

## **Mountains and Rivers of the Motherland - Taishan**

The Five Great Mountains are the most recommended among all the famous mountains in China, and Mount Tai (Taishan) ranks the first among them. People are always tightly bound to mountains, this feeling is universal. If there is one mountain that synchronizes with the civilization history of a nation, it is Mount Tai, located in Shandong Province.

**Longevity Bridge** Pedestrians can not only have a bird's-eye view of the Black Dragon Pool scenic spot when walking on the Longevity Bridge located in the Black Dragon Pool, but also will be able to appreciate the open-minded and splendid scenery of Xixi river. This pier is located right on the summit of "East Baizhang Cliff", which is like a rainbow lying across the West Creek. The bridge in vermilion sets against the green hills and waters which is exquisite and beautiful. The overall style of this painting is clear, authentic and ethereal. The arrangement of the painting really makes the Longevity Bridge colored with a vermilion vivid scenery line.

**Jade Emperor Peak** The Jade Emperor Peak located at the summit of Mount Tai, was formerly called the "Taiping Peak". It was the place where emperors hold the ceremony to worship of heaven and earth to ensure dynasty's fortunes. The Jade Emperor Temple, the highest building in Mount Tai, is built at the top of the mountain. It consists of the Gate, the Jade Emperor Hall, the Yingxu Pavilion, the Wanghe Pavilion and the East and West zen rooms. In the painting, the Jade Emperor Peak coloured in ochre color is placed at the top of the picture, connecting the heaven and the earth. The painter deliberately leaves small blank space to show the majestic posture of Mount Tai. The lush trees and stones are painted in a combination of stone cyan, stone green, light ochre and ink, showing the everlasting charm of nature.

**Tiankuang Palace** At the back of Ren'an Gate, there is a big backyard with towering cypresses that can shade from the sun. A majestic and resplendent palace can be seen through the gap of leaves – the Song Tiankuang Palace. Tiankuang means "Given by the God" and the Tiankuang Palace is the essence of Han palace's architecture. In this painting, the painter applies a large area of "green" to express a kind of noble silence, as well as the ethereal and mysterious mountain. Natural landscape and humanistic landscape complement each other. Through the creative portrayal of nature, the painter may convey a kind of human attachment to nature, and express his own life experience and social experience at the same time.

**Daguan Peak** Daguan Peak is located on the east side of the bend of the Jade Emperor. As its sharp cliff seems to be cut as a monument, historical inscriptions have been carved on the cliff. Among the inscriptions, "Inscription Commemorating of Mount Tai" by the Emperor Xuanzong of Tang, also known as "Cliff of Tang", is the most famous one. In this work, the painter draws a group of steles with profound cultural and historical details and strong dynamic feeling, and is not satisfied with the splintering of the monument, but highlights the movement, growth and rushing of the high and distant mountains, showing the vitality of nature. In the painting, under the blue background laid out by stone cyan, the pure white lightness of cedar stands in sharp contrast to the everlasting giant the stone monument.

**The Heavenly Southern Gate** The Heavenly Southern Gate of Mount Tai, formerly known as the Third Gate of Heaven and the Tianmen Gate, is located at the end of the Eighteen Mount Tai Bends, with an altitude of 1460 meters. It is the most dangerous place of Mount Tai and as long as you pass the gate, you are at the top of Mount Tai. The painter expresses this kind of “supreme” incisively and vividly. Looking up to the cliff that props up the sky and listening to the wind blowing the valley and the pine, the vast spirit of self-cultivation and the grand expanse of Mount Tai come straight forward to you, which is the spirit of nature. The painter paints the Heavenly Southern Gate with shades of ink and dryness, showing the height of Mount Tai and its indomitable spirit. He paints the entire picture with only a little vermilion, thus opening the view of the whole picture, which is the finishing key touch. Although the color of the painting is not too rich, it is elegant and fresh, full of ups and downs, granting people a feeling of “beholding a high mountain with awe”.

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