

Heritage and identity 3

Heritage and Identity in China

HPHE7002 Unravelling Heritage
Session 7

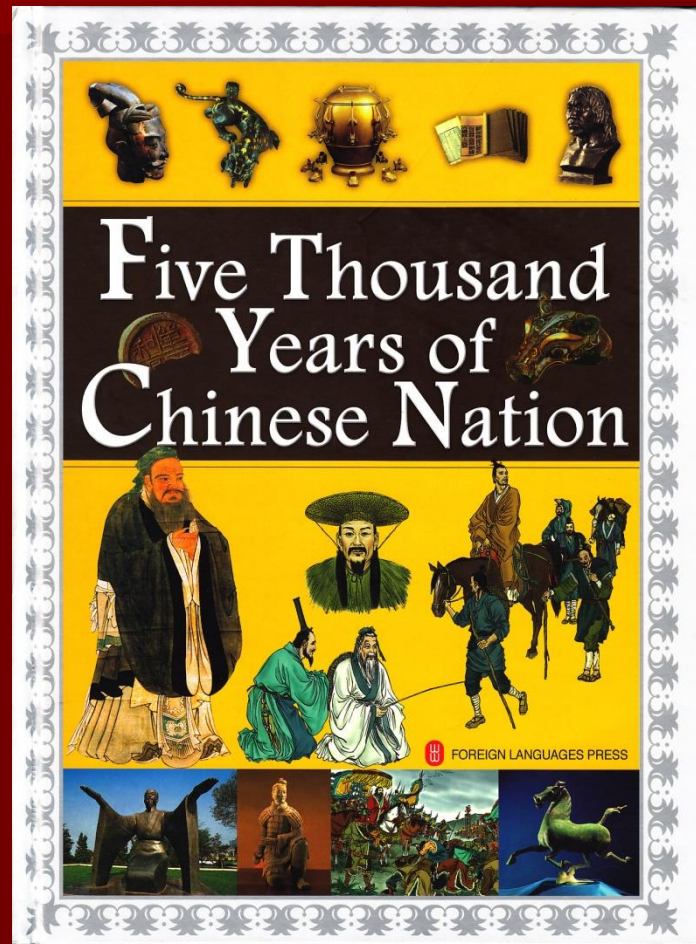
Dr Katharina Zinn (Associate Professor in Egyptian
Archaeology and Heritage)
University of Wales Trinity Saint David



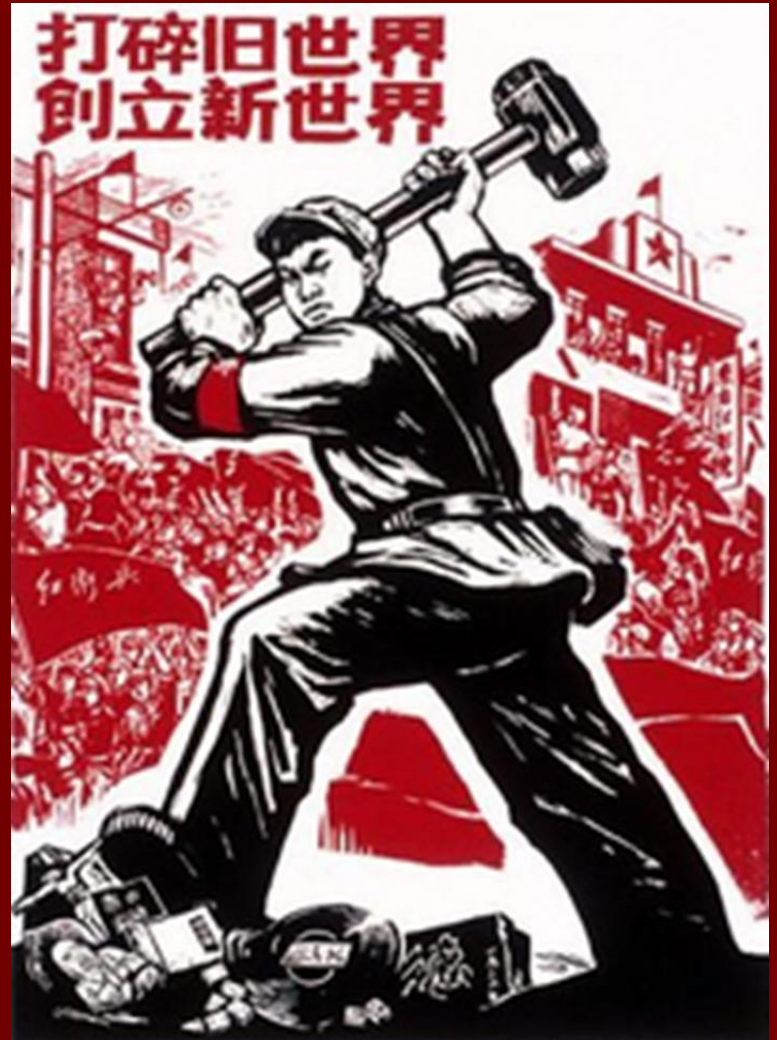
Spiritual values vs destruction of material heritage of the past

**CHINESE ATTITUDES
TOWARDS THE PAST
AUTHORISED HERITAGE
DISCOURSE**

Cultural Continuity

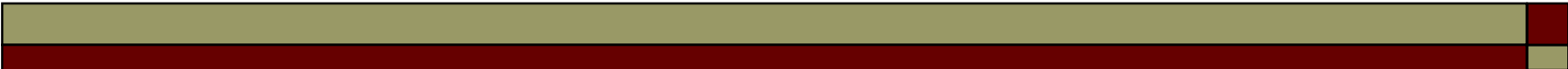


Material Destruction



Paradox

- ❑ Neglect of the material heritage of the past;
“the very past which seems to penetrate everything ... is also strangely evading our *physical* grasp” (Leys 2011, p. 286)
- ❑ Cultural longevity
 - China is the oldest living continuous culture
 - strong sense of historical memory



Approaches towards preservation of the past

- overcome erosion of time
 - use strongest possible materials to achieve maximum resilience

- yield to time and its erosion of artefacts
 - use perishable and fragile materials but re-build periodically
 - transfer preservation of past from material object to producer → not the building preserves eternity but the builder
 - strong cultural memory

Literary re-creations of the past: Two poems as illustrations

“The only truly enduring embodiments of the eternal human moments are the literary ones.”

