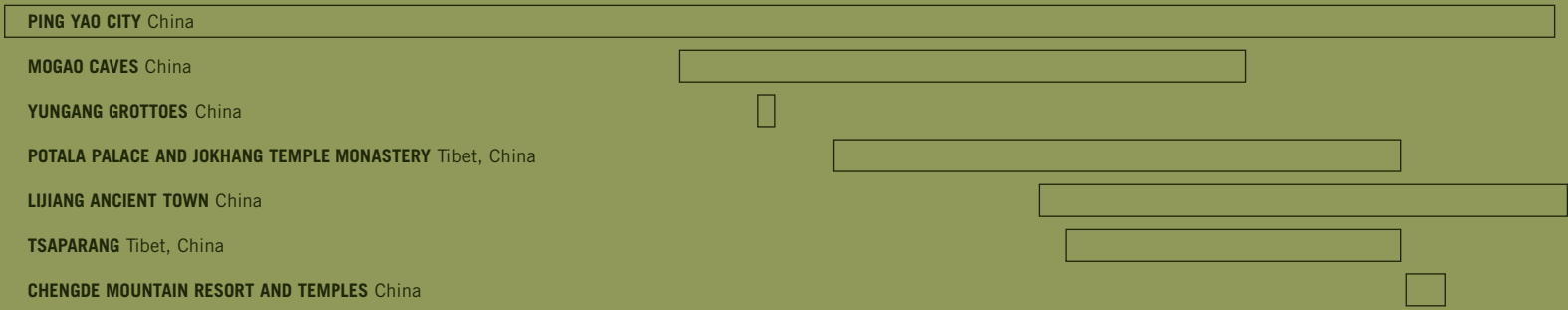




1000 BC 500 BC AD 500 AD 1000 AD 1500 AD 2000



EAST ASIA

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS REPRESENT ONE OF THE LONGEST HISTORIES OF ANY CIVILIZATION, DURING WHICH HUNDREDS OF MAJOR MONUMENTS, PALACES AND TEMPLES WERE BUILT TO HONOR EMPERORS, ANCESTORS AND FAITH. CHINA ALSO HAS SEVERAL LIVING ANCIENT TOWNS WHICH REMAIN PRESERVED TODAY SUCH AS THE GHF EPICENTER LIJIANG ANCIENT TOWN IN NORTHERN YUNNAN, NOW BATTLING THE FORCES OF MODERNIZATION AND DETERIORATION OF ITS AUTHENTIC 1000-YEAR-OLD HISTORY. WHILE CHINA IS AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE, THE DESTRUCTION OF ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE HAS BEEN UNPRECEDENTED. DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF TRADITIONAL STRUCTURES, TEMPLES AND PALACES WERE DESTROYED, AND OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS TRADITIONAL HUTONGS, TEMPLES AND ANCIENT TOWNS HAVE BEEN LEVELLED TO MAKE WAY FOR MODERN CONSTRUCTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, CHINA HAS ONE OF THE LONGEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS HISTORIES IN URBAN PLANNING AND AUTHENTIC CONSTRUCTION WHICH CONTINUES TODAY. THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS ARE PROVIDING NEW IMPETUS TO RESTORE THE GLORIES OF CHINA'S PAST. WHILE MANY UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN CHINA HAVE BEEN OVERRUN BY UNPLANNED DEVELOPMENT, TOURIST HOTELS, CABLE CARS AND GAUDY CONSTRUCTION, RECENT GOVERNMENT REVERSALS HAVE BEGUN TO DEMOLISH INTRUSIVE STRUCTURES AND RESTORE AUTHENTIC ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE USING TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION METHODS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION IS NOW RECEIVING STRONGER SUPPORT FROM CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.

Russia

Kazakhstan

Mongolia

40° 59' N, 117° 52' E



CHENGDE MOUNTAIN RESORT AND TEMPLES China
AD 1703 – 1792
Qing Dynasty

Chengde Mountain Resort and Temples

Yungang Grottoes

40° 6' N, 113° 7' E



YUNGANG GROTTOS China
AD 460 – 494
Northern Wei Dynasty

37° 10' N, 112° 8' E



PING YAO CITY China
1066 BC – Present
Han Chinese

26° 51' N, 100° 16' E



LIJIANG ANCIENT TOWN China
AD 1000 – Present
Southern Song, Yuan, Ming & Qing Dynasties

Russia

Kazakhstan

Mongolia

40° 59' N, 117° 52' E



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PING YAO CITY China
1066 BC – Present
Han Chinese

26° 51' N, 100° 16' E



LIJIANG ANCIENT TOWN China
AD 1000 – Present
Southern Song, Yuan, Ming & Qing Dynasties

