



THE GREAT WALL

长
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THE GREAT WALL

The Great Wall, which coils like a guardian dragon over the undulating terrain of northern China, is comparable to any other historic wonder of the world in significance and grandeur. The building and rebuilding of it reflect the ups and downs of China's dynasties over a period of more than 2,000 years.

In the days when wars were fought mainly by infantry and cavalry, sturdy city-walls and well-guarded passes were of vital importance in defence. So the Great Wall was one of the most stupendous defence works built in ancient times.

In the Spring and Autumn period (770-256 B. C.), when the various dukedoms that China was divided into were in a constant state of internecine warfare, defensive walls were built around cities and along the boundaries. After unifying all the states into the powerful Qin Dynasty in 221 B. C. , Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty joined up the northern walls of the former states of Qin, Zhao and Yan and lengthened them to form a bar-

rier extending more than 5,000 km. Reinforcement of the Great Wall continued throughout the following dynasties, among which the Han (206 B. C. - A. D. 220) and Ming (1368-1644) periods saw feverish efforts to shore up this huge defensive barrier. Most of the wall which can be seen today was rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty. It covers some 7,300 km, from the Shanhai Pass in Hebei Province in the east to the Jiayu Pass in Gansu Province in the west. Fortunately it retains its dignified and ancient aura as a result of good preservation.

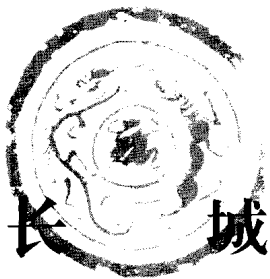
The Great Wall has hundreds of passes and over 10,000 watchtowers. The wall, following steep terrain and displaying every variety of ancient military architecture, is the main body of what used to be China's main redoubt guarding the fertile Central Plain against the barbarian hordes. The Ming Great Wall is ten m. high and five m. wide, on average. Five horses can canter side by side along the top of it. The battlements were manned by bowmen in times of attack. The defenders were housed in forts located at strategic intervals. Also situated in a regular pattern were beacon towers which gave warning along the full length of the wall and far inland of the approach of any enemy.

There are dozens of passes on the Great Wall well-known for their magnificent views and important locations. Situated to the northeast of Qinhuangdao City in Hebei Province, the Shanhai Pass—the “No. 1 Pass On the Great Wall”—extends into the Bohai Sea at the “Old Dragon's Head,” at the easternmost end of the Great Wall. The square pass joins mountainous terrain

with the sea, and was easy to defend but difficult to attack. The Juyong Pass, located in a valley at Mount Yanshan, 50 km. northwest of Beijing, was built in the Ming Dynasty and is famous for the lush greenery of the hills round it. In addition, there is the delicately carved structure called Cloud Terrace at the pass. The westernmost end of the Great Wall, the Jiayu Pass, is located in Gansu Province and is preserved almost entire. It is called the “Soul of the Great Wall” for its dignified and towering structure.

As time went by, the Great Wall lost its military importance and became a historic relic much beloved of sightseers. Visitors today, standing on the top of the Great Wall, are often amazed at its awesomeness and marvel at the great power of the ancient Chinese people in conquering nature. There is an old Chinese saying that goes, “He who hasn’t been to the Great Wall is not a true man,” which is also a warm greeting to every tourist coming to gaze upon this wonder of the world.

The Great Wall is a milestone in the history of the world’s architecture. The present well-preserved Great Wall was built in the Ming Dynasty. It extends some 6,300 km. , from the Shanhai Pass in Hebei Province in the east to the Jiayu Pass in Gansu Province in the west. This album concentrates on the Great Wall skirting Beijing, and the famous scenic spots along the wall, presenting its magnificent views from different angles.



