

THE GREAT WALL

長城



伟大奇观——长城

THE GREAT WALL—A GREAT WONDER

长城开始筑于二千六百多年前的周朝末期，是我国古代劳动人民创造的一项宏伟建筑。

长城全长一万二千七百多华里，西起我国西北戈壁滩的嘉峪关，东至山海关，是由关隘、城墙、城台、烽火台、敌楼等部分组成，许多地方有九道城墙，有的地方多达二十多层。现在，我国境内保存长城遗迹的有山东、河南、湖南、湖北等十七个省、市、自治区。如把修筑长城的砖石、土方用来修筑一道高五米、厚一米的大墙，可环绕地球一周而有余。这一工程，历史悠久，规模巨大，施工艰险，多少年来被公认为世界建筑史上的一大奇迹。

Construction of the Great Wall started in the last years of the Zhou Dynasty, some 2,600 years ago. It is a magnificent structure created by working people in ancient China.

The Great Wall, which covers a total length of 12,700 Li (6,350 Kilometres), starts in the west from the Jiayuguan Pass in Northwest China and ends up in the east at the Shanhaikuan Pass. Every section of the Wall is composed of passes, platforms, walls and beacon-towers. At many places there are nine successive walls, and at some places as many as twenty. To this day, 17 provinces and autonomous regions including Shandong, Henan, Hubei and Hunan Provinces have remained parts of the Wall. Should a wall five metres high, one metre thick be built with all the bricks, stones and earth of the Great Wall, it would be long enough to go around the globe. It has been universally acknowledged over the years that the Great Wall is a great wonder in the history of world architecture for its long history and gigantic scale and the tremendous hardships encountered in the construction.



