
2026- Zhangshan- Traditional Chinese Fan- I was honored to carry a Zhangshan with Mazu walking from Dajia.

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For about 10 min. I was So proud!

"The Chinese fan on a long shaft historically carried with a palanquin (sedan chair) is known as a **Zhangshan** (掌扇, palm fan/long-handled fan) or a **Wuming Shan** (乌明扇, ancient ritual fan). These were large, often silk or feather-covered fans, used in imperial processions to shield, shade, and signify the high status and authority of the occupant.

Key Features and Functions

- **Historical Name:** Often called *Zhangshan* or *Wuming Shan* (5-direction fan), believed to date back over 3,000 years to the Shang Dynasty.
- **Purpose:** Originally designed to block the sun and shelter passengers from rain, similar to an umbrella, they evolved into decorative, ritualistic items in imperial honor guards.
- **Material:** Made with long handles and large surfaces, typically crafted from feathers or, later, fine silk stretched over a frame.
- **Symbolism:** Represented power, authority, and high status.
- **Ceremonial Use:** They were carried in pairs during processions and served as a screen to protect the dignity of the dignitary in the palanquin.

Related Fan Types

- **Tuanshan (团扇 - Round Fan/Palace Fan):** A, often, smaller, round, or oval silk fan sometimes used for similar purposes by officials and ladies, but which also functioned as a handheld fan, popular among the court.
- **Shanhan (扇汗):** The original, very early, umbrella-like fan used for horse-drawn carriages.
- **Feather Fans:** Often used by the nobility in early dynasties, made from bird feathers as a symbol of wealth.

These fans were essential ceremonial equipment, often decorated with embroidery, paint, or tassels to reflect the grandeur of the imperial court."