

## 5 Days Xian & Luoyang Heritage Tour

### Basics

**Tour Code:** LCT-XLT-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. Visit the world-class UNESCO World Heritage - Terracotta Warriors Museum and Longmen Grottoes. Climb the mountain that is famous for its steepness. Be exposed to the whole of Chinese history by visiting the largest comprehensive museum in northwest China: the Shaanxi History Museum. Travel on the high-speed train to Luoyang and watch the martial art performed by the real monks.

### Highlights

- Be amazed by the magnificence of Mt. Hua;
- Enjoy the natural beauty of the mountain;
- See the Terracotta Warriors and Horses which have been buried for thousands of years;
- Taste authentic local food;
- Travel on a Chinese high-speed train;
- Be impressed by the famous Longmen Grottoes;
- Learn about the Martial Arts in the Shaolin Temple.

## Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	09:00 a.m	Shaanxi History Museum, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, City Wall, Shuyuanmen Cultural Street
Day 2	07:30 a.m	Mt. Hua Hiking Tour
Day 3	09:00 a.m	Terracotta Warriors Museum, Banpo Neolithic Museum, Bell Tower, Great Mosque, Muslim Quarter
Day 4	06:30 a.m	Xian - Luoyang by train, Longmen Grottoes, Shaolin Temple, back to Xian by train
Day 5	09:00 a.m	Hanyangling Museum, Yuanjiacun Village

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

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

09:00-12:00: Be prepared to be amazed by the rich 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 shows 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 learn about Chinese history from the ancient times to modern times.

12:00 - 13:00: Enjoy lunch (for your own account) nearby the Shaanxi History museum and get ready for the afternoon tour.

13: 10 - 15:00: Just a few minutes drive and you will arrive at the **Big Wild Goose Pagoda**. This is a Tang Dynasty Buddhist temple dating back 1,300 years, also named Da Ci'en Temple. The Tang Dynasty's famous monk - Xuan Zang was here working on the Buddhist Scriptures that he brought back from India. He was responsible for the spread of Buddhism. You will get to learn historical facts and enjoy interesting stories here. You can see the Fountain Show, in the biggest fountain square in Asia. At night, this place together with the Datang City nearby is decorated with a variety of lights and many local people like to visit then.



15:20 - 16:20: Head to the city center and climb the **Ancient City Wall** built in the Ming Dynasty. There are many city walls in China, of which the Xian City Wall is the most complete that has survived. It is also one of 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 was to break the large 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 rent a golf cart (for your own account), which is comfortable but not very rewarding. You may also rent a bike (for your own account), which may be a little bumpy. The last way is walk slowly and feel the history.



16:30-17:00: Enjoy your last sight in a tranquil place - **Shuyuanmen Cultural Street**. The name originated from an ancient school named - Guan Zhong Academy. This academy was built by a scholar named Feng Congwu in the Ming Dynasty. Unfortunately, the academy was destroyed by Feng's enemy - Wei Zhongxian (a corrupt eunuch trusted by the emperor). Even though different academies and schools were built on this site none remain. 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 (for your own account).

17:00: Transfer to your hotel.

## **Day 2: Mt. Hua Hiking Tour**

07:30: Meet your guide and be prepared for a day on the mountain.

09:30 - 16:00: Enjoy the most stunning scenery 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 catch the shuttle bus that heads for the starting point of the 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 eastern one is called the 'Peak of the Rising Sun' which is the best location to view sunrise; the northern one, the 'Peak of Cloud Terrace' is famous for cliffs on its three sides; the western one is called the 'Peak of Lotus; the southern one, the 'Peak of Wild Geese' is the main peak and also the steepest of Mt. Hua with an elevation of 2,083 meters; the Central one is called the 'Peak of the Jade Maiden', and links the east, west and southern peaks. Each presents unique scenic beauty, surrounded by over 70 minor peaks.



16:00: Return to your hotel.

## **Day 3: Terracotta Warriors Museum, Banpo Neolithic Museum, Bell Tower, Great Mosque, Muslim Quarter**

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

09:50 - 12:30: Arrive at the **Terracotta Warriors Museum**. Your guide will explain every detail of this museum, its history and other interesting facts. You will be fed with tons of knowledge. Being the most significant excavation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Terracotta Army is a must-see sight for people coming to Xian. You will not



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only admire the craftsmanship of the different statues and ancient weapons in the three pits, but you will also learn about the motivation and significance of why this mausoleum was so grandly built.

12:30 - 13:30: Savour the most **authentic local lunch** (lunch is for your own account). Xian is one of the famous food cities in China. For lunch, you will be faced with a variety of choices such as a Chinese Hamburger, Baozi (steamed stuffed bun), Spicy soup, Tofu Jelly, Deep - fried dough sticks, Pita Bread Soaked in Mutton Soup, Biang Biang Noodles, Guokui, to name but a few.

14:20 - 15:30p.m: Return to the city and visit the **Banpo Neolithic Museum**. It's the earliest example of the Neolithic Yangshao culture, displaying a matriarchal society between 4500 BC to 3750 BC. The site is comprised of three main parts: the 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 extra and try activities like how to make fire out of wood, or how to make a house out of wood and straw.

