



Mount Wutai, Shanxi, China

山西、五臺山

June 04, 2010



Ranks top out of the four well-known and prestigious Buddhist mountains in China
五臺山、九華山、普陀山、峨嵋山

**The only holy place in China
where**

Chinese Buddhism

and

Tibetan Lamaism

are concurrently practised





Mount Wutai is 240 KM from Tai Yuen It covers 2,873 sq. meters

North Peak is the tallest, 3,058 meters above SL But we didn't go there



A cluster of 5 terraced-like peaks....hence the name Wu (Five) Tai (Terraces)

Each mountain is the place of abode or worship 道場 for each of the 4 Bodhisattvas

Also known as Qingliang Shan (the clear and cool mountain) 清涼山

.....because it is pretty cool.....around 1 degree C between Spring and Summer.

Spring comes in April and snow starts in September if not mid Summer





The temples and monasteries here honour Manjusri (or Wenshu),
the Bodhisattva of wisdom 文殊菩薩
who was said to have lived and taught here



**The cluster of representative temples is in the Central terrace,
the place which we visited**



Today, there are about 43 (or 53?) sacred places of worship in Wutai
During the peak period in Tang Dynasty, there were around 300



**The Xiantong Temple 顯通寺 is the largest and the oldest
...built in the East Han Dynasty**



Mount Wutai has attracted

**people from Japan, Korea, India,
Taiwan, Nepal, Mongolia, Sri Lanka
etc.**

**Lamas and in the old days,
emperors, also came to practise
their faith.**



Besides a place of worship.....



Mount Wutai is
also home to

Bank of China's

Training Center



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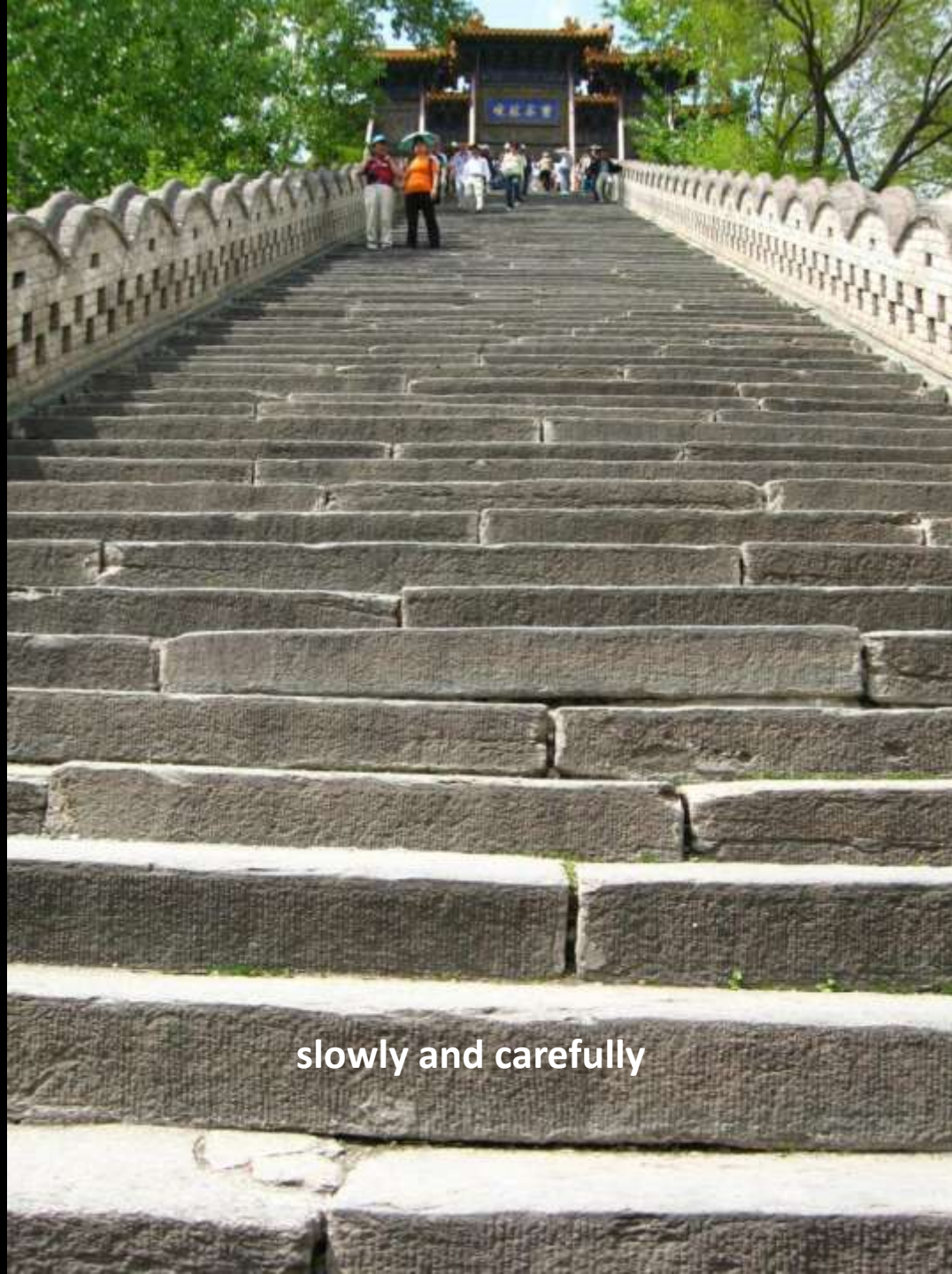
We began our tour from the monastery at the top (**) of this Central terrace



