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Hello! China

Xi'an Travel Guidebook

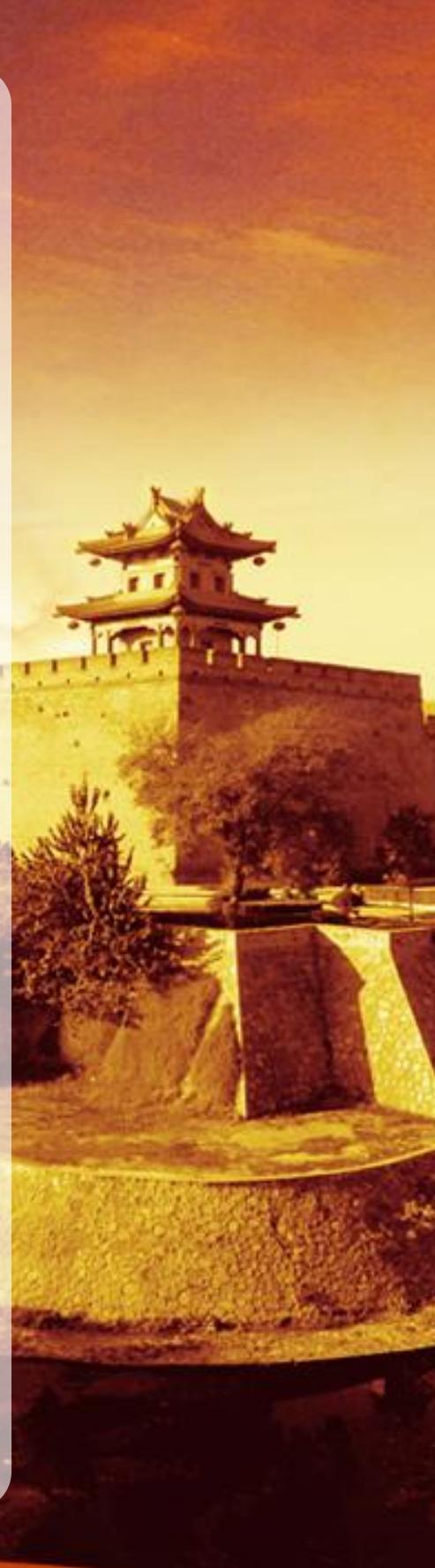


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Xi'an, anciently known as Chang'an (meaning "eternal peace"), is the capital of [Shaanxi Province](#) and the biggest city in the northwest of China. It boasts a mild climate, fertile soil, beautiful scenery, abundant products, and numerous historical relics and sites.

Xi'an has a long history. An old saying in China tells the unique position of this legendary city: "If you want to see China of 100 years ago, visit Shanghai; China of 500 years ago, Beijing; China of 2000 years ago, Xi'an." During its 3,100 years of development, 12 dynasties, including the Western Zhou (1046 BC-771 BC), Qin (221 BC-206 BC), Western Han (206 BC-25 AD), and Tang (618-907), made their capitals here for over 1,100 years, leaving abundant legacies to the city.

During the Western Han and Tang dynasties, Xi'an was China's political, economic, cultural, and foreign exchange center, where people from all over the world lived in harmony. It was also the first stop on the [Silk Road](#), linking up the oriental and western civilizations. The saying "In the east, there is Rome, in the west, Chang'an," best described the position of Xi'an at that time. Nowadays, Xi'an enjoys an equal fame with Athens, Cairo, and Rome as "one of the four major capitals of ancient civilization".



Xi'an is located in the warm temperate zone, enjoying a semi-humid continental monsoon climate. It has four distinct seasons and moderate climate. In summer, it's hot and very rainy; in winter, it's chilly and there is less snow and rain. In the periods of spring and autumn, rainy days last very long.

The annual average temperature of the city is 13.3°C. The highest temperature is about 40°C and the lowest temperature is about -8°C. The lowest temperature ranges from -16 to -20°C. The hottest month falls in July, with the monthly mean temperature ranging from 26.1 to 26.3°C. January is the coldest month of the year, with the monthly average temperature ranging from -0.3 to -1.3°C.

Avoid Peak Traveling Periods

The period from March to May when the blossoms are in full bloom and the period from September to November when the weather is pleasant are the best periods for visiting Xi'an.

Xi'an Attractions

It is strongly suggested that tourists should avoid peak traveling periods in China. The peak traveling periods include some traditional Chinese festivals, including New Year's Day (January 1st to 3rd), Spring Festival (late January or early February), May Day (May 1st to 3rd) and National Day holidays (October 1st to 7th).



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The Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses is praised as "the eighth major miracle of the world". The Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shi Huang is the first Chinese historical site listed on the World Heritage List. Famous places of historical figures and cultural heritage include the Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, Banpo Village Remains, the [City Wall](#) of the Ming Dynasty, the Forest of Stone Steles Museum, the [Bell Tower](#), the [Drum Tower](#), [Huqing Pool](#), and the [Big Wild Goose Pagoda](#), and Small Wild Goose Pagoda.

The [Neolithic Banpo Village Remains](#) (approximately 7000 BC to 5000 BC) evidences early human activities in a matriarchal society. The Forest of Stone Steles Museum holds 3,000 stone steles of different periods, from the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912).

The natural landscape around Xi'an is also marvelous. [Huashan Mountain](#), one of the five best-known mountains in China, is famous for its breathtaking cliffs and unique beauty.



Terracotta Warriors Museum

[The Terracotta Warriors Museum](#) is built on the excavation of pits of the Terracotta Warriors, which has become the symbol of Xian but also represents China. The Terracotta Warriors were placed in the burial pit for Qin Shihuang, the first emperor in China and it is about 1.5 km away from the tomb of Qin Shihuang.

The pit 1 was opened to public in October, 1979, and immediately attracted a huge amount of attention from the world. The pits contain many painstakingly made life-size figures made 2200 years ago. Bronze chariots and horses as well as the army of men in full battle dress not to be missed!

- **Add:** 59 North Wenyi Road, Lintong District, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-81399001
- **Admission:** 150 Yuan/person from Mar.1-Nov.30 and 120 Yuan/person for Dec.1-Feb.28
- **Opening Hours:** 14: 8:30 am-5:30pm during Mar.16-Nov.14; 8:30am-5pm between Nov.15-Mar.15

Recommended Xian Terracotta Warriors Tours:

- Take a [3-Day Essense of Xi'an Tour](#) from USD \$299



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Xi'an City Wall

The [Xi'an City Wall](#) is located in the center of the City and has 4 gates. They are the Changle Gate (East Gate), An Ding Gate (West Gate), Yong Ning Gate (South Gate) and the An Yuan Gate (North Gate). Each Gate has a fortified watchtower. The wall was built in the Ming Dynasty from 1374-1378.

Walking on the City Wall is a great way to see the contrast of modern Xian with ancient city. The view of the city is especially good at sunrise and sunset. Biking on the City Wall could be a highlight and a cool experience and is very popular with foreign travelers. The wall is 13.7 km long in total.

