

旅游在中国

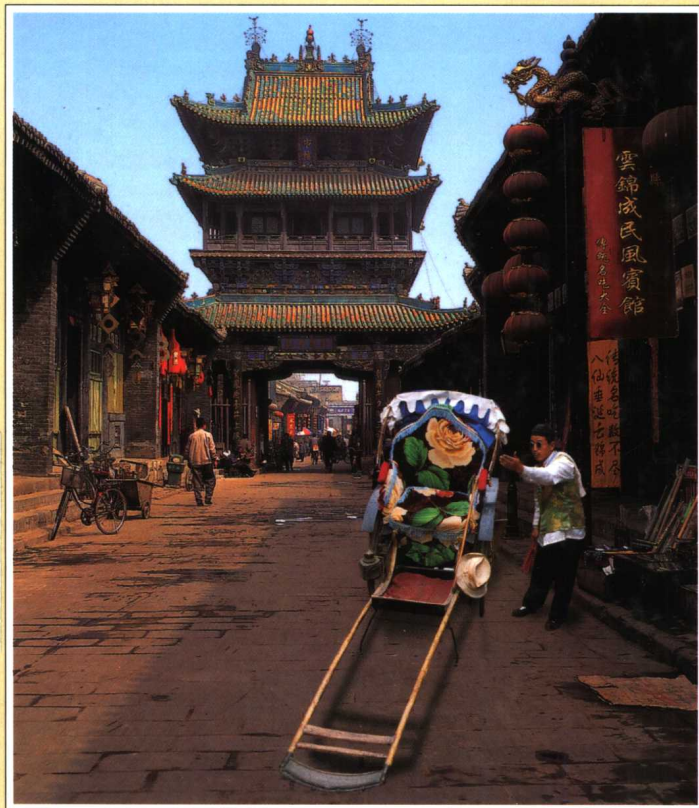
Travel in China

世界文化遗产

World Culture Heritage

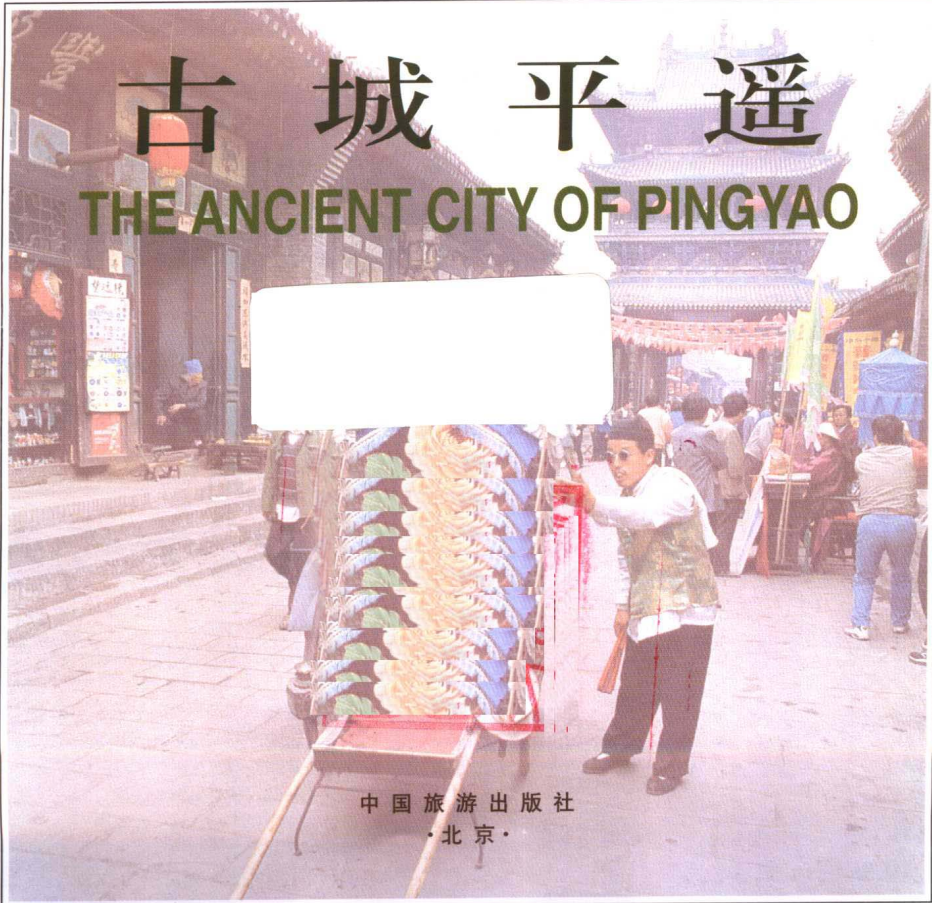
# 古城平遥

THE ANCIENT  
CITY  
OF PINGYAO



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## THE ANCIENT CITY OF PINGYAO



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## 古城平遥

古城平遥，地处中国山西省晋中地区腹部，距省会太原市100公里；从首都北京乘坐直达火车至平遥，只需大半夜的旅程。山西，是中国地面现存古建筑最多的文物大省；而古城平遥，则是山西境内第一个被正式列入“世界文化遗产名录”的旅游重镇。联合国教科文组织是这样评价古城平遥的：平遥古城是中国汉族城市在明清时期的杰出范例，它向人们展示了中国历史进程中文化、社会、经济和宗教的发展状况。

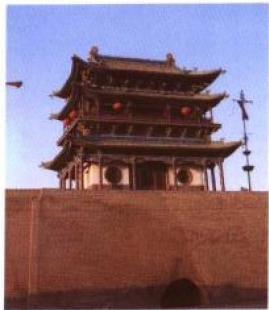
平遥古称“平陶”，其历史可上溯到2700年前的西周宣王时期(公元前827~前782年)，那时所筑土城，是为了抵御外敌的侵扰。到北魏始光元年(公元424年)开始，平遥一直作为县治所在地，并延续至今。现存平遥古城池的规模，是明洪武三年(公元1370年)扩建的，城垣原为夯土构筑，在扩建时改为砖包城墙。坚固的城墙曾挡住1977年8月间，平遥遭受百年不遇的暴雨所形成的滔滔洪水。