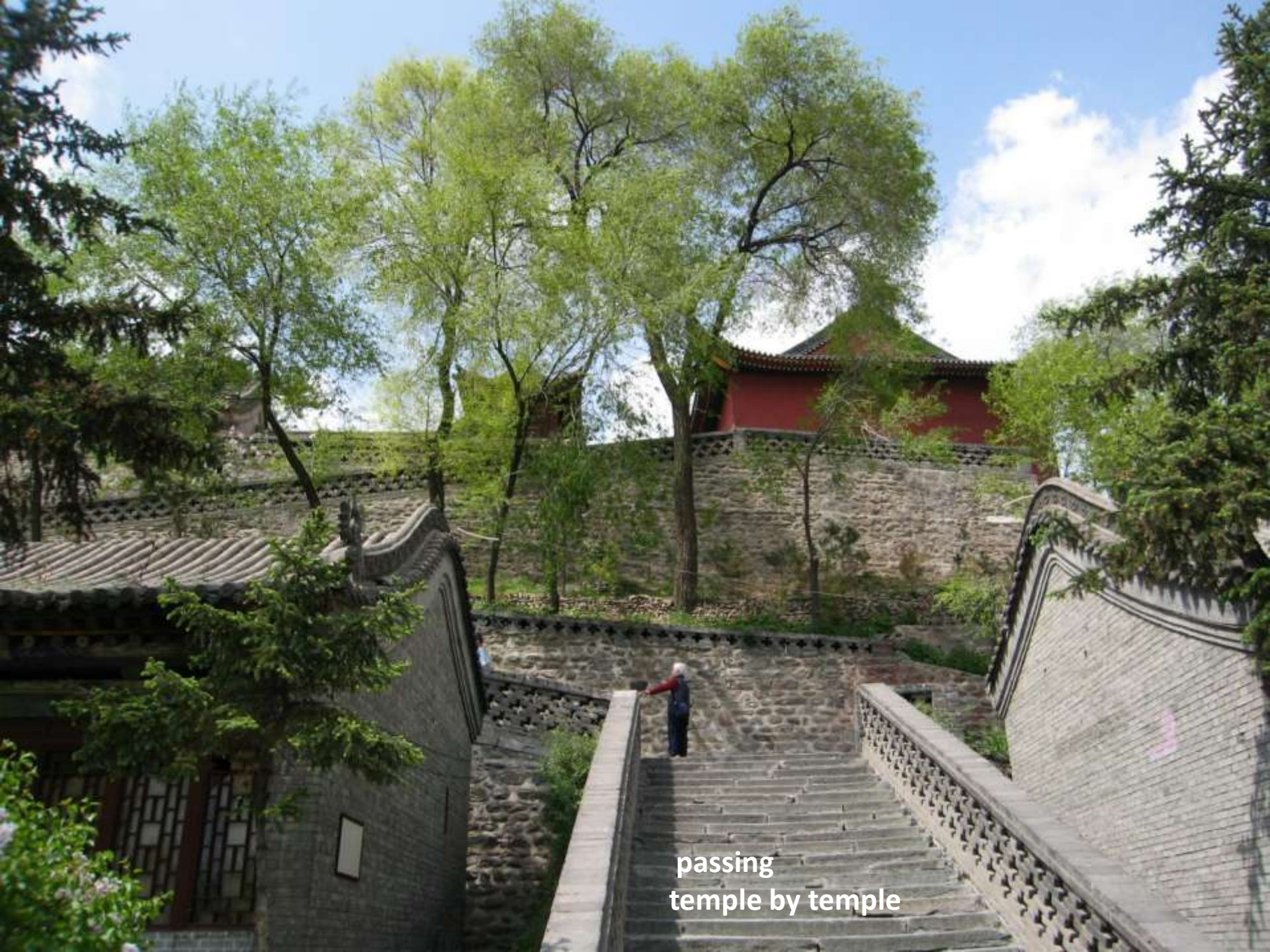
We then walked down the 108 steps to the foot of the terrace