在中国广袤的土地上，从东到西横亘着一道气势宏伟的“大墙”。它跨群山、越峻岭、穿草原、过大漠，宛如一条巨龙，腾翔在中国的北方。它就是举世闻名的万里长城。长城作为世界建筑奇迹之一，已载入世界文明的史册。它的坍塌与重修，记载了中国两千年以来历代王朝的兴衰，标明历史的演进。

在主要依靠步兵和骑兵征战的时代，宽厚的城墙和坚固的关隘能够起到至关重要的防御作用。长城就是中国古代遗留下来的一种防御工程。

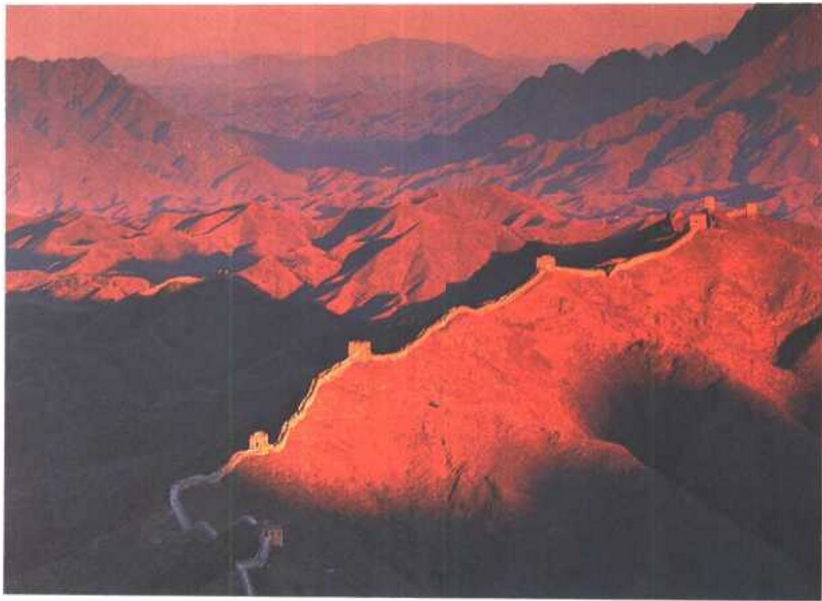
长城最早的筑城史，始于春秋战国时期（前 770-前 256）。彼时“王室衰微，诸侯争霸”，各诸侯国为抵御别国侵略，各自筑起漫长的城墙。此时的长城，还各自独立，互不连贯。到了秦（前 221-前 206）统一后，秦始皇将秦、赵、燕三国的北部城墙连缀起来修缮增筑，绵延 5000 多公里，建成了第一座真正意义上的长城。此后历代皆有增建，其中以汉朝（前 206-公元 220）和明朝（1368-1644）最为浩大。现今见到的多为明长城。明代长城的存留部分东自河北省山海关，西至甘肃省嘉峪关，全长 6300 多公里，因保存较为完好，可以让人们充分领略其雄伟气魄。

长城以漫长的城墙将成百座的雄关和上万座的墩台连缀一体，以其独特

的建筑形式担负着昔日御敌和守望的重任。城墙,是万里长城的主体工程,墙体随山势而筑,千变万化。明长城的城墙平均高 10 米,宽约 5 米,可容五马并骑。墙上开有垛口,用于了望和射击敌人。城墙每隔一段即有一个堡垒式建筑,高的叫敌楼,用于守望和住宿;低的叫墙台,是放哨的地方。城墙上还连续设置一些独立的高台,称为烽火台。如遇敌情,就以白天燃烟,夜间放火来传递军情。关隘隘口,是平时出入长城的要道,也是重点防守的据点;城堡障墩分布在长城内外,用以驻兵防守。

