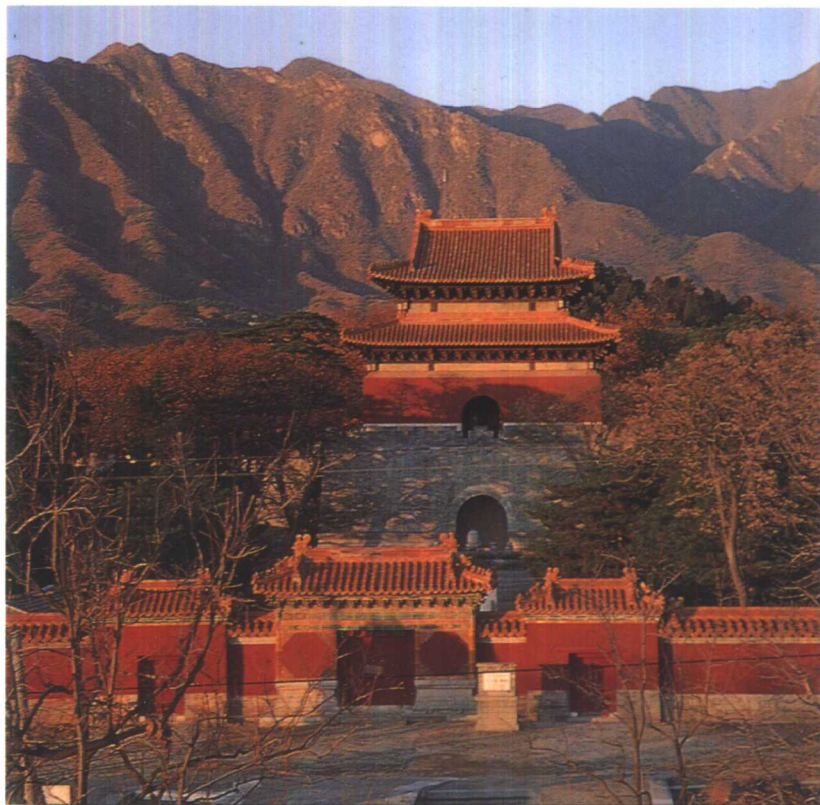




THE IMPERIAL TOMBS OF BEIJING

北京皇陵



外 文 出 版 社
FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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外文出版社 北京

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

北京皇陵/曹蕾编. —北京:外文出版社,1997.5

ISBN 7-119-02072-2

I. 北… II. 曹… III. 皇帝-陵墓-北京-摄影集 IV. K928.76-64

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(97)第 07485 号

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何为富 何炳富

封面设计: 周大光

图版设计: 周大光

北京皇陵

曹蕾 编

© 外文出版社

外文出版社出版

(中国北京百万庄大街 24 号)

邮政编码 100037

深圳当纳利旭日印刷有限公司印刷

1997 年(24 开)第一版

1997 年第一版第一次印刷

(英汉)

ISBN 7-119-02072-2/J · 1406(外)

003900(精)

The Imperial Tombs of Beijing

ISBN 7-119-02072-2

© Foreign Languages Press 1997

Published by Foreign Languages Press

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China



The Imperial Tombs of Beijing

China's Imperial tombs were constructed to reproduce in the afterlife the magnificence and splendor the emperors enjoyed while they reigned. The first imperial mausoleum was built by Emperor Qin Shihuang of the Qin Dynasty (221 – 206 B. C.). It includes a large funerary park, buildings in the style of a palace complex, lofty burial mounds and magnificent underground palaces. Based on this model, the shapes and structures of imperial mausoleums were continuously perfected and reached their maturity in the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644).

The Imperial tombs of the Ming Dynasty mainly feature large scale and symmetry based on a central axis. The Ming Tombs (Shisanling) in northwestern Beijing are models of this style. These 13 tombs were constructed in a basin screened by mountains, a place where yin and yang converge, according to the principles of geomancy. The outermost gate of the entire complex is the Great Red Gate (Dahongmen). About one km in front of the gate stands a marble memorial archway (paifang) on which are recorded the emperors' merits and virtues. Inside the gate, there is the broad Sacred Way (Shendao) leading to the various mausoleums. The beginning of the Sacred Way is marked by a stele pavilion (beiting) which houses a tall stele, with an ornamental stone column (huabiao) set at each of its four corners. Lining the Sacred Way are giant-sized pairs of stone statues of animals, generals and ministers, believed to be able to ward off evil and guard the mausoleums. Continuing north, the Sacred Way goes through the Lattice Gate (Lingxingmen), also known as

