝最后一代君主赧王亡国之后亦流落于此。西汉初年，汉开国名臣张良寻老师黄石公到此，死后葬于武陵源景区之水绕四门，张家界因此获名，而其老师黄石公的隐居之所便是今天以其命名的黄石寨。在一段时间里，许多人认为在这块自古以来的“南蛮之地”，以上传说纯属子虚乌有，但是，2002年12月5日的首届张家界历史文化学术研讨会却证实所有的传说并非空穴来风。与会的28名国内专家学者一致认为：“张家界历史悠久，文化积淀深厚。舜放欢兜于崇山，即今张家界之崇山，欢兜墓就在此山。周赧王墓在全国仅张家界一处，可以肯定。张良墓在张家界青岩山，也可基本认定。赤松子、鬼谷子曾隐居慈利、大庸（均属今张家界市）一带，可以肯定。”在以后的日子里，尽管由于地处偏远，张家界并没有在中国历史教科书里留下明显的痕迹，但其自身的文化脉络却一直延续下来了，保存至今的历史文化遗迹还有不少，如江南名刹普光禅寺、玉皇洞石窟、道教圣地五雷山、省级重点文物梅花殿等，皆已作为文化景点对外开放，成为张家界自身历史文化的最好佐证。

和大多数偏远地区一样，张家界也是一个少数民族聚居区，在该市157万总人口中，土家族就占了110万。土家族是一个古老而又年轻的民族。说其古老，是因为她的独立存在已有三千年以上，说其年轻，因为她迟至1956年才有自己

的“名份”，在此之前，人们总以“苗人”视之。土家族是一个备受压迫又特具反抗意识的民族，历史上曾发生过多士家人反抗朝廷暴政的起义。东汉建武23年（公元47年），土家人相单程“大寇群县”，光武帝刘秀派名将马援征讨，孰料，常胜将军马援却“阴沟翻船”，落个“马革裹尸”的结局。明洪武三年（公元1370年），永定土酋覃后揭竿而起，令朝廷“合兵二十余万”方才剿灭。面对这块“叛服无常”的土地，历朝历代都在绞尽脑汁，苦思驾驭之策，从所官制、隘关制、卫所制，一直到土司制，局势才略为平静。但土家人并不以“反叛”为业，当国家有难、民族危机时，土家人同样也会义无反顾、挺身而出。明嘉靖年间，国势衰微，海防松懈，倭患日盛，官军战不能胜，东南沿海深受其害。万般无奈之下，嘉靖33年（公元1554年），朝廷有识之士奏请借骁勇“土兵”抗倭。同年冬，湘西地区万名土兵应征出发，次年4月，土兵首次接敌，斩倭首130余级，5月，又杀倭寇3000余人，取得明代抗倭第一个大胜利，被史家誉为“东南第一功”。鸦片战争爆发以后，更多的土家人走上抵御外侮的战场，土家将领孙开华（张家界慈利县人）曾奉命督师驻兵台湾基隆，与法军8艘军舰对垒，并亲执战刀，带领部下斩杀登陆之敌2000余人，重创法军。其于台湾任所病逝以后，光绪皇帝曾亲撰《祭孙提督文》，盛赞其“勇毅夙彰，忠勤丕者。”

20世纪上半叶，张家界又作为一块红色的土地彪炳青史。1928年4月2日，刚参加了“八一南昌起义”的贺龙回到家乡桑植县，发动“桑植起义”，走上了创建红军进行土地革命的艰难历程，并在几年以后发展成著名的红二军团和湘鄂川黔革命根据地，当时与贺龙并肩战斗的还有任弼时、关向应、肖克、王震、廖汉生等老一辈无产阶级革命家，同时还有数万名张家界贫苦农民踊跃参加红军，但残酷的斗争使其中的一万多人成为烈士。1935年11月，红二、六军团（长征到川西后改为红二方面军）在桑植县刘家坪召开誓师大会，踏上两万五千里长征的征途。经过艰苦卓绝的战斗，最终到达陕北。红二方面军之长征曾受到毛泽东的高度评价：“你们1万人，走过来还是1万人，没有蚀本，是个了不起的奇迹。”