万里长城上有著名关隘数十座,关关雄奇壮观,景色迥异。在河北省秦皇岛市东北,长城由燕山山脉从北向南飞身而下,直捣渤海,形成“天下第一关”山海关,入海处即是著名的长城东端点——“老龙头”。此关山海相连,关城居中,呈四方形,挟两侧的墩堡、关隘沉稳拱立,有“一夫当关,万夫莫开”的气势。俯卧于北京西北 50 多公里处的燕山峡谷之中的,是京郊著名风景胜地居庸关。此关于明代修建,由两山夹峙其间。关城内遗有雕刻精美的云台。关沟中清溪萦绕,四周层峦叠嶂,以“居庸叠翠”跻身燕京八景。明长城的最西端嘉峪关,位于甘肃省西部,是现存的长城关城中最完整的一处。关城形制宏伟,高大巍峨,坐落在一片广漠空旷的塞外天地之中,冷峻而神秘,有“长城主宰”之誉。

随着时间的推移,昔日烽烟散尽,长城已经逐渐化为一道历史的风景供后人凭吊和玩味。今日,来者更多地惊讶于它所表现出的人类改造自然的伟大力量。当我们站在长城之巅俯望山川时,它与绵绵群山与茫茫大漠一起震动我们的心魄,令人叹为观止。中国有句俗谚:“不到长城非好汉。”希望世界上每一位热爱旅游的朋友都能够有机会来到中国,亲眼看一看他们心目中不可思议的奇迹——长城。



The Great Wall is a mighty defensive bulwark which has witnessed over 2,000 years of Chinese history. Its construction started in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (770- 256 B.C.) and was completed in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The existing Wall starts at the Jiayu Pass, Gansu Province, in the west and terminates at the Shanhai Pass, Hebei Province, in the east —a total length of over 6,300 km.

横亘于中国北部疆域的万里长城,是古代中国遗留下来的一种军事防御工程。它的建筑历史从春秋战国(前770—前256)至明代(1368—1644)延续了2000余年。现存较为完整的明代长城西起甘肃省嘉峪关,东至河北省山海关,全长达6300多公里。



Old Dragon's Head

The eastern end of the Ming Dynasty Great Wall is actually in the sea off the coast of Hebei Province. It is called the Old Dragon's Head, as it extends to the Bohai Sea, just like the head of a huge dragon.

老龙头

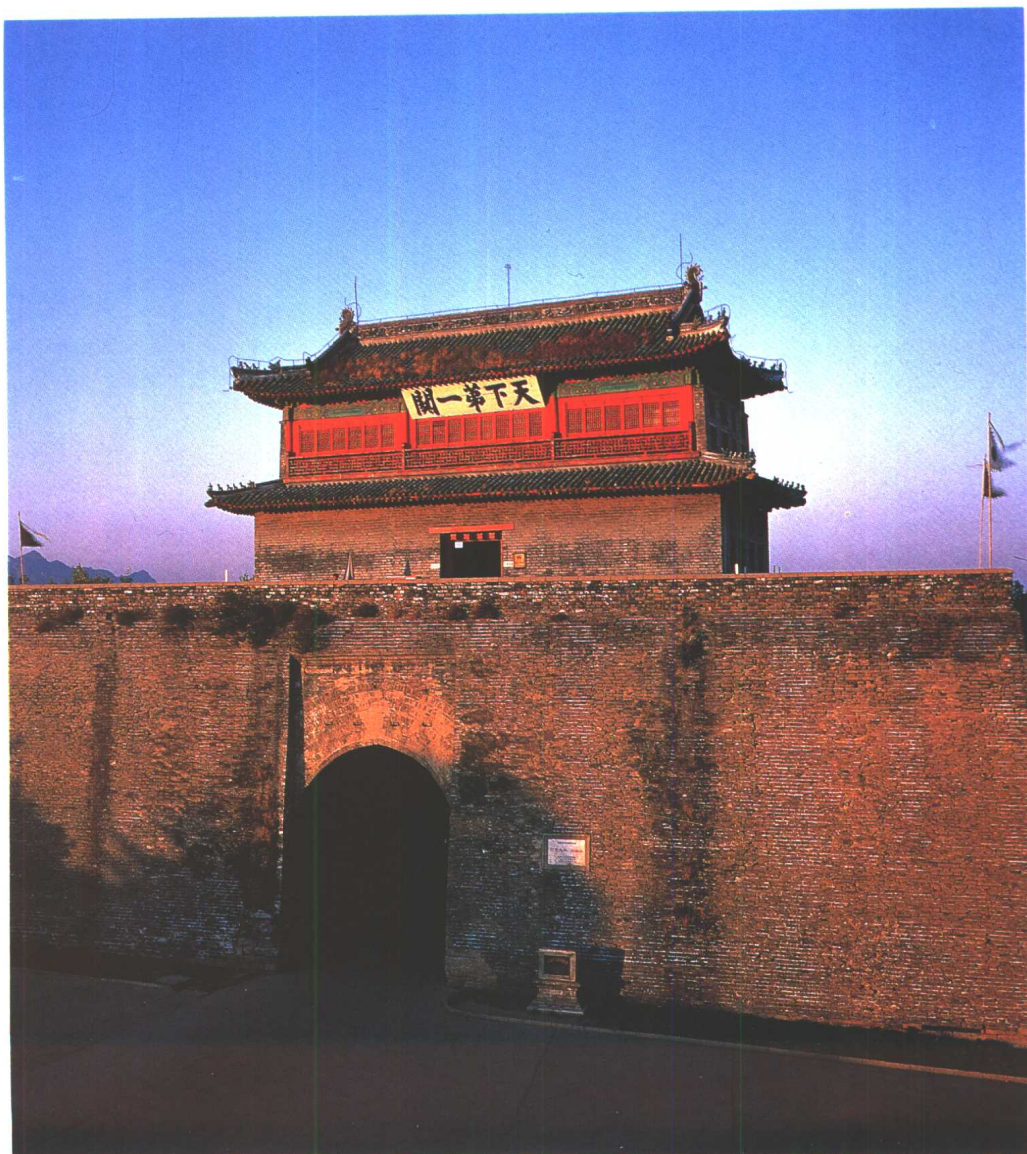
是明代长城的东起点,地处河北省东部临海地区,因端头探入渤海,状如巨龙之首而得名。

