

双林寺 镇国寺

SHUANG LIN
TEMPLE ZHENGUO
TEMPLE



UNIVERSITY OF SHANXI

山西人民出版社

三晋揽胜

○ 王长江 郝志钢 编著

SCENERY OF SHANXI

山西人民出版社

双林寺 镇国寺

SHUANGLIN TEMPLE
ZHENGUO TEMPLE



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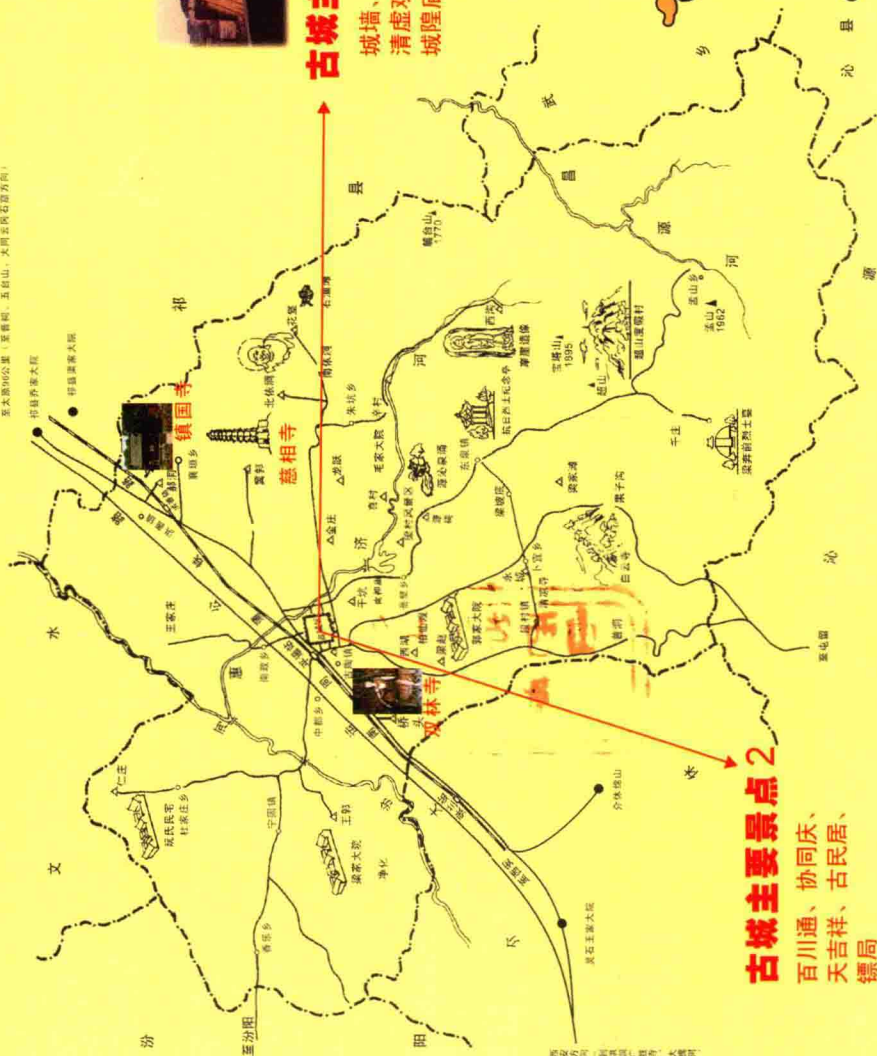
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双林寺 镇国寺 旅游景点分布图

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· 王长江 郝志钢 编著

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ZHENGUO TEMPLE



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Brief Introduction

Since the introducing of the Buddhism into China, there had been a popular tradition of the establishing the Buddhist temples everywhere in the country. In the Province of Shanxi, the ancient temples had been scattering at the every corner of the province and there are about 10 temples established in the city of Pingyao, among which Shuanglin Temple and Zhenguo Temple are the most magnificent and respected by the people.