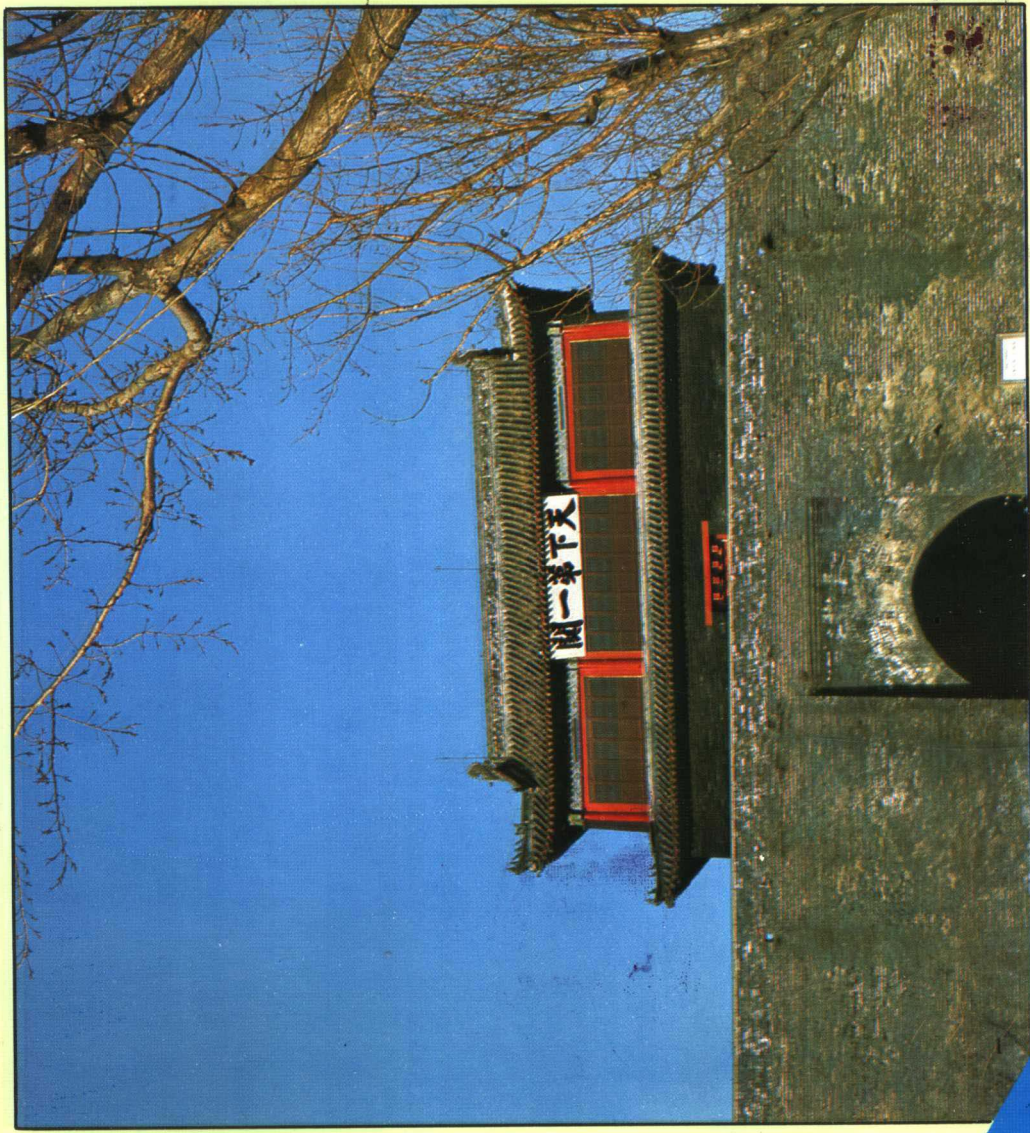


通北京 To Beijing

天下第一关——山海关

“天下第一关”——山海关
(匾额为明代进士、本地人肖显所书)

**The Shanhaiguan Pass Known
as "The First Pass on Earth"
(Handwriting of a 15th Century
Scholar)**



**Shanhaiguan — the First Pass
in the Great Wall**

万里长城第一雄关——山海关，巍然屹立在奇峰陡峭的燕山与水分相连的渤海之间，其地势之险要，为长城诸关之最。故有“百二山河拥帝京，铁关金锁接长城”之说。世人称它为“天下第一关”，实非夸张。

山海关几经变迁，隋朝建榆关，唐代设临榆关，亦名临闾关。明洪武十四年，大将徐达在此建关设卫，命名山海关，列为九边重镇之一。此关扼华北与东北之咽喉要冲，为兵家必争之地。关城内外，古代的一些防御设施至今犹存。城外自烽火台起，连同威远城和土筑堡垒，为山海关前哨防御阵地。关城四周四座砖砌罗城，罗城和瓮城形成第二线防御工事。最后的防御屏障是关城。关城呈四方形，周长约四公里，城墙高达十四米，厚七米。现存的城楼，结构奇巧，层层设防，便于支撵。它昂首云天，虎视远方，显得十分雄伟壮丽。

离山海关不远，有许多名胜古迹。风景秀丽、怪石嶙峋的黄牛山，山上有一古洞，名“玄阳洞”。洞深四十多米，洞内尚有庙观遗迹，洞壁上有许多石刻浮雕，其中明代书法家朱洪范的碑刻较为珍贵。明末农民起义军李自成与汉奸吴三桂激战过的古战场，现已辟为石河水库，景色宜人。离关城十三里，

有一座孟姜女庙。孟姜女寻夫到长城的故事曾广为流传。登城楼远眺，但见长城宛如一条游龙，随着势如狂澜的万山飞舞。正如前人所云：“曾闻山海古榆关，今日行经眼界宽；万顷洪涛观不尽，千寻绝壁渡应难。”



老龙头
(即南海口关。长城自燕山迤邐而来，至此到达海滨)
“The Head of the Old Dragon”, where the Great Wall
Meets the Sea

The imposing tower Shanhaiguan Pass at the eastern end of the 6,000-kilometre Great Wall is screened in the north by the stupendous Yanshan Mountains and faces the Bohai Sea to its south. A mountain pass of great strategic importance, it elicited these lines from an ancient Chinese poet:

A hundred and twenty peaks troop round the imperial capital,
Their iron passes and golden locks seal the Great Wall.

