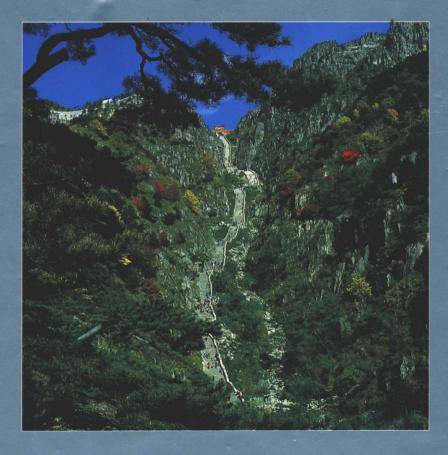


# MT. TAISHAN

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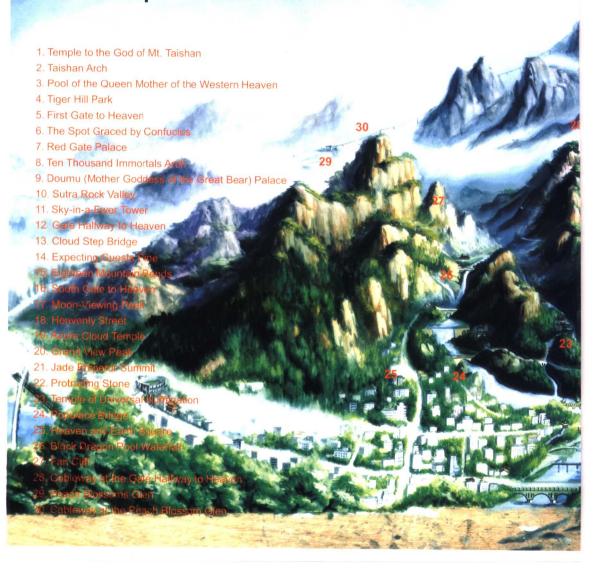
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## Sketch Map of Mt. Taishan





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## MT. TAISHAN 泰山山

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Among the numerous famous mountains in China, Mt. Taishan is called the "Father of Mountains" and "Ancestor of Mountains." Mt. Taishan, also called "Eastern Mountain," is located within the jurisdiction of Tai'an City, Shandong Province, with Qufu, hometown of Confucius, to the south and the "City of Springs" Jinan, capital of Shandong Province, to the north. With a total area of 426 sq km and an elevation of 1,545 m of its highest peak, Mt. Taishan is also called "Chief of the Five Great Mountains" and "First Mountain Under Heaven." Combining magnificent natural views and a long and brilliant history and culture, it is both a natural mountain park and an epitome of the history and culture of the Chinese nation. Mt. Taishan was designated as an important scenic spot of China in 1982. It was entered in the World Natural and Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO in 1987 and named one of the 40 Top Tourist Destinations in China by the State Tourism Administration in 1992.

Mt. Taishan enjoys a worldwide reputation for magnificence. Located in the east of the North China Plain, it is the highest mountain in Shandong. Although only ranked third among the "Five Great Mountains" in terms of elevation, Mt. Taishan has a relative altitude of 1,300 m. to the surrounding flatlands and hills, standing like a solitary pillar over them. The south slope of Mt. Taishan is dived into three levels. The altitude of Tai'an City is 150 m; that of the Gate Halfway to Heaven (Zhongtianmen), 847 m; that of the South Gate to Heaven(Nantianmen), 1,460 m and that of the Jade Emperor Summit (Yuhuangding) on the top, 1,545 m. Its bulk has given rise to sayings like "as stable as Mt. Taishan," or "as heavy as Mt. Taishan" to describe something formidable.

Because of its special geographical features, Mt. Taishan has a wide variety of climate, hydrology and vegetation. It is located in the warm-temperate zone, with a semi-humid monsoon climate. The annual average temperature at the foot of the mountain is 12.8 degrees Centigrade, while that at the summit is 5.3 degrees Centigrade. The climate at the foot is typical of the warm-temperate zone, while that at the top is typical of a mesothermal climate. With an average annual precipitation of 722.6 mm in Tai'an City and 1,132 mm at the summit, Mt. Taishan is rich in precipitation. The mountain is famous for its sunrise, sunset, "sea of clouds," "Buddha's halo" and soft rime views. Other attractions are Black Dragon Pool (Heilongtan) Waterfall, the waterfalls of the Monastery of the Mother Goddess of the Great Bear (Doumugong), the Cloud Step Bridge (Yunbuqiao) Waterfall, and other springs and streams. The mountain "turns green in spring, with hundreds of flowers in full bloom; the majestic mist curls in the summer; red and yellow leaves grace it in autumn; and in winter, the mountain is covered with snow."

