



千年古城——太原 38°N

露天历史博物馆

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拜访了大西洋沿岸那个精致的欧洲老贵族——里斯本，沿着北纬 40° 线一路向东，经过西方文明的摇篮——雅典，将来到东方文明的千年古城——太原。

同处一条纬度线，同是历史名城，同样由盛及衰，里斯本、雅典、太原，在不同的时空演绎着相同的命运变奏曲。

太原，中国山西省省会，一座拥有 4700 多年历史和 2500 年建城史的历史文化名城。历史上，太原又叫“晋阳”或“并州”。

晋阳古城，位于太原市晋源区，始建于春秋中晚期（公元前 497 年），是春秋时期杰出的政治家和建筑师董安于修建。他采用了夯土版筑法，就地取材，用附近产的铜，炼铜做成宫殿的柱子，又用山木做宫殿围墙的木骨，外面抹上泥，使整座城固若金汤。

晋阳地处中华文明的中心地带、农耕文明与草原文明的过渡区，是中国很多朝代的都城、陪都或政治中心。自建城以来，这里先后成为战国时赵国的都城、北齐的陪都、北汉的都城、隋朝的北都……盛唐时期，它是当时中国的三大都城以及世界上最大的城市之一。中国历史上一系列重大事件都和晋阳古城

有着密切联系。

唐代晋阳城的建筑布局十分高大上。城中有固定的市场，城内各个区域之间用高墙隔开。城中河渠纵横，既美化城市环境，又能排污和漕运。正如唐代诗人欧阳詹所描写的那样：“并州汾上阁，登临似吴阊，贯郭河通路，绕村水逼乡。城槐临枉渚，巷市接飞梁。莫论江湖思，南人正断肠。”好一座晋阳古城，既有中国北方的恢宏大气，又有中国江南的清新秀丽。

然而，不幸的是，这座古城在连续运转 1500 年后，在公元 979 年，被北宋第二个皇帝赵光义夷为平地。他一炬焚晋阳，继而引汾水灌之，从此，晋阳古城被完整地封存在了地下，成了名副其实的中国的“庞贝古城”。

晋阳古城遗址总面积 20 平方千米，由城池区遗址、墓葬区遗址和宗教祭祀区遗址三部分组成，古城中的城池遗址没有遭受大规模破坏，各种建筑遗址整体尘封在了地下，因而较完整地保存了中国隋唐五代时期城市建制的原貌。

古城西部地区有天龙山石窟、蒙山大佛、圣寿寺、童子寺遗址、开化寺遗址等六朝和隋唐时期石窟遗存。西南部的明代太原县城，基本保存了明、清太

原县城的建制特色，也是晋阳古城历史的延续。县城内城墙齐整，庙宇寺观林立，民居故宅比比皆是。

2002 年 9 月，联合国开发署将晋阳古城遗址的保护、开发和研究列为“21 世纪城市规划、管理与发展”援助项目。未来，这里将建成具有世界影响力的晋阳古城国家考古遗址公园。

在 2500 年的历史长河中，太原曾经是唐尧故地、战国名城、太原故国、北朝霸府、天王北都、中原北门、九边重镇、晋商故里……“无端更渡桑干水，却望并州是故乡”。金代大词人元好问在汾河岸边挥毫写下的千古绝唱“问世间情为何物，直教生死相许”，令这座充满帝王气息的城市多了几许浪漫的情怀。崇善寺、纯阳宫和文庙的比肩而立，宗教的和睦共存，体现了这座城市包罗万象的博大胸怀。行走于太原的情画山水，望双塔凌霄，品岷围红叶，醉蒙山晓月；穿梭于现代都市，行龙城大道，逛繁华柳巷；出没于美食深巷，啜一口陈醋佳酿，尝一碗拉面飘香，太原的味道就浓缩在舌尖久久不散。