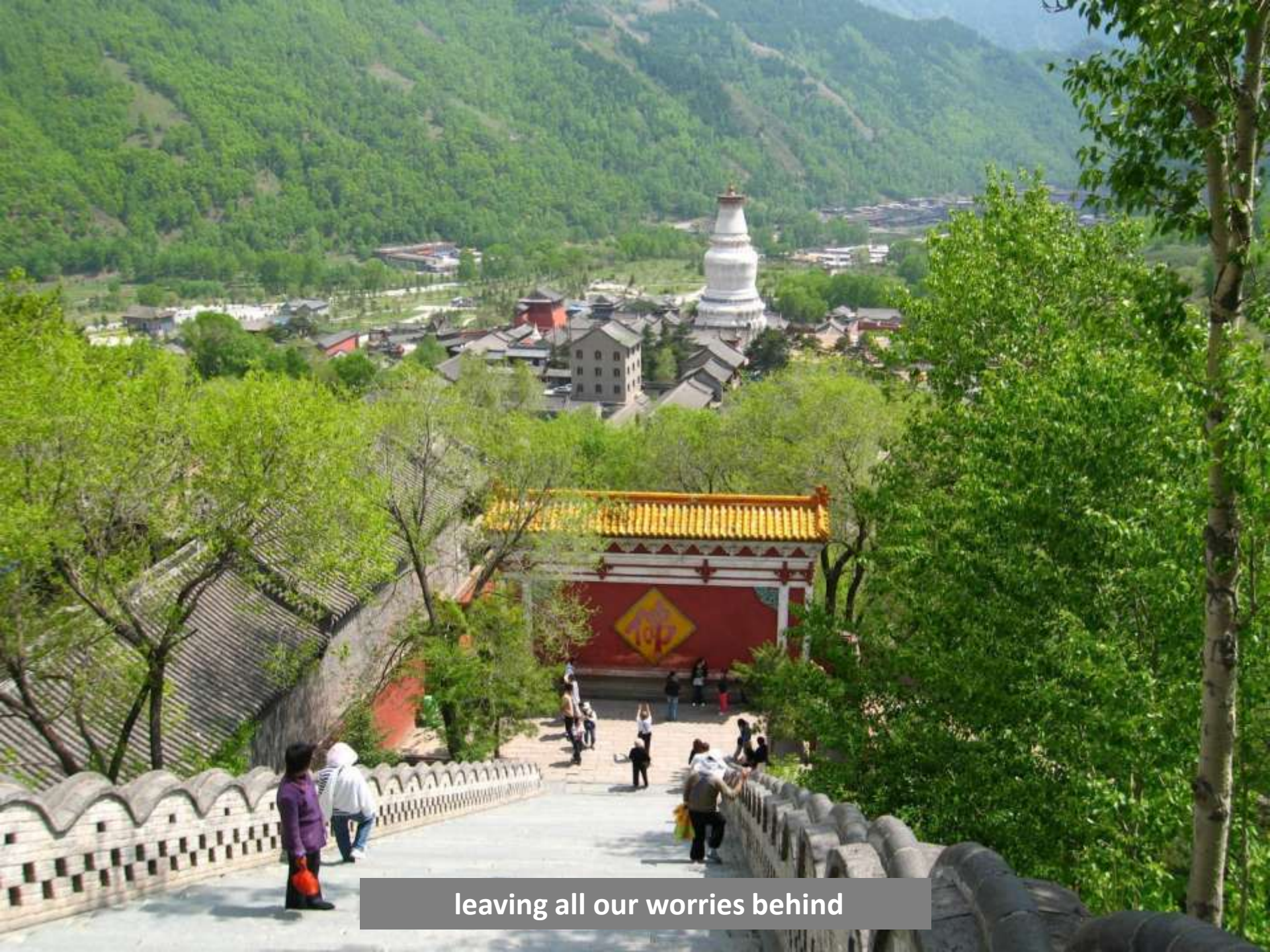
flight by flight



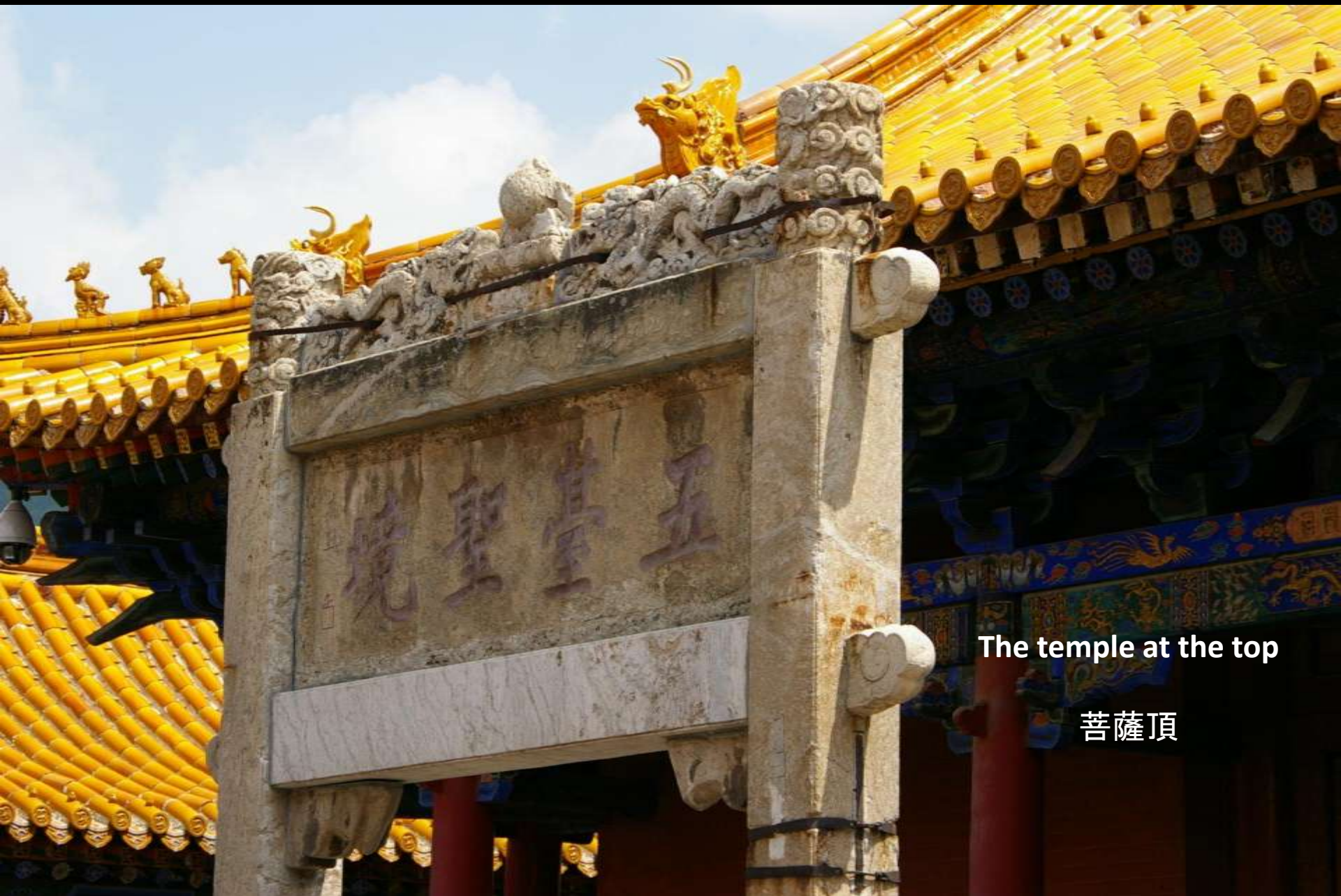
slowly and carefully



passing
temple by temple



leaving all our worries behind



The temple at the top

菩薩頂



Coming here is the equivalent of visiting the five terraces. Hence, it is known as the 小朝臺