(Quote from F.W. Mote, “A Millenium of Chinese Urban History”)

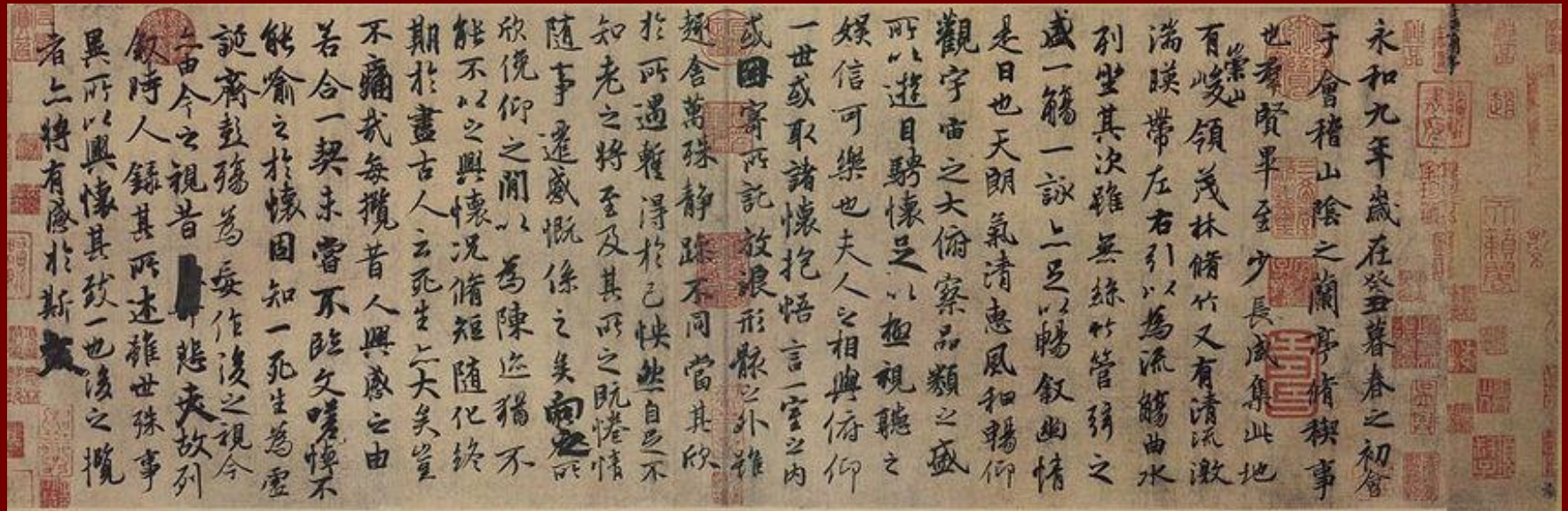
- Meng Haoran (689-740) “With Several Friends, Climbing Up *Steep Mountain*”
- Chen Zi’ang 昂子陳 (661-702) *Baidi cheng huaigu* 古懷城帝白



Antiquarianism in China

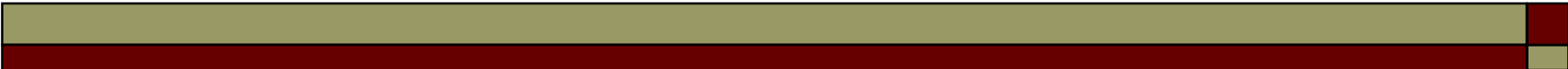
- ❑ beginnings 11th century (Song dyn.); comparatively late
- ❑ collection and study of ancient bronzes and epigraphs
- ❑ cultural escape backwards in time; search for spiritual shelter and moral comfort
- ❑ narrow focus on calligraphy, i.e. the written word
- ❑ legitimises political authority; precious objects collected in imperial collections
- ❑ → restricted access;
- ❑ → concentration of art treasure in palaces exacerbated losses in times of war or rebellion

Wang Xizhi's (303-361) *Lanting ji xu* ("Preface to the poems composed at the gathering at Lanting")



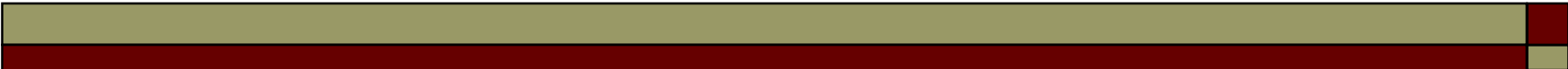
Cultural Heritage – modern understandings





Cultural Heritage – modern understandings

- ❑ link with tourism and leisure economy
- ❑ Immaterial cultural heritage list (ICH list)
- ❑ tool for regional development, esp. rural areas
- ❑ polit. achievement for local officials
- ❑ cultural heritage revival in wake of re-evaluation of religion ('superstition')
- ❑ trad. folkways = "healthy cultural activities"



MAIN HERITAGE/TOURIST SITES

- Great Wall (north of Beijing)



- Temple of Heaven (Beijing)



- Forbidden City (Beijing)



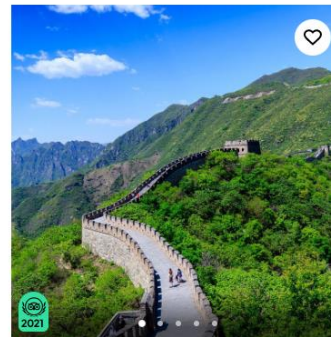
City of Beijing

Top 6 tourism attractions in Beijing
(From Tripadvisor.com) are all
heritage sites:

1. Mutianyu Great Wall
2. Forbidden City-The Palace Museum
3. Summer Palace (Yiheyuan)
4. Badaling Great Wall
5. Lama Temple (Yonghegong)
6. Temple of Heaven

Top Attractions in Beijing

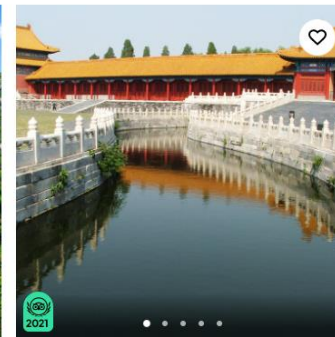
[See all](#)



1. Mutianyu Great Wall

●●●●● 23,783
Ancient Ruins • Points of Interest & Landmarks
Admission tickets from \$11.00
By maryIR347700

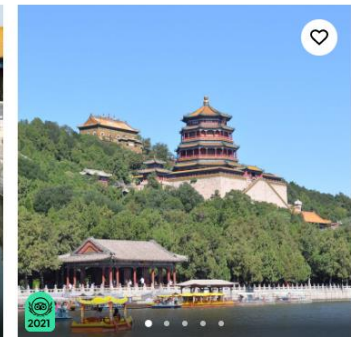
Located among the orchards and pines in the mountains to the north of Beijing, the Great Wall of China was constructed...



2. Forbidden City-The Palace Museum

●●●●● 14,101
Speciality Museums • Architectural Buildings
Admission tickets from \$9.11
By bronwynt216

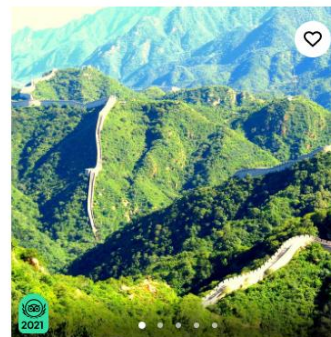
This is set on a huge site and houses China's largest and best preserved cluster of ancient buildings.



