

The image shows the Hanging Temple (Xukong Temple) in Shanxi, China, built into a cliff face. The temple features traditional Chinese architecture with multiple levels, red walls, and dark tiled roofs. It is supported by a complex system of wooden beams and brackets. The temple is situated on a steep, yellowish-brown cliff. In the foreground, there are some green trees and shrubs. The sky is overcast.

The Hanging Temple Shanxi China

山西 懸空寺

2010 June 05

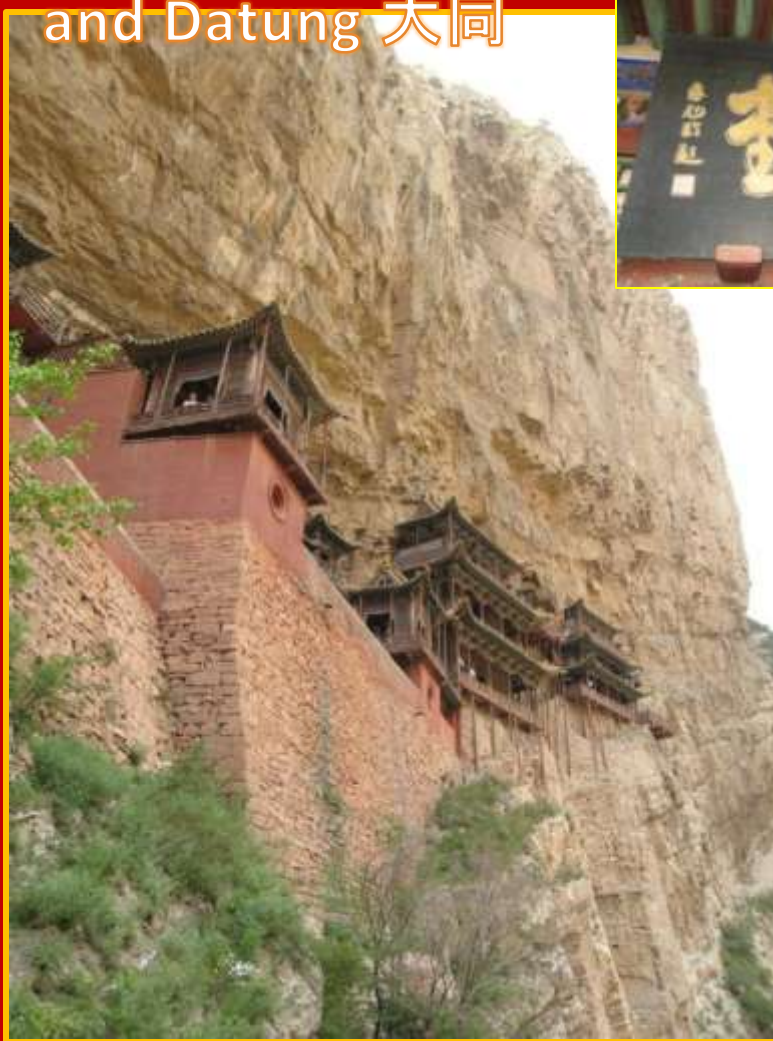


A temple that was built on a cliff
characterized by its long 'leggy' poles

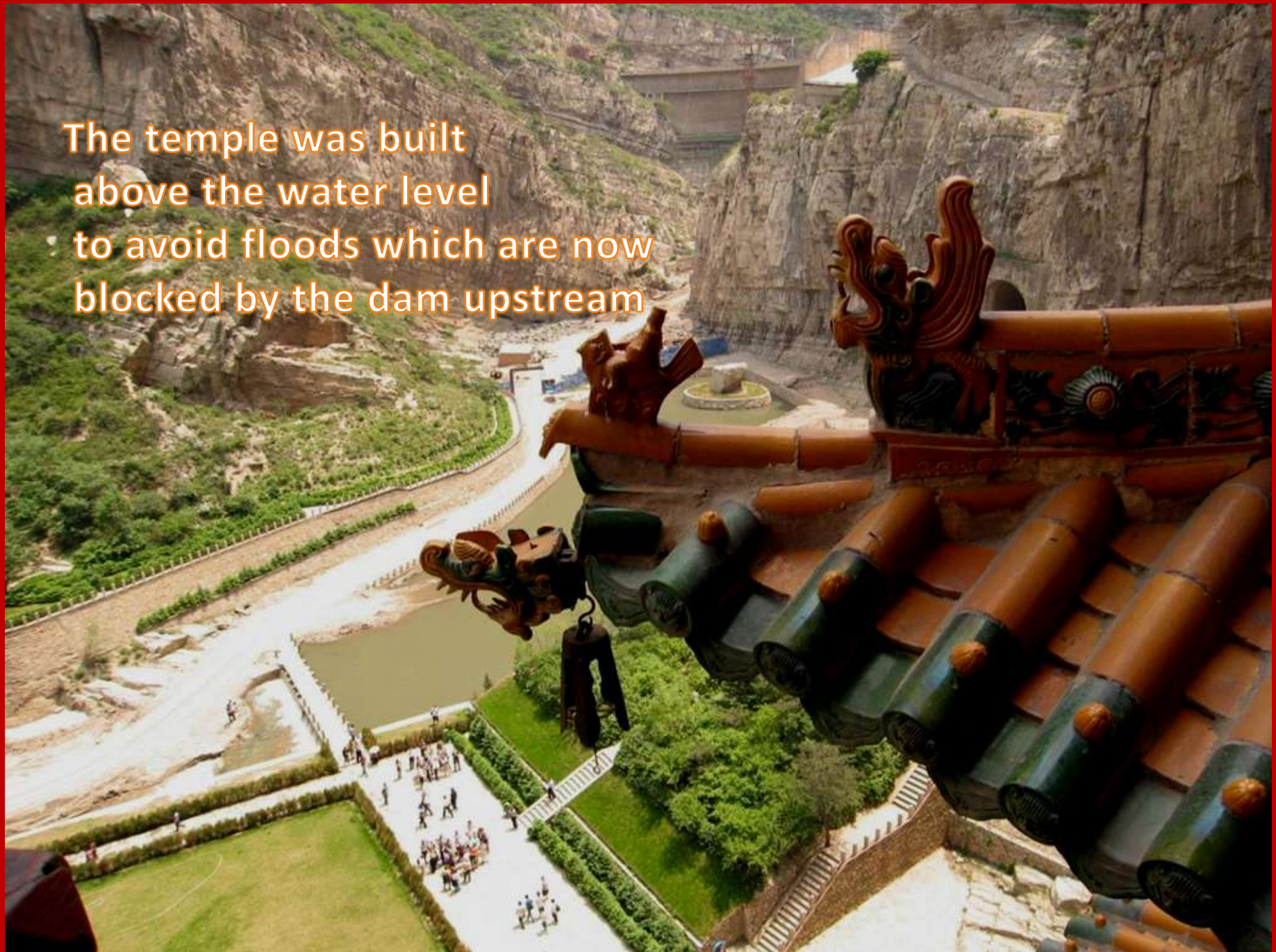


It is nestled in Mt. Heng 恒山
on the west side of the Golden Dragon Valley 金龍峽
about 80 KM from Datung City 大同 in northern Shanxi

Construction started in 491 北魏太和十五年
to serve as place of worship
for people travelling between
The Five Mountains 五臺山
and Datung 大同