the Dragon and Phoenix Gate, and passes over a river via the Seven – Arch Bridge (Qikongqiao) and branches off to the various tombs. The Ming tombs generally have a gate, stele pavilion, Gate of Prominent Favor (Ling'enmen), Hall of Prominent Favor (Ling'endian), Soul Tower (Minglou) and Precious Dome (Baoding). The Gate of Prominent Favor and the Hall of Prominent Favor were designed in imitation of Ming Dynasty palaces. The Soul Tower was a building where the deceased emperor's memorial tablet was placed. Beneath the Precious Dome, which was also called the Grave Mound (Fentou), is the underground palace where the emperor and his empress are buried.

The Imperial tombs of the Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1911) are similar to those of the Ming Dynasty in shape and structure, except that every Qing tomb has a "sacred way." The Qing tombs incorporate the strong points of the Imperial tombs of various dynasties and thus are more complete in workmanship. In the vicinity of Beijing there are two Qing mausoleum sites—the Eastern Qing Tombs in Zunhua and the Western Qing Tombs in Yixian in Hebei Province. These tombs, from various angles, demonstrate the cream of China's architecture, aesthetics and masonry.

Nowadays, after renovations, the Ming and Qing Imperial tombs are open to the public. As cultural relics and tourist attractions, the Ming and Qing Imperial tombs offer excellent opportunities for tourists to become acquainted with the art of construction of ancient tombs as well as the long history and culture of China.



北京皇陵

中国皇陵作为封建皇帝的地下王国，完全是按照“事死如事生，事亡如事存”的原则建造的。因此，它体现了庞大、雄伟、豪华、壮观的建筑审美风格。

正式的皇陵首创于中国秦代(前 221—前 206 年)的秦始皇。始皇陵包括广阔的陵园、效仿宫殿的陵园建筑，高大的陵山封土和豪华的地下宫殿。此后皇陵的形制不断发展完善，至明代(1368—1644)陵寝发展进入成熟期。

明代皇陵的主要特点是陵园规模庞大而规整，建筑群体集中，院落层次分明，讲究中轴对称，位于北京的明十三陵即为典型代表，出于中国古代的风水观念，这 13 座陵园坐落在群山环抱之中，取阴阳会合，龙虎踞守之意。其布局为：陵园设立总门户，称作“大红门”。门外 1 公里处立石碑坊，意在显扬帝王功德，门内有一条宽阔大路通往各陵，称为“神道”。神道前端矗立碑亭，内竖石碑，由四根华表围绕，其后的神道两旁分列数对石兽和石人，称为“石象生”，用于驱邪镇墓，之后穿过棂星门、七孔桥，神道通向各陵。明代各陵一般依次包括以下几种建筑：大门、碑亭、祔恩门、祔恩殿、明楼、宝顶。祔恩门和祔恩殿是仿照明代宫殿的一种建筑；明楼用于供奉皇帝牌位；宝顶俗称“坟头”，下埋地宫，放置帝后灵柩。

清代(1644—1911)帝王陵寝在形制上与明陵大致相同，但每一陵各自拥有神道。他们吸收和融汇了历代陵寝建筑的长处，工艺更趋完美。位于北京周边地区的清代皇陵有两处，即河北省遵化县清东陵和河北省易县的清西陵。这些陵墓从各个侧面展示了当时中国建筑美学、石刻艺术的巅峰和精华。

如今，北京的明清皇陵经整修已对外开放。作为北京文化古迹旅游胜地，游者在饱览古代陵墓杰出的建造艺术的同时，对中国悠久的历史文化也会有一个感性的认识。

北京皇陵位置图

Sites of Imperial Tombs of Beijing







The Ming Tombs

The Ming Tombs, which were completed in 1644, were the final resting places of 13 Ming emperors, 23 empresses and many imperial consorts, princes and princesses. They are located in the hills of Changping County, 50 km to the northwest of Beijing. Of the 13 tombs, Changling is the major one. To its left there are Jingling, Yongling and Deling, in that order. To its right there are Xianling, Qingling, Yuling, Maoling, Tailing, Kangling, Dingling, Zhaoling and Siling, also in that order.