Located to 6 kilometers southwest of the county, Shuanglin Temple is very famous in the world for its unique art of colored statues and it has been honored as "the Art Museum of Eastern Colored Statues". Everyone who has been here is very proud of seeing the unique gems in the world and praises its glory from the bottom of his heart.

The former name of Shuanglin Temple was Zhongdu Temple and the exact date of its establishment is unknown. According to the record on the stone tablet "Gugu" which was carved in Northern Song Dynasty (1011) in this temple, Zhongdu Temple was rebuilt in Northern Qi Dynasty (571). From this point, this ancient temple has a long history of more than 1400 years. In Song Dynasty, people changed the name of the temple into Shuanglin Temple from Zhongdu Temple according to the story of "Shuanglin". This temple has been greatly damaged by the weather and the war throughout the long time in the history. During the end of Yuan Dynasty, most of the boards hanging in the temple were destroyed, and the roof of the corridor was almost ruined. The major repair and rebuilding were made during Ming and Qing Dynasties. The building still well preserved today is of Ming Dynasty.

The special construction of the temple is that the whole temple is built on an earth terrace with three meters high, and surrounded by a red wall and there are crenels and crenellations connecting on the top of the wall. The whole building looks like a castle standing high and weath-

ering throughout thousands of years of history.

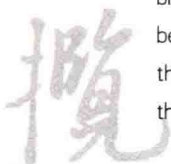
Shuanglin Temple is consisted of ten halls and there are three courtyards located higher and higher one by one along the axis line. All the buildings in this temple are closely designed with a style of magnificence. There are the Hall of the Heaven God, the Hall of Sakyamuni in the middle and the Hall of Arhats, the Hall of General Guanyu and the Hall of Town God along the two sides in the first courtyard. The Hall of Mahavira is located in the middle and the Hall of Thousand Buddhas and the Hall of Bodhisattva at the two sides of the second courtyard. There are the Hall of Niangniang and the Hall of Loyalty located in the third courtyard.

The most fascinating things that make people reluctant to leave are the color sculptures in those halls of the temple. The total amount is 2052 but each has its own specialty and style and they can even make people feeling that they are alive. The solemn and dignified statues of Buddha, the powerful guardians of the heaven gate, and the arhats with all different figures including happy ones, angry ones, very slim ones, severely sick ones, sleeping ones with closing eyes, and the powerful Weito statue successfully showing the moving and stopping all in a sudden, all these reflect the unique art of the ancient artists in making these sculptures. One can feel the power, beauty, and dignity from those lively sculptures. Guanyin Buddha passing through the ocean, it looks like floating among the tides calmly, the leisure Guanyin Buddha is holding its right led and showing the extreme high spirit of the god. These statues of all gods who live in the heaven with high glory are now acting as the ordinary people in their lives. We can imagine that the ancient artists created these sculptures of the gods on the basis of ordinary people they were familiar to. They also created these sculptures of gods with the style of realism and beyond the limit of the religion and their products are full of vigor and eternal life. Through these figures, one can find that this is a whole screen picture reflecting the all kinds of people we can meet in our daily life and feel that they are just living around us.

All the color sculptures in Shuanglin Temple have won the great reputation by the people all over the world because of their best

GUANYIN
OF SHAN





technique and creation of them with realism and obviously direction in making them like ordinary people in the life. These ancient artists are so brave in the breakthrough of the rigid and traditional style of the gods before and they left these masterpieces of the art for us. People can say that only the slow soul who can't enjoy the dignity and greatness of these sculptures.

Zhenguo Temple is another ancient temple located in the ancient city. If we say that Shuanglin Temple is famous for its great sculptures, then we can also say that Zhenguo Temple is famous for its ancient building with the ancient and simple style.

