CHINESE BOOST

Historic sites and heritage Chinese vocabulary list

75 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 65 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

Parts 1 2 3 4

Historic sites and heritage Chinese vocabulary list on the web
The same words as a CSV, for Anki or a spreadsheet
A free account, which keeps 简体 or 繁體, pinyin or 注音 and the rest of how you read Chinese on every device

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Elementary (HSK 1-3)

历史 歷史

lìshǐ history

> 我喜欢历史。
> Wǒ xǐhuan lìshǐ.
> I like history.

Intermediate (HSK 4-6)

长城 長城

chángchéng the Great Wall

> 长城和长江都很长。
> Chángchéng hé Cháng Jiāng dōu hěn cháng.
> The Great Wall and the Yangtze River are both very long.

景点 景點

jǐngdiǎn tourist attraction / scenic spot

> 这个城市有很多好玩的景点。
> Zhège chéngshì yǒu hěn duō hǎowán de jǐngdiǎn.
> This city has many fun tourist attractions.

著名

zhùmíng famous / noted / well-known / celebrated

> 他是个著名的画家。
> Tā shì gè zhùmíng de huàjiā.
> He is a famous painter.

参观 參觀

cānguān to visit (a place, e.g. museum or factory) / to tour / to look around

> 你想参观一下吗?
> Nǐ xiǎng cānguān yíxià ma?
> Would you like a tour?

保护 保護

bǎohù to protect / to defend / to safeguard / protection

> 你需要保护。
> Nǐ xūyào bǎohù.
> You need protection.

天安门 天安門

tiān'ānmén Tiananmen Gate, entrance of the Imperial City in Beijing

> 我们在天安门前面照了一张相。
> Wǒmen zài Tiān'ānmén qiánmiàn zhào le yì zhāng xiàng.
> We took a photo in front of Tiananmen.

古代

gǔdài ancient times

> 他喜欢读古代经典。
> Tā xǐhuan dú gǔdài jīngdiǎn.
> He likes reading the ancient classics.

博物馆 博物館

bówùguǎn museum

> 博物馆在哪里?
> Bówùguǎn zài nǎlǐ?
> Where is the museum?

建筑 建築

jiànzhù building / to construct

> 他设计了新建筑。
> Tā shèjìle xīn jiànzhù.
> He designed the new building.

古老

gǔlǎo ancient / old / age-old

> 希腊是个古老的国家。
> Xīlà shì gè gǔlǎo de guójiā.
> Greece is an old country.

传统 傳統

chuántǒng tradition / traditional

> 中华传统节日有很多。
> Zhōnghuá chuántǒng jiérì yǒu hěn duō.
> There are many traditional Chinese festivals.

游览 遊覽

yóulǎn to go sightseeing / to tour / to visit

> 京都值得游览。
> Jīngdū zhíde yóulǎn.
> Kyoto is worth visiting.

珍贵 珍貴
zhēnguì precious
> 没有什么和时间一样珍贵。
> Méiyǒu shénme hé shíjiān yíyàng zhēnguì.
> Nothing is so precious as time.

抢救 搶救
qiǎngjiù to rescue
> 医生正在抢救病人。
> Yīshēng zhèngzài qiǎngjiù bìngrén.
> The doctors are trying to save the patient.

名胜古迹 名勝古跡
míngshènggǔjì historical sites and scenic spots
> 附近有什么名胜古迹吗?
> Fùjìn yǒu shénme míngshènggǔjì ma?
> Are there any historic sites or scenic spots nearby?

遗产 遺產
yíchǎn heritage / legacy / inheritance / bequest
> 他继承了他爸爸的庞大遗产。
> Tā jìchéngle tā bàba de pángdà yíchǎn.
> He succeeded to his father's large property.

文物
wénwù cultural relic / historical relic
> 请不要用手摸这些文物。
> Qǐng búyào yòng shǒu mō zhèxiē wénwù.
> Please don't touch these historical relics with your hands.

古迹 古蹟
gǔjì place of historic interest / historical site
> 这座城市有很多古迹。
> Zhè zuò chéngshì yǒu hěn duō gǔjì.
> This city has many historical sites.

文明
wénmíng civilization / culture / civilized
> 爱是文明的奇迹。
> Ài shì wénmíng de qíjì.
> Love is the miracle of civilization.

皇帝
huángdì emperor
> 太子以后会当皇帝。
> Tàizǐ yǐhòu huì dāng huángdì.
> The crown prince will become emperor later.

古典
gǔdiǎn classical
> 你读过中国古典小说吗?
> Nǐ dúguo Zhōngguó gǔdiǎn xiǎoshuō ma?
> Have you read any classical Chinese novels?

遗址 遺址
yízhǐ ruins / historic relics
> 山下有一处古城的遗址。
> Shānxià yǒu yí chù gǔchéng de yízhǐ.
> At the foot of the mountain are the ruins of an ancient city.

陵墓
língmù tomb / mausoleum

塔
tǎ pagoda (abbr. for 塔婆[ta3 po2], a loanword from Sanskrit stūpa) / tower / pylon / (pastry) tart
> 那是一座塔。
> Nà shì yí zuò tǎ.
> That's a tower.