明十三陵

十三陵,是中国明代帝王的陵墓群,这里埋葬着明代的13位帝王、23位皇后,以及众多的嫔妃、皇子、公主等。陵园建于1407年至1644年间,坐落在北京市昌平区境内的天寿山南麓,距北京城50公里。十三陵的主陵是长陵,矗立于天寿山下,在长陵的左侧依次建有景陵、永陵、德陵,右侧建有献陵、庆陵、裕陵、茂陵、泰陵、康陵、定陵、昭陵、思陵,各陵错落有致,布局讲究,构成了一幅帝王陵苑的壮丽画卷。

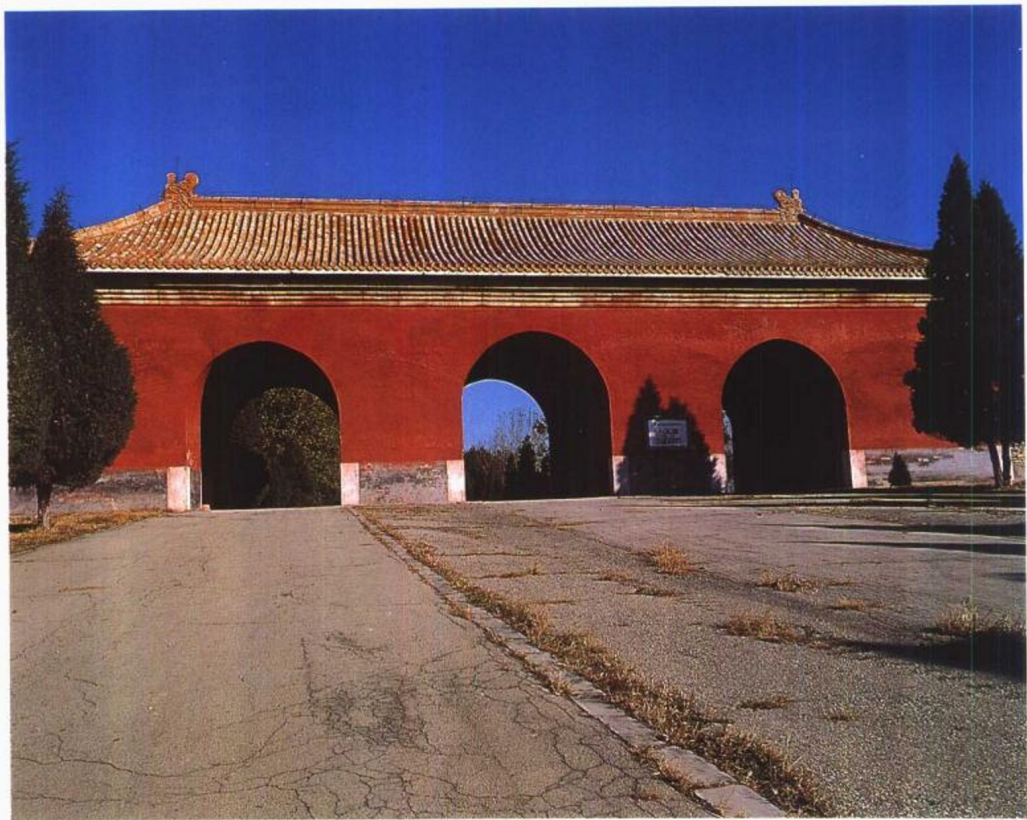


The Marble Memorial Archway

The first structure inside the gate of the Ming Tombs, it is carved with delicate designs of dragons and clouds in bas-relief. It was erected to record the merits and virtues of the emperors.

石牌坊

是进入十三陵陵门的第一座建筑，由汉白玉雕砌，上刻有龙、云图纹及麒麟、狮子等浮雕，立此牌坊意在表彰帝王的功德。



The Great Red Gate

Also called the Great Palace Gate (Dagongmen), it is the main entrance to the Ming Tombs. A huge wall originally surrounded the tombs to keep the common people out. Remains of the wall can still be seen here and there.

大红门

又称大宫门，是陵园的正门，大门两侧各设两个角门，连接着 40 公里的围墙，明朝时一直是百姓不可接近的禁地，现仅存遗迹。



The Stele Pavilion

It houses a stele on which are recorded the respective emperor's merits and virtues.

