

PANORAMIC CHINA

SHANDONG

HOME OF MOUNT TAISHAN



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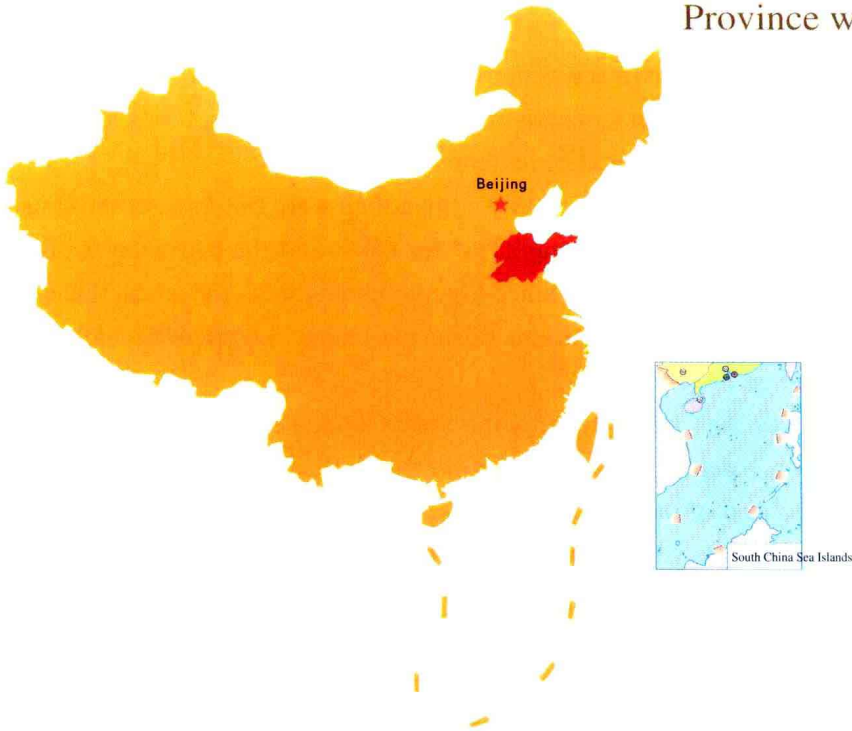
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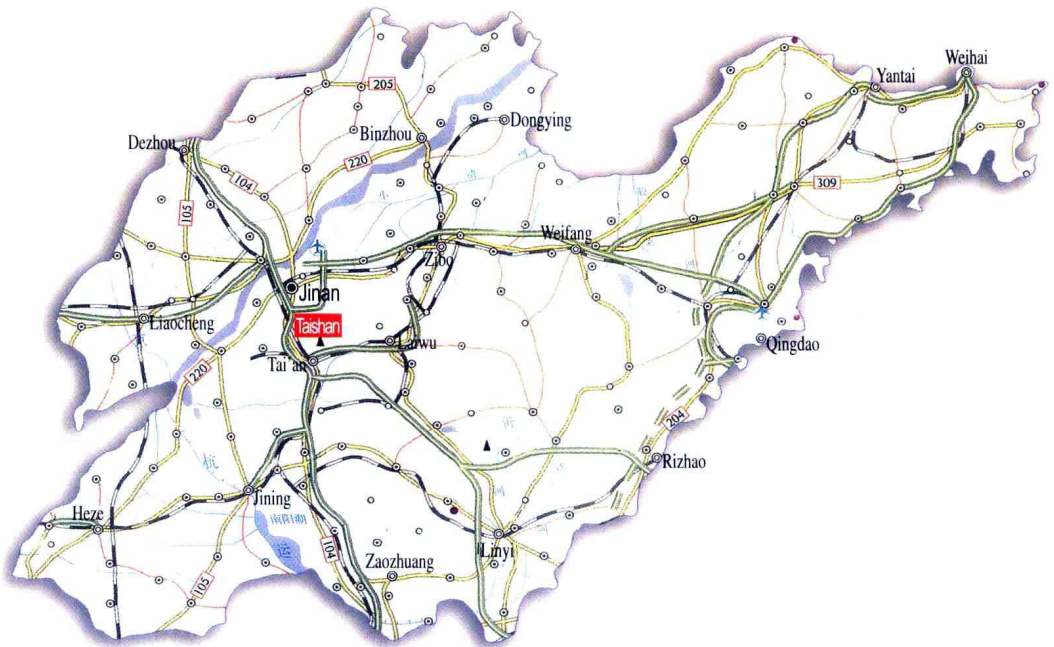
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Location of Shandong Province within China



Administrative Map of Shandong



Preface

Mount Taishan, which lies in the center of Shandong Province, reaches 1,545 meters above sea level and covers an area of 426 square kilometers. It has long held the accolade “first of the Five Sacred Mountains.”