古城城墙周长6.4公里，墙高6至10米，底宽9至12米，顶宽3至6米，顶部可容两辆马车并行。城墙外侧每隔80米左右筑有凸出的“马面”，上筑敌楼，在突出城墙外侧的敌楼上，

可居高临下组织交叉射击网，对付楼近或攀登城墙的敌人。墙顶外侧同时建有2米高的垛口墙，是打仗时隐蔽护身用的；墙顶内侧也筑有0.6米的女儿墙。环周共建有敌楼71座，奎星楼1座，垛口3000个，寓意孔子周游列国时收有72贤人，3000弟子。城墙四角筑4座角楼，四面筑6个城门，其中，东、西方各建两座城门。康熙四十三年(公元1703年)，皇帝西巡路经平遥时在城墙四面增建大城楼，使城池更为壮观。城墙外侧有护城河，宽、深各3米，明清时河上有吊桥连接

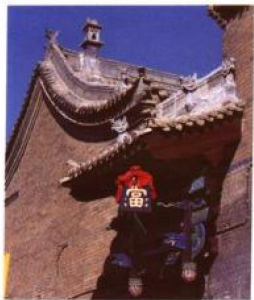
两岸，白天吊桥平放供行人出入，夜间吊桥升起以防护城内安全。每座城门均建有瓮城，即围在城门外的小城。瓮城设内、外门，如遇可疑者即报警关上两座城门，形成“瓮中捉鳖”之势。

平遥古城的基本格局至今未变。中国古代城市的规模，需严守“礼”序等级标准，不能逾越。国都九里，侯郡五至七里，县城方圆三





里，平遥正合乎这一“礼”序等级。古城内，四大街、八小街、七十二巷，经纬交织，主次分明，井井有条，似龟背上的纹络，所以平遥古城也被人们称为龟城。龟城，象征固若金汤，吉祥长存。相传，古人在建筑城池时，惟恐龟爬离，在距城东北13公里处的慈相寺内建麓台塔，将龟的后腿及东北城门拉直“拴绑”在塔上。



