

objects from the tomb-palace. Other tombs have been less well-preserved, but the sites are delightful.

The Great Wall (Pataling Section)(pronounced Ba da ling)

The section of the Wall open to visitors is reached by car on an interesting route through the town of Nankou, an old caravan halting point, and the Ju yong quan Pass, famous for its magnificent 14th century gateway. Pataling (official transcription Ba da ling) is a fortress guarding an important pass through the Great Wall. This section of the Wall was rebuilt during the Ming dynasty, and Pataling is a fine example of Ming architecture. The Wall here is 6.6 meters high and 6-1/2 meters wide. A foundation of huge granite slabs supports walls of large bricks. The Great Wall rises and falls with the ridges of the Yinshan mountain range. Viewed from the battlements, it winds into the distance like an immense Dragon whose head and tail are invisible. Built more than 2,000 years ago by forced labour, it extends over 6,000 kilometers, one of the world's oldest and most gigantic engineering projects.