3. Summer Palace (Yiheyuan)

●●●●● 15,026
Points of Interest & Landmarks • Historic Walking Areas
Admission tickets from \$8.85
By Tassaduqhussain51

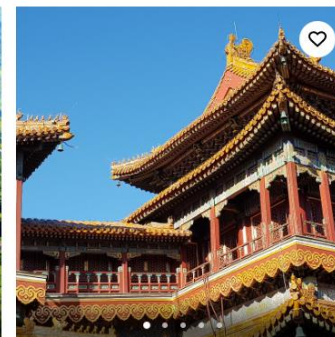
The lake is artificial, excavated by human beings, the soil of which created 200 feet high Longevity Hill covered with...



4. The Great Wall at Badaling

●●●●● 11,050
Ancient Ruins • Architectural Buildings
Admission tickets from \$11.00
By Musafir-India

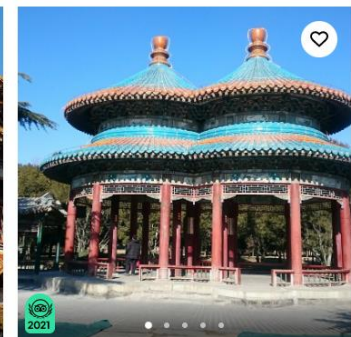
It was constructed to protect Beijing and the question arises why Beijing is undisputed capital of china for ages.



5. Lama Temple (Yonghegong)

●●●●● 4,205
History Museums
By soh_kien_peng

The glory of the Imperial Qing Dynasty empire in China attained her height during the reign of the two great Manchu...



6. Temple of Heaven

●●●●● 12,195
Historic Sites • Architectural Buildings
Admission tickets from \$5.00
By 703mayanka

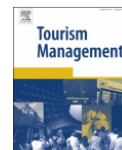
It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site said to be the world's largest existing building complex for offering sacrifice to...



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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/tourman



The significance of the West Lake pattern and its heuristic implications for creating China's heritage tourism economics

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Describes West Lake, Hangzhou, as a not-for-profit management plan designed to protect heritage resources.
- Using West Lake the paper identifies challenge facing other Chinese heritage sites managed under a profit oriented system.
- It offers a normative look at Chinese management for cultural and heritage sites.

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ABSTRACT

West Lake's economic, social and cultural structure comprises six facets: (1) maintaining West Lake World Heritage Site as an open accessible tourist location; (2) ensuring the planning, management and tourism marketing of West Lake are culturally rather than purely economically oriented; therefore truly benefitting the preservation and conservation of West Lake; (3) selectively decreasing and mitigating the tourism pressure on West Lake, especially in those areas of high cultural, ecological and environmental vulnerability; (4) ensuring travellers adopt appropriate sustainable tourism values to enjoy a positive experience; (5) ensuring the marketing of West Lake tourism and the consequent distribution of incomes comply with legal and other appropriate standards; and (6) expanding and extending the social benefits of West Lake tourism. To aid the examination of West Lake in this paper, a comparison is made between the management policies of West Lake and Mt. Huangshan (Yellow Mountain) to illustrate a number of fundamental and organisational relationships involving tourism at heritage sites.

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1. Introduction

West Lake, one of China's world heritage sites, is located in Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang Province in eastern China. Long a recreational zone for the city's residents, it also possesses a specific pattern of tourism that the Chinese travel industry refers to as the West Lake Pattern (WLP). This paper examines WLP's organisation and its significance to China's heritage tourism. The WLP is based on the concepts of one "free" and four "no's", in line with a basic Chinese concept of using numbers to characterize a general set of ideas. In short, the core area is open and free to the public, but with no increases in ticket prices, no transfer and rent for heritage-

related land use, no disturbance of cultural properties, and no commercial occupation of public resources and properties. In essence, the Lake is perceived as a public and non-profit oriented heritage services supply system. It also reflects the development of the tourism industry in China.

2. The system and significance of the WLP

2.1. The system

In essence, the West Lake is a public- and non-profit oriented heritage services supply system. Located in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, the management approach taken to the Lake was influenced by

Songling Xu, Yu Liu, Qiuju Wang, Yihong Qian.
(2017),The significance of the West Lake pattern and its heuristic implications for creating China's heritage.
Tourism Management,286-292

World Heritage Map in Beijing

Beijing, the Capital city of China owns **7** UNESCO World Heritages and over 100 intangible cultural heritage.