碑亭

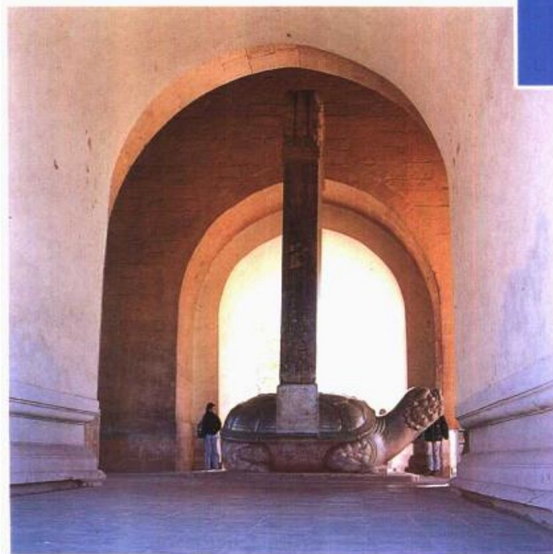
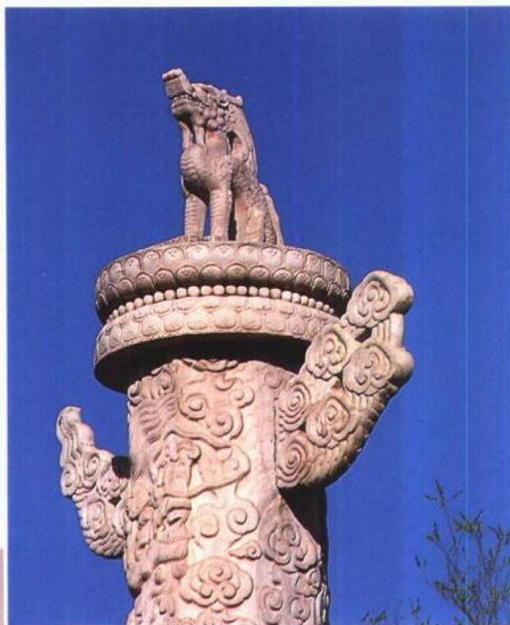
是一座高大的方形亭楼，内竖显扬皇帝功绩的神功圣德碑。

Huabiao

Huabiao, an ornamental stone column, stands at each of the four corners of the Stele Pavilion. On its top there is a squat animal called *wangtianhou*, symbolizing "sending the emperor off and welcoming him home."

华表

碑亭四隅各立一座柱形建筑,称华表。华表顶端踞一尊异兽,名为“望天吼”,意在“望君出,盼君归。”



This six - m - high stele inside the Stele Pavilion bears the inscription in nine Chinese characters meaning "Tablet to the Divine Merit and Sagely Virtue of Changling of the Great Ming."

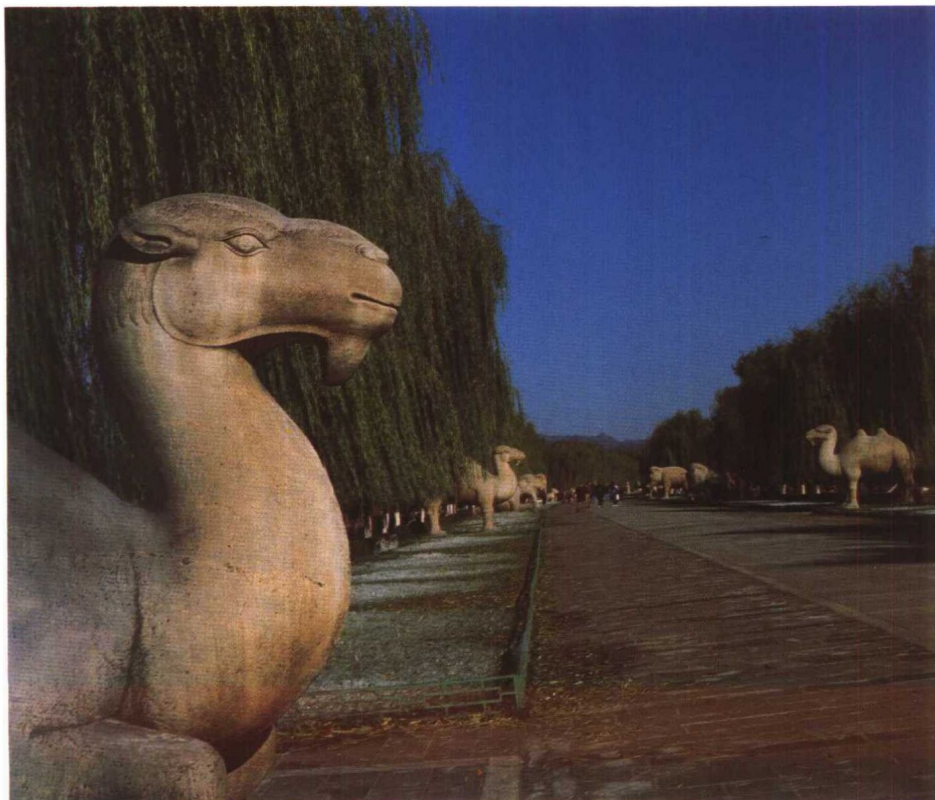
碑亭内的石碑高 6 米余, 题有“大明长陵神功圣德碑”九个大字。

The Sacred Way

Being the major road running north to south in the Ming Tombs area, the Sacred Way is lined with 18 pairs of stone animals and human figures which ward off evil and safeguard the tombs while symbolizing royal power and privilege.