张家界还是一片文化的沃土。在漫长的生息繁衍的过程中，土家人形成了自己独特的文化，从居住到饮食、歌舞、风俗，无不透出浓浓的自身特色。土家人居住以吊脚楼为主，这是一种干栏式建筑，因地就势而建，造型轻灵秀丽；土家人饮食以酸、辣、干菜为主，具有易保存、促开胃的特点；土家歌舞以山歌、摆手舞、打溜子、茅古斯等为主，生动活泼，原始古朴，具有很强的观赏价值；土

家人有自己独特的婚丧习俗，所有习俗中，又以婚嫁中的“哭嫁”最为出名。哭嫁之时，一整套悲切情真的哭嫁词，会将现场所有人带入诉说人间亲情的浓厚氛围中去。此外，张家界还是全国闻名的武术气功之乡。旧时防身健体的需要，催化了土家人习武练功的热情，涌现出不少“高手”、“侠客”，其中尤以民国年间的“南北大侠”杜心五最为出名。杜心五以习自然门神功而闻名于世，曾力挫日本武道冠军，名扬东瀛，后又作为孙中山保镖出生入死，成为一位传奇人物。张家界开发旅游以后，又出现了一位名叫赵继书的国际气功大师，曾几度随国家领导人出访，技惊西欧，并获卢森堡国王授赠的珍贵礼品。

这就是张家界，一个蕴藏着丰富的自然景观又承载着厚重的历史文化的神奇之地。

这就是张家界，一个尘封千年又注定一鸣惊人的“风水宝地”。

1980年，伴随着逐渐加快的改革开放步伐，张家界也迎来了快速发展的黄金岁月。1982年，中国第一个国家森林公园——张家界国家森林公园在这里诞生；1988年，为更好地整合旅游资源，张家界地级市正式建立，从此张家界的旅游开发进一步提速。在不长的时间，国家共投资100多亿元，完善张家界的旅游基础设施，全市交通、通讯建设上了一个大台阶。如今，由航空、铁路、公路构成的立体交通网络已基本形成，张家界机场与境内30多个大中城市开通航班，张家界火车站开通了至国内20多个大中城市的旅游列车；邮电通讯达到国内先进水平，张家界信息港实现了与国际互联网的联通；全市现有酒店400多家，床位4万多张；开辟旅游线30多条，建成高标准游道400多公里。不断加大的宣传力度，不断加快的建设速度，使张家界赢得了广大游客的信赖和喜爱，全市接待游客人数迅速增加，已从建市之初的年均50万人次增加到了2002年的780万人次，迅速逼近千万大关。与此同时，多种荣誉也纷纷至沓来，该市先后被命名为“中国旅游四十佳”、“全国闻名旅游区”、“中国优秀旅游城市”、“国家AAAA级旅游区”、“国家地质公园”等，1992年，更是被列入世界自然遗产名录，堂而皇之地走进世界级旅游区的行列。

张家界，一片固守着纯洁与美丽的土地。

张家界，一片绽放着光明和希望的土地。

张家界，明天会更好。

MIRACULOUS ZHANGJIAJIE

Without doubt, Zhangjiajie can be regarded as just a little sister if compared to those famous mountains and huge valleys that have long established their fame. Its development as a tourist resort started as late as 1980. Somehow, the world was taken aback by her beauty when she first went out of her remote boudoir after the long seclusion. In 1980, when Mr. Wu Guanzhong first exclaimed, "This is a precious pearl lost in the deep mountains", Zhangjiajie started to catch eyeballs of millions of people. She was like a lady with matchless beauty walking elegantly into her lover's sight. Afterwards, admiration of her comes like waves. She has won the titles of Natural Museum, Monument to the Nature, Strangest Mountain under the Heaven, Devil Expeller of Mountains, Miniature Fairland and Enlarged Potted Landscape, etc. Zhangjiajie became a new idol of the tourist industry overnight.

Why Zhangjiajie has gained such a big fame in so short a while as a new tourist resort, it is because of the Wuling Forest of Mountains that is unique to the world. On the 264 square kilometers of the central tourist region, Wulingyuan, stand 3103 erect stone mountains that are all above 100 meters tall. This uncommon forest of stone mountains is totally different from the traditional mountains. While the traditional mountains are like a crowd in the street, the stone mountains at Zhangjiajie are like dressed up beautiful models walking in the crowd. Surprised eyes surround them with admiration. People cannot believe that mountains can actually take such peculiar shapes. They are like forests composed of stone pillars standing shoulders by shoulders. Comparing with the famous Guilin Mountains that scatter around like green snails, Wulingyuan is simpler and more unadorned, more precipitous, more condensed and more imposing. People do not know how to name it. Thus the name of Forest of Mountains was given to it.