Over the centuries the Shanhaiguan Pass has been known by different names. It was called the Yuguan Pass in the Sui Dynasty (581-618) and the Linyuguan Pass in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) when it was first garrisoned. It was known by its present name in 1381 during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) when General Xu Da stationed his troops and had defence works built there. One of the nine important fortifications situated at the junction between China's north and northeast, it was a stronghold that contending forces sought to control. Some of its former defence works still remain. The beacon-tower outside the pass and the earthwork surrounding the Weiyuan Township used to be the first line of defence. Four brick corner towers built around the fortress and its bailey formed the intermediate defence line, while the fortress with a wall of 14 metres high and 7 metres wide and four kilometres in circumference served as the last defence line. The existing pass tower was so cleverly designed that crenels were constructed on every storey where reinforcements could easily reach. High on the mountain

and commanding the entrance to the valley, it was indeed an impregnable fort.

There are sites of historical interest and scenic beauty near the pass. The craggy Huangniu (Ox) Mountain has a cavern of more than 40 metres long with ruins of ancient monasteries in it. On the cave walls are carvings in relief. A stone inscription of the Ming calligrapher Zhu Hongfan's hand is of great value. The old battlefield where Li Zicheng, a leader of a peasant uprising army in the late Ming Dynasty, fought the traitor Wu Sangui is now the Shihe (Stone River) Reservoir with enchanting scenery. About some six kilometres away from the pass is the temple built to the memory of Meng Jiangnü of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.) who trekked long distances to send winter clothing to her husband who was conscripted to build the Great Wall. She arrived the construction site only to learn that her husband had died of hard labour. She cried so heart-brokenly that the wall crumbled to reveal his remains. Though this is only a story, Meng Jiangnü's name is widely known in China and commands people's respect and sympathy.