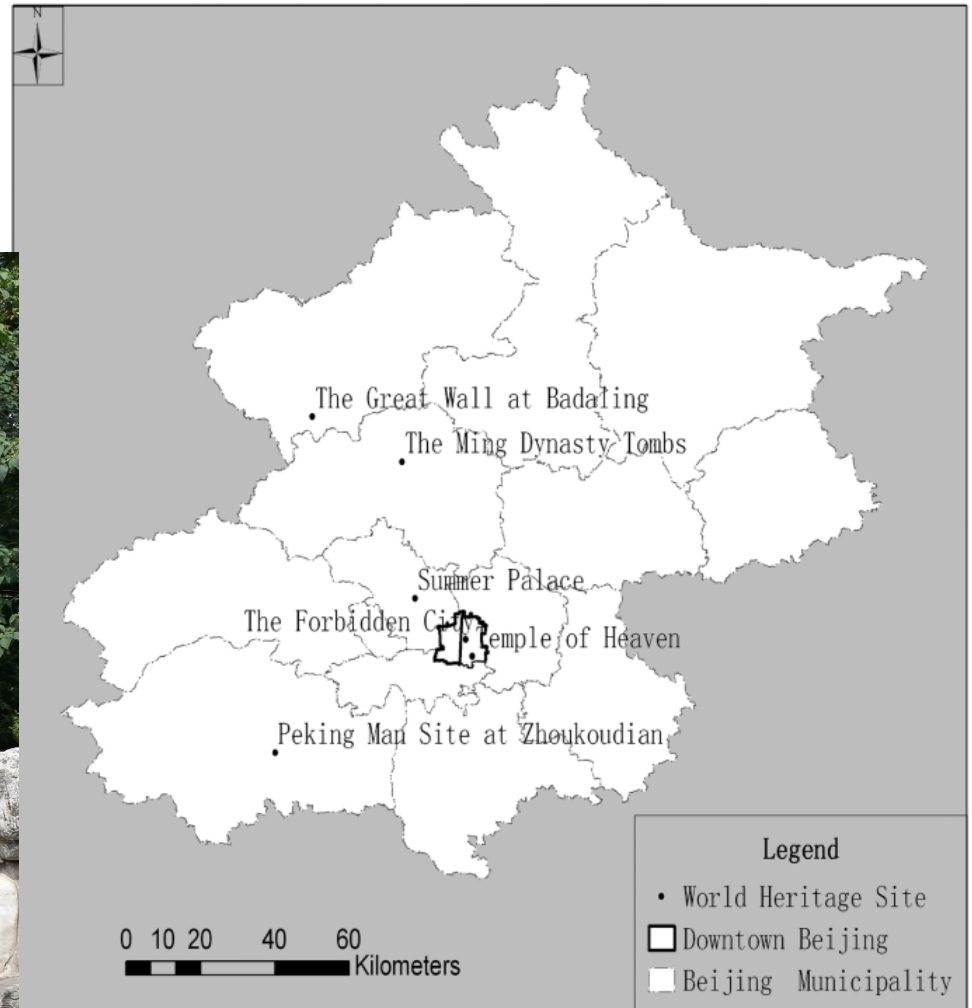


Figure 1. Location map of World Heritage Sites in Beijing.

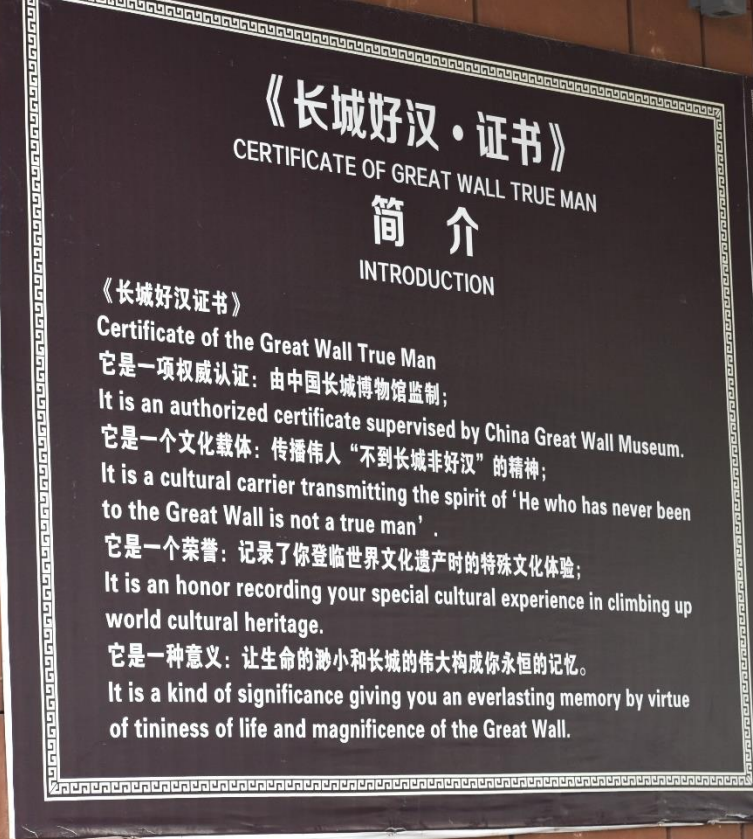
The Great Wall

UNESCO World Heritage Site, 1987

Great Wall is a symbol of the Chinese nation and was added to the World Heritage site list in 1987.



Great Wall is a symbol of the Chinese nation and was added to the World Heritage site list in 1987.



城动百凭
好赠万长
汉送好城
证中汉有
书国留效
一幕影票
份田签证
峪名参
长活加

长城好汉·证书·签发处



The Great Wall
UNESCO World
Heritage Site, 1987



Primary school students having a study tour in the Forbidden City

Forbidden City

UNESCO World Heritage Site,
1987

The Forbidden City, also called the Imperial Palace, was added to the World Heritage site in 1987.





Terracotta Army (Xi'an)





- Mogao Grottoes (Dunhuang, Gansu province)



- Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu (Shandong)



- Leshan Giant Buddha (Leshan, Sichuan)



- Lijiang Old City (Yunnan)



- Potala Palace
(Lhasa, Tibet)



- Fujian Tulou
(Yongding & Nanjing,
Fujian province)





Map of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in China by 2021

Source: UNESCO World Heritage Convention.<https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/cn>

World Heritage Sites in China



Tangible forms of Heritage:

Natural heritages and Cultural heritages

- 56 properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List
 - 38 are cultural heritage sites,
 - 14 are natural heritage sites,
 - 4 are cultural and natural (mixed) sites
- Heritages(historical relics)
 - National level
 - Provincial level
 - Municipal level
 - County level

2021: China ranks second in the world in terms of the number of global heritage sites recognized by UNESCO.

Intangible cultural heritages

5

批次

Batch

10

类别

Category

1557

项目

Project

3610

子项

Sub-project

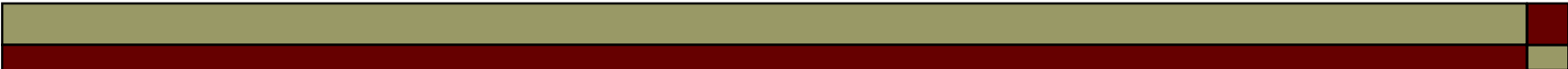
Ten categories

1. folk literature
2. traditional music
3. traditional dance
4. traditional drama and folk art
5. traditional sports
6. entertainment and acrobatics
7. traditional art
8. traditional art craft
9. traditional medicine
10. folk customs

By 2021, China ranks first in the world with 42 UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritages.

China's official cultural heritage discourse

- ❑ almost exclusive focus on the revolutionary heritage in the Mao Zedong period (1949-76)
- ❑ a more culturally based patriotic heritage narrative in the 1980s
- ❑ 1990s, inclusion of vernacular and industrial heritage
- ❑ since 2003: adoption of the concept of intangible cultural heritage (China signed UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention in 2003); *feiwuzhi wenhua yichan* 非物质文化遗产 (Nonphysical Cultural Heritage)



China's efforts to preserve heritages

Y. Zhang (2021):

Three stages of China's heritage conservation since 1985:
Exploration, Familiarity and **Active Participation.**

- Actively submitting heritage nominations

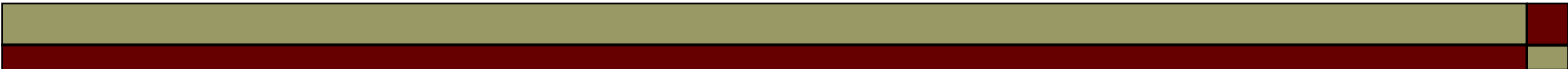
- Promoting community participation

- Focusing on living heritage

- Actively engaged in the work of the World Heritage Committee

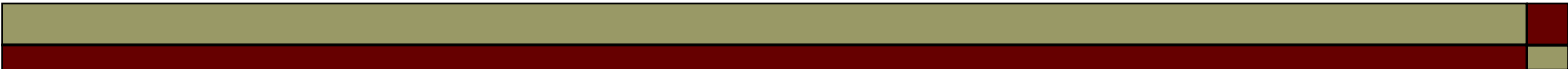
- Hosted the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee from 16–31 July 2021

