

Guifeng Mountain Scenic Area in Xinhui

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【Introduction】

Good morning, dear friends! Today we are going to visit Guifeng Mountain Scenic Area. It is famous for its great natural scenery and places of interest.

Now I will give you a rough idea of its size and geographic advantage. This Scenic Area occupies an area of about 55.1 square kilometers. It is located in the north of Xinhui town, in the south-western part of Guangdong province. It is about one to three hours' drive from Guangzhou, Hong Kong or Macao. People from or via these cities have easy access to this place for their holidays.

Your destination today has gained titles of different kinds. In 1989, it was listed as Guangdong province scenic area; In December 1997, it was recognized as National Forest Park by National Forestry Ministry; and in 2002, it was honored as "4- National-Level Sightseeing Area".

Today I will guide you through six highlights that attract travelers and tourists home and abroad. They are Green Guifeng, Temple Yutaisi, Jade Lake surrounded by green trees, Xinhui Photos Exhibition Hall in Memory of the Inspection of Premier Zhou Enlai, Chinese Fan Palm Exposition Garden, and Sports Park.

【Green Guifeng】

When you are enjoying the green mountain, I would like to tell you a bit of its history. Mountain Guifengshan is noted for its countless vertical peaks; Mount Guifeng, Mount Yunfeng and Mount Chashi. Mount Yunfeng, as its main peak, is 546 meters high above sea level. The legendary Chishi Peak

stretches from west to east.

Among these three peaks is an open clearing. It is a paradise on earth, a natural green screen. This green clearing shapes into a small plain on the top of Mountain Guifengshan. Such a view is rare in Lingnan area.

Besides the plain above mentioned, four lakes are embedded in the mountain. They are called Jake Lake, Azure Green Lake, Dragoon-like and Swan Lake.

As one of the top ten famous mountains in Guangdong, Mountain Guifengshan has always seen an attraction to famous people since the ancient times. Say, in Tang dynasty is Buddhist monk Yixing; In Song dynasty is poet Su Tungpo; In Ming Dynasty three people are mentioned. They are neoconfucius Master Chen Baisha, artist Shen Shitain, and Minister of War Huang Gongfu. A historian Chen Yuan has been here, too. He is the very person that Chairman Mao Zedong speaks highly of.

【Temple Yutaisi】

Now Temple Yutaisi is in front of us. A brief introduction about its origin and its architectural styles, OK?

Yutai Temple was first built in Tang Dynasty. During the years Between 705 and 707 when Emperor Zhong Zong was on the throne, famous Chinese astronomer Monk Yi Xing settled down here and gave lectures on Buddhism. The number of his disciples reached more than 500. Since then, Temple Yutaisi has become the best Buddhist sacred place in Wuyi, Jiangmen city.

Unfortunately, the Temple has been ruined and renovated for many times. The most serious destruction happened in 1939. During the period of Anti-Japanese War, the Japanese army seized Xinhui city, destroyed the Temple and forced the local people to move its bricks and stones up to the hill to build their foot holds. What's more, trees around the Temple were cut off. This area was assigned to Military Exclusive Zone. In 1985, Xinhui local government called on Chinese compatriots home and abroad to donate money to erect Temple Yutaisi again. The one jumping into our eyes was rebuilt during

the year from 1986 to 1996.

So you have some ideas about its ups and downs in time order. Now I will draw your attention to its architectural styles.

Temple Yutaisi was built in strict accordance with Buddhist architectural model and temples' architectural style in tang Dynasty.

There are three Rows in Temple Yutaisi. Now we are entering the first Row Heavenly King's Palace. In the middle sits the smiling Maitreya. Beside him are four Immortal .They have sword ,pipe ,umbrella and dragon in their hands .What they hold implicates that winds and rains come and stop all year round at the right timing in order to meet the needs of the local people . IN the back of Heavenly King's Palace sits Weitou Bodhisattva. He is in charge of the security of the temple and its followers.

Over there on the two sides of Heavenly King's Palace are Dizang Pavilion and Qielan Palace.

The Second Row is Mahavira Palace. It is used to worship the founder of Buddhism, Sakyamuni. He is locally known as "Buddha". Standing next to him on both sides are his disciples. The elder one is Jia Ye, and the younger is A Nan. In both side of the palace are "eighteen Arhats".