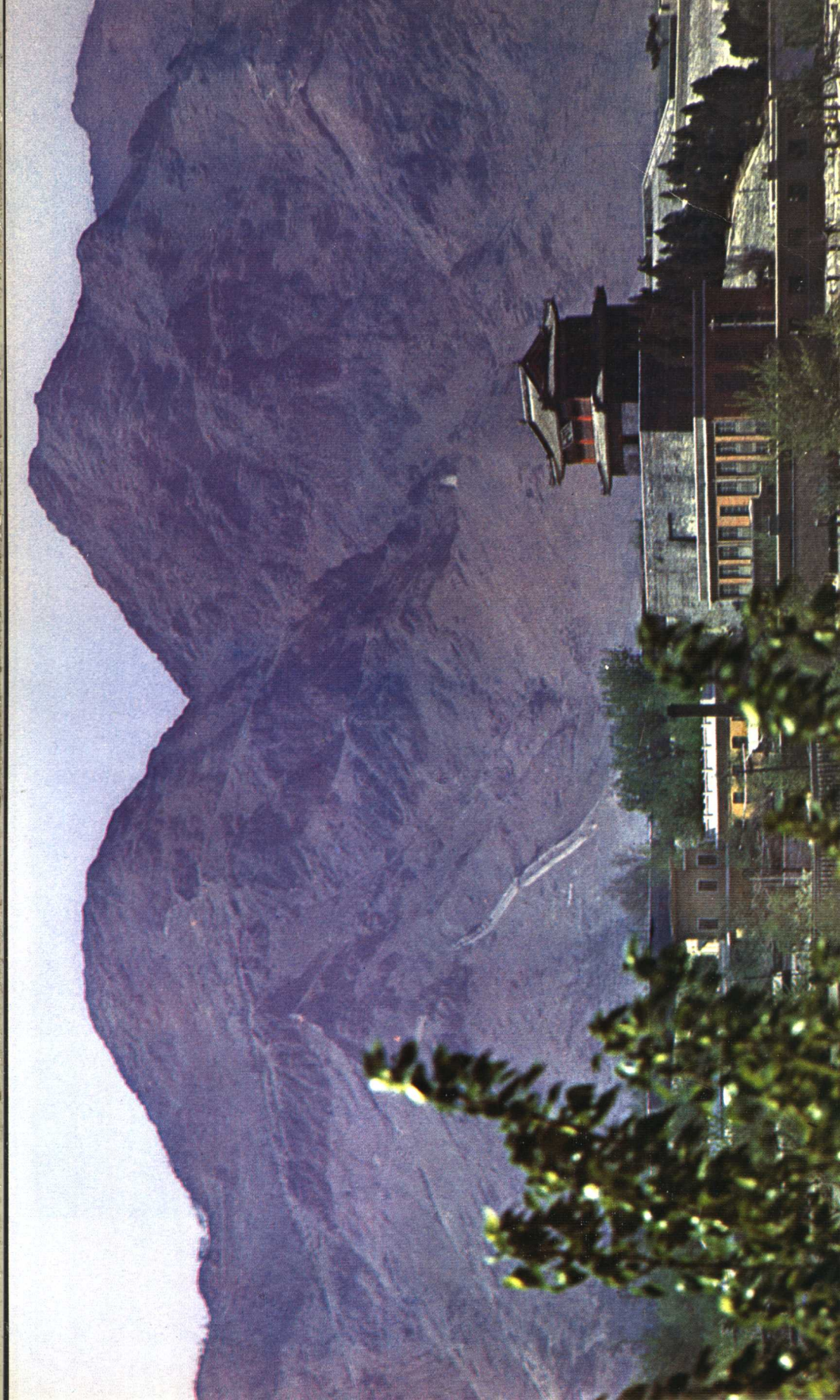
For a thousand years, the Great Wall has witnessed the Chinese people's life and struggle. As a Chinese poet wrote:

The pass I heard of so often,

To me opens a new vista as here I sojourn;

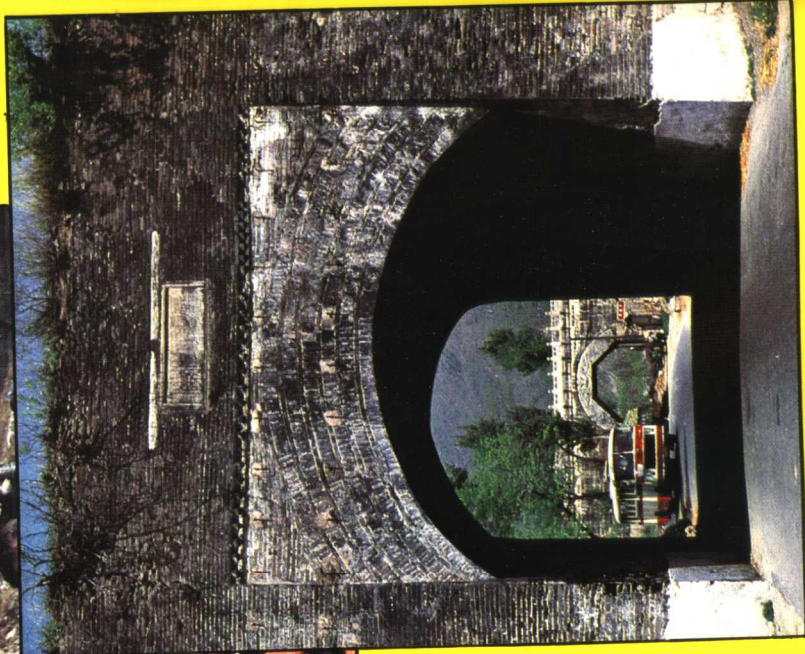
The mountains surge and ripple to meet the eye,

And impregnable are the steep cliffs.