- **Add:** City Center, Beilin District, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-7234918
- **Admission:** 55 Yuan
- **Opening Hours:** 8:00-22:00 during spring and summer; 8:00-19:00 during autumn and winter

Recommended tours including Xian City Wall:

- Take a [2-Day Xi'an Quick and Easy Tour](#) from USD \$209



[Shaanxi Historical Provincial Museum](#)

Many dynasties including the Zhou Dynasty, Qin Dynasty, the Han Dynasty and the Tang Dynasty had their capital in or around Xian and therefore Shaanxi History reflects Chinese history. Many historical and cultural relics are housed in [Shaanxi Provincial History Museum](#) and it is therefore an excellent place to see early Chinese history in a few hours.

The museum houses up to 370,000 relics, ranging from simple stoneware used in the ancient society to beautiful artworks and weapons. Delicate bronze ware from the Shang and Zhou Dynasties, vivid pottery men from many dynasties, gold and silver ware and tomb murals from the Tang Dynasty each tell their own piece of history. No wonder it is known as A Grand Hall of Chinese Civilization. 4 hours visit is recommended.



- **Add:** NO 91, Xiaozhai Donglu, Yanta District, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-85254727
- **Admission:** Free
- **Opening Hours:** 9:00-17:30(closed on Monday)



Big Wild Goose Pagoda

The [Big Wild Goose Pagoda](#) is in the Ci'en Temple, 4 kms from the city center. Built in 652 during the Tang Dynasty, it has witnessed much. The pagoda was built to house Sanskrit Buddhist scriptures which Buddhist scholar Xuan Zang brought back from India. The top of the pagoda provides a good view of the city. 2 hours would allow enough time for a good visit.

Behind the pagoda is a large musical fountain. It is especially spectacular at night with colorful lights enhancing the display. It has become one of top places for locals and travelers to spend a summer evening. The fountain performs at 12:30 pm and 8:30 pm on weekdays and every 2 hours from noon on weekends and public holidays.

- **Add:** South end of Yanta Road, Outside the Heping Gate, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-85527958
- **Admission:** 50 Yuan
- **Opening Hours:** 8:00-17:30 from Mar.16-Nov.14 and 8:00-17:00 during Nov.15-Mar.15



Tomb of Emperor Jingdi (Hangyang Ling)

Jingdi(BC188-BC141) was the 4th emperor of the West Han Dynasty who had ruled for 17 years. His tomb is located in Xian Yang City near Xian and was built for him and his empress. It took 28 years to build the tomb from BC153-BC126. In recent years 18,000 relics have been unearthed which are of course of great significance. Most are on display. Han figurines and the tomb for prisoners are especially worthwhile for an understanding of the period.

Divided into several parts, the tomb now has become a museum with surrounding park. It is now the biggest museum in China. A full day is recommended.

- **Add:** Zhangjia Bay, Zhengyang Town, Weicheng District, Xianyang City
- **Tel:** 029-86032883
- **Admission:** 90 Yuan/person for March to November and 65 Yuan/person for other months.
- **Opening Hours:** 8:30-18:30 between Dec.1-Feb.28 and 8:30-19:00 during Mar.1-Nov.30





Great Mosque in Muslim Quarter

The famous Muslim Quarter in Xian contains [the Great Mosque](#). As the starting point of Silk Road, there the descents of the Muslim businessmen have made Xian their home and this Mosque was built as their place of worship. Built in 724 in the Tang Dynasty and restored for several times, most buildings in the Great Mosque are the Ming-Qing style and in 4 courtyards. Stone steles and ancient trees are scattered over the different courtyards.

Worshipers to the Great Mosque 5 times a day and it can be crowded at peak times but provides a fascinating insight into the daily life of the people. A dress code applies.

- **Add:** NO 30,Huajue Alley, Northwest of Drum Tower, Xian 西安鼓楼西北隅化觉寺巷30号
- **Tel:** 029-87272541
- **Admission:** 25 Yuan during peak season and 15 Yuan during low season.
- **Opening Hours:** 8:00-19:00





Gao Courtyard

There are 2 famous [Gao Courtyards](#) in Xian. One is at NO 42, Xinglong Alley and the other at NO 144, Beiyuanmen Street. Beiyuanmen is a food street for Muslim food and also where Gao Courtyard is located. Built in over 400 years ago, the courtyard is in the Ming Dynasty style with 86 rooms (56 rooms are opened to the public). It is a post and panel structure.

The Gao Courtyard was the private mansion of Gao Yuesong, a famous and important official during the Ming Dynasty. A plaque hung on the entrance gate was a gift from the emperor and say 榜眼及第 "the third most important place in China". Seven consecutive generations the Gao family were important officials during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The courtyard contains many traditional, special items and furniture from the Ming and Qing Dynasties. A tea house in the courtyard provides tea and chance to rest. Shadow play puppets perform every day for about 10 minutes and is worth seeing.

- **Add:** NO 144, Beiyuanmen Street, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-87232897
- **Admission:** 15 Yuan
- **Opening Hours:** 8:30-22:30





Forest of Stone Steles Museum

[Forest of Stone Steles](#) is a huge collection of stone steles which have valuable calligraphy from many famous calligraphers from history. It was established by an official during the North Song Dynasty. This is a great place for those interested in Chinese calligraphy. It contains the earliest and most notable stone steles in China. The museum also has a complete set of 12 Confucian classics from the Tang Dynasty. They were carved in 837. This set of Confucian classics was must-read for intellectuals in the Tang Dynasty.



- **Add:** NO 15, Sanxue Street, inside the Wenchang Gate, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-87210764
- **Admission:** 50 Yuan during Dec.1-Feb.28 and 75 Yuan between Mar.1-Nov.30
- **Opening Hours:** 8:00-18:45 for summer and 8:00-18:00 in winter



Bell & Drum Towers

The Bell and Drum Towers are 2 towers in the city center of Xian. The Drum Tower is located west of the Bell Tower and was built 4 years earlier than [Bell Tower](#). There was once a huge drum in the [Drum Tower](#) but this has disappeared over time.

The Drum Tower has drums performances at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 14:30, 15:30 and 16:30. The clock in the Bell Tower strikes 24 times at 9:00 am, 12:00 and 15:00. Every day at 18:00 is the special performance. This is a famous and traditional custom in Xian called Morning Clock and Evening Drum.

- **Add:** South end of Beiyuanmen Street, Xida Street, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-87274580
- **Admission:** 35 Yuan for each.
- **Opening Hours:** 8:30-21:00 for Apr.1-Oct.31 and 8:00-18:00 between Nov.1-Mar.31



Famen Temple

[Famen Temple](#) is located in Famen Town which is 120 km away from Xian. It was built during the Eastern Han Dynasty over 1700 years ago. It is well-known as an Imperial Temple and famous for storing the bone from Bhudda Sakyamuni's finger.