古城内的面积为2.25平方公里，分布着100多条纵横交错的大街小巷。街巷两边是四合院民居、庙宇建筑，主要街巷两旁还坐落着明清以来的2层楼的商店

铺。据统计，古城内现存古民居3797处，其中有较高价值的多达400余处。它们对研究中国明清以来城市建筑，人类居住形式和传统的文化发展有重要的艺术价值和科学价值。

明清时期，中国最著名的两大商帮是晋帮和徽帮，到清代，由于晋帮商人在财政上不断资助朝廷，与朝廷保持特殊关系，所以实力更为雄厚，而平遥是晋帮商人的主要发源地。今

天，我们可以从古城大街上标立的铺面和富商大贾的豪宅大院领略晋帮商人的实力。位于古城中心南北中轴线地位上的南大街，是由一条鳞次栉比的古代商铺组成的明清商业一条街。这里有清代慈禧太后光顾过的“长盛源”老字号，还有协同庆票号、百川通票号、蔚盛长票号、长泰永绸庄等旧址。商业性宅院，大都以铺面入口，内宅融商业、居住功能为一体。现今，很多后宅院开辟为接待四方游客的旅馆，吃、住、游、购在这条街上非常方便。横跨南大街上，还有一座古城标志性建筑——市楼，沿梯登二楼可凭栏眺望古城全景。

走进古城西大街，中国票号博物馆内的游客最多，这就是被称为中国银行鼻祖的日升昌票号。

票号，是在平遥繁荣的商业和晋商的崛起中诞生的。过去商业往来中的巨额现银押送，都是靠镖局完成的，既费时又不安全，于是一种新的解款方式——“票号汇兑”便应运而生。由于平遥商贸迅速发展，票号汇兑业务不但在平遥日臻红火，附近的祁县、太谷、介休、汾阳的票号汇兑业务也随之红火起来。公元1670年前后，山西境内的票号发展到33家，分号遍及全国85个城市和日本、朝鲜、新加坡、俄罗斯等地共400多个。

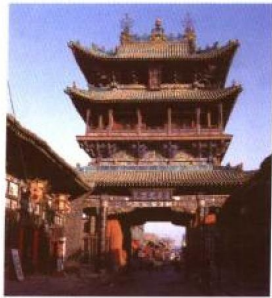
古民居，大都是明清时期的建筑，属于中

国北方汉民族严谨的四合院形式。明显的轴线、左右对称、主次分明；加之四周筑有高直挺拔的青砖墙，单坡式的屋顶，使房舍内向，外观封闭。这种居住习惯，是中国传统的封建思想和观念在民房构造中的一种体现。古民居的正屋多为窑洞，冬暖夏凉；主宅对宅门的装饰也煞费苦心，讲究的宅门已是体现财富和权势的象征。民居中，几乎家家都有建筑附加物，精致的檐廊、各式各样的风水楼、女儿墙、花格墙；配以精美的砖雕、木雕、石雕、匾额等，都给封闭的内院注入了温馨细腻的情感。

平遥古城外不远处，还有两处国宝，也连同古城一起被列为世界文化遗产：一处是距城东北12公里处的镇国寺，另一处是位于城西南6公里处的双林寺。两处均为全国重点文物保护单位。镇国寺始建于北汉天会七年(公元963年)，处于中国历史中为时短暂的五代十国时期，此时现存寺庙文物甚少，所以建于此时期的镇国寺万佛殿堪称稀世珍宝。万佛殿大殿是大陆所存最古老的木构建筑之一。大殿内现存塑像14尊，其中除例座三尊为明代塑造外，其余11尊塑像皆为五代原作。这些塑像虽为宗教神化的偶像，但却都是按照当时社会等级制度的需求创造摆布出来的。塑像衣着装饰、神态表情，均与当时社会生活息息相关，反映出五代工匠们继承唐代注重写实的创作风格。