居庸关



居庸关关门
The Eastern Gate of the Juyongguan Pass

The Juyongguan Pass

居庸关是明代长城的精萃所在，距北京约60公里。两旁山峦重叠，树木葱郁，中间有一条长约15公里的狭窄关沟，形势奇险，关城设置其中，为京华西北屏障。

居庸关原有南北两个外围关口。南面叫南口，南口两边山脊城墙和堡垒遗迹犹存。北口就是八达岭，居高临下，城墙更为险峻。由南口西北行，景色优美。所经之居庸关、居庸外镇和北门锁钥，都是明代建筑。

居庸关关城的中间，有一座汉白玉砌筑的石台，称云台，是建于元至正五年（公元1345年）的过街塔的底座。现在，佛塔和后建的泰安寺已无存。云台一面开有券门，门内石壁上雕有四大天王像，雄劲生动，栩栩传神；同时有用汉、梵、藏、维吾尔、西夏和蒙古等六种文字刻的《陀罗尼经咒》和《造塔功德记》等，对研究中国石刻艺术和文字学，都具有很大价值。券洞顶部，遍刻“曼陀罗”等花草图案以及数不清的大小佛像。

每当春夏，远山草木争荣，一望葱绿，层层碧浪，道道青波，构成一幅优美图景。金代曾被称为“居庸叠翠”，是

“燕京八景”之一。

据传说，在居庸关附近，有七十二处游览名胜。如古代诗人歌咏过的“一觉黄粱人已仙，尚遗睡石傍风泉”的大石“仙人枕”。还有水入石罅声若弹琴的“弹琴峡”。在居庸外镇的前边，还有一巨石，名为“望京石”。每到天气晴朗的时候，站在石上，可以隐隐约约地望见北京城。

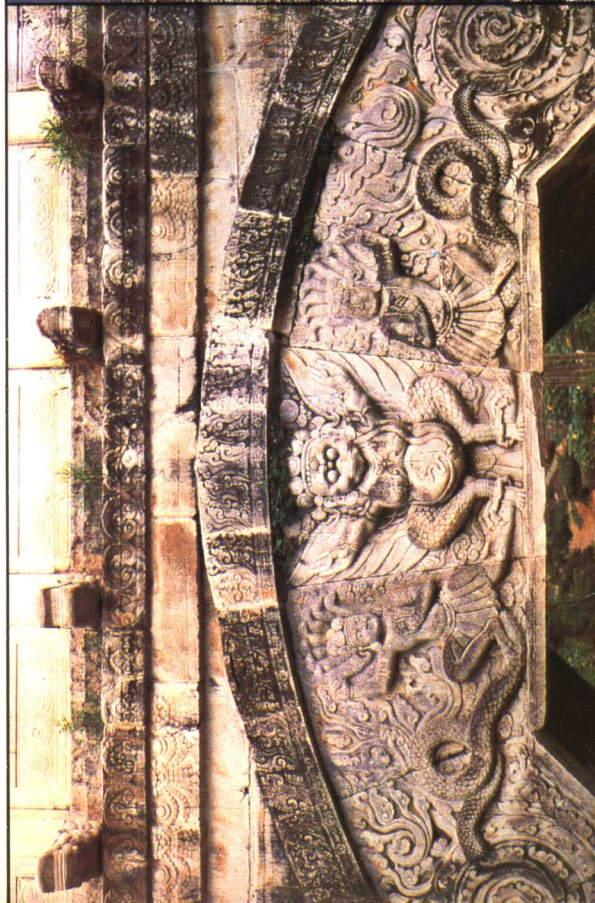
Approximately 60 kilometres from downtown Beijing, the Juyongguan Pass is the best-known of all the places along the Great Wall and might well be considered a sample of this extensive system of fortifications. It stands in a narrow valley, controlling the northern entrance to the capital city. The strategic importance of this pass-ageway made it necessary to construct multiple walls there. The three gates at the Juyongguan Pass were all built in the 14th century.