如果说，一座城的记忆，储存在她的建筑里，那么，太原城的记忆，就储存在她厚重的历史遗迹里。

龙山石窟

龙山石窟，位于山西太原西南 20 千米的龙山山顶，主窟开凿于元代太宗六年至十一年（公元 1234—1239 年），是中国现存规模最大、保存最完整的元代道教石窟群，始凿于元代（1271—1368 年）初年。龙山石窟中最有游览和探古价值的是七真龛，也称玄门列祖龛。有 9 尊雕像，门侧各雕青龙、白虎、仙鹤、云龙，既象征神山仙境，又真实地反映了道教全真七子讲经论道的情景。龙山石窟相当完整地保存着具有全真道特色的雕刻品，道教石窟风格朴实，手法庄重，窟内塑像衣饰的雕刻简洁素净，十分含蓄内敛。

晋祠

山西第一胜景，素有“山西小江南”之称的晋祠，始建于北魏 386 年，是

为纪念晋王及母后邑姜而建，是中国现存最早的皇家园林，集中国古代祭祀建筑、园林、雕塑、壁画、碑刻艺术为一体。晋祠现有宋元明清各式建筑百余座、雕塑百余尊、碑碣四百余座，千年古树二十余棵，文物精品之多，实属罕见。晋祠的主殿圣母殿，建于宋代，殿堂内有 43 尊彩绘泥塑像，除圣母像两侧的小像外，其余都是宋代原塑。圣母殿前的木雕盘龙，是我国现存最早的盘龙雕柱，有近千年的历史。

永祚寺

民间俗称双塔寺，是太原城的标志性建筑，位于太原市区东南约 3 千米的郝庄村南山岗上。因其坐落在高山之上，在进入太原市之前，远远就可看到双塔的身影。双塔寺始建于公元 1597 年—1602 年，现存大部分建筑为明代建筑。寺院主要建筑全是以砖砌成的“无梁殿”





建筑，是我国明代砖砌结构的代表。尤其是三圣阁上的砖雕藻井，是明代砖雕艺术和建筑艺术的代表作。

崇善寺

崇善寺，既是佛教寺庙，又是皇家祖庙寺，明晋王朱桐为报其母恩所建。大悲殿千手千眼十一面观音，千钵文殊及普贤造型独特奇缺，极为罕见。殿内所藏释迦如来应化事迹和善财童子五十三参五彩画均为镇寺之宝。

王家峰北齐徐显秀墓

北齐徐显秀墓，位于郝庄村南的王家峰村，是中国国家级历史文物保护单位。在墓道内的彩色壁画是一绝，画面内容纷繁，人物关系复杂，但布局和谐，脉络清楚。十分难得的是壁画气势恢宏、色彩斑斓，是目前在中国山西、