The temple consists of the old site of Famen Temple, Treasure House and Museum of Heshi Buddhist Relics. The Treasure House has many valuable relics on display. Outside the Famen Temple there is a vegetarian restaurant.

The Buddhist Relics are open to the public from 10:00-16:00 on the 1st day and 15th day of the lunar month, the 8th day of the fourth lunar month and every weekend.

- **Add:** Famen Tower, Fufeng County, Baoji City, Xian
- **Tel:** 0917--5258888
- **Admission:** 120 Yuan for Mar.1-Nov.30 and 90 Yuan for Dec.1-Feb. 28
- **Opening Hours:** 8:00-17:30 for Mar.1-Oct.31 and 8:30-17:00 between Nov.1-Feb.28

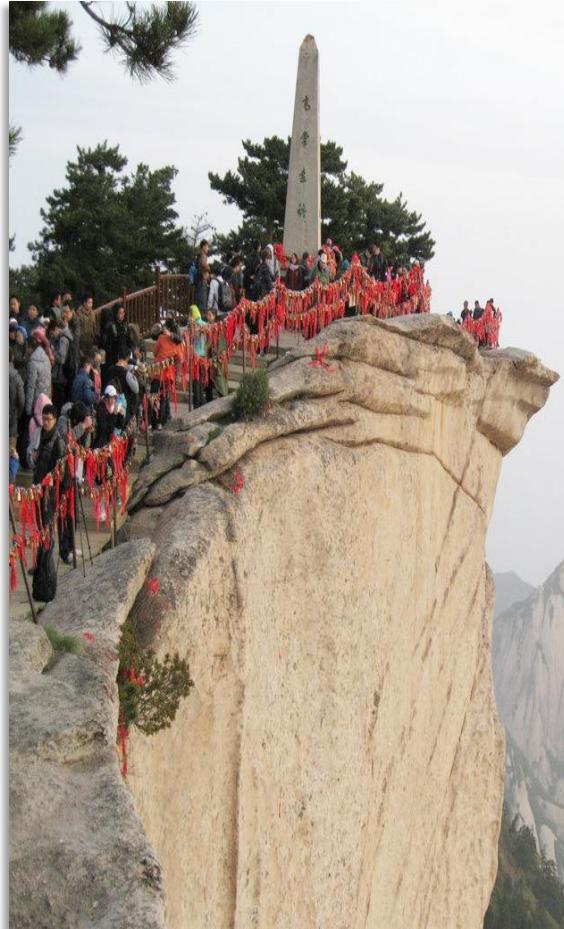




Huashan Mountain

Mount Hua is located some 240 kilometers away from Xi'an, approximately a two and half hours drive. It is one of the five sacred mountains in China. Mount Hua is well-known for its sheer cliffs and plunging ravines. It is the most dangerous mountain in China for climbers. The Sunrise Peak is a fine place to enjoy the sunrise view in early morning, which is frequented by travelers. Renewed as a sacred mountain, Mount Hua boasts a lot of religious heritages.

Cable cars are available and take tourists to the northern summit and west summit of the mountain. If you want to challenge your endurance and physical strength then choose to climb the mountain. However, you are kindly advised to begin your arduous journey early in the morning, even before the sunrises, this way during your trek you can be lucky enough to nourish your aching body with the breath-taking sunrise which dances over the horizon when you reach the summit at morning.



- **Add:** in the territory of Huayin city, about 120 kilometers away from downtown Xian.
- **Tel:** 0913—4362692; 0913-4360508
- **Admission:** Mar. to Nov: 180 yuan; Dec.to Feb: 100 yuan.
- **Opening Hours:** 24 hours at Xishan Gate; 07:00-19:00 for Mar.1-Oct.31 and 09:00-17:00 between Nov.1-Feb.28 at Dongshan Gate
- **Transport:** Special bus departs from the square opposite the Railway Station to the Huashan Mountain every 1 hour. The journey takes around 2 hours with a cost of 18 CNY.



Banpo Museum

In the Yellow River valley, Banpo Village Ruins is a typical representation of the Neolithic Yangshao Agricultural Village. The ruins date back 5600—6700 years. It is the earliest known agricultural village in China. The term "Yangshao culture" is used because the first example was found near Yangshao Village. The oldest Yangshao-type village is Banpo.



- **Add:** No.155,Banpo Road, Dongjiao district, Xian
- **Tel:** 029-83512807
- **Admission:** Mar. to Nov:65 CNY; Dec. to Feb.45 CNY
- **Opening Hours:** 08:00 -18:00(Mar. to Nov.);08:00-17:30(Dec.to Feb)
- **Transport:** Take No. 105 bus in Drum Tower, or No. 11 bus in the Xi'an railway station; Bus 15,406,and 913



Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor

Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang (also called Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor) stands at the foot of Mount. Li, 30 km east to Xi'an. Its south backs on to Mount. Li and its north touches the Wei River. The big Mausoleum integrates with Mount. Li, offering unique landscape for sightseeing.

Its construction lasted 38 years, confiscating over 720,000 corvees and prisoners. Modern surveys of the site show that the mausoleum is indeed divided into an inner sanctuary and outer city.

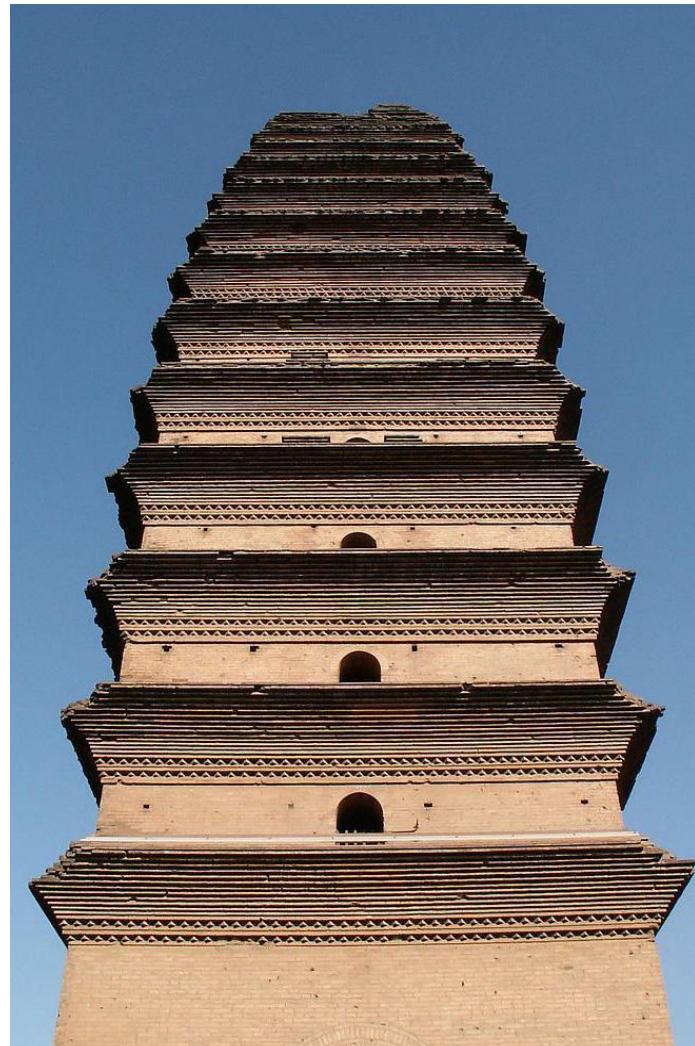
- **Add:** Lintong District, Xi'an
- **Admission:** 26 yuan
- **Transport:** Take No.306 Tour Bus



Small Wild Goose Pagoda

Together with Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Small Wild Goose Pagoda which is a well-preserved ancient construction of the Tang Dynasty is another key landmark in Xi'an. Compared with Big Wild Goose Pagoda, it's smaller and has a shorter history, so it got the name. Located in the Jianfu Temple, it is a typical dense eaves pagoda.