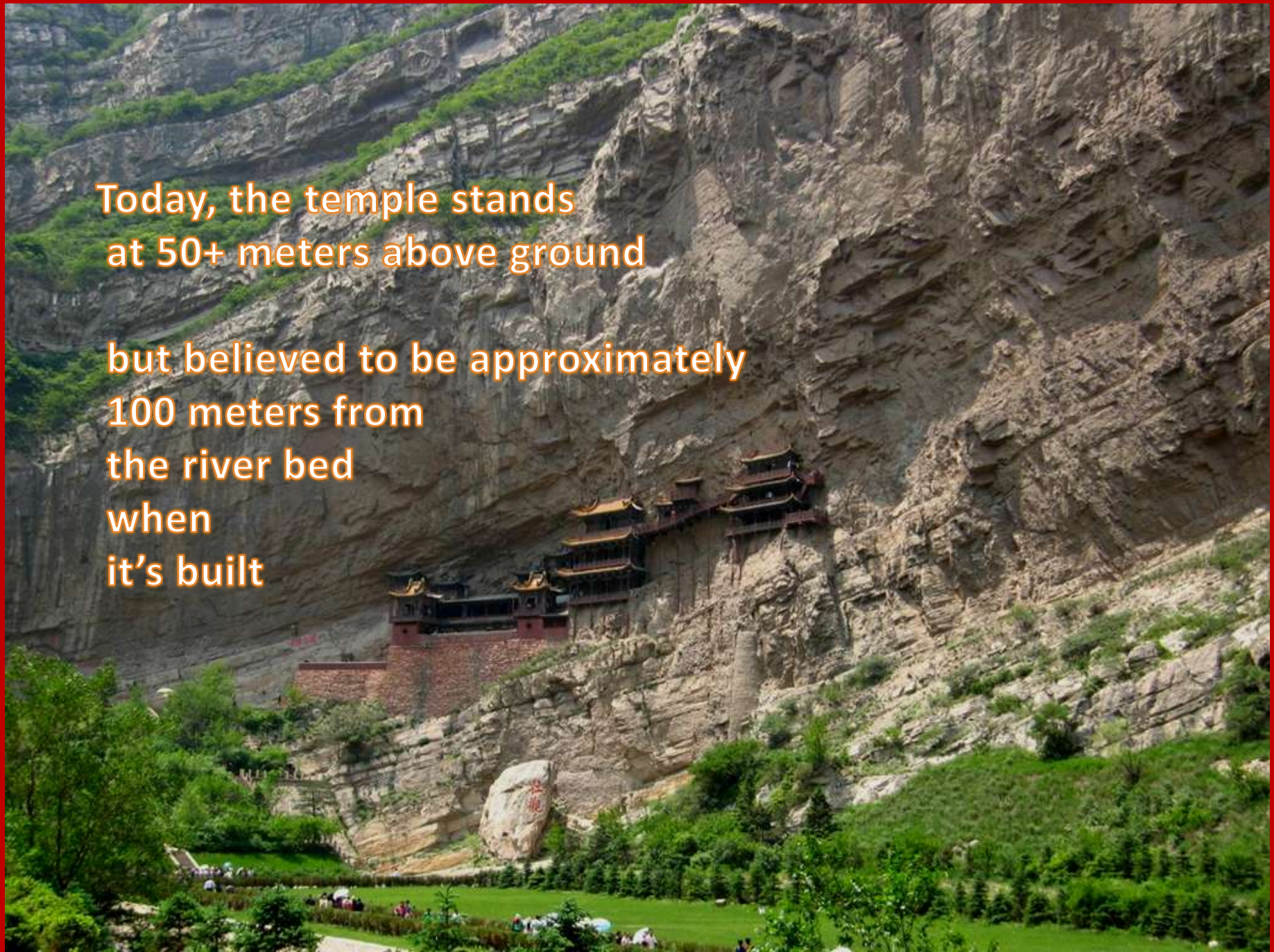


The temple was built
above the water level
to avoid floods which are now
blocked by the dam upstream



Today, the temple stands
at 50+ meters above ground

but believed to be approximately
100 meters from
the river bed
when
it's built

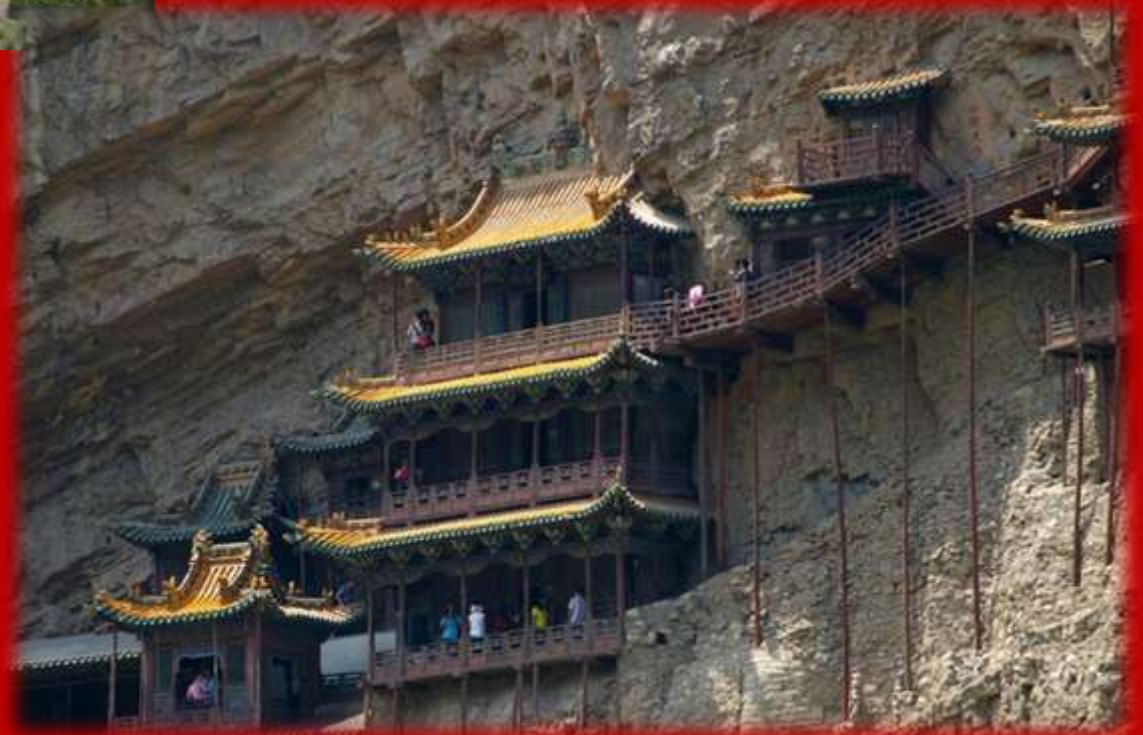




The temple was strategically positioned
...built under overhanging rocks
to protect it from rain and falling rocks



The mountain across
it 天峰岭 also
reduces its exposure
to the sun....
.....with only 3 hours
(?) of direct sunlight
in the summer





