

HEBEI CLASSIC SCENIC SITES ENGLISH GUIDE

河北经典旅游景点 英语导游词

● 本书编写组



中国旅游出版社

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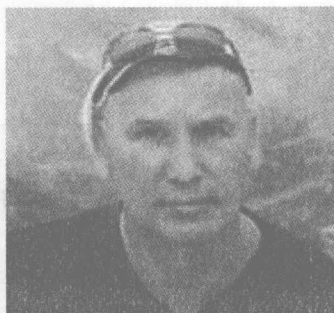
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《河北经典旅游景点英语导游词》是在中文版《河北导游词精粹》一书基础上编写而成的。本书的出版既为来河北观光旅游的海外游客提供一本具有实用性的旅游指南,也为各地的英语导游和旅游从业人员提供了河北旅游的英文资料,同时填补了河北省导游资格考试培训教材的空白。本书的出版,对宣传河北旅游资源,提高河北名胜古迹的知名度,促进河北旅游业发展将起到积极作用。

我们衷心希望这本书能够成为广大读者的得力助手,衷心地祝愿河北旅游业有更大的发展。

编者

二〇〇七年十月



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Beijing's Bulwark: Hebei Province

Hebei Overview

Hebei Province lies in the North China Plain, with Yanshan Mountain northward, the Yellow River southward, the Taihang Mountains westward and Bohai Sea eastward. It covers an area of 190,000 square kilometers, with a population of 67.44 million. The capital city is Shijiazhuang.

Its long history, rich culture and spectacular natural environment have made Hebei an important province and now one with abundant tourist resources. Currently, Hebei has 3 sites awarded World Cultural Heritage status by UNESCO. Occupying one ninth of the whole country, Hebei has 88 historic and cultural sites under state protection, ranking third in China, and 680 historic and cultural sites under provincial protection, leading the nation in terms of numbers. In addition, Hebei has five famous historical and cultural national-level cities, six distinguished China tourist cities, two of the national top ten landscapes, seven national-level scenic spots, eleven national forest parks and seven national nature reserves. The number of tourist spots designated 4A-level has increased significantly. In 2007, the First Pass Under Heaven of Qinhuangdao, the Baiyangdian Lake in Anxin of Baoding, the Summer Mountain Resort and its outlying temples of Chengde have been designated 5A scenic spots by the national scenic spots evaluation commission.

Hebei is also the only province in China that possesses seashores, plains, lakes, hills, mountains and plateaus all set against a backdrop of a temperate continental monsoon climate. It has diverse topography and most of the territory has clear-cut seasons. The very fascinating natural scenery of Hebei was formed under such conditions. There are mountains, hills and plateaus with scattered basins and valleys in the northwest of Hebei province. The vast plains stretch over the central and southeastern part, dotted with rivers and lakes. There are various holiday resorts and scenic spots for tourists from home and abroad to

choose from. —for ... instance, the vast Bashang Grassland, the magnificent Taihang Mountain, the vast plateau stretching to the horizon, the beautiful seashores and the wonderful provincial lakes.

Historical Highlights

Hebei is one of the important birthplaces of the Chinese nation. About 5,000 years ago, Huang Di, Yan Di and Chiyou, the first three ancestors of the Chinese nation, were finally united after fighting among themselves in Zhuolu, paving the way for the establishment of the subsequent Chinese civilization. During the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period, the Yan State and the Zhao State were in Hebei, which was given the substitute name “Yanzhao” in later times. Qinshihuang, the first emperor in China, was born in Handan city and died in Xingtai city. He had been to Cangzhou and the coast of Qinhuangdao more than once in search of an elixir. He spent most of his life in Hebei. In the Wei, Jin and Northern and Southern dynasties, Hebei province was the major battlefield where the kingdoms fought each other for possession of the Central Plains. Liubei, Guanyu and Zhangfei swore allegiance to each other in the peach garden in Zhuolu and thereafter occupied one third of the country. Cao Cao controlled Yecheng, where many capable and talented people came and poets held forums. They created Jian An Literature that was very famous then. Buddha was worshipped in the Northern Qi dynasty. As a result, Emperor Gaoyang had a cave temple built in Xiang Tangshan, which spawned magnificent grotto art. In the Tang and Song dynasties, the tenets of Hebei Zen Buddhism achieved wide popularity in China. The Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties set up their capitals in Beijing, with Hebei becoming the defense “bulwark” of Beijing.

