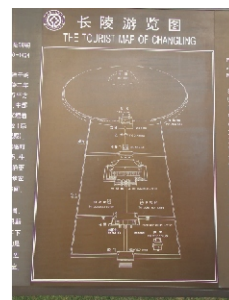
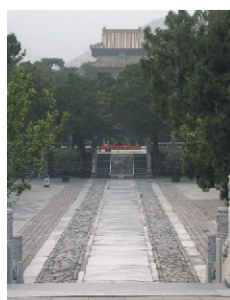
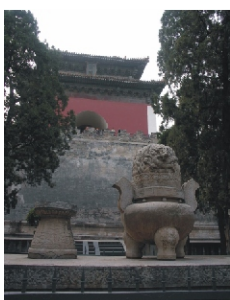


Day 5
May 13, 2005
13 Ming Tombs in Changping County, 50 km away from Beijing

a) Emperor Yong Le, 3rd Emperor of the Ming Dynasty tomb Changling is a majestic & expansive tomb


Emperor Yongle was the son of Ming Dynasty's founder, Zhu Yuan Zhang. After being bypassed for the throne by his father, he eventually returned to Nanjing to seize control of the throne from his nephew and ascend to the Dragon Throne as the third Emperor of the Ming Dynasty. He is one of the most well known among the Ming Emperors. He was a good administrator, modernizer and also, a great war general. He moved the capital of the empire to Beijing and commenced the construction of the Forbidden City. The tomb of Yong Le is set against a charismatic, majestic mountain, known as the Tianshou Mountains. Students immediately picked up the Chastity Fire Shape Mountains that were formed by the mountains and of course, the flags and drum shape, Qi Goo Feng, mountains that were visible along the way as the bus entered the tomb area. The Feng Shui of the tomb of Emperor Yong Le was indeed excellent but for different reasons.

Firstly, the Green Dragon, Zuo Sha, on the left of the tomb is a special formation Green Dragon formation, known as the "Rainbow Dragon Dipping Water" reaching out to the river. The range of mountains on the left extends far down towards the Ming Tomb reservoir in the distance. There is also a unique "Rising Phoenix" formation on a specific location of the left embrace, right at a special XuanKong Da Gua direction, ensuring a lasting empire and outstanding greatness. The Zuo Sha, Dragon side, is also higher and longer than the You Sha, Tiger side, providing empowerment to the male leaders in the family. The wind gap, Li Feng Yao, was not too worrying because it is a gap that is higher than the tomb and so, Sha Qi does not strike the tomb.

b) Emperor Zhu Gao Chi, buried in Xian Ling tomb, it is a small and simple tomb, not open to public, only 9 months of reign

The tomb utilises the same mountain range as the Changling tomb but because the Changling tomb was a Dragon Palace, Long Lou, a mountain that produces many veins, this particular tomb was able to secure a good Dragon vein as well. It is important, that every emperor seeks to find a good tomb for himself. This is known as patching the Dragon ensuring the continuity of the dynasty by continually invigorating the descendants with good and powerful Qi from the Yin House.



c) Emperor Xuan Zong, buried in Jing Ling grave tomb, which was closed

We had a good opportunity to observe the Dragon vein that the tomb is tapping into. The tomb suffers from one key defect and that is the Zuo Sha, the Dragon, being much too close to the tomb. This formation is called "Ya Pi Sha". This results in the Qi being squeezed. The mountains are also bony and hard, indicating aggressive Qi being concentrated and pumped in the direction of the tomb. There is also a low wind gap. History confirms that Jing Ling is not a sound tomb, as far as Feng Shui is concerned. Emperors that followed Emperor Xuan Zong had less than smooth reigns.



d) Emperor Shen Zong, tomb Ding Ling



The final tomb for the day was the tomb of Emperor Shen Zong, called Ding Ling. This tomb is the only Ming tomb to have been excavated and is also one of the most extravagant tombs in the entire Ming tomb complex, with an underground palace where the coffin of the Emperor and his Empresses was placed, along with other valuables.

The local Ming Tomb tour guide extolled the Feng Shui virtues of the tombs, especially Ding Ling. He added that many European Feng Shui tours often made it a point to stop and admire the Feng Shui of Ding Ling, especially the elephant statues, dragon motifs and imperial symbols commonly used in Ming Tomb architecture, which he said, was the source of the great auspiciousness of the area. Knowing that local guides are not trained in the classics of Feng Shui we were easily able to identify, analyse and logically deduce out our own results. Not what the tour guide says to be Feng Shui gospel. :-)

We immediately picked up the fact that the table mountain in the distance was too high and while a few harboured suspicions about the dragon vein, there was much uncertainty to call this place of good Feng Shui reign. The gusting windy section at the top of the tomb hinted at the likelihood that the tomb was affected by Sha Qi. Yes, there was an embrace around the tomb, but the mountains, instead of curving in sentimentally to protect the tomb, were in fact, merciless and moving outward, opening the tomb to the aggressive Qi. There was also a large wind gap that send the Qi hurtling towards the centre point of the tomb, like "a punch to the heart". The structures of the mountains around the Ding Ling tomb are in fact, a 'Dragon and Tiger Separating Formation.'



The view is not what Feng Shui is all about. Nor are the words of the tour guide, that the Ming Tombs have superb Feng Shui to be taken at face value. They're no experts in landform Feng Shui. A beautiful area and seemingly beautiful mountains, sometimes disguise a bad spot. What was said in the ancient classics, is that fake landforms always look good, but really truly powerful landform are usually hidden by heaven.

For the next day, Day 6, a visit of the Western Qing Tombs in Hebei, West Beijing, was scheduled to examine the tombs of the Qing Emperors and to determine, with the knowledge of the past few days, if the Qing Emperors, fared any better than their Ming counterparts in ensuring good Feng Shui for good descendant and dynastic luck.