A000-China-Mulan Mt-Hebei-Three Loop-Jade-[S & N Dynasties](https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/southern_northern/) (420 – 589)

Mulan was a great female general during the [Southern and Northern Dynasties](https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/southern_northern/) (420 – 589).  Her hometown is located in Huangpi District, Wuhan City of Hubei Province. The female gender in the old Chinese feudal society was not allowed to go out of the house, not to mention leading an army to defeat enemies. However, Mu Lan's father was too old to go to the battlefield and so, she disguised herself as a man to join the army. Due to her braveness and talent, she defeated many enemies and became a representative female general in China history. Mulan Mountain was named after her because the fierce wild boar was domesticated from some specimens taken from here. The shape of the mountain ridge has several cols between connected peaks making a silhouette rounded summits . Then, during the [Southern and Northern Dynasties](https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/southern_northern/) (420 – 589) the mountain ridge suggested to artisans a looped arrangement, that is, a series of rounded summits with hollow centers. Then they placed a boar’s head at either end because

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Mulan Mountain

With an altitude of 1,900 feet (580 meters), the mountain is not only a famous national geological park but also one of the famous Taoism mountains in Hubei Province.  
  
Ancient religious building complex such as the Pavilion of Jade Emperor and Goddess Temple, occupying 36,000 square yards (30,100 square meters), are found up on the mountain. In addition, there are two other areas worth visiting, i.e. the Ancient Village Area and Stone Scenic Area. The Ancient Village Area stands on the top of Qisi Peak, the main peak of Mu Lan Mountain. It has a total area of 3,588 square yards (3,000 square meters). The original ancient village was a beacon tower built in 1259, which in turn was converted into a defense fort in 1853. Its main attractions include the Mu Lan Hall and the South Gate to Heaven. The Stone Scenic Area, on the other hand, has an area of 47,800 square yards (40,000 square meters). Many kind of stones with different shapes display their charm here, with some resembling human faces, chessboard and Buddha, just to name a few.

Niuheliang 3000 BC/BCE

The Niuheliang (牛 河 粱) complex consists of many sites, located on the border of Jianping County (Chaoyang, western Liaoning), and it encompasses 50 km. on a natural elevation, close to a stream that meanders along a beautiful valley flanked by a modern pine forest [7]. It is contemporary with Dongshanzui and shares many of its attributes including large terracotta human statuettes modeled over straw and jade artifacts depicting stylized domesticated wild boars in various guises and hollow cylinders that were used as small drums with rawhide stretched over the opening that were played during religious rituals. The so-called “goddess temple,” was, in actuality, a charnel house for the safe-keeping of secondary burials and disarticulated human bones and skulls with their grave goods. The underground construction of "the goddess temple" bears traces of painting of a female guide to the underworld (probably similar to the Greek goddess Demeter) and may have been associated with the life-size terracotta face with jade eyes.

Niuheliang may have been used as an astronomical observatory, since the alignment of the “Goddess Temple” and its surrounding platforms are oriented 23 degrees East of North In addition, The “Goddess Temple” is oriented 91 degrees East of North to the central col between Mulanshan’s famous Boar Mountain, which, in the imagination of Niuheliang’s jade artists, was flanked by wild boars at either end and was used as the natural model for the otherwise enigmatic Two and Three Circle Wild Boar Jade Figurines, as in the current example. These precise alignments may have been used to predict solstices and equinoxes, as well as other astronomical phenomena.

In addition, standing stones at Niuheliang altars form concentric circles, with stone piles located at the centers, suggestive of complex rituals involving earth connecting to the heavens.

Furthermore, cairns over hierarchical tombs and a pyramidal structure are located south and west of the “Goddess Temple”.

Naked realistic female effigies in the “temple” and a are only found elsewhere . They are preserved at the Liaoning Provincial Institute of Archeology in Shenyang. Some of the clay statues, made of mud around a heart of straw or wood, are two to three times larger than life. [7] Small jade "dragon pigs" or really domesticated wild boar have been excavated, along with The site also provided red pottery of exceptional size.

A year after the temple, a pyramidal construction was identified nearby, with special care made of non-local stone and earth. It was hidden under a height known for centuries under the name of Zhuanshanzi (轉 山 子) who served under the Han (-206 ~ 220) station for one of the branches of the Great Wallhttps://data.travelchinaguide.com/images/background/icon/icon-title.png

Mulan Heavenly Lake

It is said that the home of Mulan's grandmother is in the area and young Mu Lan used to practiced martial arts here. The Lake occupies 12 square miles (32 square kilometers) and it is famous for its marvelous waterfalls, deep ponds, strange stones and unique trees.  
  
There is a big gorge with a length of 5,500 yard (5 kilometers) which connects a small and a big heavenly lake. The big heavenly lake is actually a reservoir built in 1978. Visitors may trek along this long gorge to reach the big heavenly lake on top of the mountain, where one can have a bird-eye view of the whole Mu Lan Heavenly Lake Scenic Area.  
  
Visitors may explore further by taking a boat or using the ropeway to go across the lake. Ticket for either option is CNY 30 one way.  
  
Two additional bridges were also built, called the Grandmother Bridges. The wooden bridge is in the Grandmother Garden which lies on the top of the mountain; the other is stone-made. Mu Lan would have to pass these two bridges if she was to visit her grandmother.

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Mulan Grassland

This is the only grassland in the central region of China where young Mu Lan always rode horse and practiced martial arts. When she successfully defeated enemy and came back home, some soldiers would follow her. As most of them are nomads, she thus gave the grassland to them, who then regarded this land as their home. Eagles are common here and are considered friendly partners of the nomads. Visitors can try horse riding here too.

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Mulan Yunwu Mountain

The mountain is located in the northwest of Huangpi District. One of the highlights here is the azaleas, which are planted on both sides of the beautiful road called "Flower Road". It is said that there are more than 800 species and their colors   diverse, such as pink, white, and red.  
  
There is also the Longwangjiang Stone Village, built in 1456, on the Mountain. However, although built to protect local people from bandits, there are only relics left now.