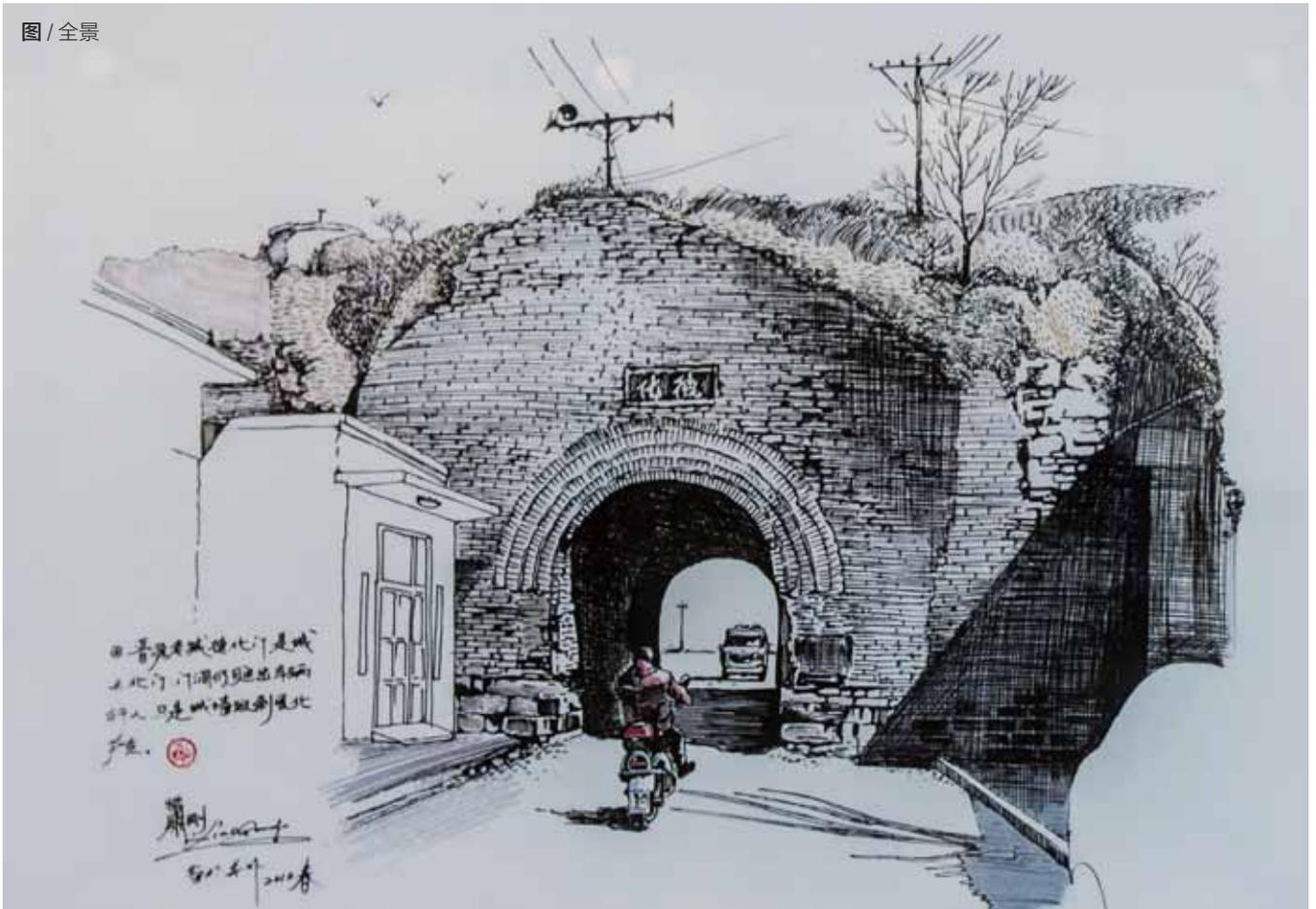
河北、河南、陕西、宁夏等省区已发现的北朝晚期砖构壁画墓中唯一完好的一座。墓葬中尤为引人注目的是反映中西文化交流的内容，如墓室残存的一枚嵌宝石戒指，为西方传入之物，为民族融合盛况的研究和中西文化交流提供了资料。

晋商文化

明清时期崛起的晋商，以太原为主要基地和商埠码头，与外省甚至外国贸易，以山西富有的盐、铁、麦、棉、皮、木材等特产，进行长途贩运，换取江南的丝绸、茶等，再转销西北、蒙俄等地。清代中叶，山西商人不惧艰险，远涉重洋，在日本的东京、大阪、横滨、神户以及朝鲜的新义州等地，设立了票号海外分庄，从事国际汇兑业务，开创了中国金融机构向海外设庄的新纪元。



图 / 全景



Taiyuan (38°N)—A Millennium-old City Outdoor Museum of History

From Lisbon, the old aristocrat on the Atlantic coast, all the way east along the latitude 40°N, passing Athens, the cradle of Western civilization, you will arrive in Taiyuan, a millennium-old city of Oriental civilization.