Small Wild Goose Pagoda was built during the Jinglong period (707-710 A.D.) of the Tang Dynasty. The original tower had 15 stories and was about 46 meters high, however, now it only has 13 stories with a height of 43.4 meters. Small Wild Goose Pagoda is a popular tourist destination in Xi'an city. The morning bell ring in the pagoda had been listed as one of top 8 attractions in the central Shaanxi plain.



- **Add:** 72 West Friendship Road, Xi'an
- **Tel:** 029-87811081
- **Admission:** Free but 30 CNY to climb Small Wild Goose Pagoda
- **Opening Hours:** 9:00-16:00 (close on Tuesday)
- **Transport:** Bus 18, 21, 29, 32, 40, 46, 203, 204, 218, 224, 407, 410, 508, 521, 700, 707, 713, 720, and Tourism Bus 7 and 8.

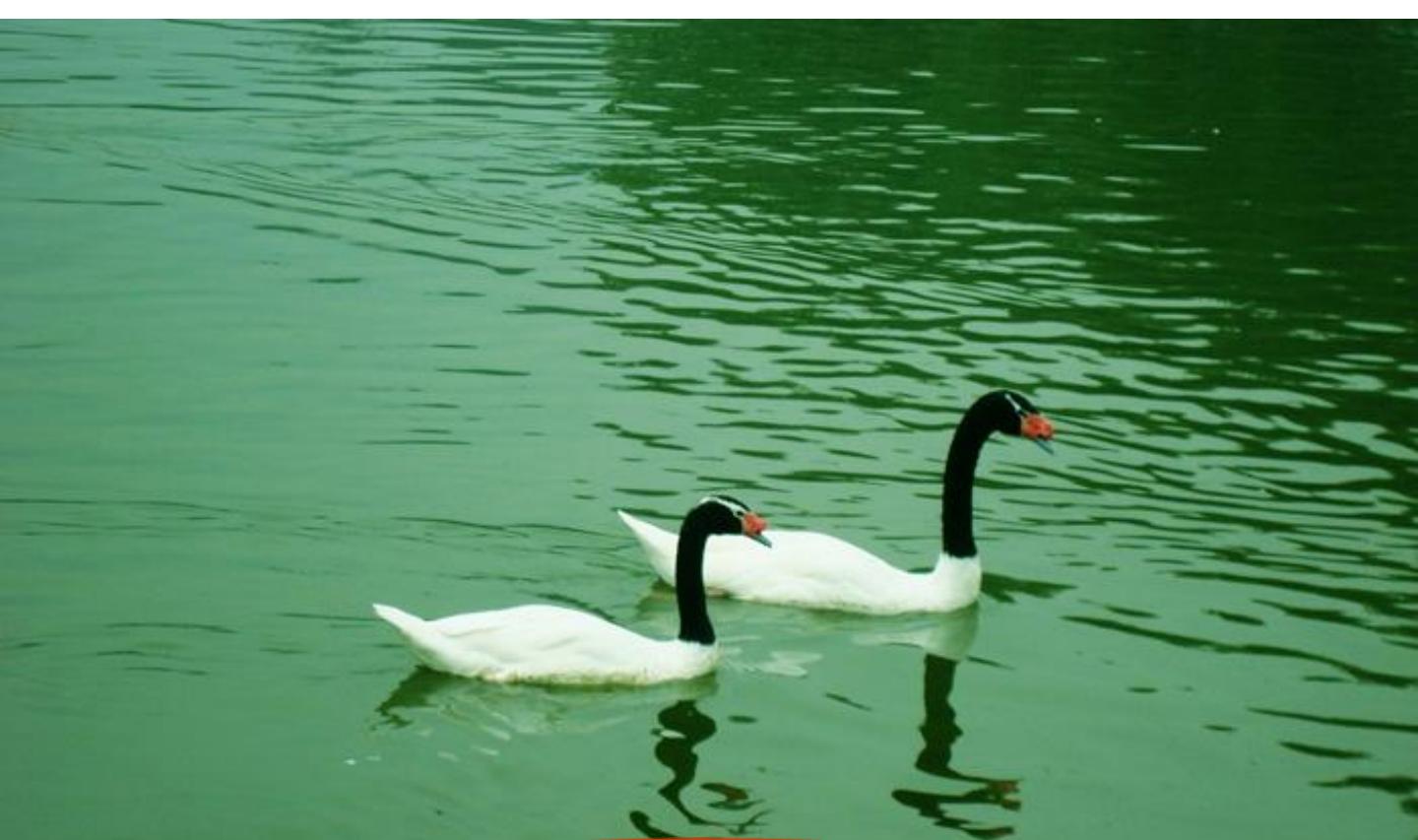


Qinling Wildlife Park

The Qinling Wildlife Park is the biggest wildlife park in Northwest China, with a total area over 133 hectares. There are more than 10000 rare wild animals from over 300 species in the park. The Qinling Wildlife Park consists of two parts: the Animal houses and Enclosures District and Prairie District.

The Prairie District can be divided into to parts: the Vegetarian Zone and the Predator Zone, coving a total area of 490,000 square meters. Visitors should take a sightseeing bus into the Prairie District.

- **Add:** Huanshan ecotourism area, Qingling Northern Lu, Chang'an District
- **Tel:** 029-85670040 85670046
- **Admission:** 100 yuan/person
- **Opening Hours:** 8:30am-18:00pm during April 1st to October 31st
9:00am-17:00pm during November 1st to March 31st
- **Transport:** take Bus No.320 or Tourism Bus NO. 9 and get off at Qinling Wildlife Park Stop





Tang Dynasty Show

The tang Dynasty is a must-see for every foreign visitor to Xian so try not to miss it. The show features [Tang Dynasty Music and Dance](#) complete in authentic costumes. The show highlights the 8 most popular dances depicting life from the period - the imperial palace, folk, spring outing or in the battlefield. The spectacular showcases the music and many music instruments as well as dance. A dumplings banquet is also available.