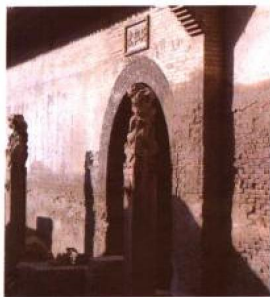
双林寺中现存北宋大中祥符四年(公元1011年)“姑姑之碑”记载：重建寺于(北齐)武平二年，也就是公元571年，双林寺曾重修过，其创建年代又早于此之前。寺庙占地15000平方米，由天王殿、释迦殿、罗汉殿、武圣殿、土地殿、阎罗殿、大雄宝殿、千佛殿、菩萨殿等殿堂组成。各殿存有2000余尊古代彩塑，神态各异，栩栩如生，被誉为东方彩塑艺术宝库。

此外，平遥境内还有众多其他古迹存留。古城东南处，全国孔庙中惟一宋式建筑体系的遗物——文庙大成殿；建于元代时期、藏于荒郊野处的金庄孔庙内的孔子塑像，面部涂色大胆、神龛木雕精细，在中国国内独此一例；现辟为平遥县博物馆、始建于唐高宗末年(公元684年)的清虚观和馆内珍藏近一百年前的民间工艺品“纱阁戏人”；国内保存较完整的旧县衙和近年恢复修建的城隍庙、财神庙等，这些都是古城平遥历史文化的重要组成部分。



## The Ancient City of Pingyao

The ancient city of Pingyao, deep in central Shanxi Province, is 100 kilometers from the provincial capital of Taiyuan. A direct train from Beijing takes just over half a night to reach there. Shanxi is a province in China with the largest number of ancient buildings still in good preservation, and Pingyao, the first tourist city in Shanxi Province designated by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage site. The UNESCO gave such evaluations



to Pingyao: the ancient city of Pingyao is an outstanding example of the city of the Han people in the Ming and Qing dynasties in China. It exposes the development of culture, society, economy

and religion in the course of the Chinese history.

The history of Pingyao, named Pingtao in ancient times, can be traced as far back as to 2,700 years ago, the period of King Xuan (827-782 B.C.) of the Western Zhou Period. The earthen city built at that time was for defending the invasion of enemies. Since the first year of the founding of the Northern Wei Dynasty in 424, Pingyao has long been served as the place of county government. The existing wall of the city was built in

the third year of Emperor Hongwu (1370) of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) when the city was being enlarged. The original city wall was made of clay and was then enveloped by bricks during expansion. The solid city wall protected the ancient city from the flood caused by the rainstorm in August 1977.

The ancient city is enclosed by a wall of 6.4 kilometers in total length, 6-10 meters wide at the base and 3-6 meters wide at the top. Two horse-drawn carriages can run side by side on the top of the city wall. Protruding bastions are built on the outside of the wall at intervals of about 80 meters with a watchtower on each of them, so that soldiers guarding the city could shoot at invaders in crossfire to attack those who were close to the tower or were climbing up the city wall. There are altogether 71 watchtowers, one tower of God of Literature and 3,000 crenels to stand for Confucius' 72 prominent scholars and 3,000 disciples when he toured the states. There are four watchtowers at four corners of the city wall and there are six city gates in four sides of the city. When Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) passed Pingyao on his western tour of inspection in the 43rd year of his reign (1703), great gate towers were built on four sides of the city wall to give the city a more imposing look. There is a city moat outside the city wall with three meter both in width and depth. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, there was a tilt bridge linking the banks of the moat. During the daytime, the bridge was laid down for passengers; at night, the bridge would be lifted to

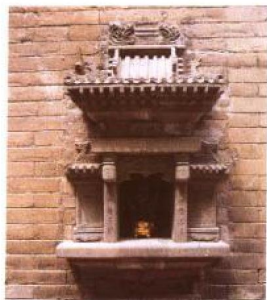
protect the city. There is an enclosed city wall outside each of the city gates with an inner and an outer gate in it. When a suspicious character was found, an alarm would be sent out to close both the inner and outer gates, so that the suspicious character would be caught like a turtle in a jar.