15:50 - 16:20: Visit the **Bell Tower**. Built in 1380, the Bell Tower is a brick and timber structure used to announce each hour. Before the Bell Tower moved, there was a copper bell in the tower named the "Jingyun Bell". Its sound could be heard over several kilometers. No matter whether regarded by the shape, the sound, or the engraving technology, the bell reflects the highest craftsmanship of the metallurgy of the Tang Dynasty. After the Jinglong Bell moved with the Bell Tower, the Jingyun Bell was preserved in the Beilin museum of Xi'an. The big iron Jinglong Bell in the Bell Tower was made in the Ming Dynasty and weighs 2,500 kilograms. It has measured time for the city for more than 400 years. Today a recording of the sound of the Jingling Bell is used to announce the time.



16:30 - 17:00: Set out for the **Great Mosque** located in **the Muslim Quarter**. The Great Mosque is a

masterpiece integrating Chinese architecture and the Islamic culture. The mosque is facing 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 streets with stores selling local goods, this is the Muslim Quarter. You are free to wander here and learn about the folklore art.

17:00: Return to your hotel.

#### **Day 4: Longmen Grottoes, Shaolin Temple**

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

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

10:10 - 12:30: Visit the world-famous **Longmen Grottoes**. Set on the banks of the Yi River, 12 km south of Luoyang City, the Longmen Grottoes are

ranked the first of the Four Great Grottoes in China, together with the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Yungang Grottoes in Datong and Mount Maiji Grottoes in Tianshui. It was 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 the Yi River flowing below, the Longmen Grottoes are harmonious with mountains, forests and rivers displaying a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

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

14:30 - 17:00: After lunch, you will go to the **Shaolin Temple**, which is in the region of the 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 Chinese Zen Buddhism and Shaolin Martial Arts such as the Shaolin Cudgel.



18: 00: Drop-off at Luoyang Longmen Train Station.

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

Our driver will meet you at the train station holding a welcome sign with your name on. The train station is huge and it is not easy for our driver to find you, so here are some guidelines to help you

find each other.

The arrival hall of this train station is in the basement level of the building. Since there are a few exits to go out, sometimes it's pretty confusing to know which one to use. 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 know 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 on four sides above the desk! The driver will be there waiting for you!

### Day 5: Hanyangling Museum, Yuanjiacun Village

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

09:50 - 12:00: Visit the **Hanyangling Museum** (Jingdi's Tomb). This is a burial site for Emperor Jingdi and his wife Empress Wangzhi. This tomb can be dated back 2,100 years. 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 reformed the national tax, engaged in diplomacy with neighboring countries, and changed the punishment of criminals. He was greatly admired.



In his mausoleum, you will hardly find anything martial like in Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum, just some day-to-day artifacts and terracotta figurines ranging from servants to cavalry. These figures were originally decorated with colors and clothes, but all have faded with time.

12:50 - 16:00: Hop in the car and drive to **Yuanjiacun Village**, a food paradise for lunch and snacks! As time goes on, people are pursuing high-speed lifestyles and forgetting how previous generations lived. Yuanjiacun Village provides a place for people that live in the city to recall what life was like in rural areas. Almost all the restaurants here offer homemade food with ingredients like wild herbs and coarse grains. It's a great place to relax and experience the local life.



17:00: Return to your 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 sights mentioned, including the round-trip 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 at the sights.

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

What to take: smile and a relaxed enthusiastic attitude.

## Good to know:

1. Please be aware that the 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 shops for shopping.
3. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food at 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 at the standard rate of 100 RMB per hour.

5. The tour we provide you is based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for between 6 hours to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
6. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed at anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
7. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will only be with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
8. Wheelchairs are available, 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 battery car to the Longmen Grottoes to save energy for the afternoon trip.

2. How far is the Shaolin Temple from the Longmen Grottoes?

Re: It takes about a 1 hour drive to the Shaolin Temple. The Longmen Grottoes are pretty near the train station.

3. Can we watch the Shaolin Kungfu Performance?

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

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

Re: There are two kinds of Kungfu classes in Luoyang. One is commercially run outside the temple by a private group. The other is inside the Temple taught by a real monk who will give you a tour afterwards. Please let us know which kind you prefer.

5. What kind of car will I have?

Re: It depends on your group size. For a group size of 1-2 people, you will be offered a sedan car. For a group size of 3-4 people, you will enjoy a 7-seater van. A 14-17-seater van will be in service if there are 5-8 of you. When your tour group size is larger, a 33-seater 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 couriered to your Xian hotel for you to 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 to go to the train station or airport to buy tickets.

If you wish to 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?

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 is 8-9 hours. If you have finished your tour 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 ages and interests, we can customize the itinerary. From a more general perspective, we can provide car booster seats 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 17:00. except on the day from Luoyang that you might get back to your Xian hotel around 21:00.

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

Re: Usually, we pick up our customers at 9:00 for the tour. If you prefer an 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 that speak 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 us of 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 to. They would see it as recognition of their hard work and a good job. There is no specific amount that you need to tip. It depends on you.

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

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

16. Does our tour guide accompany us at each sight?

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