

5 Days Xian & Luoyang Heritage Tour

Tour Code: LCT-XL-5D-01

Duration: 5 Days

Attractions: Terracotta Warriors Museum, Banpo Neolithic Village Museum, Bell Tower, Muslim Quarter, Shaanxi History Museum, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall, Great Mosque, Shuyuanmen Cultural Street, Mt.Hua, Longmen Grottoes, Shaolin Temple, Kungfu Performance, Hanyangling Museum, Yuanjiacun.

Overview:

Take the chance to visit the two ancient capital cities of China - Xi'an and Luoyang. Check out the world-class UNESCO World heritage - Terracotta Warriors Museum and Longmen Grottoes. Climb the mountain that is famous for its steepness. Know about the whole Chinese history by visiting the largest comprehensive museum in northwest China- Shaanxi History Museum. Ride on the high-speed train and go to Luoyang, watch the martial art performed by the real monks.

Highlights

- 1.Be amazed by the magnificence of Mt.Hua;
- 2.Enjoy the natural beauty of the mountain;
- 3.See the Terracotta Warriors and Horses which have been buried for thousand of years;
- 4.Taste authentic local food;
- 5.Experience the most breathtaking wood plank;
- 6.Try Chinese high-speed train;
- 7.Be impressed by the famous Longmen Grottoes;
- 8.Learn about the Martial Arts in Shaolin Temple.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Shaanxi History Museum, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall, Shuyuanmen Cultural Street

09:00 a.m: Depart from your hotel with your guide.

09:00-12:00p.m: Be prepared to be amazed by the profound history of China in the **Shaanxi History Museum**. Regarded as “the pearl of ancient dynasties and house of Chinese treasures” , it gives a miniature overview of the thousands of years of Chinese history and the splendid ancient cultures of golden times. Now with 370,000 exhibits, the museum vividly show the Chinese history of over a million years from prehistoric times(1,150,000 years ago - 21st Century BC) to about 1840 AD. Visiting this museum will enable you to know the whole Chinese history from the ancient times to modern times.

12:00 - 13:00p.m: Take lunch (pay on spot) nearby the Shaanxi History museum and get ready for the afternoon tour.

13: 10 - 15:00p.m: Just a minutes, you will get to the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**. This is a Tang Dynasty Buddhism temple dated back to 1,300 years ago, also named Da Ci'en Temple. Tang Dynasty famous monk - Xuan Zang has been here to work on the Buddhism Scriptures that he brought back from India. It was him who spread the Buddhism out and loud. You will get to learn historical facts and enjoy interesting stories here. Fountain Show, which is regarded as the biggest fountain square in Asia. At night, this place together with the Datang City nearby will be decorated with all kinds of lights and many local people like to visit then.

15:20 - 16:20 p.m: Head to the city center and climb the **Ancient City Wall** built in Ming Dynasty. There are many city walls in China, of which Xian City Wall is the most complete one that has survived. It is also one the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. The reason why it was built lies in that ancient weapons were not advanced enough to break through a thick wall. Meanwhile, the only way to attack a city is to break the big gate, which explains why complicated gate structures can be found inside the City Wall. There are three ways to explore this grand city wall. The easiest way is to take a golf car (pay on moment), which is comfortable but not very rewarding, especially when you are accompanied with guide. You may also take a bike (pay on moment), which may be a little bumpy. The last way is walk slowly and feel the history.

16:30-17:00p.m: Enjoy your last site in a tranquil place - **Shuyuanmen Cultural Street**. The name was originated from a ancient school named - Guan Zhong Academy. This academy was built by a scholar named Feng Congwu in Ming Dynasty. Unfortunately, the academy was destroyed by Feng's enemy - Wei Zhongxian (a corruptible eunuch of the emperor). Even though different academies

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and schools were built under the site, but all were gone. Now, it's just a cultural street with various stands selling Chinese calligraphy and painting works. If you are interested, you may try to write or paint a little (pay on spot).

17:00 p.m: Transfer to your hotel for rest.