Situated to 14 kilometers northeast of the ancient city of Pingyao, Zhenguo Temple is a nice place with its special charm for the people who love to visit some scenic spots located far away from the noise and crowded people. The exact date of the establishment of Zhenguo Temple is still unknown. Only from the existing stone tablet, we learn that Zhenguo Temple was rebuilt in Northern Han Dynasty (963) and its former name is Jingcheng Temple, and until Ming Dynasty (1540) the name of the temple was changed into the present one. It had been rebuilt in Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties and became the present scale and construction.

Just like other temples, Zhenguo Temple is also facing to the south and there are many trees growing in the temple and it is really a beautiful and quiet place. There is an open ground in front of the temple and it was used as a place to perform opera before. There are meditation rooms for the monks in the two sides of the courtyard and the whole courtyard is consisted of front and rear courtyards covering an area of about 13,300 square meters. The architecture design, frescos and sculptures in the temple are of high quality in their arts.

The Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas is the best example of the ancient buildings in the temple. It is also one of the oldest wooden structured buildings still preserved until now in the country. The history of the temple is a little later than that of Nanchan Temple and Buddhist Light Temple in Wutai Mountain. The structure of the hall is belong to the hall-type building with three rooms wide and long, single tier eaves, and there are 12 pillars supporting the roof. The pillars were covered in



the wall so that we can not see the pillars. The corners of the eaves look like the flying birds with their swings stretching out. All these special architecture designs make the temple different with others. The traditional and ancient style of the wooden lattices, the figures carved on the tops of the tiles at the end of the roof, are transmitting the ancient information to the people with its mysterious methods.

The structure of the beams in the Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas strictly conforms to the principle of mechanics. Because of its scientific structure, the hall has tempered and still existed through a long period in the history and it is really a wonder of architecture in China.

The sculptures in the hall are the origins made in Five Dynasties and we can find the influence of the popular style of "the plump body is the beauty" in Tang Dynasty from the features of them. All the bodies of Buddhas are reflecting the beauty with the plump figures. The faces of the Bodhisattvas are round and their eyebrows look like as crescent moon. Through the study of the sculptures in the hall, one can learn a lot about the spirit in the ancient history. Since they are the best examples of that period in the history, the existence of them is of high value and their aesthetic standards will last forever.

There are two ancient cypress trees growing in the temple, one is named as "the Cypress of Dragon" and other as "the Cypress of Tiger". It is said that these two trees has been growing here since the establishment of the temple. Because of their strange figures, they got the names according to the figure they look like. And because of the location of the temple is far away from the center of the crowded people, the trees have successfully eluded the damage of the people and existed until today. It is very lucky they are two trees then they can company each other and resist the loneliness through their whole life.

Shuanglin Temple and Zhenguo Temple are the major components of the ancient city of Pingyao. The UNESCO listed the ancient city of Pingyao in the World Heritage officially in 1997 and among the list, it describes that "one city" and "two temples" are showing a splendid picture of religion to the people and they are good spots that deserve the visit and visit again by the people.

序 言

平遥古城越来越成为令人心驰神往的地方。它是中国古代县城在明清时期的杰出范例，平遥古城保存了其所有特征。从某种意义上说，人们对平遥古城的迷恋，就是对自己悠久历史的迷恋，是对中华民族古老文明的迷恋。平遥古城“为人们展示了一幅非同寻常的文化、社会、经济及宗教发展的完整画卷。”“一城”、“两寺”是这幅画卷中重要的内容。“一城”指巍然屹立的城墙；“两寺”则指位于城郊的双林寺和镇国寺。

翻开平遥的历史，惨烈的杀戮时有发生，一次又一次惊醒人们恬静的美梦。是忠于职守的城墙为人们抵御了异族铁骑的入侵，让平遥人在获得安全感的同时，创造了商业上的奇迹。于是，在城墙的护卫下，有了林立的店铺，有了高大的房屋，有了商贾云集，有了这样一座颇具商业气息、完整地保存了明清风貌的古城。据说日暮时分，伫立在古城墙上看城中的袅袅炊烟，思绪会在瞬间穿越古



“慈登彼岸”

"Mercy Landing Ashore"