- Add:** The Tang Dynasty, No.75 Chang An Road, Xi'an
- Tel:** 029-87822222
- Admission:** 220 Yuan for the show and 550 Yuan for the show plus the dinner.
- Show time:** 20:30-21:40 **Dinner Time:** 18:30



Vintage Sidecar Motorcycle

Vintage Sidecar Motorcycle is the most popular way to see Xian, especially the off-the-beaten parts which larger vehicles cannot reach. Most of the tours would include a local lunch.



- Add:** Room 020805, Tianjingyuan, Xi'an
- Tel:** 15021112451

We can arrange vintage sidecar service in Xian:

- We [can tailor-make a trip](#) for you to meet your own needs, free inquiry, save time and money.

Xi'an Transport

Xi'an lies in the Guanzhong Basin of Shaanxi Province. It is the political, economic and cultural center in the northwestern region of China. It provides a link of communication between Southwest, Northwest, and East China. And as a key transportation port and important municipality in the vast west China, it's easily reachable by bus, train and air. The urban public transportation system of Xi'an is also among the most advanced and convenient in China.



Xi'an Xianyang International Airport

Xi'an Xianyang International Airport is situated in the suburb of the city of Xianyang, 50 km from the downtown of Xi'an. It takes about 80 to 100 Yuan and less than one hour to go to the airport from central Xi'an by taxi. As the fourth largest airport in China, there are several flights to and from Xi'an to the major tourist stops such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Urumqi and other cities.

There are also a few flights to Lhasa and Hong Kong as well as international flights to Thailand, South Korea, North Korea and Japan. The airport has opened up airlines directly bound for Taiwan. The airport shuttle buses run from 6 a. m. until 6 p.m. Six bus routes connect the airport and central Xi'an. The departure time of the buses at airport depends on the arrival time of the flights. The buses leave at the starting point in downtown at every sharp hour. The bus fare, regardless of route and direction, is 25 Yuan per person. **For further information, please dial 029-88791384 or 029-88798780.**

Six Bus Routes:

Route 1: Airport – Bell Tower (Meilun Hotel) – Xi'an Hotel

Route 2: Airport – Qinfeng Hotel-Train Station (Liberation Hotel)

Route 3: Airport – Qindu Hotel-Xishaomen – Torch Tower (High-tech Economic and Development Zone)

Route 4: Airport – Tangcheng Hotel – Oriental Hotel – International Trade Center (Xiaozhai)

Route 5: Airport – Queen Hotel – Jianguo Hotel

Route 6: Airport – Xianyang Train Station – Weicheng Middle School – Xianyang Municipal Government – Minsheng Shopping Mall – Caihong Hotel

It is easy to take a **taxis** to the airport in Xi'an, the fare is between 80 and 100 Yuan.



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Railway Station

Xi'an Railway Station is not only a passenger transportation station of top grade, but also an important spot of the Euro Continental Bridge in China. Longhai Railway (Lianyungang to Lanzhou) runs through Xi'an. The line and other routes connect Shaanxi Province and other cities in China by train.

Xi'an Railway station links the Xihou Railway (Xi'an to Houma) in the east of China, Baotian Railway (Baoji to Tianshui) and Lanxin Railway (Lanzhou to Xinjiang) in the northwest of China, Baocheng Railway (Baoji to Chengdu) in the Southwest of China. The Beijing-Tibet Railway also runs through Xi'an. Tourists could take long distance trains here to almost all the important cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Nanning, Urumqi, Zhengzhou, and Tibet etc.

Travelers should book tickets either hard seat or berth ten days in advance at the ticket offices in Xi'an. Train Ticket Offices in Xi'an: All branches or offices of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) offer train tickets booking services.

Xi'an Train Station Information Office: 029-87275071

How to get there?

From the city center (Bell Tower), it takes about 15 minutes and 10 Yuan to get to the station by taxi. Alternatively, buses No. 5, 6, 9, 13, 14, 103, 105, 25, 39, 228, 239, 30, 40, 41, 42, 103, 105, 108, 251, 240, 241, 201, 205, 206, 229, 500, 602, 603, 607, 608, 610 and 611 pass the station.



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Public Buses

Xi'an has a very convenient and advanced public bus network. Ordinary buses charge one Yuan per person, while buses with air-conditioning ask for two Yuan. And if you have got a bus card, you can have a 50% discount. Mini buses, whose first numbers are 5 or 7, charge 50 cents for the first three stops and an additional 50 cents for another four stops. Service hotline: 029-9600135



Sightseeing Buses

Being a very important tourist destination, Xi'an currently offers nine tourist bus lines whose numbers starts with the Chinese character "游" (the pronunciation is "U"), which means "a sightseeing Bus". In these lines, U 1, U 2, U 3, there is only one bus per day except the golden weeks (May Day and National Day) and no bus in low season (from January to March).



Inquiry telephone No. : 029- 84031313

 **Taxis**

About 10, 000 taxis are now running in Xi'an. The starting rate is 6 Yuan for the first 3 kilometers plus 1.5 Yuan per extra kilometer. For taxis in Chang'an District, the fares are 5 Yuan for the first three kilometers and 1.4 Yuan for per extra kilometer respectively. The night rate (applied from 10 pm to 6 am) is 7 Yuan for the first 3 kilometers and 30 cents added to the normal additional kilometer rate.

Tourists can also rent a taxi for a whole day inside the city of Xi'an at the cost of 200 Yuan. A taxi for a day to Hua Mountain or the Famen Temple costs 300 Yuan, and one to the Taibai Mountain costs 350 Yuan. It takes 80 to 100 Yuan to get from Bell Tower to airport by taxi.

Taxi Service Hotline: 029-84264509


 **Subways**

Subway No. 2 from North to South and Subway No. 1 from west to east are both under construction now. No. 2 will open to the public in 2010 and No. 1 in 2013.



Xi'an Food

Xi'an is also well-known for its prosperous food and beverage industry. Foods in Xi'an are quite different from the rest of China; especially compared with more easterly regions. You can see a delicious combination of Chinese cooking with Muslim and other traditions.

The local food is very famed at home and abroad. And a kind of modern cuisine system with Tang cuisine as traditional one and Shaanxi cuisine as main one has been appeared. It is the representative of food of Northwestern China. It is unbootable that the renowned Xianese snack, Xi'an Dumplings Banquet and other Xi'an foods will keep your stomach satisfied and add more special interest and funny to your tourist in Xi'an.



Beef Or Mutton Paomo (pancake Slices With Beef Or Mutton Soup)

The special features of beef and mutton Paomo (YangrouPaomo) are that the materials are carefully selected, the meat is well-cooked , the soup is rich and thick and the smell is tempting with everlasting taste and a function of warming one's stomach. Therefore, it is the most special and popular food in Xi'an. The culinary art required for Pancake slices soaked in beef or mutton soup is very carefully selected, the craft of boiling meat is very exquisite too.>>[More Details](#)



Dumpling Banquet

Dumpling is one of the most widely loved flour food by people in north China. The fillings are chopped meat or vegetable, mixed with the condiments. It's Chinese's custom to eat dumplings on the Spring Festival, Lantern Festival and the Winter Solstice. Dumpling Banquet is a featured snack innovated on the basis of traditional recipe by Xi'an Jiefang Road Dumpling Restaurant and De Fa Chang Dumpling Restaurant.

