

Long Shan Temple



鹿江國際中小學


LU JIANG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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Let's explore Longshan Temple!

Lukang is a famous town full of history and culture. There are many temples and interesting places in Lukang.

Do you know which is the largest temple in Lukang? It's --Longshan Temple not only has rich historic art and culture, but the building there is also out of this world. It is a must-to-see place in Lukang.

Let's go and visit Longshan Temple.





Longshan temple is a national historic site in Lukang.

Building in Longshan temple started around 1650, in the Ming Dynasty. And finished around 1830.

The temple is dedicated to Guanyin - Goddess of Mercy.

It has often been damaged by earthquakes and fire.

Spider Ceiling



The spider ceiling is a very famous part of Longshan Temple. It is made from interlocking pieces of wood. It wards off evil spirits and is a resonance chamber, which makes speakers' voices louder. In the center, it's a dragon.

Next time, make sure to visit Longshan temple when you are in Lukang. The best way to take a photo of the Spider Ceiling is to lie on the floor and take shots from below. Longshan temple is full of surprise, isn't it?



Structure

**Longshan Temple roof is made out of wood.
It does not have nails, screw or mortar.
Instead, it has a very clever interlocking wood structure.
That holds it strongly together.**



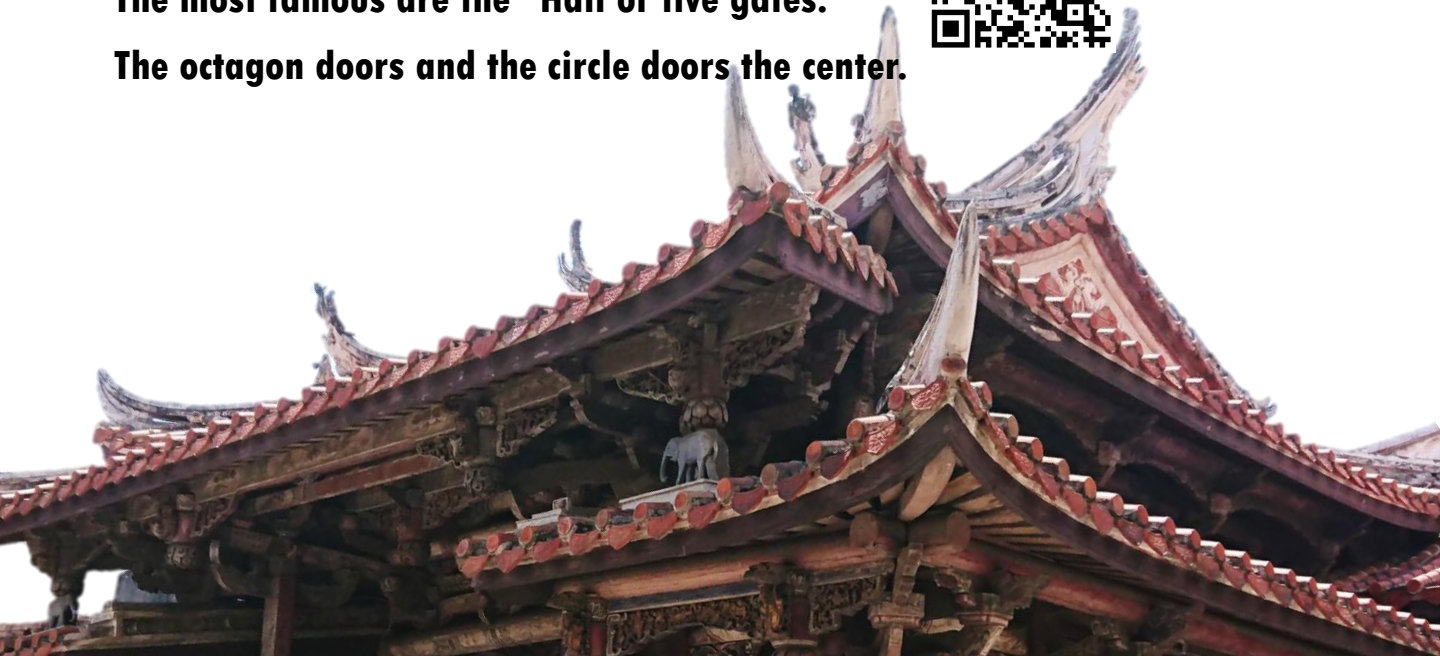
There are many pillars holding up the roof in Longshan temple.



**They are made from wood and stone, often brought by boat from China.
The most famous are the ascending dragon and descending dragon at
the entrance.**

They are called the four spirit columns and are made from granite.

**Longshan Temple has many doors.
In the old days, it had 99 doors.
The most famous are the “Hall of five gates.”
The octagon doors and the circle doors the center.**



Animals

Longshan Temple has many animal carvings and statues. We are going to look at the meanings behind some of these animal symbols.

The dragon shows great power and is the supporter of the Gods and heroes.

***The lion is the guard against evil.
Tigers also protect the temple.***





**Elephants are strong and steady.
That makes them a good animal to hold up the roof, don't you think?**

**The crab has a pen.
It can bring you good luck in your exam.**



**Horses can run fast.
In the temple, they are symbols of energy and effort.**

Octagon Window

**The fish in the circle are carp.
They represent “Heaven and Earth”.**

**The dragons in the octagon around them
represent 4 seasons. Spring, summer, fall
and winter.**

**The bats around them in the square are
symbolize the “blessings of life” . Health,
wealth, Virtue, long life and peaceful death.**



Gods

Longshan temple was built for worshippers of Guanyin - Goddess of Mercy. The statue is from Ming Dynasty.

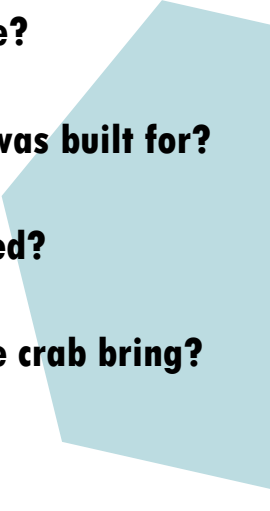
Colorful door Gods are painted on the doors of the Hall of five gates. They include the door guardians Weituo and Guangung, and the 4 great kings of Buddhism.

There is also “God of Wisdom” Wenchang Emperor there. Many parents will take their children to worship “God of Wisdom” and pray for getting good luck in their exams.





Quest

- 1. Why is the elephant a good animal to hold up the roof?**
 - 2. What is in the center of the spider ceiling?**
 - 3. How many doors did Longshan Temple have?**
 - 4. Who is the god the temple was built for?**
 - 5. When was the building of the temple started?**
 - 6. What kind of luck does the crab bring?**
 - 7. How is the roof made?**
 - 8. Name two of the “Blessing of Life”?**
- 



What word describes ‘the way the wood fits together’ in the roof?



During which dynasty did building (1) start? (2) finish?



On the horse carvings, why do you think the feet are missing?