Source: H. Wang, Y. Zhang.(2021). SPATIAL SELECTION OF HERITAGE AND TRANSFER OF LOCAL IDENTITY: A DUAL CASE STUDY BASED ON TWO HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL DISTRICTS IN CITY F, CHINA.
The International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences, XLVI-M-1



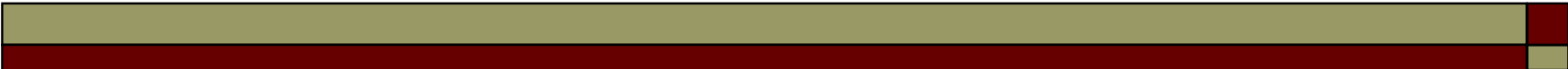
The conservation and utilization of heritages in China

- ❑ Protecting the endangered culture and nature
- ❑ Innovated as museums, cultural centers, recreation spaces, and tourist attractions
- ❑ Regarded as the nostalgic icon in the era of China's rapid modernization and urbanlization.



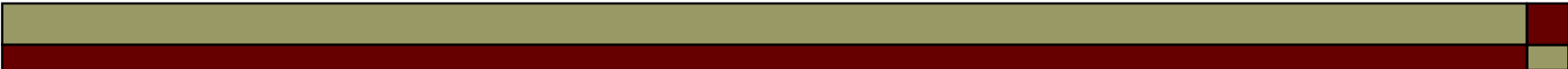
Political uses of ICH 中國非物質文化遺產

- ❑ ICH law of 2011 states in Article 4 that: ‘[t]he protection of ICH [...] is conducive to enhancing the Chinese national cultural identity, to safeguard national identity and national unity and to protect social harmony and sustainable development’.
- ❑ How does that work?
- ❑ What is the connection to the Chinese Dream?



Heritage and Governmentality

- ❑ State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) 国家文物局
- ❑ Intangible Cultural Heritage Department (Ministry of Culture)
- ❑ <https://www.culturalheritagechina.org/>



ICH and Governmentality

“Several scholars ... have pointed out that the use of culture and intangible cultural heritage can be a softer and less visible way of ‘rendering individuals governable’. The listing, reification, and celebration of certain cultural practices can thus be a tool of governance, especially when individuals and communities are excluded from decision making but still come to internalize the validation of the selected practices and behaviours. In the context of China, ICH could be seen as a new form of governance and a way to control religious and ethnic communities in particular.”
(Maags/Svensson 2018: 20)



Case Study

YUANMINGYUAN (GARDEN OF PERFECT BRIGHTNESS)

The imperial rural retreat, Yuanmingyuan, was situated about eight kilometers (five miles) from the northwest gate (Xizhimen) of Beijing's city wall. It was another four kilometers (2.5 miles) from the gate to the Forbidden City.



The gardens of the Yuanmingyuan

Yuanmingyuan 圓明園
(Garden of Perfect
Brightness)

Xiyanglou
西洋樓
(European
Palaces)

Changchunyuan
長春園
(Garden of
Eternal Spring)



Main entrance

Qichunyuan 綺春園
(Garden of Elegant
Spring)

40 scenes within Yuanmingyuan



The Summer Palace

UNESCO World Heritage Site, 1987



Summer Palace **was added to the World Heritage site in 1987.**

. The most intact royal garden of China, renowned as “Royal Garden Museum”.

Yuanmingyuan, Xiyanglou

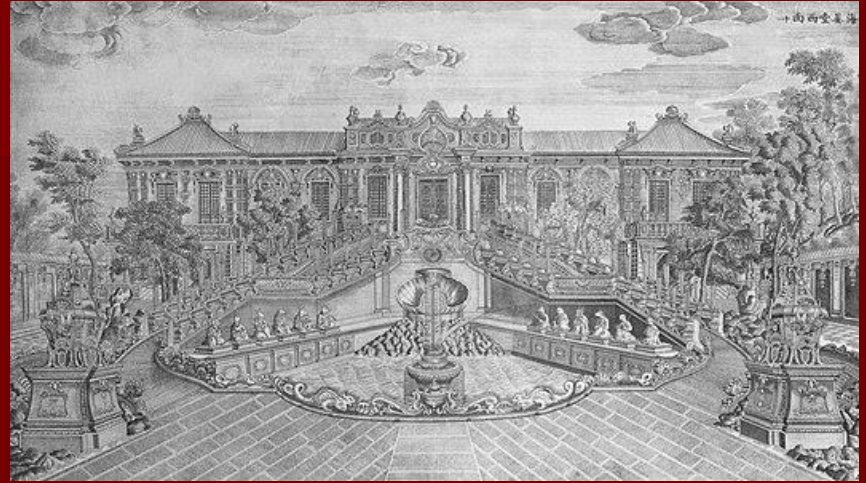


Photo by Ernst Ohlmer,
1873

The Burning of the Imperial Palace (1983)

Director: Li Han-hsiang,
Hong Kong

Story of Empress Dowager
Cixi's rise to power

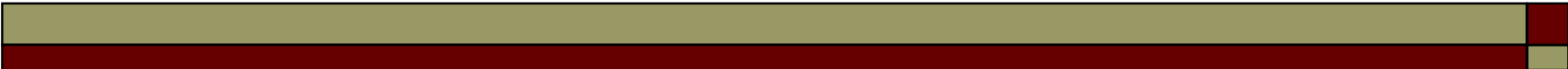
States the seduction of the
Xianfeng Emperor by the
young Cixi

Romantic nostalgia
(“libidinal-aesthetic
signification of
Yuanmingyuan)



Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness)

- ❑ “garden of all gardens” (*wanyuan zhi yuan* 萬園之園)
- ❑ Connected to all other places by virtue of assembling “all the variety and components of the universe” (Saussy 2006: 159)
→ garden as “self-image of empire” (*tianxia*, All under Heaven), an actually realized utopia (‘heterotopia’)
- ❑ First and most important modern ruin in China – “a structure is beautiful only when it is new; once [the decorations] have faded and especially once the structure has collapsed, the beautiful turns into the ugly because the harmony with the environs has been destroyed” (Wang 1999: 769)