Some 3,000 years ago, the lands of today’s Shandong were fiefdoms of the states of Qi and Lu, so Shandong is known as “Lu” for short and the province is often referred to as “the land of Qi and Lu.” Since Shandong neighbors the sea in the east, people usually describe the towering Mount Taishan as being “rooted in the land of Qi and Lu and mirrored on the great sea.”

In 1982, Mount Taishan was named by the State Council as a key scenic spot of China. In 1987, it was listed as a UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage site. In 2003, it was voted first of the Top Ten Mountains in China, in a poll conducted by the China Society of Territorial Economics and the magazine *China Territory Today*.



Mount Taishan is especially known for its four wonderful sights: the rising sun at dawn, the rosy clouds at sunset, the full moon above the clouds, and the Yellow River in the sunset glow.

The mountain is closely bound up with Chinese culture. It is said that 72 rulers had inspected and worshipped Mount Taishan since remote ancient times. Beginning over 2,200 years ago with the First Emperor of Qin, more than a dozen emperors also paid their homage to the mountain.

There are some 40 sites of ancient buildings on the mountain, in addition to vast quantities of poetry and stone inscriptions left by emperors, poets and scholars of every age. Mount Taishan is indeed a microcosm of Chinese culture, a sacred mountain in the east, hence its title "China's Number One Mountain."