桥梁 橋梁
qiáoliáng bridge (lit. and fig.)
> 翻译是语言之间的桥梁。
> Fānyì shì yǔyán zhījiān de qiáoliáng.
> Translation is a bridge between languages.

四合院
sìhéyuàn courtyard house with a fully enclosed courtyard (type of Chinese residence)

古城
gǔchéng ancient city
> 导游带旅游团参观古城。
> Dǎoyóu dài lǚyóutuán cānguān gǔchéng.
> The guide took the tour group to see the old town.

修复 修復
xiūfù to restore / to renovate / to repair (a corrupted file etc)
> 坏掉的文件能修复吗?
> Huàidiào de wénjiàn néng xiūfù ma?
> Can the corrupted file be repaired?

朝代
cháodài dynasty / reign (of a king)
> 哪个朝代最有名?
> Nǎge cháodài zuì yǒumíng?
> Which dynasty is the most famous?

祖先
zǔxiān ancestors / forebears / ancestral species / ancient species from which present-day species evolved
> 祖先很早就开始种水稻了。
> Zǔxiān hěn zǎojiù kāishǐ zhǒng shuǐdào le.
> Our ancestors started growing rice very early.

传承 傳承
chuánchéng to pass on (to future generations) / passed on (from former times) / a continued tradition / an inheritance
> 这是代代传承的老习惯。
> Zhè shì dàidài chuánchéng de lǎo xíguàn.
> This is an old habit passed down through generations.

园林 園林
yuánlín gardens / park / landscape garden
> 我爷爷退休后在园林里工作。
> Wǒ yéye tuìxiū hòu zài yuánlín lǐ gōngzuò.
> After retiring, my grandfather worked in a park.

考古
kǎogǔ archaeology / to engage in archaeological studies
> 你对考古有兴趣吗?
> Nǐ duì kǎogǔ yǒu xìngqù ma?
> Are you interested in archaeology?

名胜 名勝

míngshèng a place famous for its scenery or historical relics / scenic spot

> 你去过北京的哪些名胜?
> Nǐ qùguo Běijīng de nǎxiē míngshèng?
> Which famous sights in Beijing have you been to?

石碑

shíbēi stele / stone tablet (for inscription)

国宝 國寶

guóbǎo national treasure

> 大熊猫是中国的国宝。
> Dàxióngmāo shì Zhōngguó de guóbǎo.
> The giant panda is a national treasure of China.

鼓楼 鼓樓

gǔlóu a drum tower / Drum Tower, historic attraction in Xian, Beijing etc

> 侗族的鼓楼很有名。
> Dòngzú de gǔlóu hěn yǒumíng.
> The Dong people's drum towers are very famous.

历史遗迹 歷史遺跡

lìshǐyíjì historic site

Advanced (HSK 7-9)

故宫 故宮

gùgōng former imperial palace / the Forbidden City

> 故宫是一个很大的建筑群。
> Gùgōng shì yí gè hěn dà de jiànzhùqún.
> The Forbidden City is a very large building complex.

钟楼 鐘樓

zhōnglóu bell tower / campanile / clock tower / Bell Tower, historic attraction in Xian, Beijing etc

> 西安的钟楼在市中心。
> Xī'ān de zhōnglóu zài shìzhōngxīn.
> Xi'an's Bell Tower is in the city center.

宫殿 宮殿

gōngdiàn palace

> 国王住在高高的宫殿里。
> Guówáng zhù zài gāo gāo de gōngdiàn lǐ.
> The king lives in a tall palace.

壮观 壯觀

zhuàngguān spectacular / magnificent sight

> 壮观的景色震撼了游客。
> Zhuàngguān de jǐngsè zhènhànle yóukè.
> The magnificent scenery stunned the tourists.

雄伟 雄偉

xióngwěi grand / imposing / magnificent / majestic

> 长城看起来非常雄伟。
> Chángchéng kànqǐlai fēicháng xióngwěi.
> The Great Wall looks very grand.

寺庙 寺廟

sìmiào temple / monastery / shrine

> 让我们明天参观一些寺庙。
> Ràng wǒmen míngtiān cānguān yìxiē sìmiào.
> Let's visit some temples tomorrow.

古董

gǔdǒng curio / antique

> 她对古董很感兴趣。
> Tā duì gǔdǒng hěn gǎnxìngqù.
> She has a great love for antique goods.

出土

chūtǔ to dig up / to appear in an excavation / unearthed / to come up out of the ground

> 老墓里出土了很多宝贝。
> Lǎo mù lǐ chūtǔle hěn duō bǎobèi.
> Many treasures were unearthed from the old tomb.

庙会 廟會

miàohuì temple fair

> 你小时候去过庙会吗?
> Nǐ xiǎoshíhou qùguo miàohuì ma?
> Did you go to temple fairs when you were little?

文化遗产 文化遺產

wénhuàyíchǎn cultural heritage

> 故宫是重要的文化遗产。
> Gùgōng shì zhòngyào de wénhuàyíchǎn.
> The Forbidden City is an important cultural heritage site.

