

# Mount Heng

**Mount Heng, located in the Nanyue District of Hengyang City, Hunan Province, is one of China's Five Great Mountains.** The name Hengshan comes from the division of the celestial constellations, with the mountain range extending from northeast to southwest. Its main peaks include Huiyan Peak, Zhurong Peak, Ziga Peak, Tianzhu Peak, and Yuelu Mountain, with the highest peak, Zhurong Peak, reaching an elevation of 1300.2 meters.



Mount Heng is renowned for its numerous **historical sites and mythological legends**, attracting figures from various eras and resulting in a rich cultural heritage. It resembles a vast park where human culture and natural beauty merge harmoniously.



**The Four Wonders of Hengshan:** the height of Zhurong Peak, the beauty of the Scripture Storage Hall, the uniqueness of the Water Curtain Cave, and the depth of Fanguang Temple.

Nanyue's vegetarian feast is also famous, known for its "One Fragrance, Two Plum Dishes, Three Fresh Soups, Four Seasons Greens, Five Lantern Gatherings, Six Connected Dishes, Seven Layered Towers, Eight Big Bowls, Nine Wishes, and Ten Scenic Views."



**Mount Heng comprises 72 peaks**, including Changsha's Yuelu Mountain and Hengyang's Huiyan Peak, referred to as "Seventy-two Lotuses in the Sky."





From "the First Peak under the Southern Sky" Huiyan Peak, crossing dozens of graceful, lotus-like peaks, one enters the scenic wonders of Nanyue.



**There is no mountain without greenery or trees in Nanyue.** The continuous elegant mountains and dense forests remain evergreen throughout the year, with over 1700 species of trees including Metasequoia, Yew, Abies, and Ginkgo.



**Fuyan Temple's** Ginkgo tree, which dates back to the Six Dynasties period and was influenced by Master Huisi, is over 1400 years old and so thick that three people together cannot wrap their arms around it. The ancient pines at Banshan Pavilion, several hundred years old, are still considered young here!





In the **primeval forest** behind Shangfeng Temple, many ancient trees are stooped and moss-covered, with no visible patterns on their trunks.



The "**Eight Wonders of Nanyue**" embody its profound essence: the height of Zhurong Peak, the elegance of the Scripture Storage Hall, the depth of Fangguang Temple, the seclusion of Mojing Platform, the uniqueness of Water Curtain Cave, the antiquity of the Great Yu Stele, the majesty of Nanyue Temple, and the peril of HuiXian Bridge.



Nanyue is also a famous **Buddhist sanctuary with over 200 temples, monasteries, and Taoist temples** within its surrounding mountains.

**Nanyue Temple** is the largest palace-style ancient architectural complex in southern China, modeled after the Forbidden City in Beijing, with nine successive courtyards including archways, ancient stages, Zhengchuan Gate, Yubei Pavilion, Jiaying Gate, Yushu Tower, the main hall, the bedroom palace, and the north back door.





The main hall, the **Holy Emperor Hall**, is flanked by eight Taoist temples on the east and eight Buddhist temples on the west. A large traditional temple fair is held here in autumn, surrounded by red walls, towering corner towers, and streams flowing along the walls.





Nanyue Temple, Zhusheng Temple, Nantai Temple, Fuyan Temple, Shangfeng Temple, and Qingliang Temple outside the city of Hengshan are collectively known as the **Six Great Buddhist Monasteries** of Nanyue. It is said that Yu the Great came here during his efforts to control the floods, and during the Qing Dynasty, it was renamed Zhusheng Temple.



Surrounded by ancient green trees and the continuous sound of wooden fish and bells, **Guangliu Temple and Xiangnan Temple** are ancient temples from before the Ming Dynasty.





This place is also a significant site for the **Quanzhen School of Taoism**, with the five peaks of Zhurong, Ziga, Furong, Shilin, and Tianzhu being the most prominent, with Zhurong Peak being the crown jewel.



**Zhurong is the mythological god of fire**, who once made his home in Hengshan, and after his death, was buried at its highest peak, which was named after him. The Zhurong Hall is built with granite walls and an iron-tiled roof, standing proudly atop a giant rock facing the wind and snow.





**Chuanyan Poetry Forest** is a newly developed scenic spot that combines the charm of rocks, caves, and poetry, featuring attractions such as the Lover's Stone, Flying Stone, Human Head Stone, Immortal's Stove, Immortal's Pot, and Little Western Heaven.



**Longfeng Creek** is a magical stream that runs mostly through the primeval forest for ten miles, with significant fluctuations in its flow, creating 14 spectacular waterfalls.





The lush **bamboo forests** are green all year round, with exotic flowers and plants fragrant in all seasons. In 2007, Mount Heng in Nanyue was included in the national list of AAAAA scenic areas.