Sacred Mountain in the East

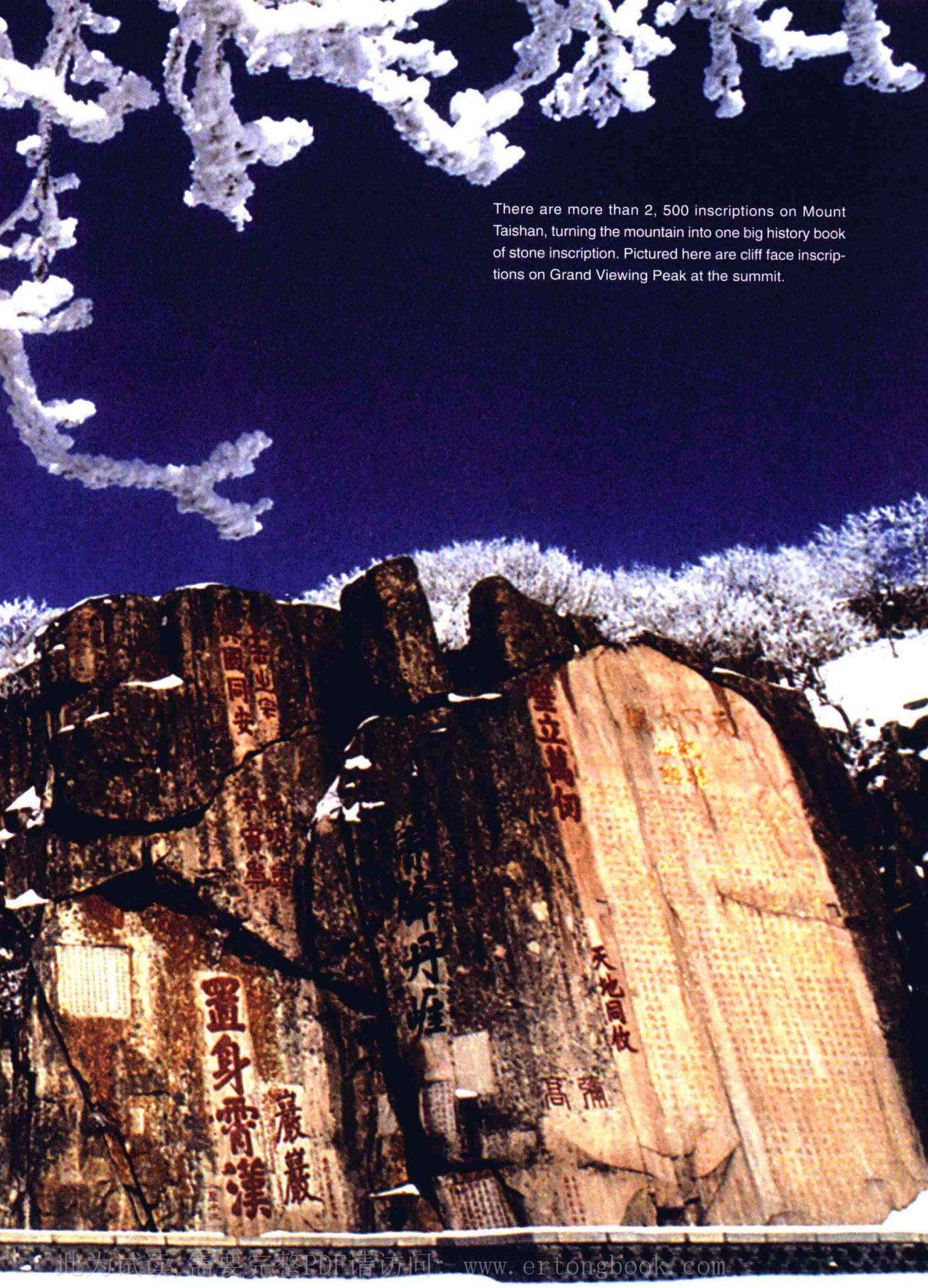


The Jade Emperor Temple (right) occupies the highest part of the summit, with the Blue Emperor Palace and Grand Viewing Peak in front; further south stands the Bixia Temple (foreground) and to the southwest is the Moon Viewing Peak (left).



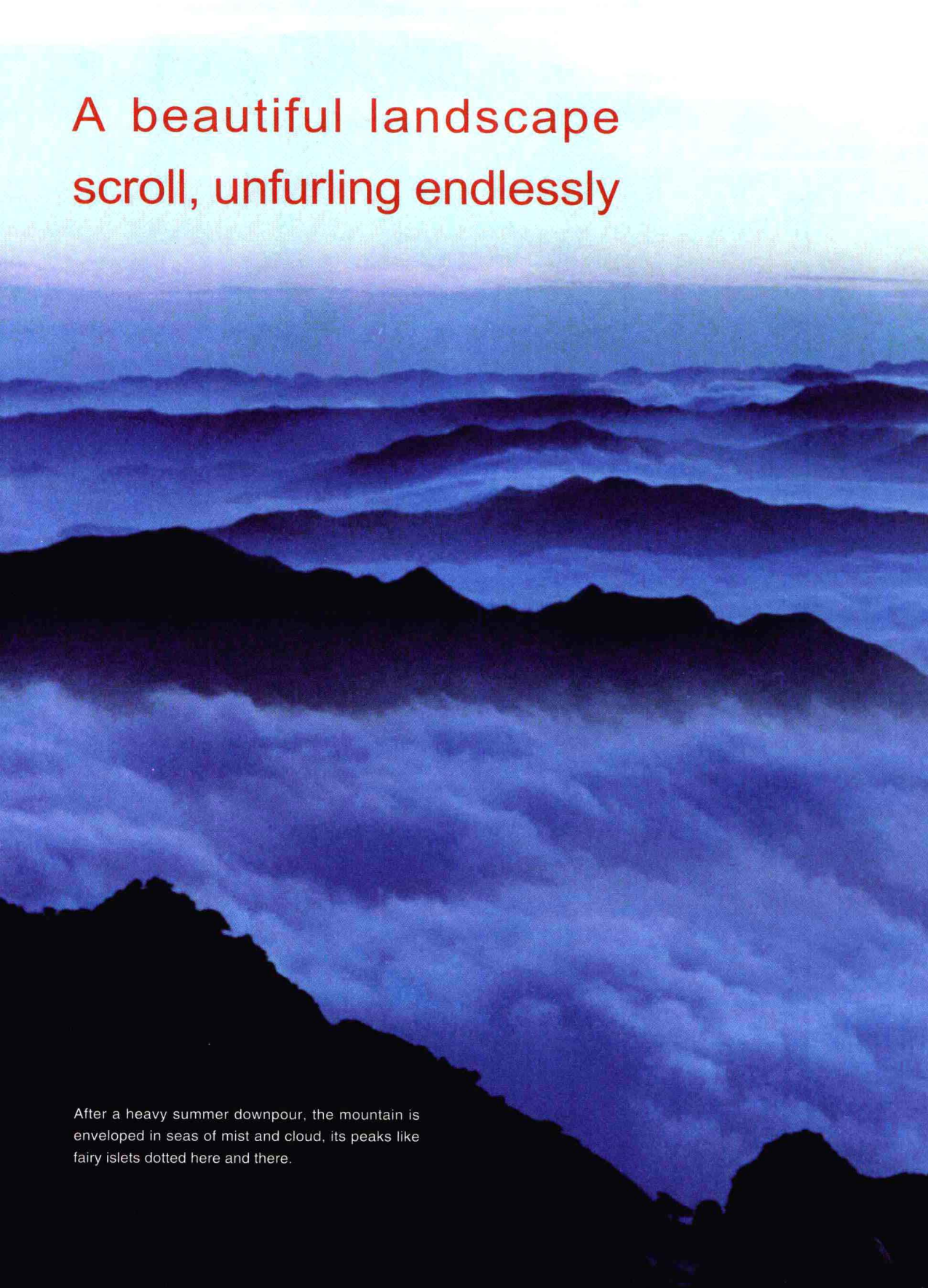
A huge history book of
stone inscriptions