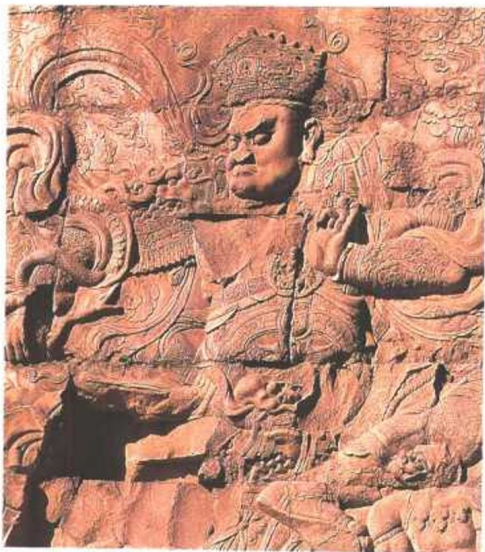
Shanhai Pass ▽

The passes in the Great Wall were generally built at gaps between mountains, or at the confluences or turns of rivers and valleys. In the east of Hebei Province, jutting into the sea is the "No. 1 Pass Under Heaven," the Shanhai Pass.

山海关

长城以绵延的城墙将成百座的雄关连缀一体。关隘是防守的重点,一般设在山间峡口或河谷汇合转折之处。河北省东部临海地区的山海关,是长城东起的第一个关口,被誉为“天下第一关”。