The structure was
refurbished thru-out the
different dynasties

Today's style is that of the
Ming and the Ching
Dynasties



The temple looks big in photos

A photograph of a steep, rocky mountain peak with a small temple complex at its base. The mountain is composed of layered rock formations, and the slopes are dotted with green vegetation. The temple complex, located at the bottom left, consists of several traditional Chinese-style buildings with dark roofs and red walls, built into the cliffside. The sky is a pale blue. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

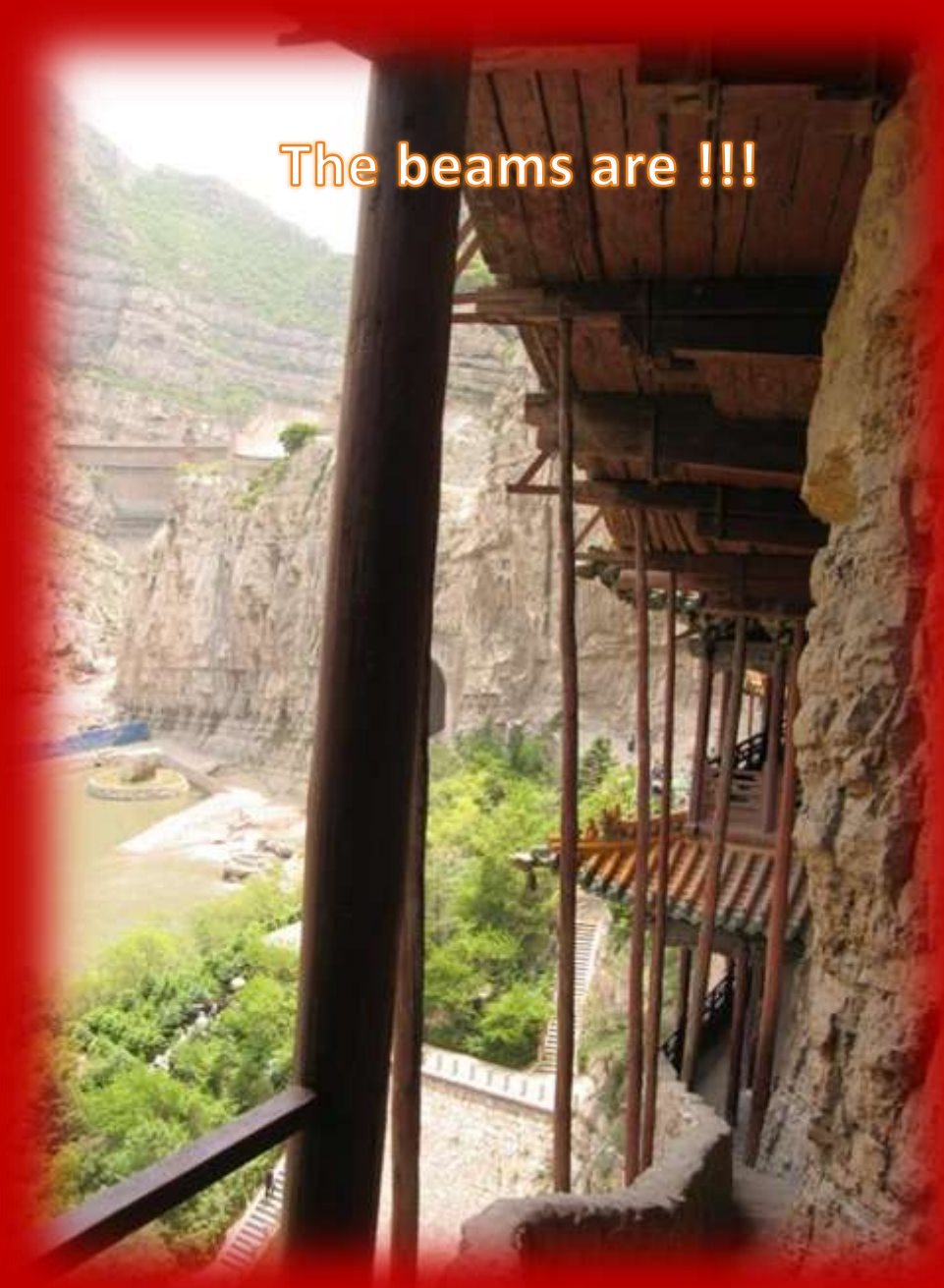
but it is relatively very small



One would think the poles
are the main supporting structure

No, they are not





The beams are !!!




(looking down)

← Protruding
beam

These beams,
preserved in tung oil,
were extended
into the cliff (2 meters?)
to form a solid
cantilever
supporting structure





The poles and beams together
made the structure
more earth-quake proof



The temple is unique.