The same latitude, the same long history, and the same course from prosperity to decline, Lisbon, Athens, and Taiyuan perform the same melody of destiny.

Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi

Province, has a history of over 4700 years. Built 2500 years ago, Taiyuan was also known as “Jinyang” and “Bingzhou” in the past.

Jinyang Old Town, located now in Jinyuan District, was first built in the mid-late Spring and Autumn Period (497 B.C.) by Dong Anyu, a famous politician and architect. Walls built by stamping earth between board frames, pillars made of local cooper, keels from local woods, with mud outside contribute to a

shakeable castle.

Sitting in the center of the Chinese civilization, and the transition from farming civilization to grassland civilization, Jinyang has been the capital, or second capital, or political center of many dynasties. Since its establishment, it was once the capital of Zhao State (Warring States Period) and the Northern Han Dynasty, the second capital of the Northern Qi Dynasty, and the northern capital of the Sui Dynasty...During the Tang

Dynasty in its prime, it was one of the three capitals and the biggest cities in the world. A series of historic events in China has close connection with Jinyang.

The architectural composition of Jinyang in the Tang Dynasty was very advanced. There were permanent marketplaces in the city, and districts inside were divided by high walls. A dense network of rivers and canals beautifies the city, as well as discharges the sewage and transport the goods. It finds the best expression in a poem by Tang poet Ouyang Zhan, "From the Fenshang Pavillion, Bingzhou spreads in front of my eyes. The river divides the city into two parts. The streets and alleys are bustling with people. But I miss my hometown back in the south." The amazing Jinyang combined the

magnificence of the north and the elegance of the south in perfect mix. Unfortunately, the old city, after operating for 1500 consecutive years, was torn down by Zhao Guangyi, the second emperor of the Northern Song Dynasty. After setting the city on fire, he continued to channel Fen River to flood it. From then, Jinyang was completely buried underground, same like that of "Pompeii".

The ancient site, spanning 20 km², has three parts: city, tomb, and religious sacrifice. The city was free of major destruction, and buildings of all kinds were buried below the surface, thus keeping the past urban system in the Sui Tang and the Five Dynasties Period.

On the western side of the city are remnants of Tianlong Mountain Grottoes, Mengshan Giant Buddha,

Shengshou Temple, Tongzi Temple, Kaihua Temple, and other grottoes from the Six Dynasties, Sui and Tang Dynasties. In the southwest is Taiyuan County town of the Ming Dynasty, which maintains the features of Ming and Qing county system. Inheriting the legacy of Jinyang ancient city, the town features uniform walls and scores of temples and civil residences.

In September 2002, the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) recognized the protection, development, and research of Jinyang ancient site part of "21st Century Urban Planning, Management, and Development" aid program. Here will be built into Jinyang National Archaeological Site Park that ranks among the world's leading archaeological parks.



