

Walking—Biking—Chinese Calligraphy Class

Title: Walking—Biking—Chinese Calligraphy Class

Duration: 4 hours (8:00 a.m- 12:00p.m)

Meeting point: Hotel

Place to visit: City Wall, Shuyuanmen Cultural Street

Overview: This tour is specially designed for those travelers who only have limited time in Xi'an. It provides a chance to get close to the locals by visiting a lovely morning market, to catch a glimpse of the downtown city whilst cycling on the 640 year old wall, and to practice Chinese calligraphy with a writing brush in a quaint building.

The total length of the tour is around 4 hours with a professional licensed national tour guide who knows the city and its people and who speaks fluent English. The tour will take place mainly on foot, on public buses for a short distance transfer and bicycles in a pretty safe environment. This tour is a great way for our guests to gain insight into this cultural and historical city!

Price: 54 USD per person

Highlights:

1. Walk on the City Wall and listen to the history of this old guard.
2. Rent a bike and ride on the City wall if you like. It will be a bit bumpy, but still fun.
3. See the local market and enjoy the vigorous bargaining between vendors and buyers.
4. Learn about Chinese calligraphy in a hidden backyard where a master would show you how to write.

Detailed Itinerary

Your tour guide will greet you in Grand Noble Hotel at 8:00 a.m!

After a brief introduction to the tour, we will head to a crowded morning market filled with daily necessities. Like an open-aired grocery store, the shopping here is the central feature of the local's daily life. It is the most active and lively part of the downtown shanty district. The crowds move

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through the middle of the street with vendors standing behind their booths, loudly selling their wares. It is bustling with people buying goods and at the same time bargaining vigorously.

Immersed in this environment you may be forgiven for thinking you were in the centre of a bazaar in a Middle-eastern country. It's the beating heart of a quiet and decrepit district nestled within the city wall.

Walking from the market to a public bus station, we will catch a bus for a short ride to the next stop - Xi'an City Wall. It is the biggest and one of the best preserved city walls in China and cycling on this 640 year old wall is always considered one of the most enjoyable and unforgettable experiences in the city. You will see a large section of the city and also bump up your knowledge of this ancient city from our most devoted tour guide accompanying you on the cycle route.

Following the one hour bike ride you will be guided to a quaint cultural street exuding an aura of calm. Buildings are in an ancient Chinese architectural style and the vendors trade a variety of writing brushes, papers and stone seals. Traditional Chinese paintings and calligraphy works can be browsed everywhere along the street. There are galleries and antique shops as well as many interesting workshops hidden down narrow alleyways. Strolling down the street will give you an authentic taste of the culture and history of the city. But more importantly our calligraphy master is waiting to impart his knowledge and guide our hands as we practice this ancient art. So, why not join us?

What's important:

What's included:

Public transfer service

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Bottled water.

Payment for the Calligraphy master

Entrance fee for City Wall (excluding the biking fee)

What's not included:

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Personal expenses or private entertainment items in sites.

Tips or gratuities for guide if he/she did a good job(recommended)

What to take: smile and a relaxing heart.

Good to know:

1. This is a group starting from 2 people. The trip won't be arranged just for one person.
2. It's optional for you to ride a bike on the City Wall. It's ok if you don't do participate.
3. In case you do want to rent a bike on City Wall, our guide will help you with that.
4. Please do not feel offended when local people are staring at you all the time. That's because they are curious and surprised that you can find this local market.
5. Chinese calligraphy is a great art, it's just a section of class. We can't promise you will master the writing skills, but you can surely know more about Chinese culture.

FAQ

1. We only have about 3 hours, can we join this tour?

Re: You can still do this tour, but it would be a private tour. If you have more than 2 people in your group, we can adjust the plan and make it special for you.

2. I don't want to ride a bike, what other options do I have?

Re: Well, the easiest way is to take a golf car. If you will, walking is a good choice as well. You may encounter some locals doing morning exercise on the wall.

3. Can you pick us up from our hotel?

Re: If you don't mind paying extra as compensation, private transfer service can be provided for you. The compensation would depend on how far your hotel is.

4. How strenuous is this tour?

Re: It's moderate, but you still need to wear comfortable shoes.