It honours • Buddhism
• Taoism
• Confucianism

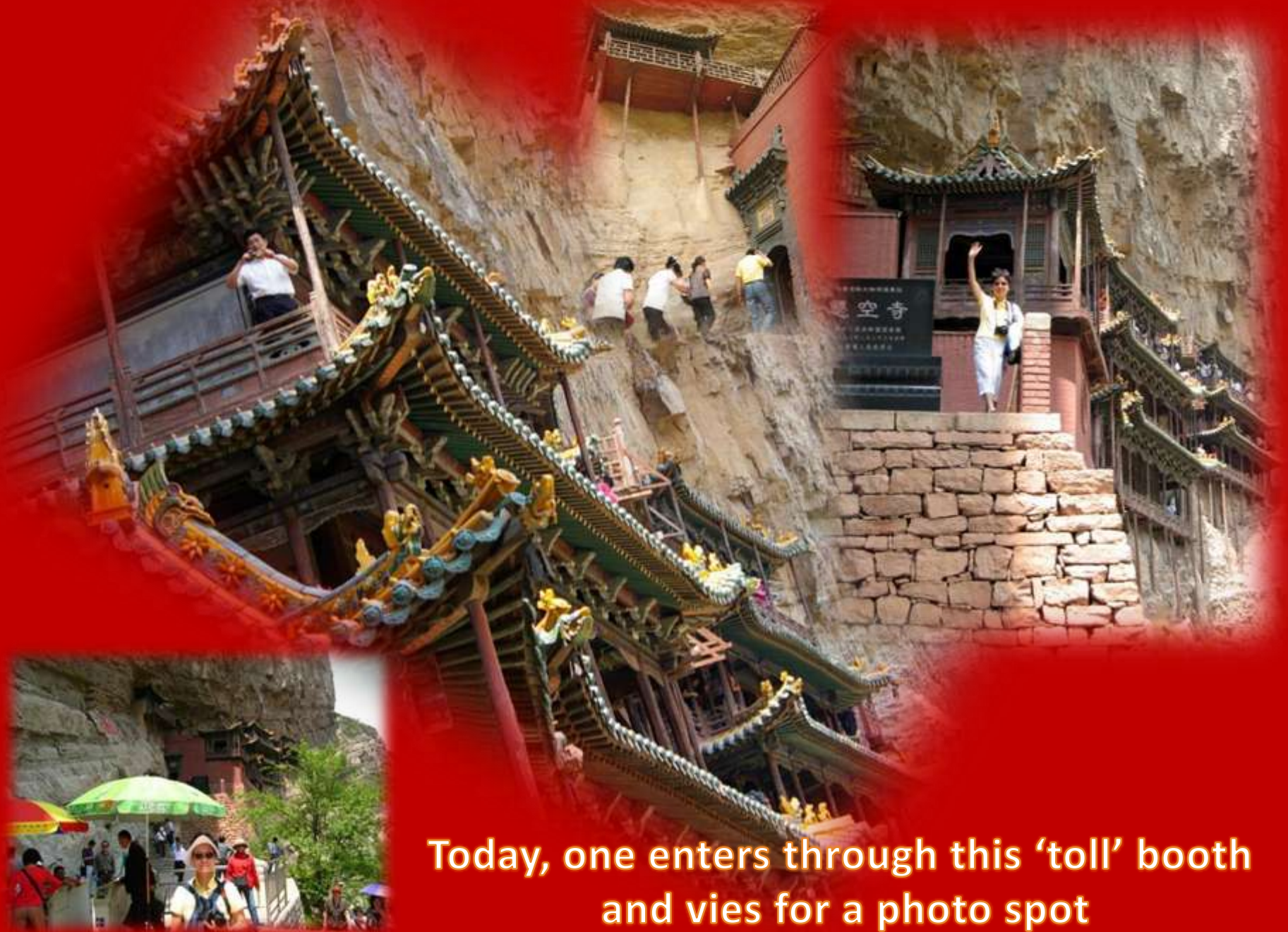


It's believed that the joint blessings of the three religions have enabled the temple to remain standing after 1,510+ years



