

Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang

e-Lingua

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*Connecting Cultures
One Word at a Time*

你好

Apa Khabar?

Bonjour

Hello

مرحبًا

Hallo

こんにちは



A Pilgrimage to Emei Mountain: Seeking Bodhisattva Puxian (Samantabhadra) and Leshan Giant Buddha

HOE FOO TERNG
ACADEMY OF LANGUAGE STUDIES, UITM CAWANGAN PULAU PINANG

A lifelong aspiration of mine has been to visit the Four Great Buddhist Mountains of China. In 2019, I fulfilled part of this wish by making a pilgrimage to Putuo Mountain, the sacred site of Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy. Earlier this year, I continued this spiritual journey with a visit to Emei Mountain, the revered abode of Puxian (Samantabhadra).



*The majestic statue of
Bodhisattva Puxian
(Samantabhadra)*

On the morning of September 21, 2025, I departed Chengdu after breakfast and boarded the Emei Special Bus, which is required for pilgrims and visitors heading to the mountain. The journey took approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes, ending at the trailhead. From there, a 1.5-kilometer climb led to the cable car station. Along the way, I occasionally encountered macaques, though they were scarce due to the rain. The huge cable car could accommodate up to 100 passengers, and the ride up lasted only 3 minutes.



Visitors taking photos of macaques along the way



The Jingding temple on the Golden Summit

Despite the drizzle and thick mist that obscured the view during the cable car ride, the summit greeted us with clearer skies. The majestic statue of Samantabhadra appeared and disappeared through the lingering fog, adding a mystical aura to the experience. With only an hour to explore, I circumambulated the statue and visited the three temples distinguished by their gold, silver, and bronze rooftops. Unfortunately, the temple with the bronze roof was under renovation and could not be visited.

As we began our descent, the sky cleared completely. The statue of Samantabhadra shone brilliantly, while the summit temple stood in full view, forming a breathtaking sight that felt like a divine blessing.

The following day, September 22, we visited Sanjiang, the confluence of three rivers, and paid homage to the Leshan Giant Buddha. This colossal statue of Maitreya was carved centuries ago to calm the turbulent waters—a testament to the harmony between nature and faith.



*My wife and I in front of
Leshan Giant Buddha*

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