The history and culture of Mt. Taishan goes back to ancient times. The ruins of the Dawenkou Culture (c. 6300-4400 BC), at the southern foot of the mountain, and of the Longshan Culture (c. 4400-3900 BC), at the northern foot, indicate that the Mt. Taishan region was an important birthplace of ancient Chinese civilization. Starting from the nature worship of Chinese ancestors, Mt. Taishan gradually developed into a sacrificial altar near to Heaven. A Tianzi (Son of Heaven), as an emperor was called, often sacrificed on Mt. Taishan to Heaven and Earth when he was enthroned. According to Records of the Historian, the ancients sacrificed to Heaven there 72 times." In the 2,000-plus years from the Qin Dynasty to the Qing, the first and second emperors of the Qin Dynasty, emperors Wudi, Guangwu, Zhangdi and Andi of the Han Dynasty, emperors Taiwu and Xiaowen of the Northern Wei Dynasty, Emperor Wendi of the Sui Dynasty, emperors Gaozong and Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty, Emperor Zhenzong of the Song Dynasty, and emperors Shenzu and Gaozong of the Qing Dynasty all went there to sacrifice to Heaven. Taoists, Buddhists and Confucians built temples and shrines of their own on the mountain. The mountain also attracted ancient sages and men of letters, such as Confucius, Si Magian, Cao Zhi, Lu Ji, Xie Lingyun, Li Bai, Du Fu, Liu Yuxi, Su Zhe, Yuan Haowen and Yao Nai. They left numerous poems and other inscriptions there.

History has left Mt. Taishan with a great deal of cultural relics. There are ancient buildings such as the Temple to the God of Mt. Taishan (Daimiao), the Azure Cloud Temple (Bixiaci), the

Temple of Universal Illumination (Puzhaosi), the Monastery of the Mother Goddess of the Great Bear (Doumugong), and dozens of other ancient constructions, as well as over 1,400 stone sculptures, such as the Stele of the Qin Dynasty, the Hengfang Tablet and Zhang Qian Tablet of the Han Dynasty, Lady Sun's Tablet of the Jin Dynasty, the Sculptured Stone of the Northern Qi Dynasty in the Sutra Rock Valley (Jingshiyu), and the Cliff Sculpture of the Tang Dynasty. From Haoli Hill to the Temple to the God of Mt Taishan, and from the Temple to the God of Mt Taishan to the Jade Emperor Summit (Yuhuangding), the views of Mt. Taishan are divided into "Hell," "Earth," and "Heaven."

There are four routes leading to the top. The first goes from the Red Gate (Hongmen) to the South Gate to Heaven. It comprises 6,600 stone steps, almost each step offering a different view. This is the route the emperors followed. The main scenes along the route are the Red Gate Palace (Hongmengong), the Ten Thousand Immortals Arch (Wanxianlou), the Monastery of the Mother Goddess of the Great Bear, the Sutra Rock Valley (Jingshiyu), the Gate Helfway to Heaven and the Eighteen Mountain Bends (Shibapan). The second route is from the Extraterrestrial Village (Tianwaicun) to the Gate Halfway to Heaven. This route can be traveled by motor vehicles, past the Black Dragon Pool, Longevity Bridge (Changshougiao) and Fan Cliff (Shanziya). The third route starts from the northwestern foothill and reaches the top via the Peach Blossom Glen (Taohuayuan). Along the road, tourists can view the Green Screen Hill (Cuipingshan), Penholder Hill (Bijiashan), Five Peaks Hill (Wufeng Diecui Shan), Colored Ribbon Stream (Caidaixi), and A Thread of Sky (Yixiantian). The peaks, streams and waterfalls here are more like the mountains and waters in the regions south of the Yangtze River. The fourth route starts at the northeastern foothill. This route passes the Rock Basin (Shiwu), Greater Heavenly and Lesser Heavenly Candle Peaks (Daxiao Tianzhufeng), Hundred-Meter Waterfall (Baizhangpu), and Heavenly Candle Waterfall (Tianzhupu).

From the South Gate to Heaven stretches the Heavenly Street (Tianjie), on the summit. Here you will feel as if you are walking in the clouds in paradise.