In the old days, this path used
to be the way into the temple





Today, one enters through this 'toll' booth
and vies for a photo spot



The staircases
are narrow

Some steep
too

The floor is slippery
from wear



north

south

One gets a good view of the surrounding below

east



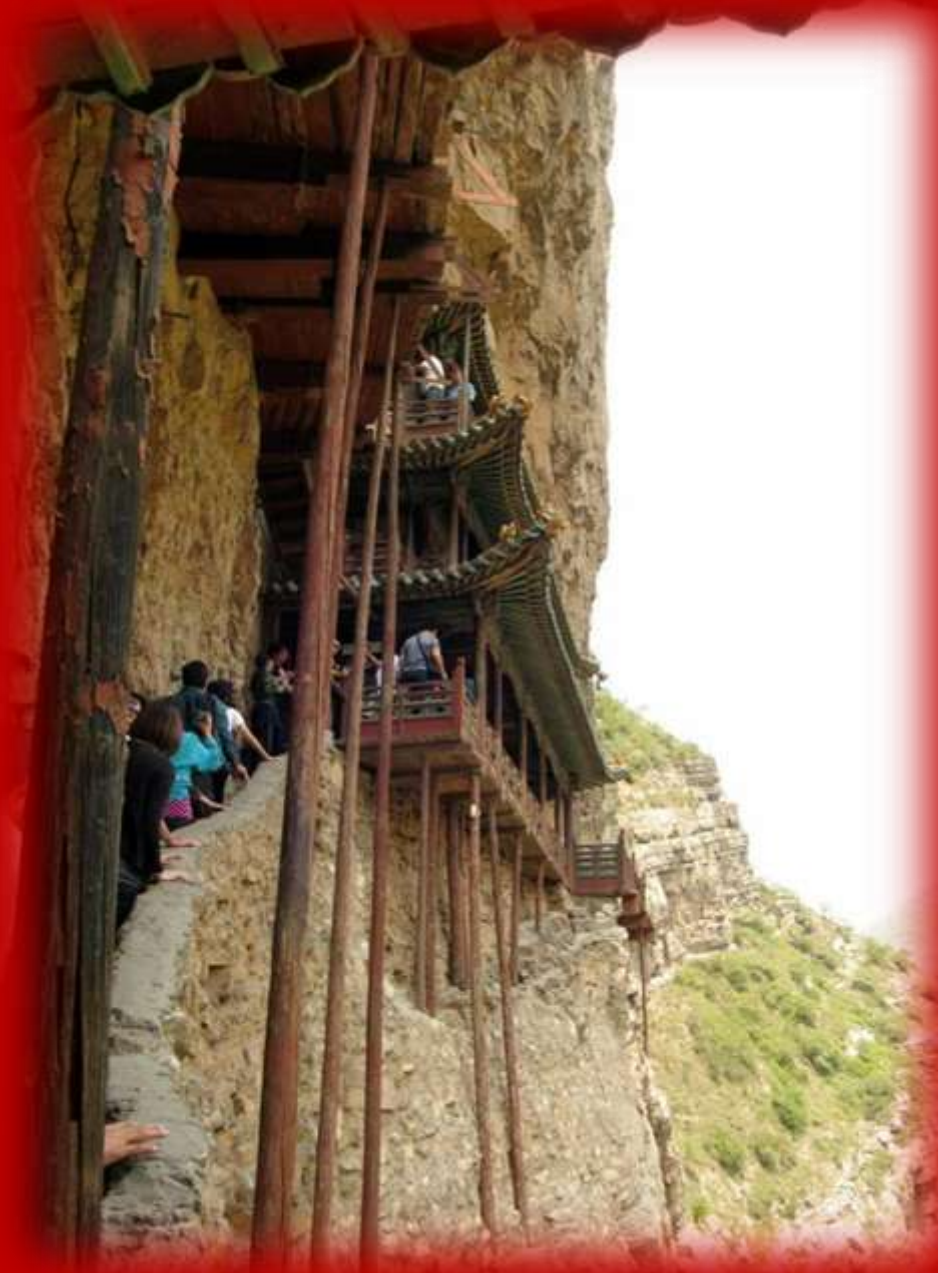


The walkways are narrow



Some are steep

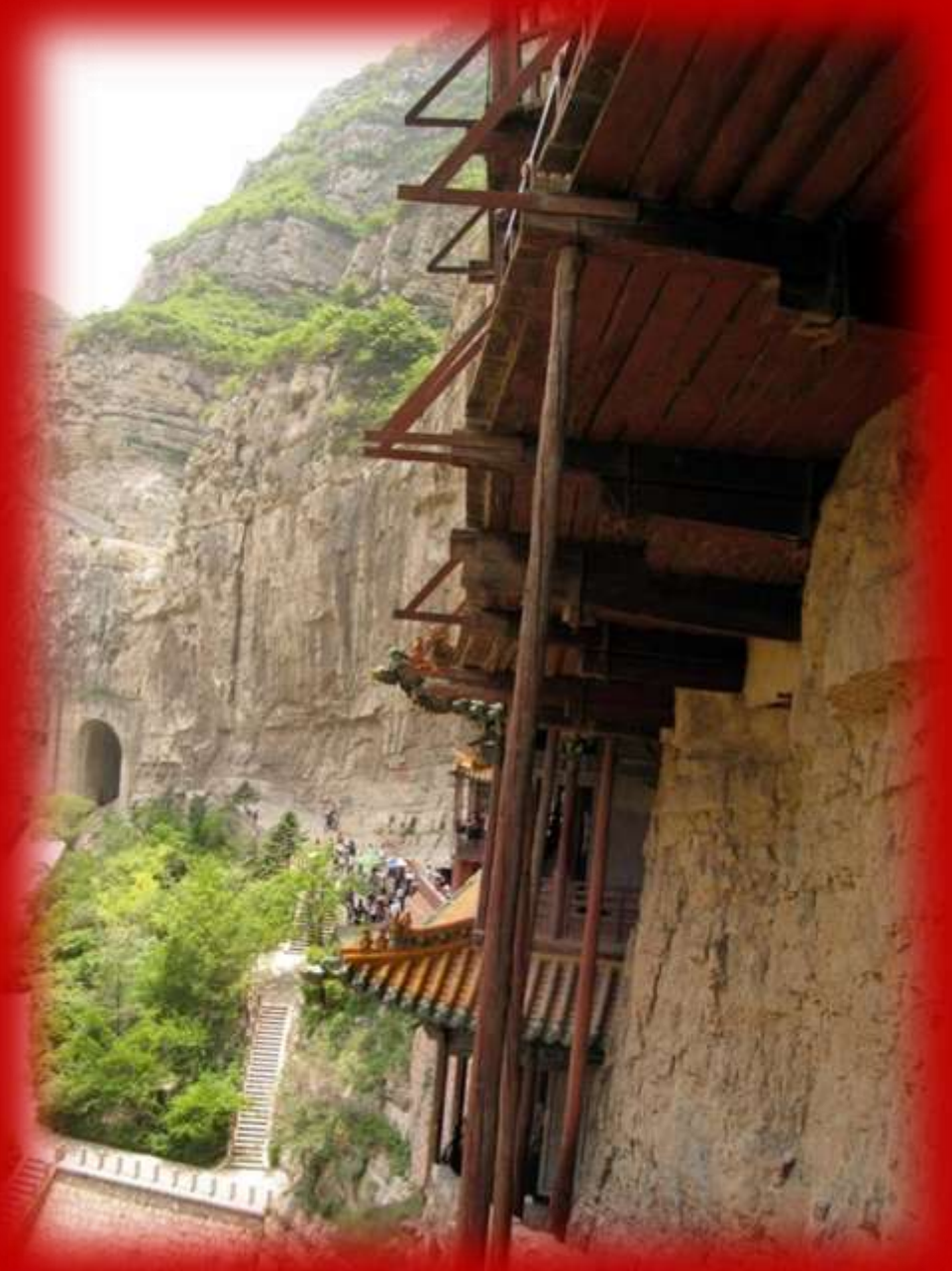