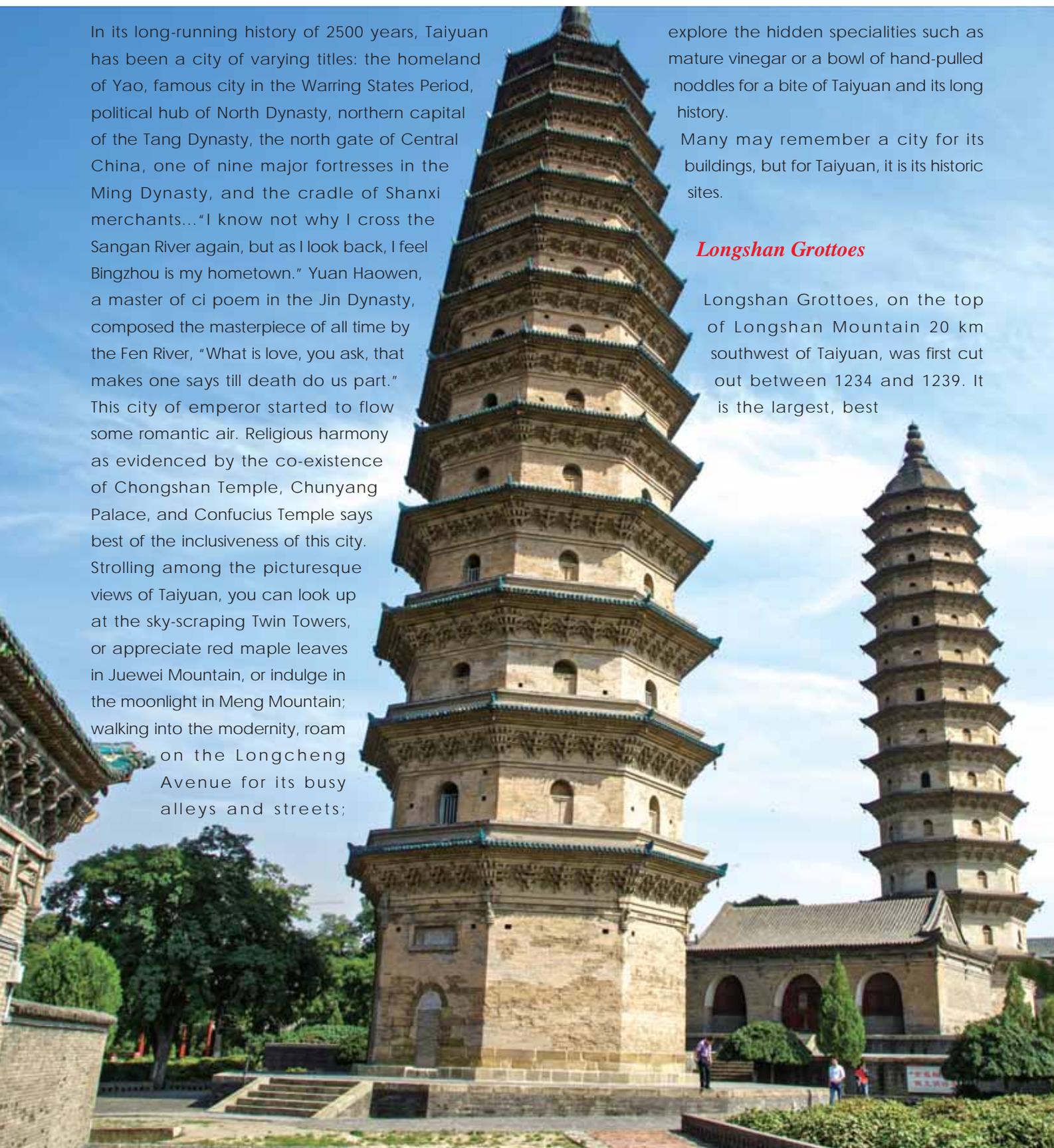
In its long-running history of 2500 years, Taiyuan has been a city of varying titles: the homeland of Yao, famous city in the Warring States Period, political hub of North Dynasty, northern capital of the Tang Dynasty, the north gate of Central China, one of nine major fortresses in the Ming Dynasty, and the cradle of Shanxi merchants...“I know not why I cross the Sangan River again, but as I look back, I feel Bingzhou is my hometown.” Yuan Haowen, a master of ci poem in the Jin Dynasty, composed the masterpiece of all time by the Fen River, “What is love, you ask, that makes one says till death do us part.” This city of emperor started to flow some romantic air. Religious harmony as evidenced by the co-existence of Chongshan Temple, Chunyang Palace, and Confucius Temple says best of the inclusiveness of this city. Strolling among the picturesque views of Taiyuan, you can look up at the sky-scraping Twin Towers, or appreciate red maple leaves in Juewei Mountain, or indulge in the moonlight in Meng Mountain; walking into the modernity, roam on the Longcheng Avenue for its busy alleys and streets;

explore the hidden specialities such as mature vinegar or a bowl of hand-pulled noddles for a bite of Taiyuan and its long history.