For the time being, Dumpling Banquet has nearly 120 varieties and is divided into ten categories, such as Palace Banquet, Eighth Precious Banquet, Dragon and Phoenix Banquet, Peony Banquet and Flowers Banquet etc. The banquet is known as "one dumpling one shape, hundred dumplings hundred tastes". >>[More Details](#)



Jiasan Guantang Steamed Bun (steamed Buns With Sauces Inside)

With the most resounding and biggest reputation in Xi'an, Jiasan Guangtang steamed bun shapes like pomegranate (pomegranate is symbol of good wish to the local custom).The reason why people make the bun like this is that they want to express their kind blessings to the consumer of that food. It is really a good combination of colors, aromas and tastes. >>[More Details](#)



Roujiamo (finely Chopped Pork Stuffed In Baked Pancake)

Roujiamo comes from the ancient Chinese "Rou jia yu mo" (port stuffed in pancake). Roujiamo is made of mincemeat wrapped by griddle steamed bread. Meat used in Roujiamo is a kind of cured meat stewed with assorted sauces in a kettle. This makes the meat soft, easy to chew and taste with a lasting flavor. High culinary skill is required to produce this kind of meat.



Fenchaoyu (fried Flour Fish)

Sounding and looking like fish, this fingerling-shaped snack is actually made of flour through a complicated seasoning procedure. It is very popular in Xian especially during summer because of its quality of dispelling heat. After being carefully fried, seasoned, the food smells fragrant and tastes tender.



Dumpling In Sour Soup

It is an old traditional snack with a history of more than 1,000 years. The dumpling eaten in this way usually made of mutton fillings. When eating, people put mutton dumplings into the especially made sour soup. The sour soup in all contains 13 kinds of condiments including dried small shrimps, cooked sesame, minced caraway, minced leek, cattle oil, sesame oil, chicken oil, sugar vinegar and soy sauce.



Liangpi (Cold Noodles)

Liangpi is a special street food in Shaanxi Province. Local families make Liangpi in summer. It is flavored with sweet, hot and sour spices.

Recommended Restaurant

Biangbiang Mian (Dongyi Road Store)

- **Add:** Dongyi Road, Xian
- **Tel:** (029)87431987
- **Price range:** \$3-\$4



Paomo (Shredded Cakes in the Broth)

[Paomo](#), is shredded cakes in the mutton or beef broth and is a staple. The broth is sticky and soft with a good smell. After having Paomo, a bowl of Gaotang (soup-stock), is considered an enjoyable thing for locals.

Recommended Restaurant

Laomi Jia Dayu Paomo

- **Add:** NO 127, Xiyang Market, Beilin District, Xian
- **Price range:** \$4-\$5
- **Local Food Street:** Muslim Quarter (Huajue Alley)

[Huajue Muslim quarter](#) is the biggest in Xian and also very famous in China. It refers to Huajue Alley. It has many Muslim food stalls mostly run by Hui minority people. It also has many souvenirs, pick up and remember to bargain.

- **Add:** Lianhu District, Xian(near the Bell&Drum Tower)



Hang Palace Restaurant

Shangri-la may be facing intense competition in the market, but definitely it still remains on top for one good reason: it does everything in great taste. A perfect example is Shang Palace Restaurant, which is found in Shangri-la Golden Flower Hotel.. What matters most here is the food, and it is delicious. It offers two types of dishes, Sichuan and Cantonese. The latter will surely delight the taste buds of the Westerners since they are milder and have a more balanced taste.

- **Address:** Shangri-la Golden Flower Hotel, 8 Changle Xi Lu
- **Operating Hours:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch), 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (dinner)



Tian Xiang Ge

This is another restaurant that can be found in Shangri-la, only this time we are talking about Shangri-la Hotel Xian. It features classic dim sum flavors, which a lot of foreigners are acquainted to, cooked using the freshest ingredients. The noodles used are made from scratch. The restaurant prepares a variety of China-based cuisines, though it also brings to spotlight the dishes that made Xian extremely popular. Some of the dishes to try are bitter gourd complemented with egg yolk, braised beef topped over vermicelli and flavored with vinegar and chili sauce, and abalone cooked in a wok and spiced with chili.

- **Address:** Keji Road, Xian
- **Operating Hours:** 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch), 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (dinner)



De Fa Chang Restaurant

Xian is highly defined by its bell tower and the square surrounding it. It is therefore one of the most visited places in the city. Fortunately, should you find yourself getting hungry from all the walking and the biking, you can just dine at De Fa Chang Restaurant. This is adored by the locals because it makes some of the best dumplings in the country. The small dumplings taste fresh and balanced. Moreover, the guests have the option to throw in some beers and cold salads to complete a meal. It is also possible to fill your hunger with soup composed of their lucky dumplings.

- Address: Pingan Market, Bell Tower Square
- Average Cost: CNY20
- Operating Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.



Lao Sun Jia Restaurant

Lao Sun Jia does not have the same contemporary or sophisticated flair that is offered by some of the biggest and popular restaurants in the city. Rather, it makes up for whatever it lacks in its aesthetic by giving the guests some of the most delicious dishes. This is the ultimate reason why people continue to come back here and why even if it is small customers do not mind waiting in queue for some time. It's a family-run restaurant that goes back to more than a hundred years. Some of the well-known dishes like the mutton spareribs that have been spiced are worth tasting. It is a great restaurant that serves Muslim food.

- Address: Dong Da Jie, Beilin District
- Average Cost: CNY 20



Tang Dynasty

There's no doubt that the Chinese love the arts. Their museums are filled not only with historical artifacts but also sculptures, paintings, lyrics, and other works of art that go back to hundreds of years ago. Even if new types of entertainment have arrived, some still try to maintain the old China glamour. One of these groups is the Tang Dynasty. Over the years, it has proven itself to be more than just a restaurant that serves prawns, fried rice, green tea, and rice wine. It has also been an entertainment hub where guests are treated to different shows while they dine. Guests can actually order a bundle, wherein the price already covers for the performance and the banquet.

- **Address:** Changan Road, Xian
- **Average Cost:** CNY 200
- **Operating Hours:** 8:30 p.m. to 9:40 p.m. (show)



Prosperity and Fortune Restaurant

Prosperity and Fortune Restaurant is one of the dining establishments in Xian that have achieved longevity and fame for a number of reasons. One it is strategically located. It is only within the city center and very close to the Bell Tower and Square, which are two of the most well-known attractions in the area and are thus frequently visited by tourists. It also serves very palatable dishes especially Muslim dishes. It is known for its shredded pancake flavored with broth from beef or mutton, which is called paomo. You can also order some glass noodles and pepper sauce with pickled garlic.