Some are of cement



Some have
safety precaution
signs



To enjoy the experience,
one has to be
oblivious of the structure



....

just take note of the views



The connecting path



A view of the eaves





The different levels



The structure

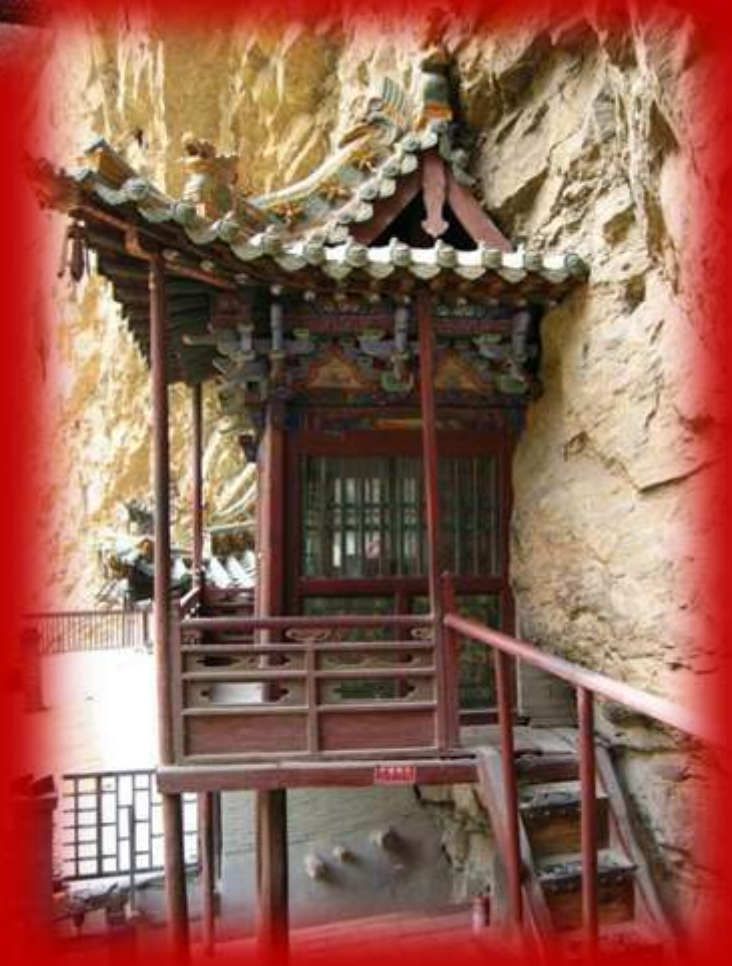
and more poles



The architecture



Some of the 40+ rooms





(This cave is slippery. It is a challenge to get onto the surface.)