Discovery of Zhangjiajie has revealed a new horizon for nature lovers. They are fascinated when facing this new window of nature that has just opened to them. A Japanese painter who came to Zhangjiajie to paint from nature commented with emotion: "I have always thought in the past that Chinese paintings are created upon imagination. Now I realize China does have spectacular scenes that are naturally born. Zhangjiajie is an enormous Chinese painting itself." Professor Wu Zhengyi, a famous Chinese geologist, put it more straightforwardly: "Zhangjiajie is the origin of Chinese paintings."

In 1979, Mr. Wu Guanzhong, a famous contemporary painter who was painting in Xiangxi, was persuaded by his friend to go to Zhangjiajie Tree Farm, now Zhangjiajie State Forest Park, to capture nature's beauty. He went unwillingly. When this reluctant Mr. Wu entered Zhangjiajie, his mood changed immediately and drastically. Facing the peculiar stone mountains that are erect as trees in a forest, he exclaimed: "Zhangjiajie Tree Farm excites me beyond expectation. It is like a precious pearl lost in the moun-

tains and found by me." In January 1980, he eagerly published his article, *Zhangjiajie: A Lost Pearl of Scenery*, to share his feeling about Zhangjiajie with more people. In this article, which is publicly regarded as the first to introduce Zhangjiajie to the outside world, Mr. Wu who is a sober and steady person in nature, can't help to write in an emotional tune which rarely happens to him: "I do not understand the geological value of the continuous and condensed stone mountains. The cliffs poke into sky. The stone mountains are erect like vertical lines. The horizontal lines with their twists and turns are very intriguing. The interlocks of lines are like a good article. More accurately, they are of structural beauty. They can be called a masterpiece of painting actually. To seek natural beauty for my paintings, I have laboriously covered many famous mountains. My observation is that none of Mt. Yandang, Mt. Wudang and Mt. Qingcheng could match the beauty of this unknown Zhangjiajie."

10 years later in September 1989 when Zhangjiajie has become famous, Ms. Nancy Dick, the Assistant Governor of Colorado State of USA, visited Zhangjiajie. It has become popular in the geological and tourist world that people compare Zhangjiajie to the Grand Canyon. Now here comes a lady from Colorado, home of the Grand Canyon. What would her comments to Zhangjiajie be? People are very curious to find out. Nancy spent two days in Zhangjiajie walking in and around the main scenic spots. When it comes for her to leave, she wrote: "Zhangjiajie is fabulous. It is very peculiar. People say that the Grand Canyon is miraculous. In my opinion, Zhangjiajie is even more beautiful. This is the most beautiful place in the world." People are convinced by the frankness of Nancy. They are more convinced by the beauty of Zhangjiajie.

In face of such magnificent ridges and peaks, one might wonder how they have taken shape. Professor Chen Guoda, an internationally renowned scholar in geology, has published a thesis, wherein he indicates four stages for the geological evolution in the area of Zhangjiajie, namely, "quartz"-the preliminary stage for material accumulation; "quartzite"-the formative stage; "surfacing the horizon", and "the carving of ridges and peaks". In his view, the entire process of formation lasts 1.5 billion years. About 1.5 billion years ago, there existed severe crust movements in northwest Hunan, wherein large amount of granite magma gushed out with quartz. The accumulation of quartz has provided abundant material for the formation of quartzite. Around 380 million years ago, this area started to subside and was inundated to become a coastal region. After 100-million-year accumulation of quartz, this area was geologically characterized by quartzite.

With much more severe crust movements 200 million years ago, the Nature has implemented her magic craftsmanship, by means of "weathering" (i.e., to accelerate the cracking of the rocks by way of chemical, physical and biological battering and decaying), "erosion" (i.e., the mixture of water and sand chiseling the rocks to carve out gullies and ravines), and "gravitation" (i.e., rocks with an unstable center for gravity) to sculpture the magnificent ridges and peaks in this region.