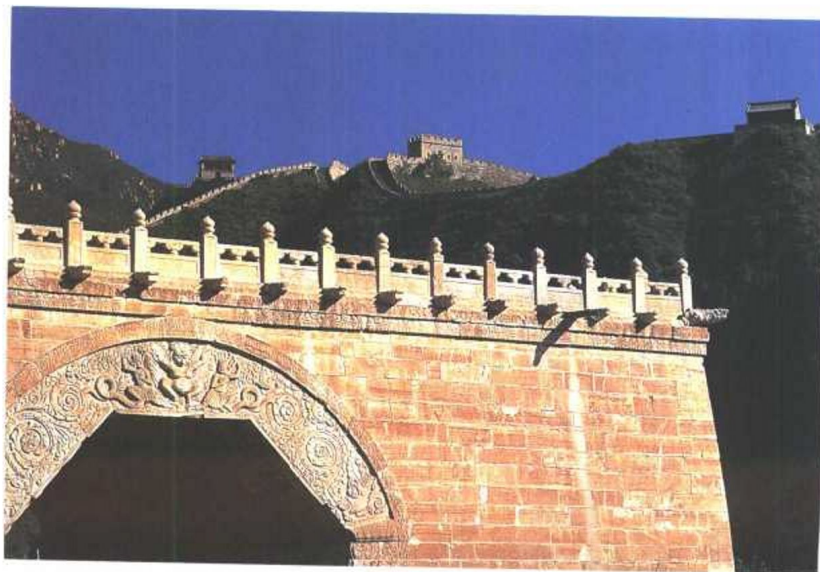


Cloud Terrace at Juyong Pass

More than 50 km. northwest of Beijing is the Juyong Pass, one of the most famous passes in the Ming Dynasty Great Wall. In the pass there is a white marble terrace built in the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368). The terrace bears exquisite carvings of the Four Heavenly Kings and passages from the Buddhist scriptures in six languages.

居庸关

居庸关位于北京西北 50 多公里,为明长城最负盛名的雄关之一,地势绝险、景色迷人。关城中的著名景观云台建于元代,由汉白玉砌成,上面雕有异常精美的四大天王像及六种文字撰写的经文。