Get some memento shots





Be my own star
and
a star for the locals

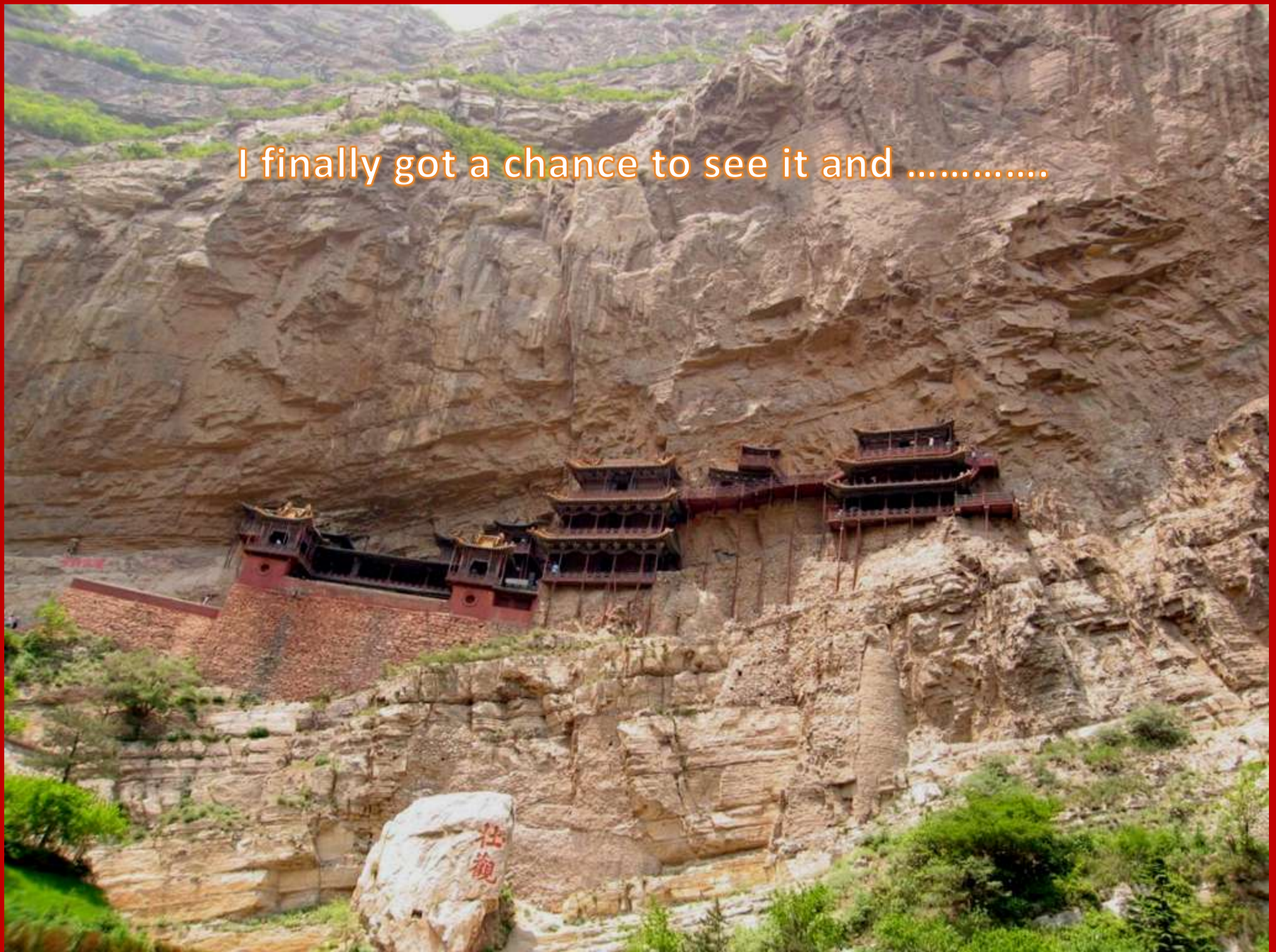
The image shows the Hanging Temple, a unique religious site in Shanxi, China. The temple is built into a steep, layered rock cliff. On the left, a large, multi-story structure with a red facade and a traditional Chinese roof is visible. To its right, a series of smaller, more intricate wooden structures with multiple tiers and ornate roofs are built into the cliff face. The temple is surrounded by a stone wall at the base. The background is a massive, light-colored rock face. The foreground shows some green vegetation and a rocky path. The entire image is framed by a red border.

The Hanging Temple
tops the tourist spots I visited in Shanxi




I've always longed to see in person
this ingenious master piece of our ancestors

I finally got a chance to see it and





.....and to
experience it



I hope you can go there
before it's closed off to visitors



**Thanks for coming to
The Hanging Temple with me**