The layout of the city has remained basically unchanged to the present day. The scale of ancient cities in China obeyed the "li" (social ranking class) and nobody could ignore it. The capital covered nine *li* (4.5 kilometers), the province covered five to seven *li* (2.5-3.5 kilometers) county covered three *li* (1.5 kilometers). The square-shaped city wall of Pingyao fully conformed to the ranking standards of cities and towns laid down in the Rites. The four main streets, eight side streets and 72 alleys are clearly laid out like the patterns on a turtle's back. The ancient city of Pingyao was, therefore, also known as the Turtle City, which symbolized impregnable defense, good luck and longevity. It is said that when ancient people constructed the city wall, they built Lutai Pagoda inside Cixiang Temple, 13 kilometers northeast of Pingyao, for "tying down" the Turtle City for fear that the "turtle" might crawl away.

The inner city covers an area of 2.25 square kilometers, with over 100 crisscross streets and alleys. Quadrangle courtyards of residential houses and temples are sited alongside the streets and alleys. Some two-floor shops constructed in the Ming and Qing dynasties were located along main streets and alleys as well.

According to statistics, there are 3,797 ancient residential houses in the city. More than 400 of them are of high artistic and scientific values to the research on urban architecture, the style of residence of mankind and the cultural development since the Ming and Qing dynasties.

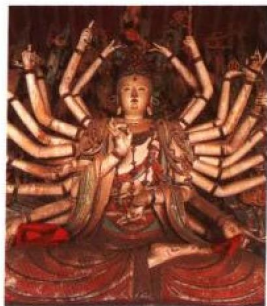
There were two well-known groups of merchants, the Shanxi Group and the Anhui Group, during the Ming and Qing dynasties. By the time of the Qing Dynasty, as the Shanxi Group had continued to donate money to the Qing Court, it had established special ties with government and grown more powerful. Pingyao was the home base of the Shanxi



Group of merchants. The crowded shop fronts along the streets of the ancient city and the imposing residences and courtyards of the rich merchants reflect the glory of the Shanxi Group of merchants in their days. The Southern Main Street that runs along the central, north-south axis was the ancient city's business street during the Ming and Qing periods. The street is lined on both sides with crowded old shops. There is the old Changshengyuan patronized by Empress Dowager Cixi



in the Qing Dynasty. There are also the sites of the Xietongqing, Baichuangtong and Weishengchang remittance banks and the Changtaiyong Silks and Satins Shop. Almost all the buildings in the business street functioned as shops at the front and residential quarters in the rear. Many of the buildings have now been converted into tourist hostels, which offer food, lodging and a very convenient way for visitors to go out for sightseeing and shopping. In addition, the City Tower



is a landmark structure of the ancient city of Pingyao spanning the Southern Main Street. One may climb up to the second floor of the tower and have a panorama view of the ancient city.

Walking along the Western Main Street of the ancient city, there are many tourists found in Rishengchang Remittance Bank, also known as Museum of Chinese Remittance Bank and the first one of such banks to be established in China.

As commerce prospered and it took time and was unsafe to transport huge amounts of cash over long distances, a new kind of commercial houses — remittance banks — came into being. Along with the rapid

development of business and commerce in Pingyao, remittance banks became more prosperous. Meanwhile, the business of remittance in places that are close to Pingyao such as Qixian, Taigu, Jiexiu and Fengyang counties became prosperous as well. In 1670, the number of remittance banks grew to 33 in Shanxi Province with over 400 branches in 85 cities in China and in Japan, Korea, Singapore and Russia.

Most of the residential houses in Pingyao were built in the Ming and Qing dynasties. They are constructed symmetrically along an axis with buildings enclosing a courtyard. All the buildings face the courtyard and are enclosed by a high wall, which seals them off from the outside. This arrangement embodies the feudal idea and concept in the construction of residential houses. The main rooms are built in the form of brick cave dwellings, which are warm in winter and cool in summer. The owners of the houses paid particular attention to the ornaments of the buildings, because they symbolized power and wealth. All the houses were built with extra fixtures, such as verandas, geomantic towers and parapets. There are also finely executed brick, wood and stone carvings, pierced ornamental walls, lattice-works and sign boards, which give a warm, emotional touch to the enclosed dwelling.