Many may remember a city for its buildings, but for Taiyuan, it is its historic sites.

Longshan Grottoes

Longshan Grottoes, on the top of Longshan Mountain 20 km southwest of Taiyuan, was first cut out between 1234 and 1239. It is the largest, best



preserved Taoist grottoes in the Yuan Dynasty. A must-not-miss site in Longshan Grottoes is the Shrine of Seven Disciples, also known as the Shrine of Taoism Ancestors. There are all together nine statues, with doors decorated by patterns of green dragons, white tigers, red-crowned cranes, and cloud dragons. It symbolizes the fairyland, as well as the scene of the seven disciples preaching Taoism. These Quanzhen Daoism engravings in good conditions features practical style and precise tactics. The statues have simple clothes in plain colors, reflecting the implicit and restraint approach of Daoism.

Jin Memorial Temple

It is acknowledge the “Best View of Shanxi”, and titled “Jiangnan of Shanxi”. Built in 386 to memorize Emperor Jin and his mother Yijiang, it is the oldest royal garden in China, bringing ancient sacrificial architectures, gardens, sculptures, wall paintings, and tablet inscriptions in one. It is home to hundreds of buildings, over 100 statues, and 400+ steles from the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as more than twenty old trees aged over 1,000 years. Shengmu Hall, the main shrine built in the Song Dynasty, houses 43 clay statues of colored drawing, all of which were made in the Song Dynasty, except for the two small statues beside the Goddess Statue. The crouching dragon wood carving before the hall has a history of

nearly 1000 years, the oldest one in China.

Yongzuo Temple

The temple, also known as Twin Pagoda Temple, is an iconic landmark of Taiyuan. Sitting on the high Nanshan Hill of Haozhuang Village about three km southeast of Taiyuan Downtown, the temple is the first thing to welcome all coming to Taiyuan. It was first built between 1597 and 1602, and the majority of existing buildings are of Ming style, featuring beamless hall made of bricks, a representative Ming brickwork construction. The brick-carving caisson ceiling in Sansheng Hall is the apex of Ming brick-carving and architecture arts.

Chongshan Temple

The Buddhist temple was built by Zhu Gang, the Emperor Jin of the Ming Dynasty to thank his mother, and it, therefore, is also an ancestral shrine. The Great Mercy Hall houses an eleven-face Avalokitesvara statue with thousands of hands and eyes, as well as Manjusri statue holding thousands of alms bowls, and Samantabhadra of unique styles. Painting recording the nirmita of Sakyamuni and Sudhana paying respect to 53 wise men are “hallmark treasure of the temple”.

The Tomb of Xu Xianxiu in the Northern Qi Dynasty

The tomb located in Wangjiafeng

Village, south of Haozhuang Village, is a historical site under state protection. The colored mural paintings on the tomb passages are its highlight. An array of figures are arranged in harmony in the paintings. The bright-colored frescoes of magnificent theme is the only one kept in integrity among all late North Dynasty brick-based wall paintings found Shanxi, Hebei, Henan, Shaanxi, and Ningxia. The most remarkable part is about cultural communication between China and the West. For example, a gemstone ring in the tomb is of western origin, offering references to study on ethnic fusion and cultural exchange between China and the West.

Culture of Shanxi Merchants

Shanxi merchants rose to the stage center in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Mostly from Taiyuan, these merchants focused on commerce ports to trade with other provinces or countries. Local specialities like salt, iron, wheat, cotton, leather, and woods were transported to the south for silk and tea, which would then be sold to Northeast China, Mongolia, and Russia. In the mid-Qing Dynasty, Shanxi merchants made their way across the rough seas to set draft bank branches in Japan's Tokyo, Osaka, Yokohama, and Kobe, as well as Sinuiju of Korea. This marked the start of international fund transfer era for Chinese banks.