

2014 HKEA Eighth Biennial Conference

December 13-14, 2014, Shandong University, Jinan, China

Post-conference trip to Qufu

Website: <http://www.uqufu.com/> (in Chinese)

Located in Qufu, Shandong Province, the tourist area, which includes the Mansion(孔府), Temple(孔庙) and Cemetery (孔林) of Confucius, enjoys a worldwide fame as a traditional Chinese cultural site. They attract numerous tourists from both home and abroad annually. In 1994, they were listed as world cultural heritage sites.

The Mansion of Confucius is the living quarters of the first grandson of Confucius, a great philosopher, educator and a founder of Confucianism. With an area of 160,000 square meters, the mansion has nine courtyards with 463 rooms along the east, west and middle routes. The main part of the mansion centers the houses along the middle route. The first four yards contain offices and the other five serve as residences. At the rear it is a garden. The mansion stores more than 9,000 volumes of files from 1534 (the 13th year of the reign of Ming Emperor Jiaqing) to 1948 and great quantities of rare and precious cultural and historical relics.

The Temple of Confucius served as a place for worshipping Confucius in various dynasties. In 478 B.C., the second year after Confucius' death, the ruler of the State of Lu converted Confucius' former residence, the three-room mansion, into a temple and made it a place for worshipping Confucius. The temple was constantly renovated and expanded to its present size by emperors of the Western Han Dynasty and the following historical periods. It covers an area of 218,000 square meters and is 1,120 meters in length from south to north. There are nine courtyards and 466 rooms along three routes in the left, right and middle. The temple has an outer wall, with four corner towers, which shelters ancient pines. The main buildings along the middle route are Kuiwen Pavilion, Thirteen Stele Pavilion, Xingtian Pavilion, Dacheng Hall, Hall of Confucius' Wife and Shengji Hall. Dacheng Hall stands out and is the main hall where Confucius was worshipped.

The temple houses some 2,000 tablets dating from the Western Han Dynasty right up to the founding of New China. They are one of the largest collections of tablets in the country. There are now three exhibition halls displaying tablets from the Han dynasty and Six Kingdoms of Wei, stone statues from the Han Dynasty and calligraphic carvings on Yuhonglou tablets. The 17 tablets of Han Dynasty are the largest collection in the country in term of quantity reserved in one place.

The Cemetery of Confucius is about 1.5 kilometers north of Qufu and is the Confucius family cemetery. It takes up 1.998 million square meters and around it there is a seven-kilometer-long hedge. The pavilions, towers, halls and archways built in various historical periods are set in a forest. Behind the Zhushui Bridge is the graveyard, dating from the Eastern Zhou, which houses the tomb of Confucius, the tombs of his son Kong Li and grandson Kong Ji. The tomb of Confucius is 6.2 meters high and has a circumference of 88 meters.

RMB200 per person would be charged for the trip (covers bus fair, all entry tickets to the Mansion, Temple, and Cemetery of Confucius, and lunch.)

Please be reminded to reserve a seat from HKEA first.