Included as parts of the World Cultural Heritage are two national treasures: Zhenguo Temple, 12 kilometers northeast of the ancient city, and Shuanglin Temple, six kilometers southwest of Pingyao. Both of the two places are under special protection of the

government. Zhenguo Temple was first built in the seventh years of the Tianhui reign (963) of the Northern Han Dynasty. The period of Five Dynasties and Ten States (907-960) was a short one in Chinese history. Few of the temples and cultural relics of that period are still in existence. The Hall of Ten-Thousand Buddhas in the Zhenguo Temple is, therefore, a rare treasure. For one reason, it is one of the oldest wooden structures to be found on China's mainland. For another, there are 14 statues in the hall. Except for the three ones that belong to the Ming period, all the others are works of the Five Dynasties period. Although they are religious idols, they were created and arranged according to the social stratification of the time. The clothing, ornaments and facial expressions of the statues are closely associated with the social life of that particular period. From these works, we can see that the artisans of the Five Dynasties followed the Tang Dynasty (618-907) style of sculpture that emphasized realistic representation.

According to the inscription carved on the Aunt's Tablet erected in the fourth year of the Dazhong Xiangfu reign (1011) of the Northern Song Dynasty in Shuanglin Temple, the temple was rebuilt in the second year of the Wuping reign (571) of the Northern Qi Dynasty. The date of construction of the temple should have been much earlier than that date. The temple that occupies 15,000 square meters of grounds is composed of halls for the Heavenly Guardians, Sakyamuni, Arhats, God of Warrior (Guan Yu), God of Earth, King of Hell,

Great Buddha, Thousand Buddhas, and Bodhisattvas with more than 2,000 ancient painted statues in them. All the clay statues are vividly and life-like, known as an art strove of Oriental painted sculpture.

Also to be found in the ancient city of Pingyao are the Hall of Great Accomplishments in the Confucius Temple, which is the only existing structure built in the Song Dynasty style; the statue of Confucius erected in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) inside the Confucius Temple in the desolate Jingzhuang Village is the only one of its kind to be found in China because his face is boldly and heavily painted in color. The niche housing the statue is carved exquisitely in



wood; the Qingxu Taoist Temple which has been converted into a museum with opera figurines, the works of a folk artist of nearly 100 years ago, preserved in it; the old county government building, which is the best preserved one in the whole country, the Temple of the City God and the Temple of the God of Wealth, which have been restored in recent years, are all important components of the ancient city of Pingyao.