In the fortress city of Juyongguan stands a white marble platform known as the Cloud Terrace which was built in the fifth year (1345 A.D.) of the Yuan Emperor Zhizheng's reign. Originally the base of a stupa astride a thoroughfare, it later supported the Taian (Supreme Stability) Temple. The flawless construction of this well-preserved terrace and the exquisite engravings on it are acclaimed as a gem of the Yuan Dynasty architectural art.

The walls of the archway underneath the terrace are engraved with the full-length figure of the four Heavenly Kings and inscribed with *Dharani Sutra* and "Record of the Meritorious Deed of Erecting the Stupa" in the six languages of Han, Sanskrit, Tibetan, Uyghur, Tangut and Mongolian. They supply invaluable material for the study of philology and stone-carving of ancient China. On the ceiling of the archway are exquisitely carved the datura and other floral designs as well as figurines of Buddha.

云台券门雕刻

Arch under the Cloud Terrace, in the Shape of Three Sides of a Hexagon



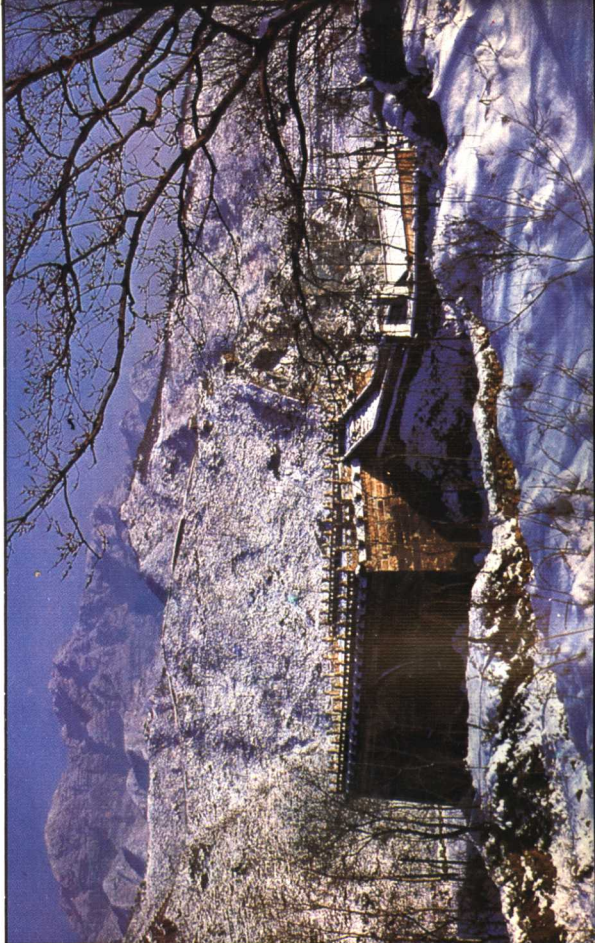
There are again 72 scenic spots round the Juyongguan Pass, one of which is the "Immortal's Pillow," a big rock, about which an ancient poet wrote:

A man has become an immortal after the Golden Millet Dream,
Leaving only a rock by the breezy stream.

In front of "The Juyong Outpost" is a rock named "Rock for Looking at the Capital," from where Beijing at 75 kilometres away is faintly visible in clear sunny days.