Elaborate
walls



Bright-coloured roofs



Crowds



Long halls



Nice geometrical patterns



Xiantong Temple 顯通寺, the largest and the oldest



Originally built in the Eastern
Han Dynasty



covers 8 hectares



400 odd halls, most of which were
built in the Ming and Ching
dynasties



Enjoy its roofs and eaves



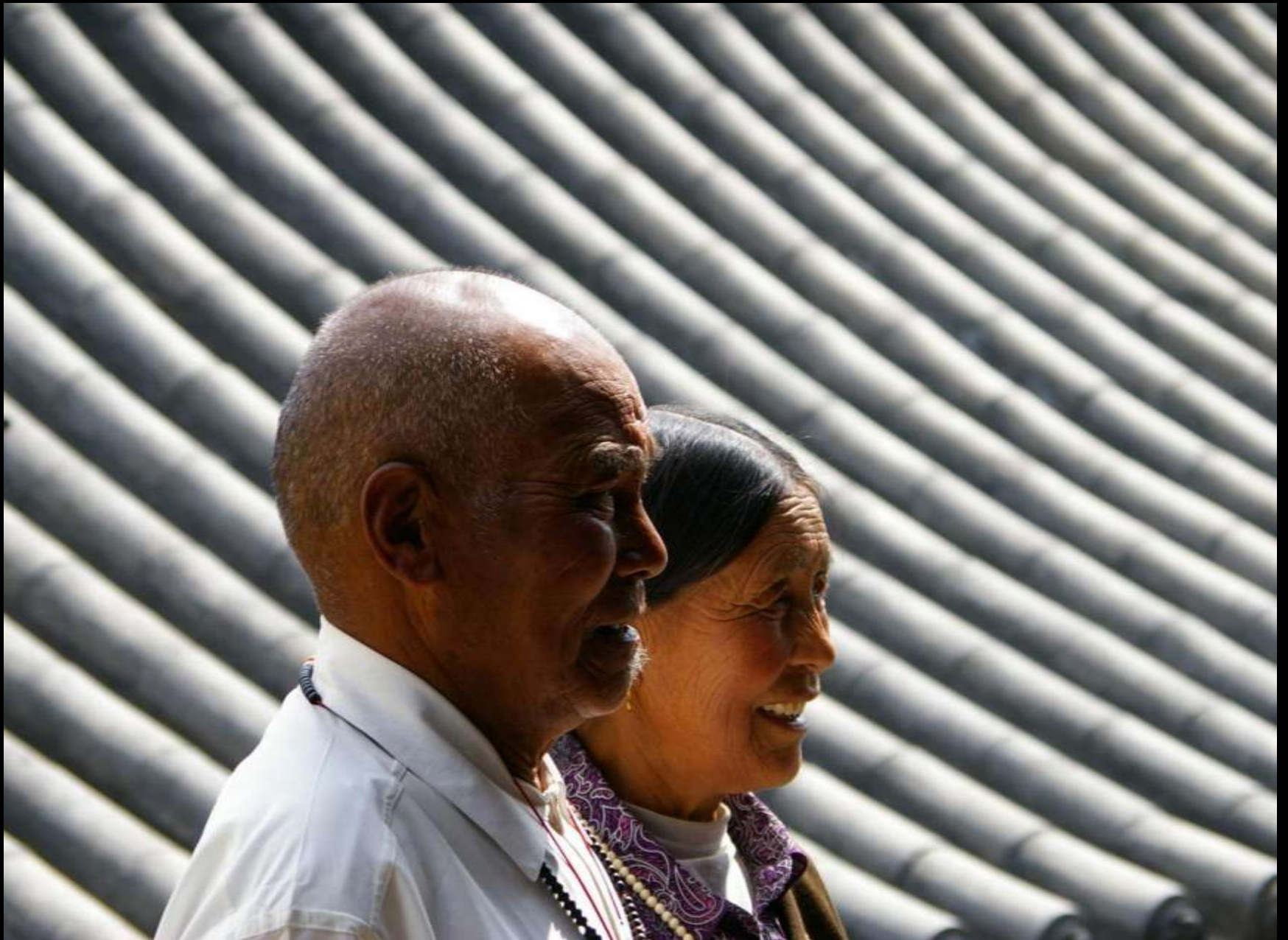
.... its rooftop carvings



..the pagoda



its fine art work



The joy of visiting



...the beautiful surrounding