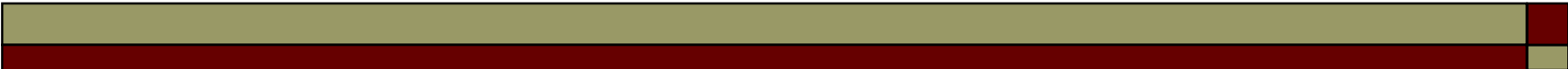


Yuanmingyuan – Tourism facts

- ❑ Until late 1980s – Yuanmingyuan integrated into daily life (occupied by farmers and ordinary people)
- ❑ Site of collective memory
- ❑ “spatial metaphor of contemporary China and a schooling ground for the art of socialist neoliberal citizenship” (Lee 2006: 159)

Approaches

- ❑ Restorationists: “First, how can we harmonize patriotic education with the need for recreation ... gardens?” (Wang 1999: 765)
- ❑ Anti-restorationists: “[R]estauration would amount to eradicating the evidence of the destruction and covering up the crimes of the imperialists; tinkering [with the ruins] and altering their present state is tantamount to tampering with history” (Wang 1999: 673) → “Only a ruinscape (canjing) can inspire the imagination and arouse passion.” (681-82) → merged with environmental discourse

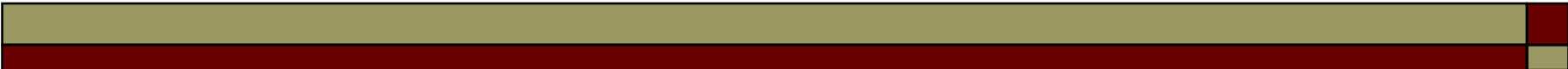


Yuanmingyuan and tourism

- Can Yuanmingyuan's emplacement as garden- or ruinscape be reconciled with the demands of modern tourism? If so, how?

Questions

- What meanings are imparted to heritage sites?
- How does tourism influence the spatial signification of heritage spots? (Does tourism matter?)
- What does “authenticity” mean in these contexts?



Key themes

- ❑ Yuanmingyuan a “place of both profound alienation and irreducible Chineseness” (Lee 2006: 175)
- ❑ Native aesthetic of renewal vs important aesthetics of brokenness/decay (Disneyland vs ruinscape)
- ❑ Official lessons vs personal experience
- ❑ Authenticity

Sports heritages

Olympic Stadiums: the contemporary heritages



Beijing Olympic Village



2022 Beijing Winter Olympic sites



Water Cube Stadium

Heritages in rural areas



Mout Danxia

UNESCO World Heritage Site, 2010

It is described on the local signage as a "world famous UNESCO geopark of China". It was inscribed as part of the China Danxia World Heritage Site in 2010 because of its unique geographical in formations and spectacular scenery.



Jiuzhaigou

UNESCO World Heritage Site, 1992

Jiuzhaigou is a nature reserve and national park located in the north of Sichuan Province in southwestern China. A long valley running north to south, Jiuzhaigou was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1992.





Kaiping Diaolou and Villages

UNESCO World Heritage Site, 2007

Kaiping Diaolou and Villages feature the Diaolou, multi-storeyed defensive village houses in Kaiping, Guangdong Province, which display a complex and flamboyant fusion of Chinese and Western structural and decorative forms.

Yellow Mountain (Huang Shan)

UNESCO World Heritage Site, 1990

Yellow Mountain was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990 for its scenery and for its role as a habitat for rare and threatened species.



Heritages in ethnic minority regions



Grassland and Eight Trigrams City in Tekesi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region





Gesar epic tradition inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The ethnic Tibetan, Mongolian and Tu communities in western and northern China share the story of the ancient hero King Gesar, sent to heaven to vanquish monsters, depose the powerful, and aid the weak while unifying disparate tribes.

Kekexili Nature Reserve



Passageway for Tibetan Antelope



Kekexili National Nature Reserve in Northwest China's Qinghai province, were recognized as part of the world's heritage in 2017.

Honghe Hani Rice Terraces



The Honghe Hani Rice Terraces (HHRTs) was registered in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013 for their immeasurable ecological value and their agricultural and touristic economic significance.

Case study

Honghe Hani Rice Terraces

Ce Qu, Chaozhi Zhang, Shiwei Shen & Daniel H. Olsen.(2021), Heritage conservation and communities' sense of deprivation in tourism: the case of the Hani community in Yunnan, *China.Tourism Geographies*.

The findings show that there are significant differences in opinion between the local Hani people and non-local Hani and outsiders who live in the heritage area.

The local Hani feel a greater sense of deprivation due to the de-empowerment and economic inequities as compared with non-Local Hani and outsiders.

This deprivation has reduced their motivation to conserve their own heritage, while the non-local Hani feel a greater sense of gain and a newfound appreciation for their personal and collective heritage identity.

Frequent interactions between the two groups have led to local Hani people resisting the heritage preservation responsibilities enforced upon them.

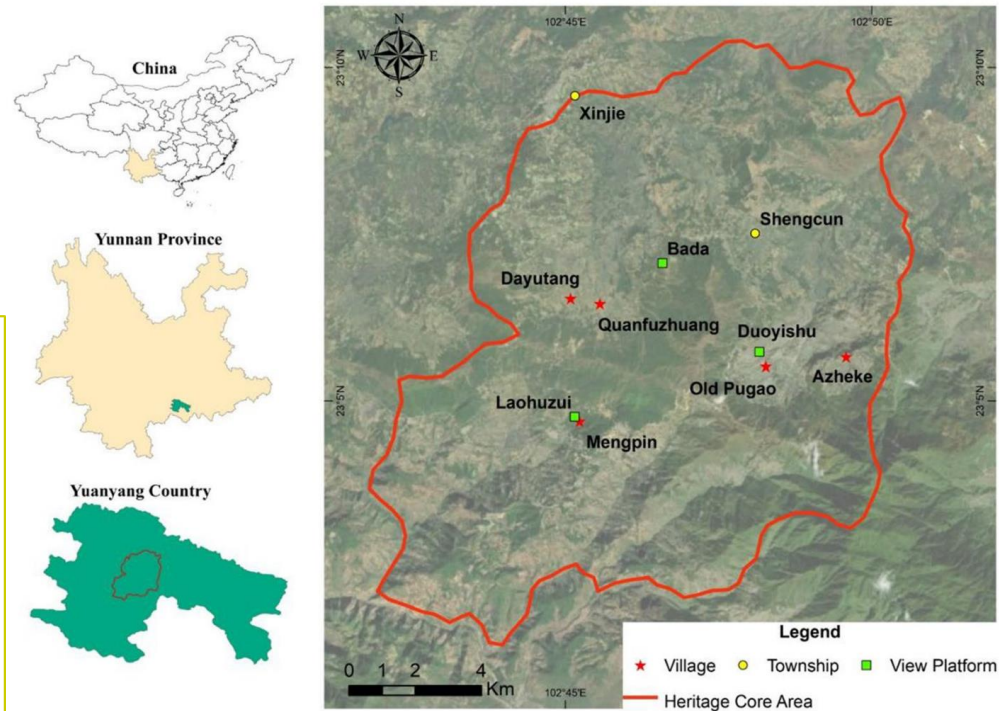


Figure 2. A map showing the location of the villages.