The everlasting geological evolution has led to the creation of 3,103 ridges and peaks, thrilling and paralyzing all visitors in face of them. Besides, the numerous legends and mysteries implicit in these mountain views also arouse our curiosity and fantasy to an extreme. Take the Couple's Rock for example, at first glance, they appear no mere than two ordinary-looking peaks. When scrutinizing them, the heads of husband and wife loom large: one bigger and the other smaller, one toughly outlined and the other smoothly delineated; one laughing wildly and the other timidly lowing her head. More amazingly, one can detect the teeth in the rock of the "laughing husband." If the Couple's Rock resembles a memorable still, then the Peak of Anticipating Bridegroom constitutes a piece of mobile scenery. Looking afar, the peak resembles the silhouette of a pretty bride with long hairs over her shoulders. However, if you continue to walk and observe it from different perspectives, you will successively identify the physical resemblance of a young married lady, a middle-aged woman, and an old granny. Believe it or not, opposite to the peak there is a stonewall with a tiny hole on it. Thus, one can fairly conclude that the young bride is so eager and craving as to look through the stonewall for her would-be significant other.

The Mother Nature with the magic craftsmanship not merely endows Zhangjiajie with unique ridges and peaks, but also with scores of "satellite" scenic spots, to name but a few: the Huanglong cave, one of the most beautiful caves in the nation; Tianmen Mountain, the Soul of the Entire Area; Maoyan River, the "Gallery of Hundreds of Miles;" the Jiutian Cave, the acclaimed "Greatest Cave in Asia;" Jiangya Lake, the nicknamed "Water World." Despite their "satellite" status in the entire area, these scenic spots bear tremendous marketing prospect and thus become gradually known to the outside world. The rock of "Magic Needle" in the Huanglong cave has been insured over 100 million yuan, which is the first of its kind in Chinese tourism industry. Tianmen Mountain has sponsored an international stunt flying competition, wherein man has successfully flown through the cave for the first time, later acknowledged by the Guinness World Record. Maoyan River is among the first to cultivate the yachting and drifting adventure in the nation, and is thus acclaimed as "China's first adventure in river drifting." In every way, it is a miracle that a great number of natural beauties are congested in such a relatively small area of 9,516 square meters.

With the beautiful mountains of gorgeous streams, Zhangjiajie also becomes a fantasyland for plants and animals. Due to its geographical location and scarce agricultural productivity, this area located in northwest Hunan has been long neglected and thus secluded from the outside world. Fortunately or not, it has become an ideal haven for biological diversity. As early as in the 1980s, naturalists and biologists confirmed that scattered around were such first-tier "protective animals" as South China

tiger, leopard, red-bellied pheasant, and the second-tier such as macaque, pangolin, black bear, otter, and salamander. At present, such beasts as tiger and leopard are rare to find, but the rest are still common. Red-bellied pheasant, among others, is the most frequent and well known. With a small bladder hanging down its neck, this little creature is nicknamed "carrying-water chick" by locals, because it comes down to creeks to store water of around 200 grams into its bladder every four or five days. Characteristic of its colorful feathers and extreme discretion, it lives a life of recluse and is thus rare to be seen in public.

On the other hand, Zhangjiajie is also renowned as a botanic kingdom, with over 870 kinds of plants affiliated with 107 families, almost 4 times more than the number of varieties in Europe. Among the 19 scarce plants, dove tree is perhaps the most famous as "living fossil." This heritage plant survived the Glacier of the Fourth Period 2.5 million years ago. Botanists were not able to trace it until the mid-19th century. In the National Preserve of Eight Public Mountain, there exists a river bend replete with over 10,000 dove trees, hence named "Dove Tree Bend." The "king of dove tree" is the world's biggest, 30 meters high and 1.5 meters diametric, covering 600 square meters with its leaves.

Zhangjiajie is not merely a land of natural wonders, but also a copious archive with historical heritage. The earliest human activities can be traced to 100,000 years ago, that is, the Paleolithic Age. As the written history of Chinese civilization started, Zhangjiajie once became a hotspot. The legendary God of Agriculture was said to live a reclusive life here. About 3,000 years ago, the Emperor of Shun exiled one of his rebels into this region.