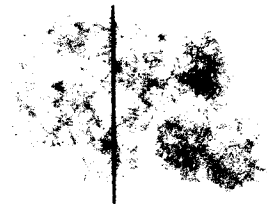
幽谷中的云台

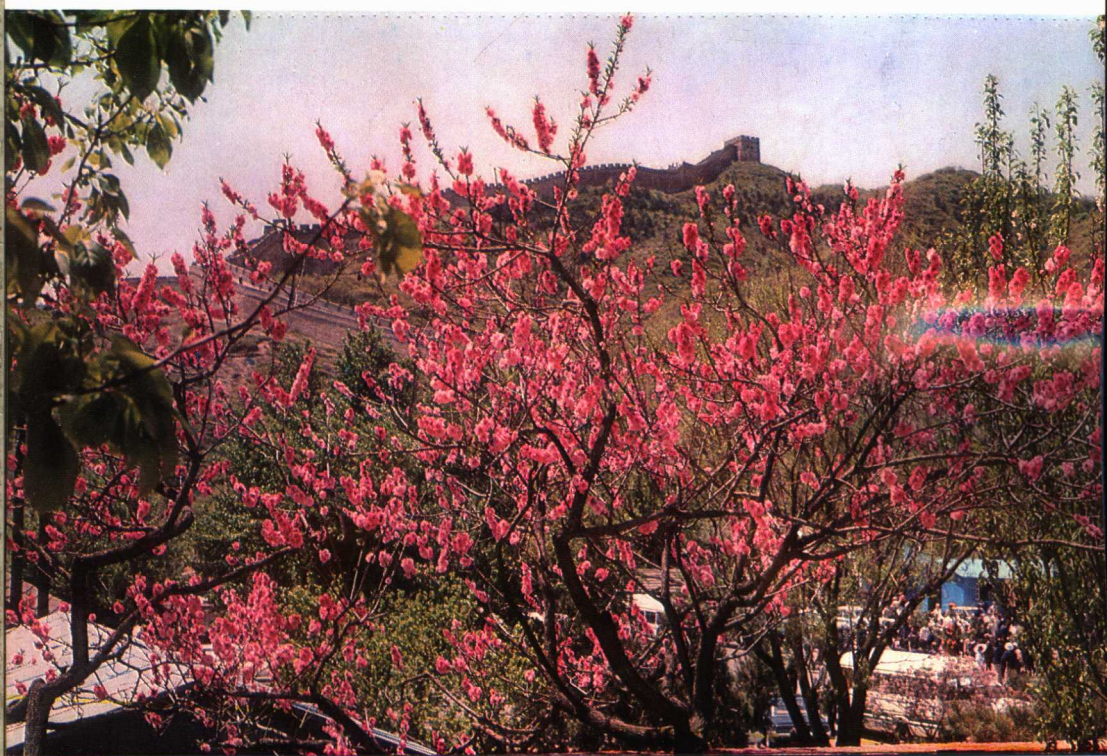
The Cloud Terrace



长城之秋 岭山红叶
When the Maple Leaves Turn Red

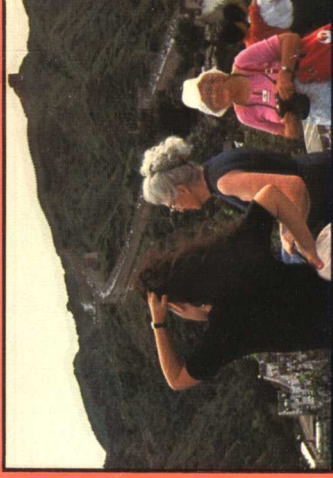
长城之春 雄关春色
Spring at the Door of an Ancient Majestic Pass