I'll let you wander around for a
while by yourself











清凉山
清凉寺
清凉山
清凉寺







逝多園林

觀音天宮

觀音天宮

觀音天宮

觀音天宮

觀音天宮

觀音天宮





We next come to the Big White Pagoda Temple 塔院寺



The pagoda is a symbol of Mount Wutai



It's built in the Eastern Han Dynasty

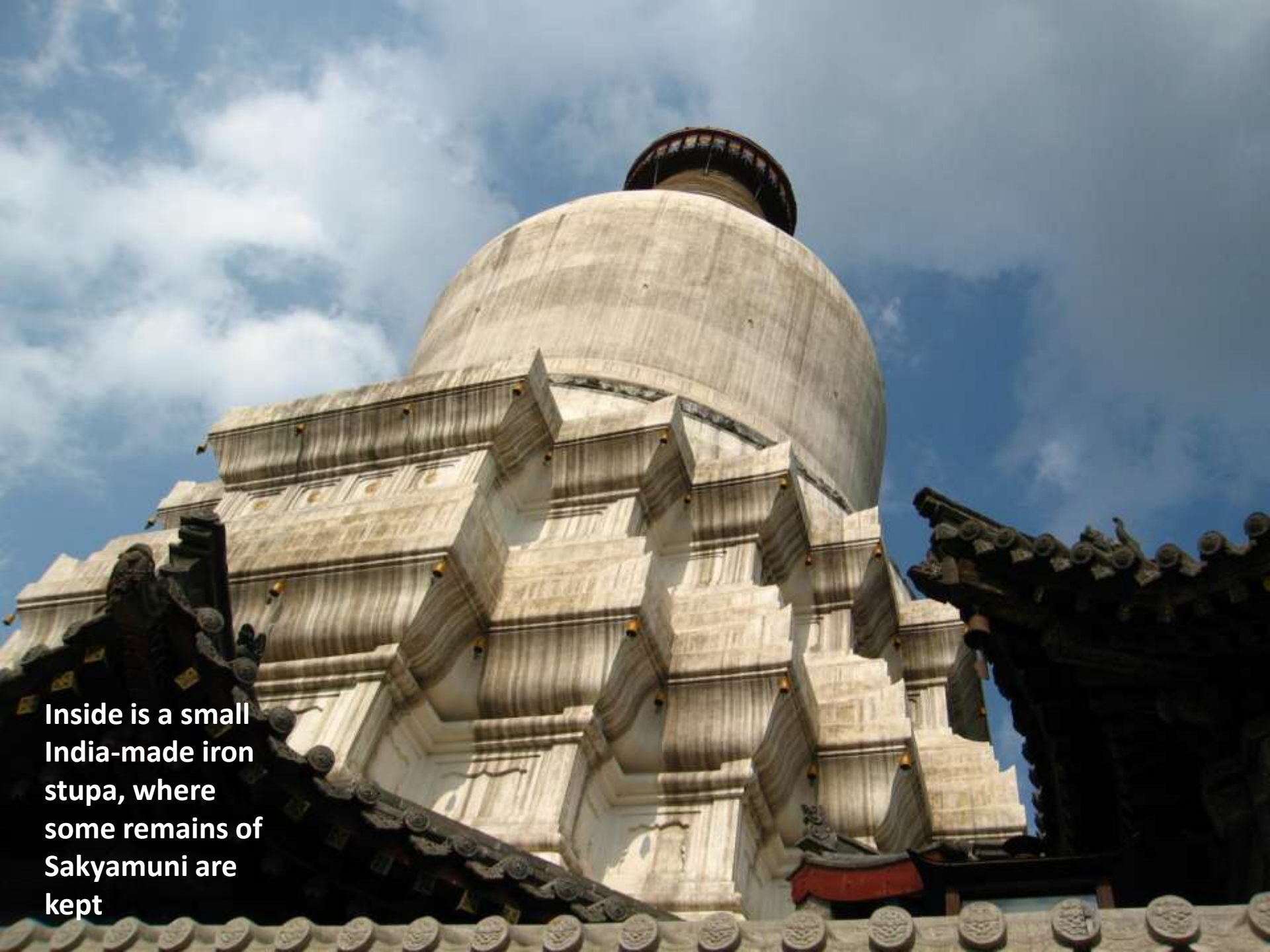
The pagoda is in
Nepalese style

75.3 meters high

83.3 in base
circumference

252 wind charms
hung from the temple





Inside is a small
India-made iron
stupa, where
some remains of