Since ancient times, “Yanzhao” [which means “Yan and Zhao Kingdoms”], the alternate name of Hebei, has been renowned for its luminaries. Bianque, the well-known doctor of the Warring States Period, identified the basic methods of diagnosis—observation, auscultation, olfaction, interrogation, palpation and pulse feeling. Xunzi, the renowned military strategist, is remembered for postulating that man’s will, not heaven, decides our fate. Jinke, an infamous assassin from the Yan State, was sent off to assassinate the king of the Qin State. Dong Zhongshu, a philosopher of the Western Han dynasty, presented his

views proscribing all non-Confucian schools of thought and espousing Confucianism as the state orthodoxy. Zu Chongzhi, a distinguished mathematician of the Southern dynasty, worked out the value of π (the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter). Zudi, who rose at cockcrow to practice his swordsmanship, later led his troops to the north and regained control of the Central Plain. Jiadao, the famous poet of the Tang dynasty; Guo Shoujing, the great astronomer of the Yuan dynasty and Guan Hanqing, the celebrated dramatist, were all born in Hebei. Cao Xueqin wrote the immortal work *A Dream in Red Mansions*. Li Dazhao, one of the founders of the Communist Party of China, was martyred for the motherland. The five heroes of Mount Langya sacrificed themselves for the success of the Chinese revolution. The brave and noble-minded sons and daughters of Yanzhao have left numerous moving stories for the whole world.

Its long history has endowed Hebei province with a rich legacy of culture and performing arts. Ceramics made in the Ding Kilns, the Xing Kilns, Cizhou Kilns and Tangshan Kilns were typical of the northern ceramic arts in the history of China. The paper-cuttings of Weixian, the Wuqiang Spring Festival pictures, the cloisonné ceramics of Langfang, the stone sculpture of Quyang, the interior-painted snuff bottles of Hengshui and the ancient ink slab of Yishui are famous both at home and abroad. Hebei Bangzi Opera, Baoding Old-Styled Tunes, Tangshan Shadow Play and Jingxing Festoon, Cangzhou Martial Arts, Wuqiao Acrobats, Yongnian Taiciquang ("tai chi") and the secret of longevity of the Baoding people have attracted a large number of tourists in recent years.

Hebei Travel Planner

In order to accelerate the development of the tourist industry, Hebei province promotes eight tourist routes.

TOUR 1: the "East Hebei Beach Holiday Tour"

Beijing-Zunhua City-Yutian County-Tangshan City-Lulong County-Funing County-Qinhuangdao City. The total distance covered is 280 kilometers.

The East Tombs in Zunhua City, one of the two big groups of tombs of the Qing dynasty, are exquisitely constructed large-scale sites. There are 5 emperors, 15 empresses and 136 imperial concubines buried here, including

Kangxi, Qianlong, Xianfeng and Empress Dowager Cixi.

Tangshan City Tangshan City has taken on a new look after a violent earthquake in 1976. Some ruins have been preserved for tourists to visit and for commemoration. Tangshan is also called the Porcelain Capital of the North. The annual porcelain fair there attracts many visitors from both home and abroad.

Qinhuangdao Known as the Summer Capital, Qinhuangdao is a celebrated coastal tourist city. It is famous for the Old Dragon Head, Beidaihe, Nandaihe, and the Golden Beach in Changli County.

TOUR 2: the "Chengde Imperial Summer Resort Royal Mulan Hunting Ground Tour"

Beijing—Huairou—Miyu—Luanping County—Chengde. It is 230 kilometers from Beijing to Chengde. In the Qing dynasty, emperors came to Chengde to make an inspection tour along this route. The main sights include the Chengde Summer Mountain Resort, the Outer Eight Temples and the large expanses of forests and grassland in Weichang County in the north.

The Chengde Summer Mountain Resort is the largest remaining imperial garden in the modern world. It not only features spectacular northern gardens, but also boasts a large number of elaborate architectural works, which is the main characteristic of southern gardens. It is said to epitomize the best of China's landscapes. The Outer Eight Temples are the biggest imperial temple group in China. The eight brilliant, golden temples are clustered along the northern and eastern sides of the Summer Resort just like stars surrounding the moon in a semicircle, embodying the successful unification of the hearts of the people in the inner and outer lands. They are also the symbol of national unity and minority solidification. Although each of the buildings has its own style, generally speaking, they are a synthesis of Han, Mongolian, Manchurian and Tibetan styles. The Outer Eight Temples are widely acknowledged as models of architectural excellence.

The Mulan Hunting Ground is the place where the Qing emperors hunted and trained their troops. Visitors can enjoy many cultural relics and historic sites here. The unique mountain scenes, the vast grassland and the rich wildlife resources make it a wonderful place to spend summer holidays.

TOUR 3: the "Tour of the First Grassland in the North of Beijing"

Beijing—Huairou—Fengning County. The total distance is 190 kilometers. The First Grassland in the North of Beijing is the natural grassland that is nearest to Beijing. One can see the blue sky, the white clouds, the green ground, the fresh water, the wide grassland and the birds in flight. It's called "the Tourism Pearl in the north of Beijing".