平遥市景  
*A scene of Pingyao.*

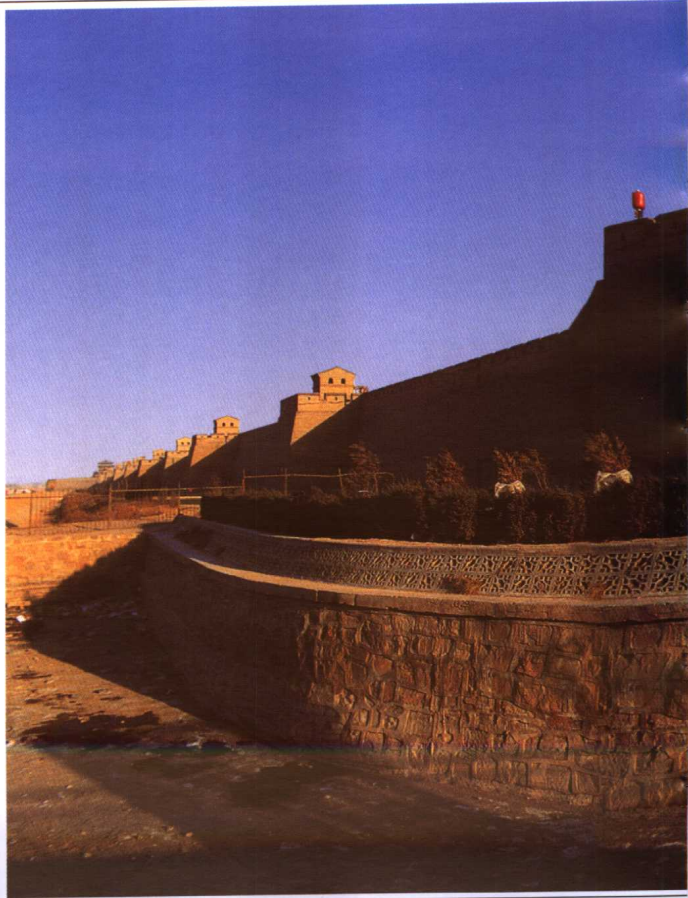






平遥城墙

*Pingyao's city wall.*





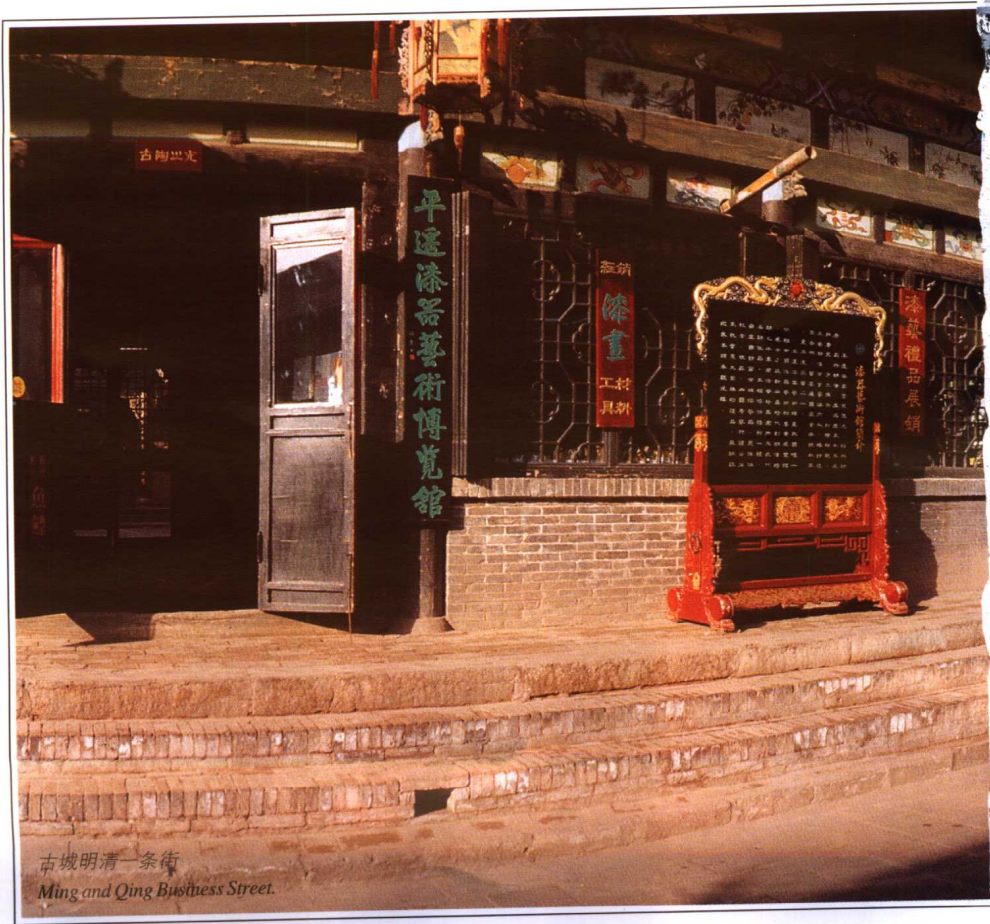






平遥古民居  
*Ancient residential houses.*





古城明清一条街  
Ming and Qing Business Street.