Day 2: Terracotta Warriors Museum, Banpo Neolithic Museum, Bell Tower, Great Mosque, Muslim Quarter

09:00a.m: Meet your guide in your hotel lobby.

09:50 - 12:30 p.m: Arrive at **Terracotta Warriors Museum**. Your guide will explain every details of this museum and its history as well facts. You will be fed with tons of knowledge. Being the most significant excavation 20th century, Terracotta Army is a must-see site for people coming to Xian. You will not only see different figurines and ancient weapons in three pits, but also learn about the motivation and significance of why this mausoleum is so grandly built.

12:30 - 13:30p.m: Taste the most **authentic local lunch** (pay on spot). Xian is one of the famous food cities in China. For lunch, you will have a variety of choices such as Chinese Hamburger, Baozi (steamed stuffed bun), Spicy soup, Tofu Jelly, Deep - fried dough sticks, Pita Bread Soaked in Mutton Soup, Biang Biang Noodles, Guokui, etc..

14:20 - 15:30p.m: Come back to city and visit the **Banpo Neolithic Museum**. It's the earliest prove of the Neolithic Yangshao culture, displaying the matriarchal society between 4500 BC to 3750 BC. The site is composed of three main parts now: residential area, pottery area and the cemetery. You will see how neolithic people lived, made tools and died. If you are interested, you can also pay on spot and join the activities like how to make fire out of wood, or how to make house out of wood and straws.

15:50 - 16:20 p.m: Visit the **Bell Tower**. The Bell Tower was built in 1380, at first it lays in the center of Xi'an City. The tower is a brick and timber structure and 36 meters high. Before the Bell Tower moved, there was a copper bell in the tower named "Jingyun Bell". Its sound can spread several kilometers. No matter from the shape, the sound, or the engraving technology of the bell reflected the high craftsmanship of the metallurgy of Tang Dynasty. After the Jinglong Bell moved with the Bell Tower, the Jingyun Bell was preserved in the Beilin museum of Xi'an. Now the big iron

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Jinglong Bell on the Bell Tower was made in Ming Dynasty and it weighs 2,500 kilograms. It has given time to the city for more than 400 years. Nowadays, the clear and loud time-given sound on the tower in Xi'an was the recording sound of that bell.

16:30 - 17:00 p.m: Set out for the **Great Mosque** located in **Muslim Quarter**. The Great Mosque is a masterpiece integrating Chinese architecture form and the Islamic culture. The mosque is facing the west towards Mecca. When you visit, please be quiet and comply with the regulations listed in the mosque. Outside the mosque, you will find several street crossing and many stores selling local stuff, that is Muslim Quarter. You are free to wander here and learn about the folklore art.

17:00 p.m: Go back to hotel for rest.

Day 3: Mt.Hua Hiking Tour

07:30 a.m: Meet your guide and be prepared for the mountain climbing.

09:30 - 16:00 p.m: Enjoy the most stunning scene in **Mt.Hua** by taking the cable car up and down. It takes about 2 hours to get to Mt.Hua. Upon arrival, your guide will lead you to take the shuttle bus in the site and head for the starting point of West Peak cable car. You will take the cable car up and down the mountain. Mt. Huashan is praised as "the First Odd Mountain in the World". It boasts five imposing peaks with sheer precipices and overhanging rocks: the east one is called the Peak of the Rising Sun which is the best location to view sunrise; the north one, the Peak of Cloud Terrace which is famous for cliffs on its three sides; the west one, the peak of Lotus; the south one, the Peak of Wild Geese which is the main peak and also the steepest of Huashan Mountain with an elevation of 2,083 meters; and the Central one, the Peak of the Jade Maiden, which links the east, west and south peaks. Each presents an unique scenic beauty, surrounded by over 70 minor peaks.

16:00 p.m: Go back to hotel for rest.

Day 4: Longmen Grottoes, Shaolin Temple

06:30 a.m: Your Xian driver will pick you up at the hotel and drive you to Xian North Railway Station.

