

World Heritage Site Report

Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties



Ming Tomb, near Beijing

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Name and location of chosen site.

The site I have chosen is the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, which are located in eastern areas of The People's Republic of China. In this heritage site there are three parts (tombs). Firstly, the Yongling Tomb of the Qing Dynasty is located in Fishun City, China (N41 20 37 E 124 49 18), secondly, the Fuling Tomb of the Qing Dynasty in Shenyang City, China (N41 49 34 E 123 34 49) and thirdly, the Zhaoling Tomb of the Qing Dynasty in Shenyang City, China (N41 50 29 E 123 25 04).

Reasons for site chosen.

The principle reasons in my decisions to chose this sites are, one I would like to display one of my background country's history and achievements. Secondly, the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties are very intriguing since it displays the leaders of a nation. Also, I have been to the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties recently.

Qualities of this world heritage site and the site's year of World Heritage listing.

The Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties are culturally important in China's long history. The Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties were officially listed as an UNESCO World Heritage site in 2004.

Site description

- The Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties present a snapshot of five centuries of Ancient Chinese culture.
- The Ming tombs are in a broad valley south of Tianshou Mountain in Changping District. Thirteen from the sixteen emperors, one empress and a few high officials are buried in the Ming Tombs. The tombs are structured to represent a royal palace. From Chinese tradition, the tombs also show harmony between the mountains and the tombs. Only Emperor Wanli's tomb has been opened so far. The Sacred Way, a pathway that leads to the tombs, the Great Red Gate, Avenue of the Animals, and Dragon and Phoenix Gate are still in great condition. Beside the tomb are pine and cypress trees. The structure of the tombs are similar to the layout of the Qing tombs, with a stone bridge, followed by a front gate, a stele pavilion, the Gate of Eminent Favor, the Hall of Eminent Favor, a watchtower and the Precious Hall.
- The Qing, Xiaoling Tomb, on the southern slope of Purple Mountain in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, buried Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, and his empress. Construction of the Xiaoling Tomb started in 1381 and was completed in 1405. Nearly one hundred thousand people were used in the construction of this tomb. The Xiaoling Tomb site has been damaged by war so only the Sacred Way, Archway for Dismounting, Great Golden Gate and Rectangular City remain. The tomb has a depth of two thousand six hundred metres. There is over thirty different sculptures of animals each showing their technology in stone projects.

Changes affecting site since Heritage listing.

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage in China has decided to spend 18 million Yuan (approximately 2 million Australian dollars), to repair the Qing Dynasty tombs. Experts in China say that an upgrade of the site would attract more tourists to the tombs. Archaeologists state that the tombs combined gardens, palaces and natural beauty. UNESCO officials state that these tombs display the Chinese ideas of architecture and decoration. The unique layouts of the structures make are a reflection of the ideologies of the feudal Chinese dynasties.

Maps of Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties

1. Map of Imperial Tombs of Ming and Qing Dynasty In the world.



2. Map of Imperial Tombs of Ming and Qing Dynasty in its country.



3. Area of the site



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