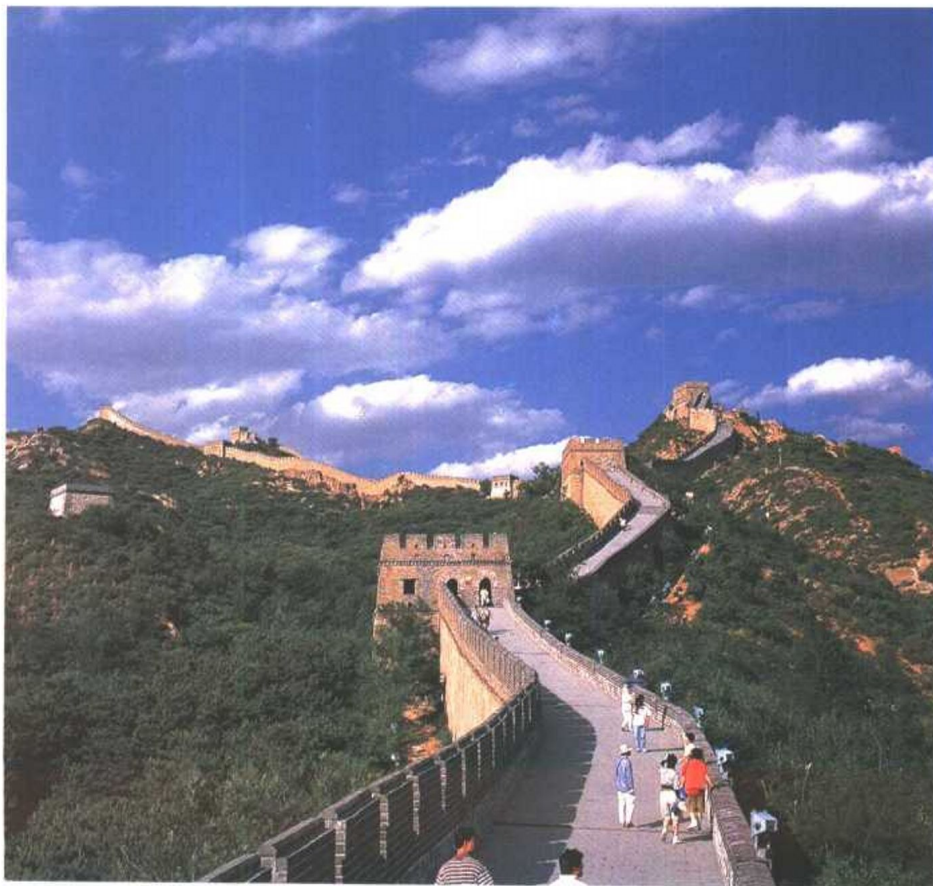


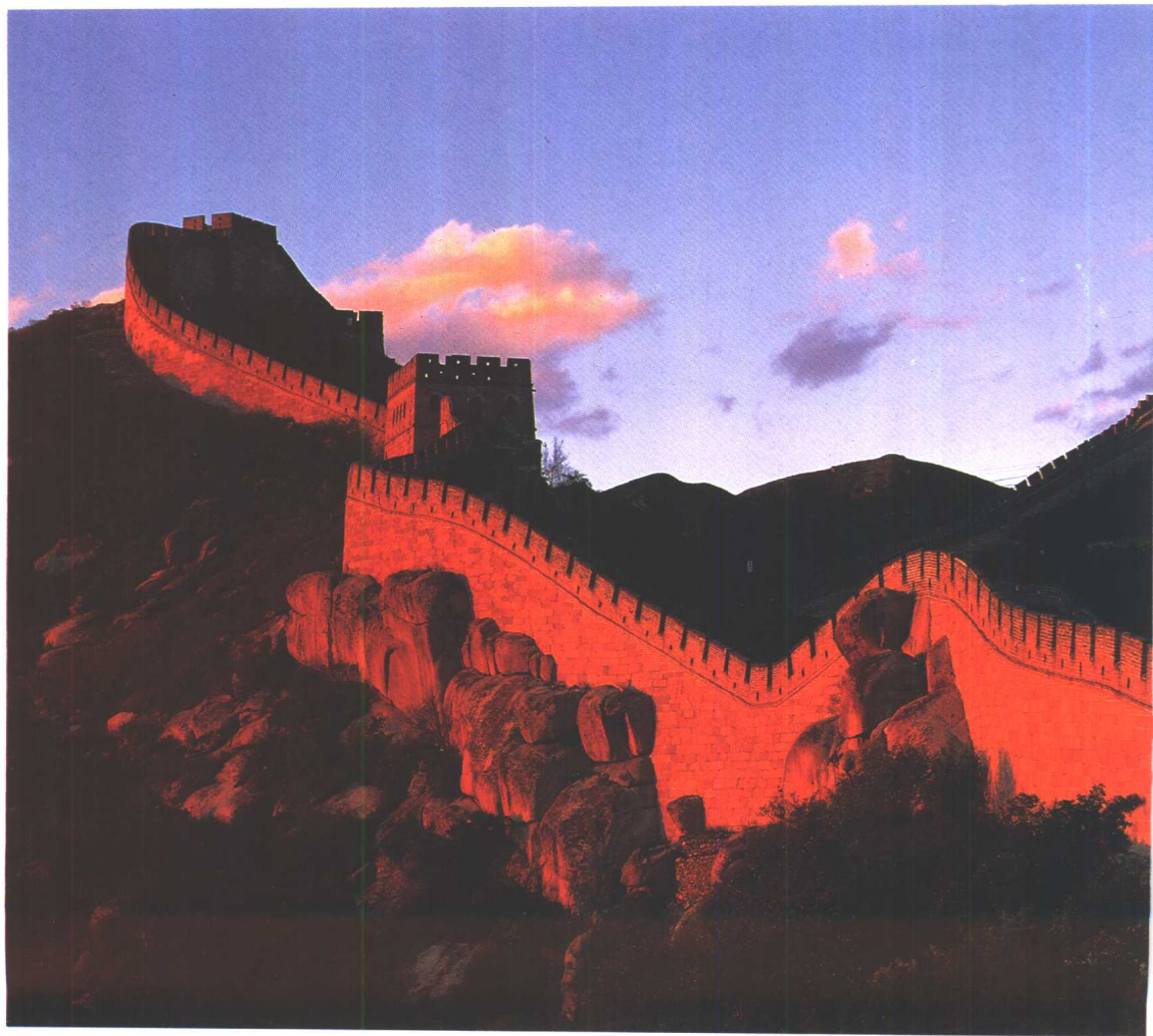
Badaling Section of the Great Wall

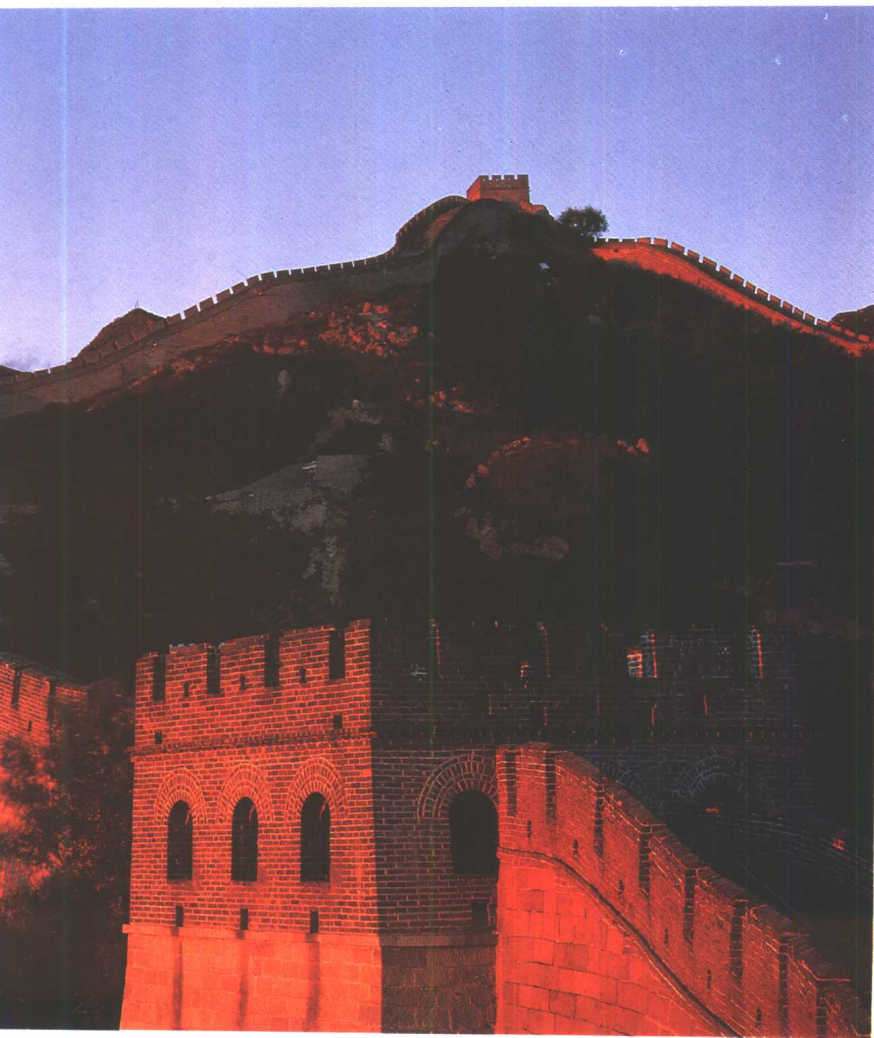
Badaling, a famous section of the Great Wall, is located on a ridge of the Yanshan Mountains, which stand at the north end of Juyong Pass and rise to 1,000 m. above sea level. The terrain is difficult of access and a strategic position. Badaling is one of Beijing's major tourist attractions.

八达岭长城

长城著名城段,位于居庸关关沟北口,盘卧于海拔600-1000 米的燕山山脊上,是扼守京北的咽喉要道,形势十分险要。因形态完好、气魄雄浑而成为京都旅游胜地。







Badaling at sunset.
八达岭暮色。