The legendary God of Agriculture was said to live a reclusive life here. About 3,000 years ago, the Emperor of Shun exiled one of his rebels into this region. The last king of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-256 B.C.) once wandered here after the fall of his kingdom. Zhang Liang, the first Prime Minister of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-25 A.D.) and one of its founders, died during the course of the pursuit of his mentor and was buried in this area; Henceforth Zhangjiajie, meaning the "boundary of Zhang family," is named after the Prime Minister. Another scenic spot of "Huanglong Village" is named after his mentor, Father Huang Shi, whose name meant "yellow stone." For a long period of time, all the aforementioned allusions are said to be fictional legends. In recent years, historians and archaeologists have been able to trace all the aforementioned personalities and have corroborated the historical heritage of this area. In a declaration signed by 28 scholars and specialists during a symposium held here on December 5, 2002, Zhangjiajie has been recognized as "a region abundant with historical legacies and cultural tradition." The tourists have access to such places of interest as Puguang Buddhist Temple, Wulei Mountain, a Taoist shrine, as well as the Palace of Plum Blossoms, etc.

Like other remote mountainous regions, Zhangjiajie is also congested with ethnic minorities. Among the total population of 1.57 million in the City of Zhangjiajie, 1.1 million of them pertain to Tujia Nationality, which is both old and young: "old" in the sense that it has an ethnic history of over 3,000 years; "young" in the sense that it was not identified as a unique ethnic group independent from Miao and named "Tujia" until 1956. During the course of Chinese history, Tujia is one of the minorities

with severe oppressions and consequent rebellions. In the year of 47 A.D., Emperor Liu Xiu of the Eastern Han Dynasty sent Marshall Ma Yuan to oppress the Tujia rebellion. Out of the expectation, Ma was defeated and killed, henceforth the Chinese idiom "corpse wrapped with a piece of horse's hide", meaning "a fiasco in the battlefield." In 1370, Emperor Hong Wu of the Ming Dynasty allocated 200,000 troops to suppress the rebellion led by Qin Hou, a native of Tujia in Yong Ding County, Hunan Province. To stabilize the Tujia-congested region, governors and administrators of different dynasties tried numerous systems. Only did the system of chieftain work to sustain the stability for a relatively long time.

To label Tujia natives "rebels" is off the mark. Actually they played an active role during national crises as well as under the threat of foreign invasion. During the Emperor Jia Jing's reign, the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) was threatened by the invasion of Japanese warriors in the southeastern coastal areas. In 1554, tens of thousands of Tujia soldiers were conscripted to fight with Japanese invaders and achieved two major victories within two months, hence acclaimed as "the first triumph in the Southeast" in history. Tujia soldiers also participated in the Opium War (1840-1842) to fight with western invaders. General Sun Kaihua, himself a native of Tujia, led his troops to fight with French navy in Taiwan and achieved a significant counterattack against their invasion. Emperor Guang Xu wrote a lengthy eulogy to praise his courage in face of enemy and his loyalty to the imperial court of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911).

In the first half of 20th century, Zhangjiajie is acknowledged as a "red land" in the history of the Communist Revolution. On April 2, 1928, General He Long returned to his home base, Sangzhi County, and started an uprising, which lay down the groundwork for the construction of Hunan-Hubei-Sichuan-Guizhou Revolutionary Base and the renowned "Second Regiment" of the Red Army. There estimated tens of thousands of peasants in the area to join the Red Army, among whom are such well-known veteran generals like Ren Bishi, Guan Xiangying, Wang Zhen, as well as 100,000 martyrs who sacrificed their life during numerous war fares. In November, 1935, the Second and Sixth Regiment of the Red Army held a swear-in ceremony to set out for the Long March to northwestern Shanxi Province. Upon their arrival in their destination, Chairman Mao Zedong praised, "There were 10,000 soldiers at the start. Now you have still got 10,000, which means you have managed to keep your principle capital. This is a miracle in its real sense."