The third Row is Guanyin Hall. It is served to worship Thousand Hands Guanyin who is dedicated to serve the local people and solve their problems. In front of the hall stands a white jade pagoda. The original one was built in 1683 when Emperor Kangxi in Qing Dynasty was on the throne. But it was destroyed in 1939 by Japanese army. It was rebuilt in 1956 by using the collected lost-and-found stones and fragments and other materials.

Temple Yutaisi is now classified as a Cultural Relic under the Municipal level Protection.

【Jade Lake in Forest】

Here we come to Jade Lake .It is a man-made lake with an area of 88mu.Walking around or boating in the lake is recommended. Your leisure time here helps to build up a lyrical and poetic and poetic atmosphere if you

are in the mood .the arch bridge in the middle of the lake leads us to Peach Blossom Islet. We will be carried away by its attractive scene if we choose to be here when the peach trees are in full bloom.

Two restaurants are on this Islet. The one in the north is called” Garden in Jade Lake”. The other in the east is "Happy-enriched Place”. They are nice places for meeting friends over nice tea and delicious local special food in the west of business meetings. What is it called? Yes, Jade Lake Hotel.

Jade Lake is even more romantic and fascinating in the late evenings under the neon lights alongside the lake.

【Xinhui Photos Exhibition Hall : Former Site of Xinhui Labor University

What we are going to see is mainly precious photos taken when Premier Zhou Enlai inspected Xinhui.

From July 1st to 7th in 1958, Premier Zhou himself came to Xinhui. During his inspection for one week, he wrote seven pieces of inscriptions and superscriptions, including the one with six Chinese characters "Xinhui Laodong Daxue". In English it is "Xinhui Labor University". The inscription we saw on the entrance to this building is a duplicate .Well; it tells us this building is the former site of the university.

These valuable photos of Premier Zhou recorded and replayed his short stay in Xinhui in 1958. They are displayed in seven themes. First, Premier Zhou give working reports ;Second .he inspects Zhou County Agricultural Community in Tangxia ;Fifth, he visit historical relics in Yamen; Sixth ,he inspects local Chinese fan palm Craftwork Factory and Agricultural Machinery Factory ;Seventh ,he examines two exhibitions on wastes recycle and grain supply.

From these photos we learn that Premier Zhou identifies himself as an ordinary person .He had face-to-face talks with more than 150 people. These people are workers, peasants, teachers and students, retuned overseas Chinese .Moreover, he saw more than 10,000 ordinary people .During his visit, he exchange sides with many of them.

This museum also displays the photos and calligraphic works of other state leaders. These people include Zhu De, Dong Biwu, Deng Xiaoping, Ye Jianying and Ye Long.

【Chinese Fan Palm Exhibition Garden】

Here we come to Chinese Fan Palm Exposition Garden .It is the only garden of this theme in the world. This exposition garden treasures up age-old documents and delicate craftworks made of a plant called Chinese fan palm .You can see the skills of the local craftsmen and their understanding of sorts from their fans painted with a special pen, their basketworks and embroideries.

What jump into our eyes are various kinds of palm plants. They witness partly their craftworks with the history of over 1,600 years .In the year of 1915, a painted bamboo sheath fan won the honor of G old Medal in Panama World Exposition.

If we are interested in how these craftworks are made, please cast a look at these sculptures and pictures. They show whole processing techniques from collecting raw materials to final products.

As we can see, this room sells admirable craftworks .They offer a lot of choices. Painted bamboo sheath fans, fans painted with a special hot pen, two-side embroidered fans are among them .Besides fans, they also sell baskets, lanterns ,raincoats in traditional style, made of Chinese fan palm .Will you buy one, or two, or many ? Haha.....

【Sports Park】

Sports Park here has an area of more than 1,000 mu with recreational facilities of various kings. They provide courts for grass sliding, skating, physical training, Kart racing, playing badminton, tennis or football. Boating in the Lake, swimming in the pool and Korean Barbecue are also available.

IN the west of Sports Park is Longquan Holiday Resorts .It has a natural sand beach with an area of more than 80,000 square meters .A good choice for holidays ,isn't it?

So much for my introduction .Please feel free to ask if you want me to tell you more.