Central governance and local governance

**THE STATE COUNCIL THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**National Cultural Heritage
Administration**

**Ministry of Culture and
Tourism**

**Historical Relics(World Heritage
Deparment)**

Tangible Heritages

Intangible heritage

**Minister of Ecology
and Envionment**

**Ministry of Natural
Resources**

**Ministry of Housing and
Urban-Rural Development**

**Ministry of Water
Resources**

Intangible Cultural Heritage in China

briefly defined

- Famous transmitters (Masters) 杰出传承人
 - Transmission between living persons 活态传承
 - Long history (100 years min.) 悠久历史 (百年)
 - Concrete form of expression 具体的表现形式
 - Precious object of ethnic culture 民族文化财富

 - Danger of ‘materialisation’ *wuzhihua* 物质化
- All tools, materials and finished products are not considered part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage



Longjing Tea village in

National Intangible
cultural heritage: the
skill of the tea stir
fixation process for
Longjing Tea





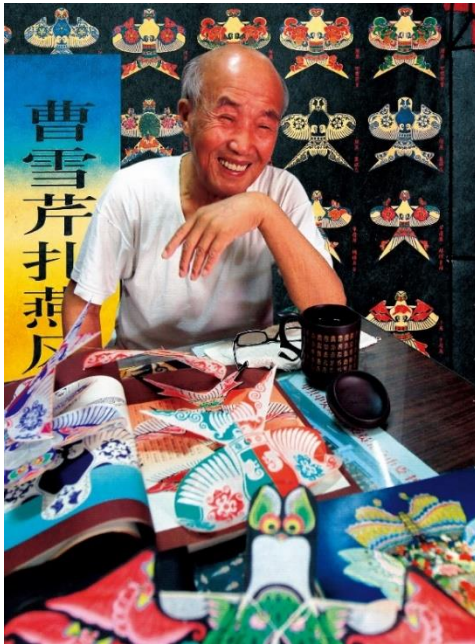


Sugar figurines

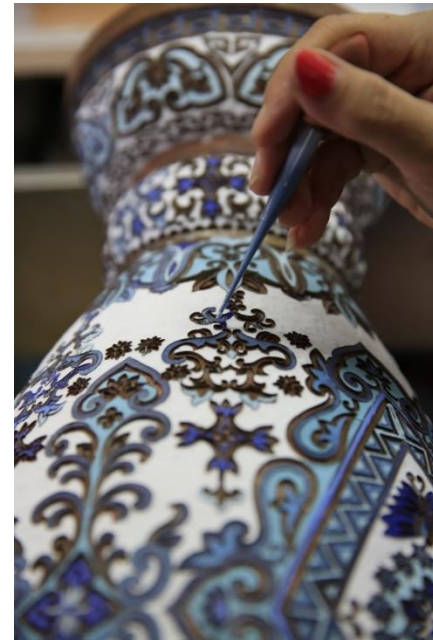


Beijing Diabolo.

Intangible Heritages in Beijing



Traditional Kites



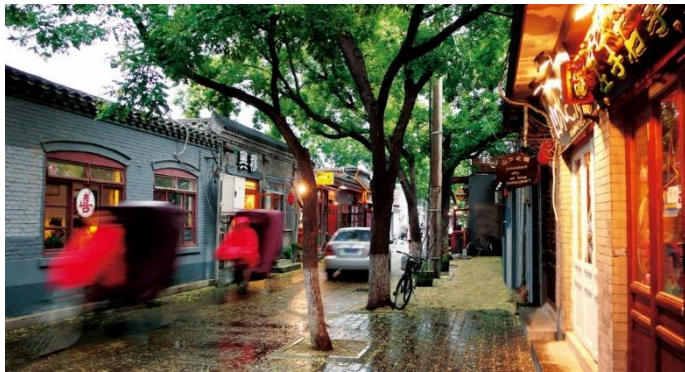
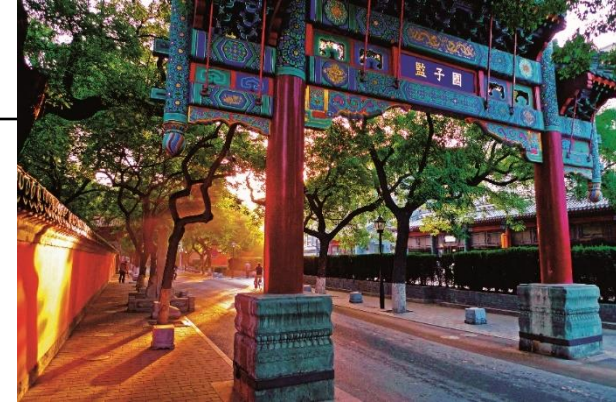
Beijing Colour Ceramics



The rickshaw in Hutong

Folk cultural heritage tour

The courtyard is located in Hutong and is formed by a yard and enclosed by houses. The Ancient courtyards have been modernized and now have fashionable restaurants and hotels.



Courtyards hotel



Sunshi Taiji

Chinese wellbeing tour

Taiji was added in the
UNESCO List of Intangible
Cultural Heritages in 2020.

Square dance
Park culture



Taiji training class taking in Hutong



Morning exercise of Taiji in Mutianyu Great Wall



Chinese New Year

Festive heritage tour

Dragon Boat Festival was added in the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritages in 2009.



Dragon Dance in Yongning



Temple Fair - Chinese religious and



Lion Dance at the Dragon Boat Festival



Beijing intangible cultural heritage Dragon Drum

Culinary heritage tourism



**Roast duck is a national
intangible cultural heritage.**





Tanghulu



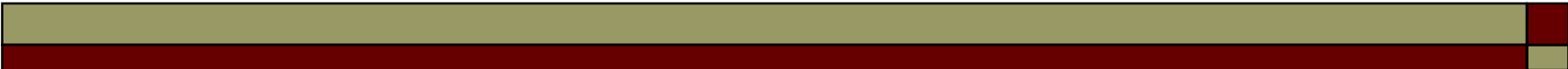
Hot Pot



Lamb Skewer



Fried source noodles



Spiritual values vs destruction of material heritage of the past

CHINESE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE PAST LIVED HERITAGE

