

Buddhist Pilgrimage in the Late Qing

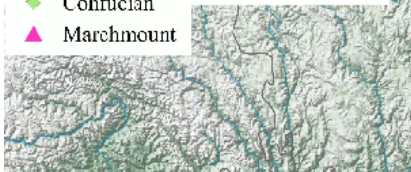
Itinerary networks in "Knowing the Paths of Pilgrimage" (c.1827)
and "Records of Travels to Famous mountains" (c.1918)

56 Pilgrimage routes of Xiancheng's *Canxue zhijin* (1827) & Major Sacred Sites in China

Data:
Provinces of 1820 by CHGIS, Version 5.
Cambridge: Fairbank Center for Chinese
Studies, Sep 2011.
Canxue Zhijin routes and Sacred Sites by
Marcus Bingenheimer & Zhang Boyong

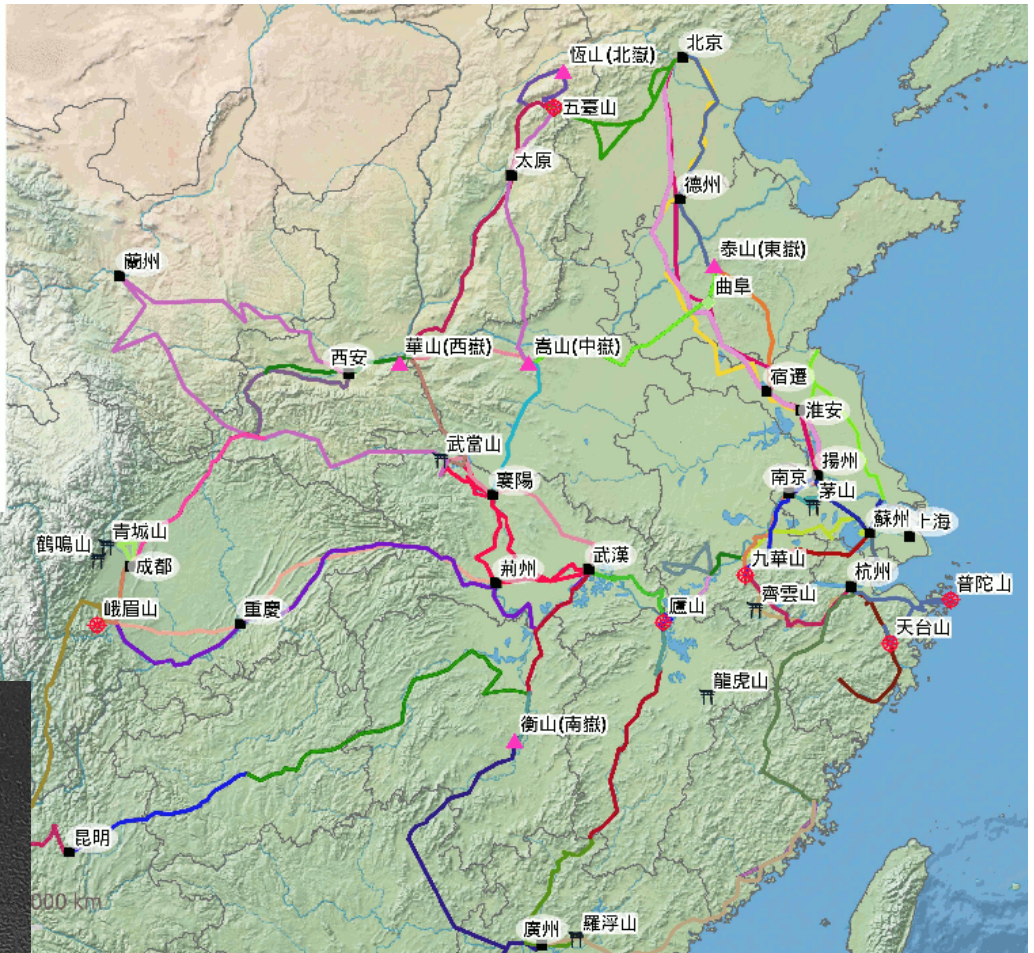
Map:
MB, 2016-6-28

- Major Cities
- Sacred Mountains:
 - Buddhist
 - ⚡ Daoist
 - ◆ Confucian
 - ▲ Marchmount



Marcus Bingenheimer
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February 17 (Friday)
12:00-1:30 PM
Williams Hall 844



In the early 19th century Ruhai Xiancheng wrote a route book describing itineraries to China's most popular pilgrimage sites for the use of his fellow monks: "Knowing the Paths of Pilgrimage." The book is a rare source for the travel routes of Buddhists in late imperial times as it describes, station by station, 56 pilgrimage itineraries all over China, many converging on famous mountains, temples, or urban centers. Another source for pilgrimage in the late Qing is "Records of Travels to Famous mountains" by Gao Henian (1872-1962). It describes a similar number of routes (53), but contains more detailed information about the interactions of Gao with his monastic friends and preceptors. Comparing the itineraries of the two texts shows that while the destinations of Buddhist pilgrims did not differ all that much between the early 19th and the early 20th centuries, some single routes changed considerably with the arrival of new modes of transport.