八达岭鸟瞰
The Great Wall on Mount Badaling



八达岭

Badaling, the Excursion Centre

八达岭 Mount Badaling

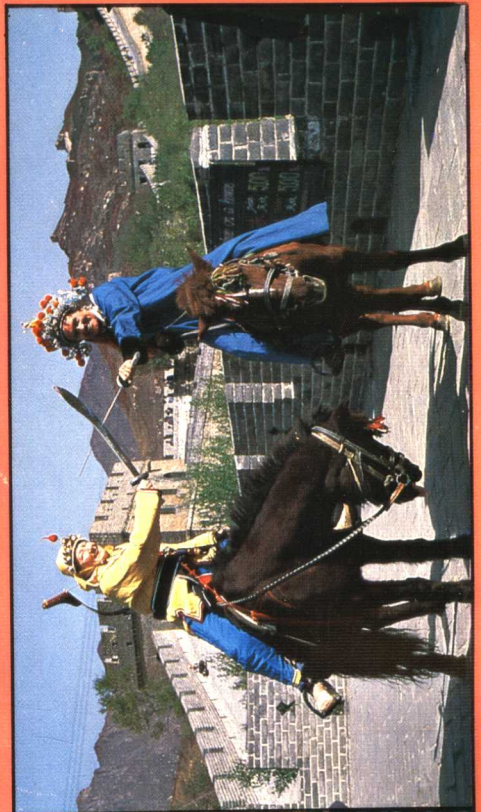
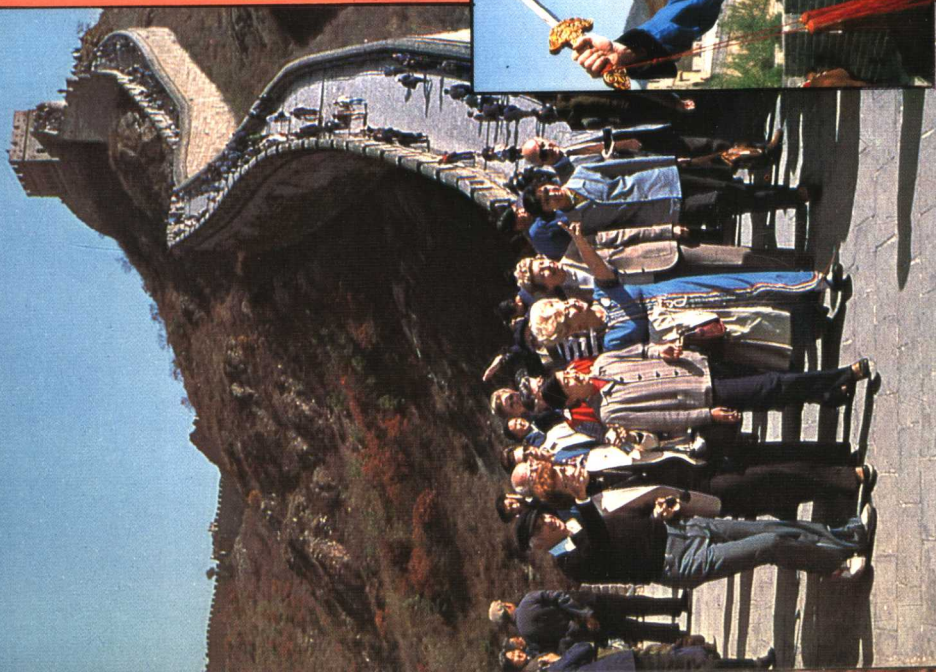




八达岭属燕山支脉，是军都山山峰之一。明代在此建有八达岭城关。城关两侧，长城蜿蜒起伏，依山而筑，气势雄伟，为京郊游览胜地。设在居庸关北口的关城——八达岭城，尽管规模不大，但地理位置却十分重要。它雄踞要路，高屋建瓴，虎视前方，巍然一区。比起居庸关来更为险峻。过去人们说：“居庸之险不在关，而在八达岭”。确是如此。现在八达岭附近的崖壁上，尚留有前人题写的“天险”两个大字。

八达岭名称的来由，过去众说纷纭。人们大多认为取义于道路“四通八达”的说法，较为贴切。明万历年间，曾在北京做过官，并对北京作过一些调查考证的蒋一葵，就提出：这里交通南北，“路从此分，故名八达岭”。

外宾在八达岭
Foreign Visitors at
Mount Badaling





长城之冬 玉龙腾跃
Snow Turns the Great Wall into
a Squirming Dragon of Jade





长城之夏 关山叠翠
The Great Wall in Summer