Hangzhou at the Golden Week Holidays



West lake World Heritage site at 3rd Oct, 2021



West lake World Heritage site at 3rd Oct, 2012

大唐芙蓉园 肉丸胡辣汤 大雁塔 BIANBIANG面
 酸汤饺子 骊山 钟楼 108坊 锅盔 明城墙 咥一碗 羊肉泡馍
 华清宫 书院门 朱雀门 回民街 鼓楼
 兵马俑 甑糕 北院门 克里马擦
 凉皮 毛笔酥 油泼面
 半坡遗址 西安臊子面
 小雁塔 肉夹馍 小寨 么麻达
 秦始皇陵 啊达 春风得意马蹄疾 一日看尽长安花 永宁门 华山 终南山
 摔碗酒 椰子腔 大唐不夜城 大明宫国家遗址公园 华清池





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Nikon D5600, 80mm, 1/71, 1/200s



Garden of
Folklore



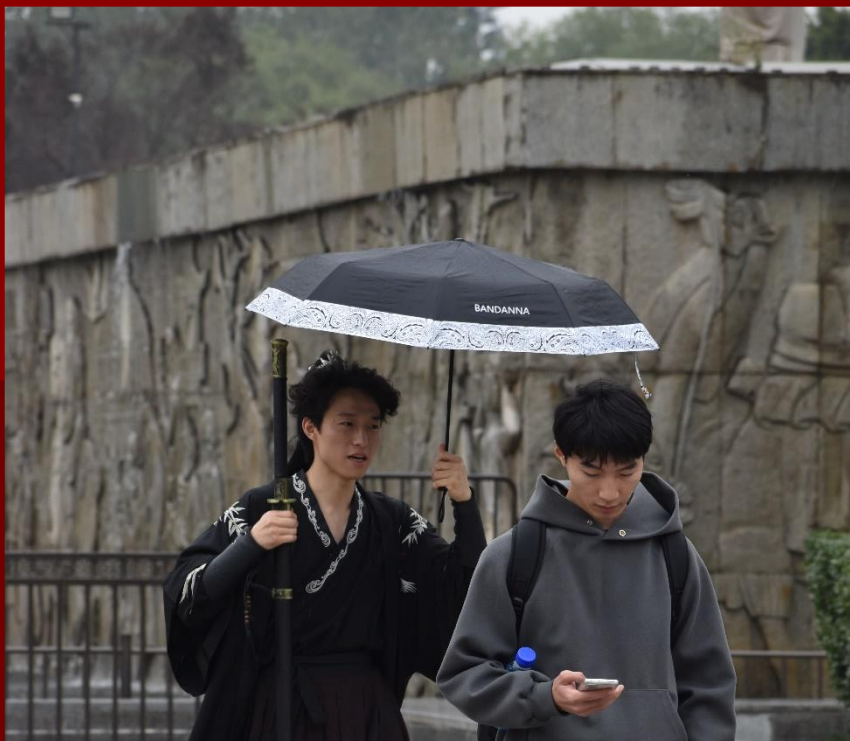


Nikon D5600, 220mm, f/5.6, 1/500s



Nikon D5600, 98mm, f/4.8, 1/60s





Nikon D5600, 122mm, f/7.1,



Nikon D5600, 98mm, f/



Nikon D5600, 70mm, f/5, 1/100s

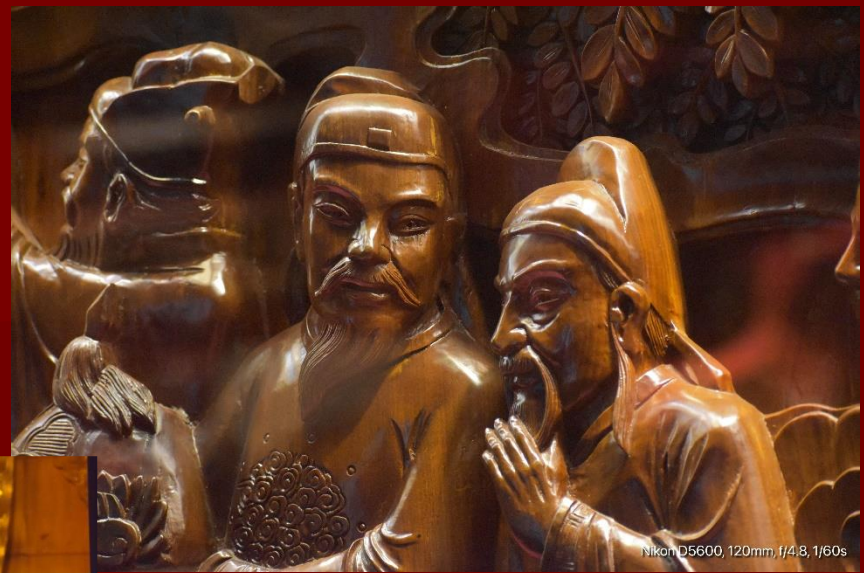
Da Ci'en Temple





Da Ci'en Temple – a heritage site

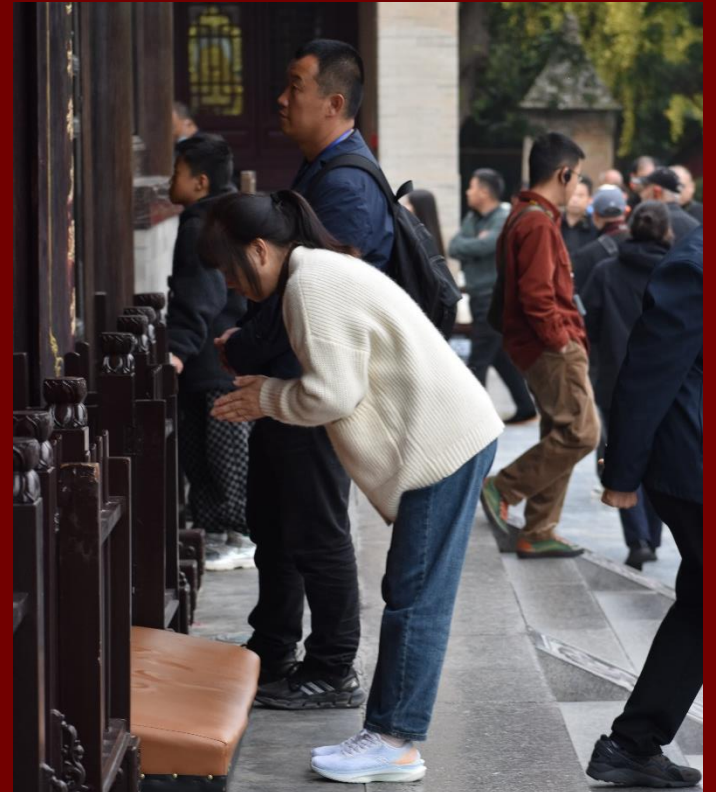




Nikon D5600, 120mm, f/4.8, 1/60s



Nikon D5600, 95mm, f/4.8, 1/60s



Nikon