09:54 a.m: Your Luoyang tour guide will hold a welcome sign with your name on and greet you at the Luoyang Longmen Train Station.

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10:10 - 12:30 p.m: Visit the world-famous **Longmen Grottoes**. Seated at the banks of Yi River, 12km south of current Luoyang City, Longmen Grottoes are ranked the first of Four Great Grottoes in China, together with Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Yungang Grottoes in Datong and Mount Maiji Grottoes in Tianshui. It is also listed into the World Cultural Heritages and Relics by UNESCO in 2000 for its broad collections and profound cultural influence in the world. Dotted between Xiangshan Mountain and the Longmen Mountain, with Yi River flowing below, the Longmen Grottoes are harmonious with mountains, forests, rivers, displaying a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

12: 30- 13: 30p.m: Look for the most featured food in Luoyang, like Lam Soup, Spicy soup, Bu Fan Soup , Tang Mian Jiao, noodles in Green-bean milk, etc..

14:30 - 17:00 p.m: After lunch, you will go to **Shaolin Temple**, which is in the region of Song Mountain, Dengfeng City, Henan Province, and is reputed to be “The Number One Temple under Heaven” . Included on UNESCO's World Cultural and Heritage List in 2010, it is the cradle of the Chinese Zen Buddhism and the Shaolin Martial Arts such as Shaolin Cudgel.

18: 00 p.m: Drop you off at Luoyang Longmen Train Station.

20:09p.m: Xian North Railway Station pick up and Xian hotel drop off.

Our driver will hold a welcome sign with your name on it to meet you at the train station upon your arrival, since the train station is huge and not easy for our driver to find you, there is some notice about where you can meet our driver.

The arrival hall of this train station is the basement level of the building. Since there are few exits to go out, sometimes it's pretty confusing to know which one to go. When you get into the arrival hall (there are two sides to go down to the arrival hall from the platform, and it's hard to find which side you will be on), please remember to find the “Information Desk” (问询台/信息台) which is in the middle of the hall and near the exit end, with four big screens in four sides above the desk!

The driver will be there to wait for you!

Day 5: Hanyangling Museum, Yuanjiacun Village

09:00 a.m: Meet your tour guide and depart for Hanyangling Museum.

09:50 - 12:00p.m: Visit the **Hanyangling Museum** (Jingdi's Tomb). This is a burial sight for Emperor Jingdi and his wife Empress Wangzhi. This tomb could be dated back to 2,100 years ago. It is the only underground museum in China. Emperor Jingdi was a great emperor back then. Much influenced by the concept of Wuwei (non-interference), he had done a lot on national tax, diplomacy with neighboring countries, and the punishments to criminals. People admired him. In his mausoleum, you can hardly find anything martial like Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum, just some day to day stuff and terracotta figurines from servants to cavalry. These figures were originally decorated with colors and clothes, but all faded with time.

12:50 - 16:00p.m: Hop up the car and go to **Yuanjiacun Village**, a food paradise for lunch and snacks! As the times going, people are pursuing high-speed lifestyle while forget how elder generations lived. Yuanjiacun Village provides a place for people live in the city to memorize what they had in rural area. In here, almost all the restaurants offer homemade food such as wild herbs and coarse grain foods. It's a great place to relax and experience the local life.

17:00 p.m: Come back to hotel and your tour ends.

What's Important:

What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sites mentioned, including the round-way cable car up and down the West Peak of Mt.Hua.

Bottled water.

Second class train tickets between Xian and Luoyang.

What's not included:

Meals

Personal expenses or private entertainment items in sites.

Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job(recommended)

What to take: smile and a relaxing heart.

Good to know:

1. Please be aware Luoyang Peony Festival is in April. Please be prepared for the crowds if you are planning to travel in the same time period.
2. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or the shops for shopping.
3. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food with a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.
4. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. If you want a tour with a duration exceeding the working period of our tour guide and driver, we need to charge you for your extra hours with the standard of 100 RMB per hour.
5. The tour we provide you are based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for over 6 hours yet less than 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
6. Please be aware that your itinerary is changeable anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
7. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will be only with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
8. Wheelchairs are accessible, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.
9. During your visit to the Terracotta Warriors Museum, you may encounter some local people following you to sell souvenirs, just ignore them.