TOUR 4: the "North of the Great Wall Tour"

Beijing—Changping—Yanqing—Huairou—Xuanhua—Zhangjiakou City. The total distance is 200 kilometers. Zhangjiakou City is famous for the Great Wall, the neighboring grassland and ancient culture. The City of the Yellow Emperor in Zhuolo County is the earliest capital city in China. One historian has said that Chinese civilization started from Zhuolo County. Its long history left Zhangjiakou numerous cultural relics, such as the City of the Yellow Emperor, the City of Emperor Yan and the Village of Emperor Chiyou. The new amenities, such as bathing in the hot springs, rafting, visiting agricultural sites and skiing in the mountains, make Zhangjiakou a marvelous place for tourists to spend holidays.

TOUR 5: the "Taihang Mountains Tour"

The Ye Sanpo Valley in Laishui County and the Baishi Mountain in Laiyuan, just 90 kilometers away from Beijing, are very famous scenic spots known all over the world.

There are many other resorts popular with tourists, such as Baili Valley, Juma River, Buddha Cave Tower, Dragon Gate Valley, Jinhua Mountain and the Grass Bank. These places have become the best choices for tourists from Beijing and Tianjin who wish to relax, take a rest cure and spend a holiday.

TOUR 6: The "Yanzhao Ancient Culture Tour"

Beijing—Baoding—Shijiazhuang—Xingtai—Handan. The total distance is 450 kilometers. Baoding, Shijiazhuang, Xingtai and Handan border on the Taihang Mountains to the west and the North China Plain to the east. The region's long history has left a legacy of rich culture and a wealth of cultural relics. Zhuozhou is fabled in the Romantic History of Three Kingdoms. The West Tombs are one of the two big groups of tombs of the Qing Dynasty. The famous jade clothes with gold thread were excavated from the Tombs of the Han

Dynasty in Mancheng. The Baoding Governor-General's Office of Zhili Province is the unique, well-preserved provincial government office of the Qing Dynasty. Baiyangdian is the biggest fresh water lake in North China. The remains of Tunnel Warfare at Ranzhuang Village during the War of Resistance against Japan have become a museum to celebrate the unyielding heroic spirit of the Chinese people. Longxing Temple in Zhengding is called the No. 1 Temple in the south of Beijing. It has been claimed that the Zhaozhou Stone Bridge in Zhao County is the world's first stone constructed bridge. Shibaipo in Pingshan is the last command post in the countryside in the history of China's revolution. Handan is a famous historical and cultural city. It was once the capital of Zhao during the Warring States Period. About 1,000 Chinese idioms have their origin here. Handan has a lot to offer tourists, including Xiangtangshan Mountain Grottos, the Palace of Nuwa, Congtai Terrace in Wuling, Huanglian Dreams and the memorial temple of Immortal Lü, to mention but a few.

In addition, the magnificent mountain views in such places as Wuyuezhai in Lingshou County, the Tianguai Mountain in Pingshan County, the Zhangshiyan Cliffs in Zhanhuang County, the Cangyan Mountain in Jingxing County, the Kong Mountain White Clouds Caves in Lincheng County and the Palace of Nuwa in She County attract visitors from both home and abroad.

TOUR 7: The "Folk Customs Tour"

Beijing—Xianghe County—Langfang City—Tianjin City—Cangzhou City—Wuqiao County—Hengshui City. The total distance is 410 kilometers.

Xianghe County First City is one of the biggest man-made sites in China. It is a copy of the ancient city of Beijing as it was during the Ming and Qing dynasties and incorporates the best of the ancient and modern Chinese culture. Langfang and Hengshui are bases that produce tourist goods. Meng mosaic, cloisonné work and snuff bottles are numerous in variety and perfect in execution. Wuqiao County of Cangzhou is well-known all over the world as the Land of Chinese Acrobats. Everyone in this county, be he an old man of 99, or a baby just learning to walk, can perform some acrobatic feats.

TOUR 8: The "Great Wall Tour"

The Great Wall, as an icon of China tourism, is the main scenic spot in Hebei. The Great Wall runs as long as 2,000 kilometers in Hebei. The Great

Wall in Hebei is longer than that in any other province and is also the best preserved and the most representative in architectural style. Old Dragon's Head, the beginning of the Great Wall; the First Pass under Heaven, Shan Haiguan; the Jiaoshan Great Wall hanging upside down from a precipice; the Jiumenkou Great Wall spanning a mountain brook; the Panjuakou Great Wall running across an expanse of water; the Jinshanling Great Wall resembling a giant dragon tracing the ridges of the great mountains; Dajing Gate, which is the fortress of the Great Wall and Lady Mengjiang Temple that was built to commemorate an historical legend of the Great Wall, are all on this route.