- **Address:** around the Bell Tower
- **Average Cost:** CNY 20
- **Operating Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



Orient Hotel Restaurant

One of the most reviewed restaurants in Xian, Orient Hotel Restaurant, as its name suggests, is the main dining establishment of the Orient Hotel. As you walk in, you can instantly feel the Chinese vibe with the choice of colors and furniture. This then makes you more prepared to taste what the master chefs have created for their guests on that day. Although they primarily serve Chinese dishes especially Shanghai and Cantonese, they also provide Western food, perhaps for the more discerning foreign guests. It's also a good venue for parties and other gatherings since it's broken to various dining halls.

- **Address:** Zhuque Road, Yanta, Xian



Shopping in Xi'an

Shuyuanmen Cultural Street

Starting at Nanmen Gate in the west and ending at Baishulin Street in the east, Shuyuanmen Cultural Street is paved with blue flagstones and lined with pseudo-classic stores, most of which specialize in selling the four treasures of the study (i.e. writing brush, ink stick, ink slab, paper), calligraphic works and paintings of celebrities, ancient books and tourist souvenirs.

- **Address:** Beilin District of Xian
- **Transport:** bus 6, 16, 23, 215, 40, 46, 213, 229, 239, 603, 608, 707, 29, 203, 500 and 609
- **Nearby attractions:** Bell Tower, Drum Tower and Lesser Wild Goose Pagoda

Muslim's Quarter

As the most famous Islamic street in Xian, Muslim's Quarter is actually composed of Beiyuanmen Street, North Guangji Street, Xiyangshi Street and Dapiyuan Street, where the architectural buildings feature the Ming (1368- 1644) and the Qing (1616 - 1911) styles. Muslim's Quarter is not only a wonderful place for locals and foreigners alike to taste Islamic snacks and specialties, but it's an ideal place for visitors to go shopping. The highlights of the street are local souvenirs and specialties, including copies of terracotta warriors, copies of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, dried fruits and cooked beef.

- **Address:** in the west of Zhonggulou Square, Beilin District of Xi'an
- **Transport:** bus 4, 7, 15, 32, 43, 45, 201, 205, 206, 215, 28, 221, 251, 300, 604, 611, 612, K630, 14, 20, 25, 30 and 40
- **Nearby attractions:** Drum Tower, Bell Tower, Forest of Steles and Xian Museum

Bell Tower Shopping Area

As the most prosperous commercial area of Xian, the Bell Tower Shopping Area includes Jiefang Road, Dongdajie Avenue, Nandajie Avenue and Xidajie Avenue, where the modern shopping malls stand in great numbers, highlighted by Kaiyuan Shopping Mall, Minsheng Department Store, Century Golden Flower Shopping Center and Fanghui Mansion.

- **Address:** in the center of Beilin District of Xian
- **Transport:** bus 11, 118, 12, 15, 16, 201, 203, 205, 206, 208, 214, 215, 218, 221, 222, 229, 235, 236, 239, 300 and 302
- **Nearby attractions:** Xian Ancient City Wall and Bell Tower, Drum Tower and the Great Mosque

Big Wild Goose Pagoda Shopping Area

Big Wild Goose Pagoda Shopping Area is lined with many stores dealing with digital products, including Golden Eagle International, Metro, Saeger Computer Market, Parkson and Wal-Mart Shopping Square.

- **Address:** around Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Yanta District of Xian
- **Transport:** bus 19, 21, 27, 23, 34, 41, 24, 22, 30, 44, 601, 401, 237, 501, 521, 715, 701, 527, 24, 408 and 500
- **Nearby attractions:** Greater Wild Goose Pagoda, Qujiang Pool Park and Xian Museum

Beiyuanmen Street

The street is very near [Huajue Alley](#) and specializes in crafts such as shadow puppets, paper cutting and cloth art etc.

- **Add:** Behind the Drum Tower, South end of Beiyuanmen Street, Xida Street, Xian

Antique Market

This street is for relics and antique. Every shop has a theme -. Jade wares, porcelain, calligraphy and paintings, badges and old books are all have special stores.

- **Add:** NO2, Zhuque Avenue, Xian

Shuyuanmen Street

The street is long and has a mixture of craftworks and antiques - combination of Beiyuanmen Street and Antique Market. It is near Beiyuanmen Street.

- **Add:** Behind the Drum Tower, South end of Beiyuanmen Street, Xida Street, Xian

Yanta West Road

Likes 798 Art District in Beijing and NO 50 Moganshan Road in Shanghai, Yanta West Road in Xian is a local art district. The road is 2.3 km long over 5 blocks.

- **Add:** Yanta West Road, Xian



Group Tours with Solo Adventure!

Xi'an Hotels



Group Tours with Solo Adventure!

The Xian Skytel Hotel(3-star)

The Xian Skytel Hotel is located in the busiest commercial and downtown area of Xi'an city, It is just 10 minutes by car from the Railway Station and 40 minurtes' drive from the airport.

- **Address:** No.32 Nandajie, Beilin District
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安天阅酒店
- **Telephone:** 400-700-1997

Days Inn City Centre Xian (4-star)

Days Inn City Centre Xian is located within walking distance of the city centre and some major tourist attractions. The hotel is convenient for all main motorways into the city; there is a shuttle service to and from the airport near the hotel.

The restaurant offers a wide selection of continental breakfast. Hotel has one middle size parking lot for free. Hotel has two meeting rooms. The restaurant can hold kinds of banquets. There are banks, hospitals, restaurants, shopping malls near our hotel. There is 10 minutes driving distance to the bus station.

- **Address:** No.99 north street, Xian, Shaanxi Province
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安中心戴斯酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-87398800

Sheraton Xian North City Hotel(5-star)

Opened in July 2011, the Sheraton Xian North City Hotel is located near the Xian Railway Station in Xian City Center. It is about 33km to Xian Xianyang Airport. The Sheraton Xian North City Hotel includes 491 well-appointed guest rooms.

- **Address:** No.32 Weiyang Road
- **Name in Chinese:** 赛瑞喜来登大酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-88866888

Meihua Goldentang International Hotel (4-star)

Open on Jan 26, 2007 and managed by the Meihua Hotel Co. Ltd., Meihua Golden Tang International Hotel Xian is located in the Xian Old Wall City Centre, close to the Bell Tower, Drum Tower. Standing 10 stories high, Meihua Golden Tang International Hotel Xian offers 250 comfortable guest rooms and suites. All equipped with modern conveniences.

- **Address:** No.79 West Avenue
- **Name in Chinese:** 美华金唐国际酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-87616666

Zuoyouke Theme Hotel(4-star)

The Zuoyouke Theme Hotel is an international boutique theme hotel located in the High and New Technology Industrial Development Zone in Xian. It is 7km to Xian city center, 10km from the Railway Station and 34km from the Xianyang International Airport.