非物质文化遗产 非物質文化遺產

fēiwùzhìwénhuàyíchǎn intangible cultural heritage

> 京剧也是非物质文化遗产。
> Jīngjù yě shì fēiwùzhìwénhuàyíchǎn.
> Peking opera is also intangible cultural heritage.

兵马俑 兵馬俑

bīngmǎyǒng figurines of warriors and horses buried with the dead / Terracotta Army (historic site)

石窟

shíkū rock cave / grotto / cliff caves (often with Buddhist statues)

古墓

gǔmù old tomb (archaeology)

> 考古队正在发掘古墓。
> Kǎogǔ duì zhèngzài fājué gǔmù.
> The archaeological team is excavating an ancient tomb.

碑

bēi a monument / an upright stone tablet / stele

> 这块碑上的字已经很模糊了。
> Zhèkuài bēi shàng de zì yǐjīng hěn móhule.
> The characters on this stone tablet are already very blurry.

发扬 發揚

fāyáng to develop / to make full use of

> 你应该发扬自己的优点。
> Nǐ yīnggāi fāyáng zìjǐ de yōudiǎn.
> You should make full use of your strengths.

故居
gùjū former residence

城墙 城牆
chéngqiáng city wall

> 城墙上架着一门炮。
> Chéngqiáng shàng jià zhe yìmén pào.
> A cannon is mounted on the city wall.

古朴 古樸
gǔpǔ simple and unadorned (of art, architecture etc)

> 古朴的小村子里很安静。
> Gǔpiáo de xiǎo cūnzi lǐ hěn ānjìng.
> It is very quiet in the plain, old-fashioned little village.

寺
sì Buddhist temple / mosque / government office (old)

> 我曾住在高圆寺。
> Wǒ céng zhù zài gāo yuán sì.
> I lived in Kouenji.

庙 廟
miào ancestral shrine / temple fair / temple / great imperial hall / imperial

> 京都以古庙有名。
> Jīngdū yǐ gǔ miào yǒumíng.
> Kyoto is famous for its old temples.

皇宫 皇宮
huánggōng imperial palace

> 你去过北京的皇宫吗?
> Nǐ qùguo Běijīng de huánggōng ma?
> Have you been to the imperial palace in Beijing?

壁画 壁畫
bìhuà mural (painting) / fresco

> 学校的围墙上画了一幅大壁画。
> Xuéxiào de wéiqiáng shàng huà le yìfú dà bìhuà.
> A large mural was painted on the school's wall.

牌楼 牌樓
páilou decorated archway

> 游客都站在牌楼前面拍照。
> Yóukè dōu zhàn zài páilou qiánmiàn pāizhào.
> The tourists were all taking photos in front of the decorated archway.

废墟 廢墟
fèixū ruins

> 这些废墟年代久远。
> Zhèxiē fèixū niándài jiǔyuǎn.
> These ruins are ancient.

古籍
gǔjí ancient text / antique books

> 他每天在书房里读古籍。
> Tā měitiān zài shūfáng lǐ dú gǔjí.
> He reads ancient texts in his study every day.

纪念碑 紀念碑
jìniànbēi monument

> 游客们都在纪念碑前拍照。
> Yóukèmen dōu zài jìniànbēi qián pāizhào.
> The tourists are all taking photos in front of the monument.

藏品
cángpǐn museum piece / collector's item / precious object

> 这家博物馆的藏品非常丰富。
> Zhè jiā bówùguǎn de cángpǐn fēicháng fēngfù.
> This museum has a very rich collection of pieces.

瑰宝 瑰寶
guībǎo a treasure / a rare and valuable thing

> 京剧是中华文化的瑰宝。
> Jīngjù shì Zhōnghuá wénhuà de guībǎo.
> Peking opera is a treasure of Chinese culture.

Outside HSK

申遗 申遺
shēnyí to apply for UNESCO World Heritage status

牌坊
páifāng memorial arch

天坛 天壇
tiāntán Temple of Heaven (in Beijing)

> 来北京的外国朋友都想去天坛。
> Lái Běijīng de wàiguó péngyou dōu xiǎng qù tiāntán.
> Foreign friends who come to Beijing all want to go to the Temple of Heaven.

颐和园 頤和園
yíhéyuán Summer Palace in Beijing

> 我们明天要去颐和园。
> Wǒmen míngtiān yào qù Yíhéyuán.
> We're going to go to the Summer Palace tomorrow.

莫高窟
mògāokū Mogao caves in Dunhuang 敦煌, Gansu

> 游客进莫高窟要提前预约。
> Yóukè jìn Mògāokū yào tíqián yùyuē.
> Visitors have to book in advance to enter the Mogao Caves.

秦始皇陵
qínshǐhuánglíng the tomb of the first emperor at Mt Li 驪山|骊山[Li2 shan1] near Xi'an (awaits excavation)

布达拉宫 布達拉宮
bùdálāgōng Potala, winter palace of Dalai Lamas in Lhasa, Tibet

> 布达拉宫前站满了游客。
> Bùdálāgōng qiánzhàn mǎnle yóukè.
> The area in front of the Potala Palace was packed with tourists.