Zhangjiajie's local culture is also rich and colorful. The Tujia lifestyle and culture, ranging from food to architecture, from music, choreography to social custom, are unique and impressive in every respect. Tujia's "suspension chamber" accommodates their mountainous typography with its slender, ingenious structure. Their food is mainly sour, spicy and dried for preservation and digestion. Tujia's music and choreography, comprised of such forms as mountain songs and waving-hand dance, are of primitive simplicity and worthy of high aesthetic value. Tujia ethnics has unique customs for wedding and funeral. The most interesting is the custom of "crying marriage." During the wedding ceremony, a performer will sing and cry out tearful lyrics, which will bring audience into the bride's sentiments of familiar intimacy and sadness over the oncoming departure. Besides, Zhangjiajie is also acclaimed the "Home of Wushu (i.e., Martial Arts) and Qigong (i.e., Breathing Exercises)." Du Xinwu, a native of the area, was known as the "Master of

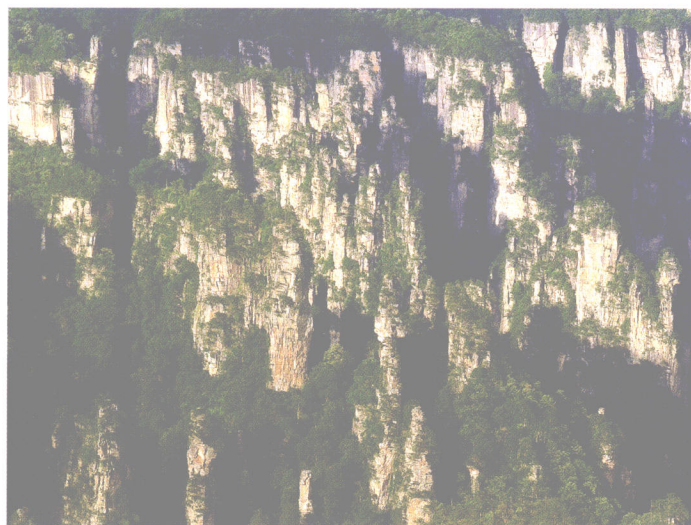
the South" in the Republican Era (1911-1949). He defeated Japanese bushido champions and served as the bodyguard for Dr. Sun Yatsen, the founding father of the Republican China. In the 1980s, there occurred an internationally renowned master for qigong named Zhao Jishu, who went abroad with statesmen and got an award from the King of Belgium.

Such is Zhangjiajie, a magical land replete with natural beauties and historical heritages.

Such is Zhangjiajie, a land with auspicious fengshui (i.e., geomantic omens), which has been secluded from the outside world for thousands of years and is destined to attain an overnight reputé around the globe. With the beautiful mountains of gorgeous streams, Zhangjiajie also becomes a fantasyland for plants and animals.

Since the implementation of economic reform and opening-up to the outside world in the 1980s, Zhangjiajie has been encountered with an unprecedented opportunity for modernization. In 1982, the State Council declared the inauguration of Zhangjiajie State Forest Park, the first of its kind in China. In 1988, the City of Zhangjiajie has been established to integrate local resources for tourism. Since then, the central government has invested over 10 billion yuan to better the infrastructure of local areas, especially its transportation and telecommunication. Up to date, a transport network of air, rail and road has taken its shape, connected with over 30 domestic cities by air and 20 by tourists' express. The telecommunication system has taken the lead in the nation, connected with the world via broadband Internet. Within this area, there estimates over 400 hotels, accommodating nearly 40,000 tourists, and over 30 travel routes, totaling 400 kilometers. The effective publicity and speedy infrastructure construction has earned fair reputé and tremendous popularity among tourists at home and abroad. The number of annual visitors has increased from 500,000 in 1982 to 7.8 million in 2002 and has broken the record of 10 million in 2002. Accordingly, the city has been awarded with such honorary titles as "the 40 Best Tourist Resorts in China," the Nationwide Renowned Tourist Area, "China's Excellent Tourist Cities", "the National 4A-Class Tourist Region", "National Geological Park," etc. In 1992, it was enlisted in the UNESCO's "World Natural Heritage" and thus became a world-class tourist attraction.

Such is Zhangjiajie, a land with inherent purity and beauty; a land with great expectation and bright prospect.



地质地貌

GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS

一盘散沙，也能凝聚成坚硬的岩石；一块顽石，也能雕刻成精美的艺术品，但它们都需要同一样东西——时间。有了时间，古老的地质变迁才有机会唤起青春的活力，遥远的地质年代才有可能连接今天的美丽。

A group of loose sands can become a hard rock. A hard rock can be carved into an exquisite art piece. Somehow, both processes need one thing: time. With time, the long past geological changes could bring about new vitality. With time, the ancient geological times could reach into today's beauty.



