

World Heritage Sites in China

Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

明清
皇家陵寢



New World Press



China Translation & Publishing Corporation

Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

The Ming and Qing Tombs provide an outstanding evidence to the Chinese beliefs and traditions from the 14th onward. These tombs include significant examples of architecture and applied arts, which have been designed in harmony with the natural environment following the Chinese concepts of Geomancy. The Ming and Qing imperial tombs are natural sites modified by human influence, carefully chosen according to the principles of geomancy (Fengshui) to house numerous buildings of traditional architectural design and decoration. They illustrate the continuity over five centuries of a world view and concept of power specific to feudal China.

Justification by World Heritage Committee

Criterion (i): The harmonious integration of remarkable architectural groups in a natural environment chosen to meet the criteria of geomancy (Fengshui) makes the Ming and Qing Imperial Tombs masterpieces of human creative genius.

Criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv): The imperial mausolea are outstanding testimony to a cultural and architectural tradition that for over five hundred years dominated this part of the world; by reason of their integration into the natural environment, they make up a unique ensemble of cultural landscapes.

Criterion (vi): The Ming and Qing Tombs are dazzling illustrations of the beliefs, world view, and geomantic theories of Fengshui prevalent in feudal China. They have served as burial edifices for illustrious personages and as the theatre for major events that have marked the history of China.



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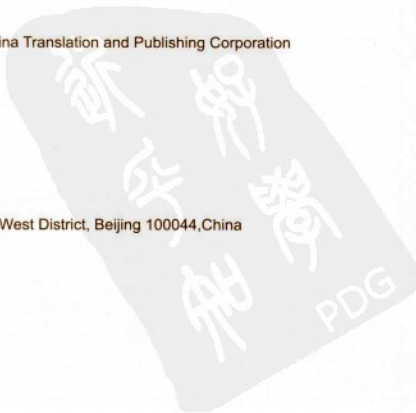
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World Heritage • China

This is a series of books about the contents and grace of the World Heritage sites in China. It is also a splendid chapter that records the remarkable achievements made by China in cooperation with the rest of the world in advocating world peace, seeking long-term benefit for mankind and protecting the common homeland of human beings around the world.

In China today, World Heritage protection has become an enlarged and deepened concept of environmental protection. Taking World Heritage protection as an integral component of the sustainable development of human society has become a public consensus. As the top-rated group of the targets placed under heritage protection, World Heritage sites in particular have won the universal care and affection of all people, with their high universal values, their scientific and strict protection concepts and mechanisms, and their fine state of conservation and management. Meanwhile, World Heritage protection has played unique, noticeable roles in improving the people's livelihood, building a harmonious society, protecting the heritage sites and environmental landscapes, and providing the best examples for modeling.

China is a country with a vast territory, numerous ethnic groups, a long history and colorful cultures. The natural environment of all shapes and forms and the cultural traditions of profound meanings constitute a rich World Heritage resource. The 10-year Cultural Revolution prevented China from becoming the earliest member of the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritages that came into force in 1972. But since the country signed the convention in 1985, World Heritage has made great progress in China. Of all the 830 sites that have been included on the World Heritage List, China claims 33, comprising 24 cultural sites, 5 natural sites and 4 mixed sites. While these sites have greatly enriched the World Heritage treasure-house and made outstanding contributions to worldwide heritage protection, environmental protection and sustainable so-

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cial development, they have also promoted the understanding, friendship, cooperation and common prosperity between the Chinese people and the people in the rest of the world. In addition, they have truly stimulated the love of homeland, the sense of pride, the self-confidence and the creativeness of the people at the heritage sites. They have also promoted social harmony and progress, spurred homeland beautification, deepened conservation concepts, and improved protection techniques and management expertise.

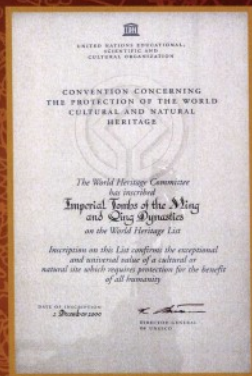
World Heritage's work in China has demonstrated all the latest progress in this field. For example, the deepening understanding of World Heritage's emphasis on sites' universal values, authenticity, completeness and state of protection and management, the exploration and improvement of sites equilibrium and representativeness, the advocacy and respect for cultural diversity, and the continuous exploration and expansion of site varieties can all find expression in World Heritage's efforts in China.

While the cause of world heritages develops, the publicity and demonstration of these heritages should also continue to develop. The World Heritage-China series, which now sets its sail, will not only cover the 33 heritage sites already included on the List by 2006, but also bring in one new beautiful face after another. Along with the existing sites, the new comers with unique images and contents and representing different ethnic groups and regions will further enrich the heritage treasure-house of the Global Village. Cultural sites, industrial sites, scientific sites and agricultural sites will appear one after another. The world heritages in China will make greater contributions to the cooperation and development between the people of various countries and to the harmonious coexistence between man and nature. Presenting them to the whole world in a continuous, timely, vivid and truthful manner and making them available for the common admiration, love and enjoyment of human society has apparently become a glorious mission for the series of books.

Guo Zhan
ICOMOS Vice President
ICOMOS/China Vice President & Secretary-General

Beijing, September 6, 2006





World Heritage Certificate

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The World Heritage Committee has inscribed Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties on the World Heritage List.

Inscription on this List confirms the exceptional and universal value of a cultural or natural site which requires protection for the benefit of all humanity.

DATE OF INSCRIPTION December 2, 2000

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO Federico Mayor

Justification by State Party

The harmonious integration of remarkable architectural groups in a natural environment chosen to meet the criteria of geomancy (Fengshui) makes the Ming and Qing Imperial Tombs masterpieces of human creative genius.

The imperial mausolea are outstanding testimony to a cultural and architectural tradition that for over five hundred years dominated this part of the world; by reason of their integration into the natural environment, they make up a unique ensemble of cultural landscapes.

The Ming and Qing Tombs are dazzling illustrations of the beliefs, world view, and geomantic theories of Fengshui prevalent in feudal China. They have served as burial edifices for illustrious personages and as the theatre for major events that have marked the history of China.

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03 Location of the Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty in Nanjing City



04 Distant View of the Xiaoling Tomb



Location of the Imperial Tomb and the Buried



The Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty, located at the southern foot of Mount Zhongshan in the eastern suburbs of Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province, is the tomb of Zhu Yuanzhang (1328 - 1398), the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty in Chinese history. Buried in the tomb were the emperor himself and his wife Ma. About 60 meters to the east of the palace of the Xiaoling Tomb is the tomb of Zhu Biao, the crown prince (who was crowned retrospectively by Zhu Yunwen, an emperor of the Ming Dynasty, as Emperor Xiaokang). To the west of the palace is the graveyard of the concubines of Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang. Located on the northern side of Mount Zhongshan is the zone of accessory burials attached to the Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty. Scattered in this zone are the tombs of more than a dozen founders of the Ming Dynasty including Xu Da, Chang Yuchun and Li Wenzhong.

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