FAQ

1. How do we get to the Longmen Grottoes?

Re: You will take cable car up and down the Longmen Grottoes to save some energy for the afternoon trip.

2. How far is Shaolin Temple from Longmen Grottoes?

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Re: It takes about 1 hour driver to Shaolin Temple. Longmen Grottoes is pretty near the train station.

3. Can we watch the Shaolin Kungfu Performance?

Re: Sure, the Kungfu Show is performed every day every 1 hour. You will see the actual monk performing for you.

4. My child is very interested in the Kungfu, can you arrange a master to teach him a little?

Re: There are two kinds of Kungfu class in Luoyang. One is commercial-featured that open outside the temple by some private group. The other one is inside the Temple that the real monk will teach you about the Kungfu and give you a tour. Please let us know which kind you prefer.

5. What kind of car will I have?

Re: It depends on your group size. For group size of 1-2 people, you will be offered with a sedan car. For group size of 3-4 people, you will enjoy a van with 7-seat. While 14-17-seat van will be in service if there are 5-8 of you. When your tour group size is larger, 33-seat coach or bigger will be offered.

6. Can you help me booking the train tickets?

Re: Sure, we can help you to book all the train tickets or flight tickets. This is one of our service features. After booking the tickets, your paper train tickets would be expressed to your Beijing hotel before you can use.

7. How can I book internal train tickets online?

Re: There are several ways to book train tickets or flight tickets on your own. The traditional way would be get to the train station or airport to buy tickets on spot.

If you book online, the official booking system 12306.com is unavailable for foreigners right now.

You can try Ctrip.com. This website can help you book train tickets and air tickets.

8. Can I confirm this is a private tour?

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Re: Yes, this is a private tour just for your group. No other people will join you.

9. Can the tour guide accompany us to have dinner and help us order?

Re: The working time for the tour guide and driver are 8-9 hours. If you finished your tour rather early, our tour guide can certainly help you until you get to dinner. Otherwise, you will need to pay extra for their overtime work.

10. Do you offer children-friendly tours?

Re: Yes, that's one place we shine. Based on your children's age and interests, we can customize the itinerary. From a more general perspective, we can provide car booster for babies under 2. Meals will be recommended catering to children. The tour will be relaxing and educational.

11. When does the tour end each day?

Re: About 5:00 p.m. except the day from Luoyang that you might get back to Xian hotel around 9:00 p.m.

12. When do we get picked up from our hotel?

Re: Usually, we pick up our customers at 9:00a.m for the tour. If you prefer a earlier time to beat the crowds or a later time, our driver and guide can always cater to your needs.
In case you need to catch a train or flight, we will pick you up according to your time schedule.

13. Do you provide tour guides speak other languages other than English?

Re: Sure, we can provide the most commonly-used language speaking tour guides, like English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Japanese, Italian, etc.. Please inform your language preference beforehand.

14. How do I tip my guide?

Re: You may know that we don't tip people in China. Indeed, tipping is not a compulsory thing here, but our tour guide and driver would expect you do. They would see it as a sign of their hard work and good job. There is no specific amount how much you need to tip. It depends on you.

15. What do I do if I have some free time, but unwilling stay at hotel?

Re: If you want to explore on your own, please prepare yourselves with a map, your hotel's card and your tour guide's phone number. Just ask your guide whenever you got a problem.

16. Does our tour guides accompany us in each site?

Re: Of course, your tour guides will escort you to all the sites arranged. They will enter the sites and introduce to you all the stories and facts.

Cancellation policy:

No less than 2 weeks, you will lose your deposit;

Within 7 days - 13 days, loss of 50% of your payment or just the deposit.

Within 6 days, loss of full payment or just the deposit.

Please bear in mind that your deposit is still available for your next trip with us. You may also offer this deposit to someone else as their tour deposit with us.