

one of the numerous little shrines cut into the sides of the walls. Proceeding on his way, Pereira found the climbing up the mountain was often on the side of the rock, with a precipice on one side. The steps were uneven, and in two of the worst places there were 314 and 246 steps respectively. Eventually the top of a long narrow ridge running north and south is reached, and in some places it is barely more than the width of the steps.

The Pei-feng is built on the eastern edge of the precipice. From it there is a fine view to the south along the ridge, studded with three or four small temples and a few blossoming fruit trees in the wider parts. It appears to end at the foot of the huge solid perpendicular rock forming the main mountain; but actually there is a very steep ascent of some 900 steps between precipices; and this is the only accessible approach.

At the top of these steps is the Wu-yün-feng temple; and the ridge here rises again and forms the western end of the mountain, with a small valley on the right and two sharp peaks at the north-east and north-west corners. The top is covered with pine trees, whilst on the four sides are perpendicular walls of rock, that on the west being some 2000 feet above the valley. A comparatively easy ascent from the Wu-yün-feng leads to the Hsi-feng (western peak) temple; and just above it rises the north-west peak (8100 feet), a smooth rock which has to be reached by more difficult steps. From it there is a magnificent view across the Ching Ling (range), some of the adjacent hills being higher than the Hwa Shan, and many rising into needle peaks quite unscaleable.