40° 2' N, 94° 55' E



MOGAO CAVES China
AD 300 – 1400
Northern Wei, Sui, Tang Dynasties

Mogao Caves

31° 4' N, 81° 19' E



TSAPARANG Tibet, China
AD 1050 – 1700
Guge Kingdom

Tsaparang

Jokhang Temple Monastery
Potala Palace

29° 39' N, 90° 7' E
29° 7' N, 91° 2' E



**JOKHANG TEMPLE MONASTERY
POTALA PALACE**
Tibet, China
AD 600 – 1700
Tubo

China

Lijiang Ancient Town

Ping Yao City

Uzbekistan

Kyrgyzstan

Turkmenistan

Tajikistan

Afghanistan

Iran

Pakistan

Nepal

Jokhang Temple Monastery

Potala Palace

Bangladesh

India

Myanmar (Burma)

Laos

Thailand

Cambodia

Vietnam

**CHENGDE MOUNTAIN RESORT
AND TEMPLES** China

AD 1703 – 1792
Qing Dynasty

Built during the early Qing Dynasty, the Mountain Resort at Chengde was used by acting rulers as a summer palace. In a picturesque setting of mountains, lakes and forests, the extensive palace complex is surrounded by temples built in a variety of architectural styles. Occupying an area of more than 1380 acres, the imperial park achieves a harmonious integration of man-made structures into the natural landscape.



LIJIANG ANCIENT TOWN China

AD 1000 to Present
Southern Song, Yuan, Ming, & Qing
Dynasties

The 1000-year-old Lijiang Ancient Town was an important stop on the Silk Road trade route between Thailand, Burma, Yunnan and Tibet, making it a center of commercial and cultural exchange. Many ethnic groups have contributed to the town's prosperity, including the Tibetans, the Hans, the Bais and the Naxis. Today, Lijiang is a picturesque town that has preserved ancient buildings through proactive measures — the only wheeled vehicles permitted within the old town are bicycles and carts. Lijiang suffered serious damage in the 1996 earthquake. In 1997, UNESCO put Lijiang on a list of the world's major cultural heritage sites. The most serious threats to the ancient town are the onslaught of tourism each year, destruction of the core protected areas with unplanned 'modern' construction, and the flight of native peoples from the ancient town.



MOGAO CAVES China

AD 300 – 1400
Northern Wei, Sui, Tang Dynasties

The Mogao Cave Temples, also called the 'Caves of a Thousand Buddhas', were carved into the cliff walls of Mingsha (Echoing-Sand) Mountain, about 16 miles southeast of the city of Dunhuang. In total, there are 492 caves at Mogao, containing 2400 painted statues, 54,000 square yards of painted walls, and over 250 residential caves. This cave complex is an outstanding example of the grotto structure of Chinese Buddhist architecture. The caves themselves should be thought of as cave temples: they functioned to house a sculpture of Buddha and tell the story of Buddha's life through fresco. Wooden temples were also built, but only the rock temples have survived the passage of time.



PING YAO CITY China

1066 BC to Present
Han Chinese

Ping Yao is arguably the best-preserved walled city in China. The Ping Yao region has been inhabited since Neolithic times, with the first urban settlement dating back to the Western Zhou Dynasty (1066 – 771 BC). During the Ming Dynasty, the city plan was significantly altered in accordance with traditional Han Chinese principles. The city continued to prosper and went on to become one of the most important commercial cities in northern China.

The city has remained remarkably intact, but this may not continue for long. Some recently completed restoration work is lacking in its adherence to standard conservation guidelines, with workers substituting coats of paint for traditional sealing techniques. As well, the city is becoming unlivable for its inhabitants, and although many tourists still visit Ping Yao, it is in danger of losing its vibrant character as a traditional Chinese town.



YUNGANG GROTTOES China

AD 460 – 494
Northern Wei Dynasty

The Yungang Grottoes represent a pinnacle of achievement in the first era of China's Buddhist cave art. The cave interiors of the Yungang Grottoes are covered by thousands of carved sculptures depicting the life of Buddha. Notable for the combined aesthetic of both South and East Asia cultural traditions, the extensive network of 252 caves and more than 51,000 statues reflect a variety of stylistic motifs, including Indian Gandharan, Greco-Roman, Byzantine, and of course, Chinese.

Located in a major coal mining district, these magnificent stone grottoes are currently facing environmental erosion from the air pollution and abrasive particles that bombard the paintings and statues. Deposit buildups continue despite ongoing restoration efforts by the Chinese government.





**POTALA PALACE AND
JOKHANG TEMPLE MONASTERY**
Tibet, China

AD 600 – 1700
Tubo

Initially constructed during the 7th century, the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple are outstanding examples of ancient Tibetan architecture. Built at an altitude of 12,139 feet, the Potala Palace complex includes the Red Palace and the White Palace, and has served as the winter palace of the Dalai Lama since the 7th century. The Jokhang Temple Monastery is a showcase of Tibetan Buddhist art. Both sites have been named to the UNESCO World Heritage list after serving as the cultural, religious and political heart of Tibet for centuries.