编译: 张卫红

The Longxing Temple was built in the 8th year of the reign of Suì Emperor Kaihuang (386 A.D.). According to the inscriptions of the Longxing Temple Stele stored in the temple, it was first built by donations. At that time, it was built on the old site of Longxing Yuan of Minong Xi of the Late Yan. Therefore, it was named Longxing Temple. Until the Song dynasty, the complex had been established gradually. In the dynasties of Yuan, Ming and Qing, additions and repairs to the temple were carried out. In Emperor Kangxi's and Qianlong's reigns, it was repaired twice and temporary palaces were built on both sides of it. In the 48th year of Emperor Kangxi's reign (1709), it was renamed Longxi Temple. The main structures of Longxing Temple retain the style and features of the Song dynasty. In accordance with the Chinese traditional architectural criteria, the main buildings lie in the north-south central axis.

There is a screen wall called "Two Dragons Playing with the Pearl Glazed Screen Wall". According to Chinese tradition, temples and houses of a certain orientation were generally set up with a screen wall to shelter the front door from the street. This screen wall was set up according to this tradition. The center of the screen wall is engraved with the glazed design of "Two Dragons Playing with One Pearl", which shows the vigor of two dragons. The pattern is exquisitely carved and rationally designed, representing an excellent combination of structure

The Longxing Temple

The Temple's History

The world famous Longxing Temple is located in Zhengding County, Shijiazhuang City, covering an area of 82,500 square meters. It is one of the larger and earlier complexes incorporating Buddhist architecture in China. It is a temple of standard layout and multiple types.

The Longxing Temple was built in the 6th year of the reign of Sui Emperor Kaihuang (586 A. D.). According to the inscriptions of the Longcang Temple Stele stored in the temple, it was first built by donations. At that time, it was built on the old site of Longteng Yuan of Murong Xi of the Late Yan. Therefore, it was named Longcang Temple.

Until the Song dynasty, the complex had been established gradually. In the dynasties of Yuan, Ming and Qing, additions and repairs to the temple were carried out. In Emperor Kangxi's and Qianlong's reigns, it was repaired twice and temporary palaces were built on both sides of it. In the 48th year of Emperor Kangxi's reign (1709), it was renamed Longxi Temple. The main structures of Longxing Temple retain the style and features of the Song dynasty. In accordance with the Chinese traditional architectural criteria, the main buildings lie in the north-south central axis.

A Screen Wall

There is a screen wall called "Two Dragons Playing with the Pearl Glazed Screen Wall". According to Chinese tradition, temples and houses of a certain orientation were generally set up with a screen wall to shelter the front door from the street. This screen wall was set up according to this tradition. The center of the screen wall is engraved with the glazed design of "Two Dragons Playing with One Pearl", which shows the vigor of flying dragons. The pattern is exquisitely carved and rationally designed, representing an excellent combination of structure

and decoration. It is truly a masterpiece of Chinese artisans and craftsmen.

To the north, there is a bridge whose single arch bridge spreads out in three directions. The stone bridge is small and exquisite, harmonizing perfectly with the construction in the rear. It is said that the Song Emperor Zhao Kuangyin passed by the bridge to visit the temple many times.

Heavenly King Hall

Nearby is Heavenly King Hall. It is three rooms wide and three rooms deep with a single-eave saddle roof built in the North Song dynasty. It had an overall repair in the Qing dynasty. The three gilded Chinese characters on the tablet and the six Chinese characters in the vertical plaque were all Emperor Kangxi's calligraphy.

The Heavenly King Hall serves as the gate of Longxing Temple as well. There is usually a gate in front of the Heaven King Hall, but this temple is an exception. You may ask why. According to legend, Tang Emperor Li Shimin ordered Yuchi Jingde to supervise the construction. When the project was drawing to the end, a general named Qin Qiong committed a crime and was sentenced to be hacked to death by Li Shimin. Yuchi Jingde was Qin Qiong's good friend. So he hurried back to Kaifeng, Henan province. The workmen did not know where to build the gate, so they chased him to Henan and asked about it. Yuchi Jingde was in such a hurry that he pointed to one place with his horsewhip without careful consideration. Consequently, the gate was built in Henan Province. As the Zhengding legend goes like this: "the temple is large and the gate is far away in Henan". As a matter of historical fact, Yuchi Jingde had never been to Zhengding County and Tang Emperor Taizong had never sentenced Qin Qiong to death. Longxing Temple is not the only one to replace a gate with a Heavenly King Hall.

The wooden statue in the middle is Buddha Maitreya modeled in the Jin dynasty. According to Buddhist sutras, Maitreya was his family name and he was born of a noble Brahmin family. The sack in his hand is named the universe sack. It is a kind of religious instrument, said to contain the boundless universe and bring children to a family.