Sakyamuni are
kept



Next, enjoy the roofs











While some are busy at work....







..others were taking a break



....and napping away in the warm sun



Last but not the least,
let's look at the
temples











五爺廟

















普化寺



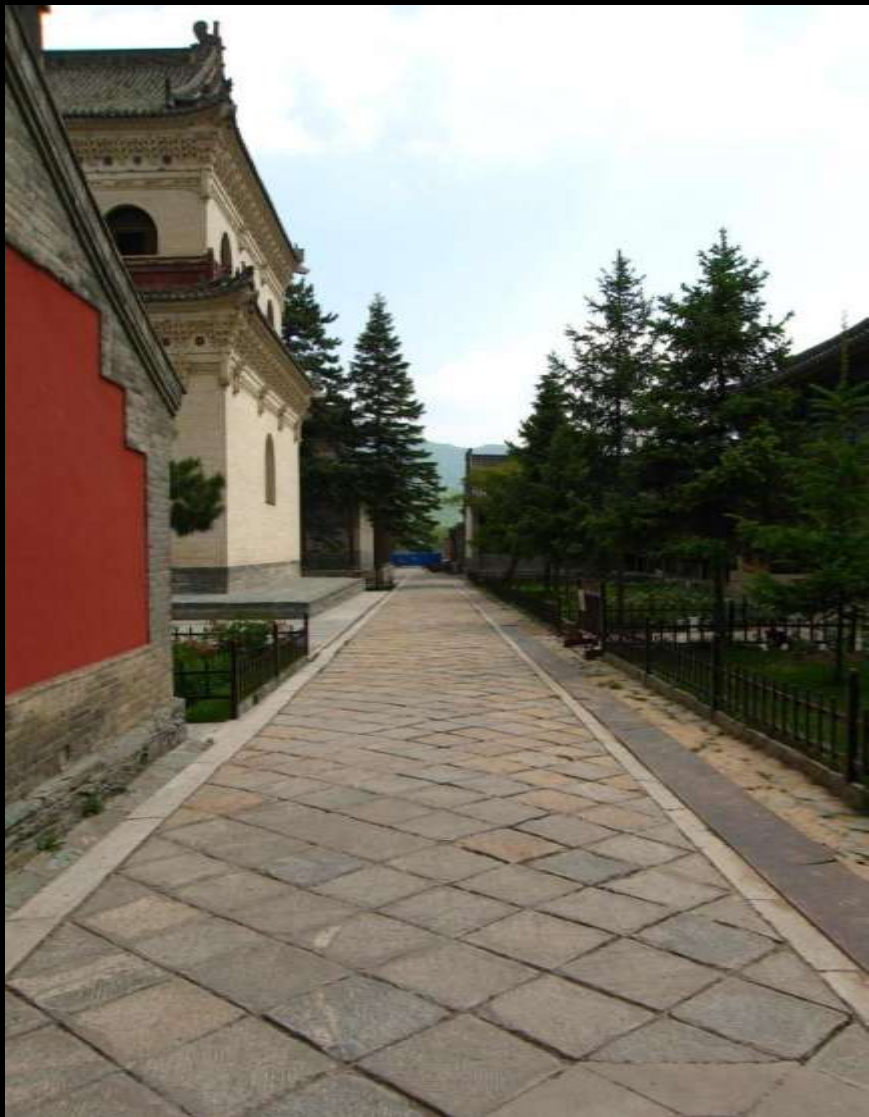


Mount Wutai is home to some of the oldest wooden structures built in the Tang dynasty. But we didn't get a chance to see it in the East terrace













Thanks for coming to Mount Wutai