

## Turpan Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves 千佛洞

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### Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves 千佛洞

Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves is located in the Mutou Valley of the Flaming Mountain, about 50 km (31 miles) east of Turpan. These caves used to be palace temples of the Huihu Kingdom (Huihu is the ancestor of today's Uygur people, who currently live in Xinjiang.) Today, there are 83 caves in good condition, about half of which are decorated with murals.

The designs found on these murals are simple, with distinctive lines and bright colors. The figures are simply drawn, with round heads, elongated ears and puppet-like segmented bodies which have been boldly outlined. The content of these murals includes many stories on different themes, such as the Jataka tales, the Buddha's teachings, and some are tales of Bodhisattva. The themes of the paintings are mostly Buddhist, but they also reflect the cultural integration that existed between the Mongolian, Uygur, and Han ethnic groups.

Originally there were hundreds of caves, but unfortunately this area has been exposed to natural erosion, leaving many severely damaged.

Admission Fee: CNY 20

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