神道

也称陵道,纵贯陵区南北,是全陵区主要通道,全长 10 公里,沿路分列 18 对石雕人兽,叫做“石象生”,用来驱邪镇墓,显示威仪。

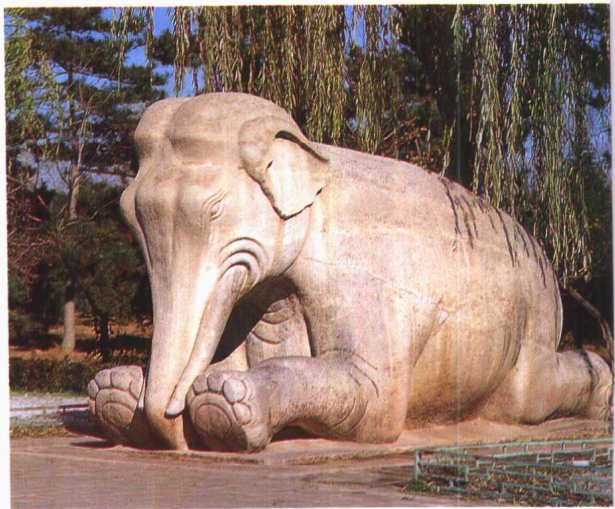




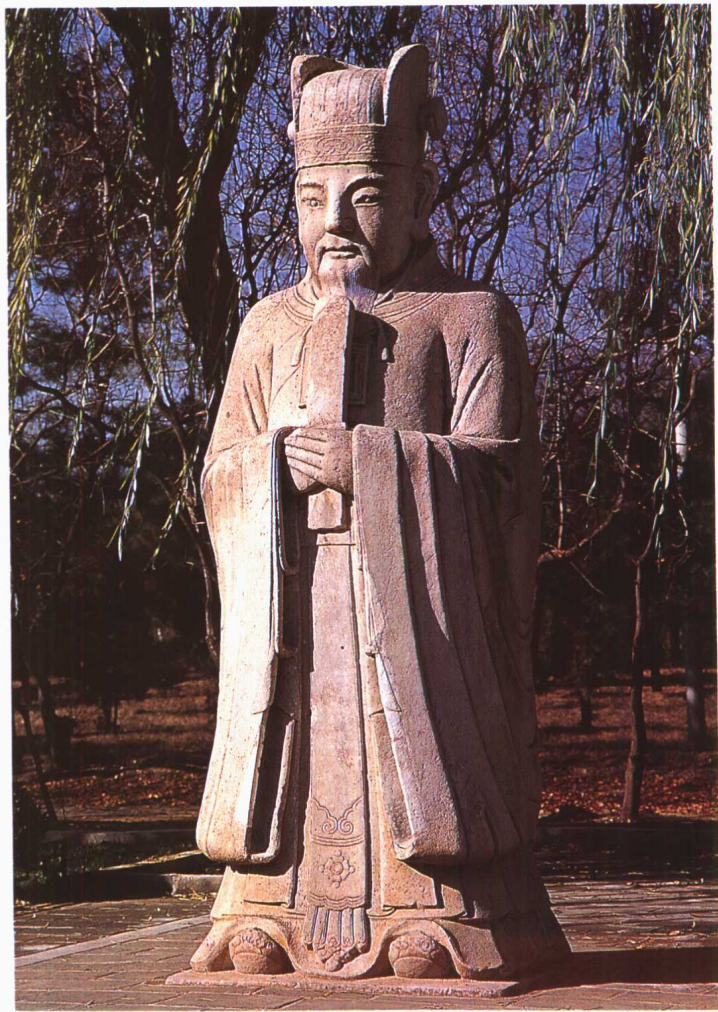
Stone lion
石狮



Stone horse 石马



Stone elephant 石象



Civil official
文臣



Military official
武臣



Meritorious official
勋臣