

# Zhangzhou, Quanzhou, Putian Heritage Tour 2025

Author: Nathan Co 施日勤, Tour Leader

Jointly organised by Chinese Ancestry Research and the Genealogy Society Singapore (GSS), the heritage tour was held from 26 October to 2 November 2025. The tour was designed as a deep heritage and genealogy journey into Fujian, focusing on Zhangzhou 漳州, Quanzhou 泉州, and Putian 莆田 — regions central to the ancestral origins of many overseas Chinese families. Beyond cultural sightseeing, the trip emphasized real genealogical verification, ancestral reconnection, and collaboration with local institutions and village elders.

## Highlights of the Journey

- Zhangzhou 漳州: The group's journey began with visits to historic temples, villages, and cultural performances, setting the tone for a return to ancestral soil. A particularly meaningful moment was the visit to Li Ming Village 黎明新村, where participants witnessed both national history and personal reconnections.



Group photo at NanShan Temple 南山寺, which was first built in the Tang Dynasty.



Having fun at the local museum in Li Ming Village, hometown of Singapore's late President Wee Kim Wee 黄金辉.

- Genealogical Breakthroughs: One participant successfully located his ancestral village after years of searching, with village elders welcoming him home through traditional ceremonies and presenting a multi-volume zupu 族譜 dating back to 1730 CE.

- Tulou 土樓 Region: Visits to Yunshuiyao 雲水謠 and Tianluokeng 田螺坑 showcased the iconic Hakka 客家 communal earth buildings, highlighting clan unity, defensive architecture, and multi-generational living traditions.



At the world-famous Tiánluókēng Tǔlóu Qún 田螺坑土樓群 — affectionately nicknamed “Four Dishes and One Soup 四菜一汤”



- Quanzhou 泉州: As a former Maritime Silk Road hub, Quanzhou offered powerful insights into overseas Chinese migration.

Key stops included Kaiyuan Temple 开元寺, Luoyang Bridge 洛陽橋, and the Quanzhou Overseas Chinese History Museum 泉州華僑歷史博物館, a long-term partner in ancestry research and case verification.



Kaiyuan Temple was founded during the Tang Dynasty 唐朝 (618 – 907 CE)

At the Quanzhou Overseas Chinese History Museum, we saw their massive collection of 族谱 (zupu) — thousands of volumes from every corner of Quanzhou.



- Putian 莆田 & Meizhou 湄洲: The final days brought the group to Meizhou Island 湄洲島, birthplace of Mazu 媽祖, and to Southern Shaolin 南少林寺, connecting spiritual heritage, migration faith, and martial history. The journey concluded at Jiuli Lake 九鯉湖, symbolizing transformation and renewal.



### Overall Impact

This tour went beyond conventional heritage travel. Participants walked ancestral ground, validated family histories, engaged directly with local archives and officials, and witnessed living proof of lineage continuity. The experience reinforced the mission of Chinese Ancestry Research — transforming stories into evidence, and heritage into reconnection.