中国多名山,但在众多的名山当中,泰山独以"山岳之父"、"群山之祖"的长者风范,巍 然屹立于中国的东方。

泰山又称"东岳",位于山东省泰安市境内,南邻孔子故里曲阜,北依省会泉城济南。泰山面积426平方公里,主峰海拔1545米,拔地通天,气势磅礴,素有"五岳之首"、"天下第一山"之誉。它融雄伟壮丽的自然风光和悠久灿烂的历史文化于一体,既是天然的山岳公园,又是中华民族历史文化的缩影,1982年被列为中国重点风景名胜区,1987年被联合国教科文组织列为世界自然文化遗产,1992年又被国家旅游局列入"中国旅游胜地40佳"。

泰山以雄伟著称于世。它崛起于华北大平原之东,凌驾于齐鲁丘陵之上,虽然在"五岳"当中,它的海拔高度仅居第三位,但与周边平原、丘陵的相对高度却达1300米,形成了奇峰突起、东天一柱之势。泰山南坡三级断层,梯次上升。泰安城海拔150米,中天门847米,南天门1460米,玉皇顶1545米,由低到高、由平到陡,步步登天,富有强烈的节奏感。泰山山体庞大,基础宽广,安稳厚重,所以人们常说:"稳如泰山"、"重如泰山"。

泰山特殊的地理条件,形成了多样的气候、水文和植被景观。泰山地处暖温带,属半湿润季风气候,由于海拔较高,随着地形高度的差异,泰山气候呈垂直变化。气温随高度而递减,山下常年平均气温为12.8度,山上为5.3度,山下为暖温带,山上则为中温带。泰山降水丰富,泰安城内常年平均降水量722.6毫米,而泰山上却达到1132毫米。从气候景观看,日出、晚霞、云海、佛光、雾凇都堪称奇观;从水文景观看,黑龙潭瀑布、斗母宫三潭叠瀑、云步桥瀑布以及众多的山泉溪流,都成为泰山风景的点睛之笔;从植被上看,"春则遍山吐翠,百花烂漫;夏则云烟缭绕,气象万千;秋则山苍水湲,红叶映天;冬则山舞银蛇,松柏雪帘。"四季殊色,多姿多彩。

泰山的历史文化源远流长。泰山南麓的大汶口文化(约6300年前到4400年前)、泰山北麓的龙山文化(约4400年前到3900年前)遗存,表明泰山地区是中华民族远古文明的重要发祥地。从古代先民对泰山的自然崇拜开始,泰山逐步发展成为与"天"相通的祭坛。受命为王的"天子"必到泰山封禅,祭祀天地。据《史记·封禅书》引管子语说:"古者封泰山、禅梁父者七十二家。"自秦至清二千多年间,秦始皇、秦二世、汉武帝、汉光武帝、汉章帝、汉安帝、北魏太武帝、北魏孝文帝、隋文帝、唐高宗、唐玄宗、宋真宗、清圣祖、清高宗等十多位帝王先后到泰山封禅祭祀。道教、佛教、儒家也相继在泰山滋生蔓长,山上山下宫观寺庙林立,晨钟暮鼓,香火不断。

泰山更是文人荟萃之区。孔子、司马迁、曹植、陆机、谢灵运、李白、杜甫、刘禹锡、苏辙、元好问、姚鼐等都曾慕名登临泰山,留下了卷帙浩繁的诗词歌赋。

悠久的历史为泰山留下了众多的文物古迹。泰山拥有岱庙、碧霞祠、普照寺、斗母宫等二十多处古建筑群,有秦刻石、汉衡方碑、汉张迁碑、晋孙夫人碑、北齐经石峪刻石、唐摩崖等一千四百余处石刻。人文景观的布局从蒿里山至岱庙、从岱庙到玉皇顶,形成"地府"、"人间"、"天堂"三重空间。

游览泰山,有四条路可达岱顶。第一条路从红门至南天门有六千六百级石阶,峰回路转,步移景换,为历代帝王登封御道。沿路主要有红门宫、万仙楼、斗母宫、经石峪、中天门、十八盘等胜迹,景致幽美。第二条路从天外村乘车至中天门,盘山公路九曲回肠。此区有黑龙潭、长寿桥、扇子崖,山环水绕,景色旷秀。第三条路取道泰山西北上山,由桃花源登岱顶。沿途有翠屏山、笔架山、五峰叠翠山、彩带溪、一线天等,群峰竞艳,溪瀑争流,于泰山雄伟之外,独具江南山水风韵。第四条路由泰山东北处上山。石坞松涛为岱阴一奇,大、小天烛峰宛如两把长剑直刺青天,百丈瀑、天烛瀑飞流直下、声震十里,奇奥无比。

