

Cultural diversity of Mount Taishan Geoparks

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Mount Taishan is located in the territory of Tai'an City. It rises up above the plain in the center of Shandong with a relative height difference over 1400 m. Mount Taishan has research value of natural, historical, and cultural interest. The glorious culture in Mount Taishan is closely related to the features of geological landforms. In ancient time, emperors and great scholars considered that Mount Taishan is the highest peak under heaven. In addition, Mount Taishan is mostly composed of the metamorphic rocks, due to the complicated geological history, distinct tectonic processes, the fractures, faults and joints are very developed, which become natural objectives for great writers, poets and calligraphy, poems and stone inscription. Over many generations, the unique Mount Taishan Culture has been created, which is called the epitome of the "Chinese Culture".

Mount Taishan has a long history, high spirit and brilliant culture, the Mount Taishan Culture is an epitome of the "Chinese Culture". This is an idiosyncrasy of Mount Taishan. The discoveries of Dawenkou Culture and Longshan Culture indicate that Mount Taishan is one of the birthplaces of the Chinese Nation. Since the first emperor of Qin Dynasty (221 B.C–207 A.D), a total of 12 emperors of successive dynasties had held grand ceremonies of worship of heaven to pray and say thanks for peace and prosperity on the summit of Mount Taishan. This is a unique cultural phenomenon in the world. Beside, Mount Taishan has been a famous place to integrate various religions together, such as Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism. At the same time, many great writer and poets, from Confucius of the Spring and Autumn Period (770 B.C–476 B.C), Tang Dynasty (618 A.D–907 A.D), Song Dynasty (960 A.D–1297 A.D) to recent and modern times, climbed on Mount Taishan, wrote a lot of excellent papers, articles and poems, which have become a part in the Chinese cultural treasury. The architecture on Mount Taishan integrates the painting, sculpture, wood and gardening into a whole, with exclusive art enchantment. Mount Taishan is also a natural museum of stone inscription, which are incomparable with other famous mountains in China, even in the world. These stone inscriptions are the treasures in the Chinese and world culture.

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