There are more than 2, 500 inscriptions on Mount Taishan, turning the mountain into one big history book of stone inscription. Pictured here are cliff face inscriptions on Grand Viewing Peak at the summit.

A beautiful landscape
scroll, unfurling endlessly



After a heavy summer downpour, the mountain is
enveloped in seas of mist and cloud, its peaks like
fairy islets dotted here and there.



A divine song purifying the soul

The Stairway to Heaven along the central axis on the south slope has 6,666 steps, an auspicious number to pilgrims making the ascent.



CONTENTS

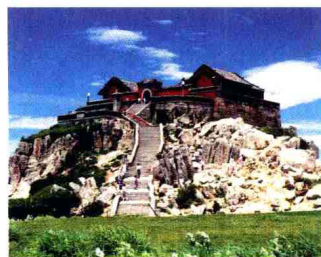


Chapter I Towering Mount Taishan 1

Ancient Myths about Mount Taishan
The Formation of Mount Taishan
The Status of Mount Taishan
Ascending Mount Taishan — A Great Life Experience
Sea of Clouds on Mount Taishan
Watching Sunrise on Mount Taishan

Chapter II Mount Taishan, the Country's Watch Guard 29

Mysterious Symbols
Culture of Remote Antiquity at Mount Taishan
Burning Firewood to Worship Heaven — the Oldest Rite
Theoretical Roots of the “Mountain Worship” Ceremony
First Emperor of Qin Pays Homage to Mount Taishan
Emperor Wu’s Eight Visits to Mount Taishan
The Ailing Emperor Guangwu Comes to Mount Taishan
The Regrets of Tang Emperor Taizong
Emperor and Empress Together Make Sacrifices to
Mount Taishan
Emperor Xuanzong Comes to Mount Taishan
The Final Performance of “*Feng Shan*”
The Ming Emperors and Mount Taishan
Emperor Kangxi and Mount Taishan
Qianlong, the Last Monarch to Visit Mount Taishan



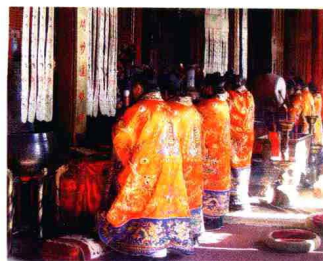


Chapter III The Universe in Miniature 73

The Central Mountain — A Pillar Leading to Heaven
 Divine Song to Heaven
 At the Summit
 Souls Returning to Mount Taishan
 The Netherworld
 Great Emperor of the Eastern Sacred Mountain
 Rebirth

Chapter IV Mount Taishan and Taoism 99

Mount Taishan and Living Immortals
 Hermits at Mount Taishan
 Li Bai's Hunt for Immortals
 The Free-wheeling Immortal Lu Dongbin
 Queen Mother Pond
 Emperors and Taoist Mount Taishan
 Taoist Design of Mount Taishan



Chapter V Mount Taishan Deities 117

Bixia Temple
 History of the Goddess of Mount Taishan
 Cult of the Goddess
 Mount Taishan Rock of Protection