泰山之"妙"在俗顶。登上南天门,漫步天街,好比遨游天府仙界,飘飘欲仙,放眼望去, 一览众山小。

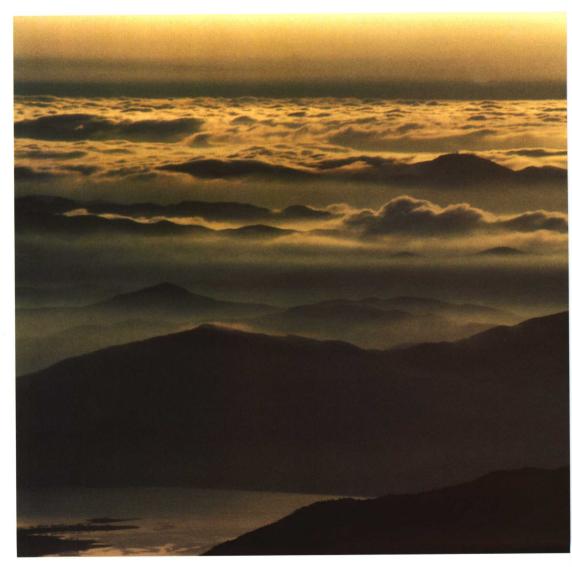


## Sculptured Stone "Chief of the Five Mountains"

Taishan, Huashan in Shaanxi Province, Hengshan (衡山) in Hunan Province, Hengshan (恒山) in Shanxi Province and Songshan in Henan Province are called the "Five Great Mountains." Mt. Taishan is also called the "Eastern Mountain," as it is located in the east. Though ranked third in altitude among the "Five Great Mountains," Taishan was the grandest and holiest mountain in the world in ancient people's eyes, and thus won the title of "Chief of the Five Great Mountains."

## 刻石"五岳独尊"

中国名山泰山、华山、衡山、恒山、嵩山并称"五岳",泰山位居东方,又称"东岳"。 泰山虽海拔高度只有1545米,在"五岳"中名列第三,但在古人的心目中最为崇高、神圣,因而赢得"五岳独尊"的地位。

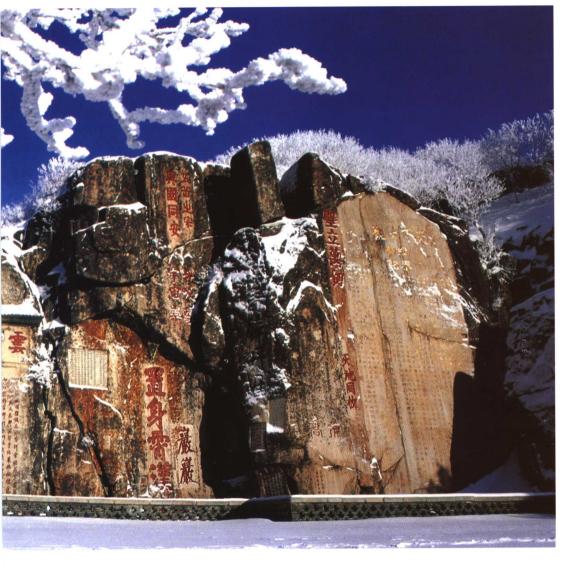




Standing on the summit, with a bird's-eye view of the nearby mountains, one may get the feeling of "How small these hills Are!"

With 34 ancient temples, over 110 ancient ruins, more than 1,400 inscribed stone tablets and over 20,000 ancient trees, Mt. Taishan is a "Cultural Peak" worthy of the name.

泰山是东方文化的缩影,有着厚重的文化积淀。山 上山下分布着34处古寺庙、110多处古遗址、1400 多处碑刻、2万余株古树名木,是一座名副其实的 "文化高峰"。





The combination of Mt. Taishan, Jinan and Qufu is a golden tour route featuring "mountain, water and sage," attracting hundreds of thousands of tourists every year from both home and abroad. Every morning, thousands of people view the spectacular sunrise from the top of Taishan.

泰山与"泉城"之称的济南、孔子故里曲阜组合为"一山一水一圣人"黄金旅游线、每年都吸引了数以百万的海内外游客。每日清晨、成百上千的游人在泰山顶争睹日出奇观。

Mt. Taishan was believed to be the spot where Heaven and Earth met. It was therefore regarded as a sacred mountain where emperors sacrificed to Heaven and Earth.

按照中国古人的理解,泰山是天与地的结合点,从山脚经过艰苦攀登,上了山顶,算是进入了天都仙界。也正因如此,泰山就成为一座"神山"、"圣山",成为历代帝王们祭祀天地的祭坛。

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