- **Address:** 14 Gaoxin Road, Gaoxin District, Xian
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安左右客酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-88861678

The Tang Dynasty Art Garden Hotel(5-star)

Opened in 2009, the Tang Dynasty Art Garden Hotel is once the Xian Historical Museum, it is a traditional Tang-style type building. The hotel is located in the 5A National Scenic Area- Qu River Scenic Area, adjacent to the Wild Goose Pagoda, about 10km away from the city center and Xian Railway Station and 45km away from the Xianyang International Airport.

- **Address:** No.6-1 Furong East Road
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安大唐博相府文化艺术酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-85563333

The Westin Xian(5-star)

Opened in 2012, the Westin Xian is located on the Pagoda South Square-the famous tourism culture scenic spot. It is about 7km to the city center, 9km to Xian Railway Station and 42km to Xianyang International Airport. The Westin Xian includes 329 guest rooms.

- **Address:**No.66 Ci'en Road
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安威斯汀大酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-65686568

Shangri La Hotel Xian (5-star)

Opened in 2007, Shangri La Hotel Xian is the only deluxe hotel located in the Gaoxin hi-tech development zone, Shangri La Hotel, Xian brings modern luxury and legendary Shangri La hospitality to China eternal city. The hotel has 386 guest rooms and suites set a new standard for deluxe accommodation in Xian. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer picturesque views of the city and the landscaped gardens of the hotel.

- **Address:** No.38 Yi, Keji Road
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安香格里拉大酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-88758888

Mercure on Renmin Square

Opened in 2005, the only internationally managed four star hotel in Xian, Mercure Xian on Renmin Square extends to travelers superior and comfortable accommodation at reasonable rates. Elegant and cozy, it provides comprehensive deluxe facilities and services and an ideal location, within the Renmin Square Xian complex, with easy access to the city major commercial district, 1km from Bell Tower. The facilities in the fitness center are available in the hotel, including Gym, Sauna, Massage, and indoor swimming pool.

- **Address:** No.319 Dongxin Street
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安美居人民大厦
- **Telephone:** 029-87928888

Hilton Hotel Xian (5-star)

The Hilton Hotel Xian is located at the bustling Xian City Center, surrounded by department stores and shopping malls and adjacent to Xian Railway Station. It is about 37km away from the Xianyang International Airport.

- **Address:** No.199 Dongxin Street
- **Name in Chinese:** 万达希尔顿酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-87388888

Sheraton Xian Hotel (5-star)

Sheraton Hotel Xian opened in 1991 and refurbished in 2002. It is closed to Xian City wall, adjacent the West Second Ring Road, offers serenity yet only minutes away from the city center as well as the new Xian Hi-Tech Development Zone. It is a 45 minute drive from the Xian Xianyang International Airport and only minutes away from city center.

- **Address:** No.262,Fenggao East Road
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安喜来登
- **Telephone:** 029-84261888

Garden Hotel (4-star)

Xian Garden Hotel is the first foreign hotel showed Tang culture in China, which is one member of Pacific Asia Travel Association. It borders on Tang Paradise in the east, on Big Wild Goose Pagoda in the west. Its construction style was melt in the Chinese traditional landscaping. Hotel's special construction style, beautiful scene and perfect facilities attract the guests from home and abroad.

- **Address:** No.40 Yanying Road
- **Name in Chinese:** 唐华宾馆
- **Telephone:** 029-85351111

Sofitel on Renmin Square Xian (5-star)

Located in Renmin Square, 1.5 kilometers from the city center where Bell Tower and Drum Tower locates, the Sofitel Xian on Renmin Square is the ultimate accommodation facility in the ancient city of Xian. Amenities are deluxe – as one would expect from Sofitel– and services live up to expectations. It is a perfect choice for the most astute of business and leisure travelers.

- **Address:** 319 Dongxin Street, Shanxi, Xian, China
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安索菲特人民大厦
- **Telephone:** 029-87928888

Grand Noble Hotel(4-star)

Opened in 1992 and refurbished in 2009, the Grand Noble Hotel Xian is located on the prosperous Dong Da Street, ideal access to shopping and sight-seeing delights, like the Bell Tower, Drum Tower and City Wall. Each of the 428 guest rooms is equipped with air conditioning, a color television, generous rest area with enhanced lighting and high-speed internet access, a mini-bar and a telephone.

- **Address:** No.334, Dongdajie, Beilin District
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安皇城豪门酒店
- **Telephone:** 029-87857593

Bell Tower Hotel

The Bell Tower Hotel Xian is situated in the booming downtown area of Xian, overlooking the Bell Tower Square interweaving history and modern and facing the famous Bell Tower, a building of Ming Dynasty within 100 meters distance. Neighboring business street in the east, ancient style street in the south, and adjoining Ming and Qing Dynasty style street in the west and Yingbin avenue in the north.

- **Address:** No.110, Nandajie
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安钟楼饭店
- **Telephone:** 029-87600000

Grand Mercure On Renmin Square Xian

The Grand Mercure On Renmin Square Xian is housed in a low rise heritage building built in 1957 on the sprawling grounds of Renmin Square Xian. With a Sino Russian style fronting lush gardens, the structure is a charming blend of old, classic architecture and modern, sophisticated facilities including a stunning grand lobby, a truly deluxe welcome to a truly deluxe hotel. It is located in the business center of Xi'an city, only 1 kilometer to the Bell Tower, and adjacent to the provincial government.

- **Address:** No. 319 Dongxinjie, Xincheng District
- **Name in Chinese:** 西安豪华美居人民大厦
- **Telephone:** 029-87928888





Xi'an Tours

A photograph showing two people taking a selfie in front of the Terracotta Army in Xi'an. The army consists of thousands of terracotta soldiers in a vast, open坑 (pit). The background shows the modern structures of the Pit Museum.

Group Tours with Solo Adventure!

4-day Xi'an Tour with Historical Impact from USD \$359

As the most famous ancient capital of China, Xi'an offers a culture feast including the Terracotta Army and Ancient City Wall. You can also experience local Muslim snacks and culture in the Muslim's Quarter.

Day 1: Airport - hotel transfer

Day 2: Visit massive site of the Terracotta Army and learn more about Xian's history at Banpo Museum.

Day 3: Sense more of Xian's graceful charm at the sites of Shaanxi History Museum, Ancient City Wall and Great Mosque. Go for a gourmet hunt at the Muslim Quarter.

Day 4: Hotel to airport transfer.

3-day Xi'an Highlight Package from USD \$309

If you are lack of time, you can take part in this tour to see Xian's highlights in 3 days. You will visit the Terracotta Army which is one of eight world cultural heritages and other highlights of Xi'an.

Day 1: Airport - Airport transfer, walk on the ground of the famous Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Feel up the lively bustle at the Muslim Quarter.

Day 2: Visit the Terracotta Army and Ancient City Wall,

Day 3: Visit Shaanxi History Museum and one of their most important mosques: Great Mosque and airport transfer.



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