

One Day Private Tour to Yuanjia Village and Local Cave

Dwelling

Basics

Trip Code: LS- XA-1D-Local village and cave house

Trip length: 8-9 hours

Attractions: Yuanjiacun Village, Cave House Dwelling

Overview:

Besides historical sights and concrete modern complex, Xian can also offer you a new experience of rural life. This day trip will lead you to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and freshen up in Yuanjia Village and Cave Dwelling. Yuanjia Village is one of the villages that Ming and Qing Dynasty style folk house still well preserved. In the afternoon, you will head for a featured local dwelling - cave house. You will be surprised of such kind of dwelling standing the test of time.

Highlights

- Get away from the busyness and clamour of city and freshen up in the rural area;
- Take a bite at the real Shaanxi folk culture;
- Visit a local cave dwelling family and learn about their life;
- Get insight of the mechanism of cave house;
- Be amazed by the folk people's intelligence.

Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	09:00 a.m	Yuanjia Village, Cave House Dwelling

09:00: Your personal guide will hold a welcome board with your name on and wait for you at your hotel lobby. You will set out to enjoy this discovery tour.

10:20 - 15:00: The priority for this tour is **Yuanjia Village**. Driving for over an hour, you will see this original rural countryside with the zigzagging and rolling Jiuzong Mountain towering in the north. Entering the village, the first scene comes to your eye is a large orchard planted with apple trees, pear trees, grape trellis, etc.. Furthering on, a broad path will turn up and lead you to the core of the village. Leading by the elegant alleys made of blue stones, you will pass the rows of local family houses and find yourselves inside of a area with

stores and workshops standing on both sides selling daily necessities like edible oil, Fermented Glutinous Rice Soup, Tofu, cayenne pepper, flour etc., locally-produced yogurt, different kinds of noodles and local specialties. There are all together



about 300 snack bars and restaurants here, presenting all kinds of Northwestern China food culture. Some of them still preserved the traditional culinary methods and the vegetables and ingredients all come from local greenhouses. You are recommended to try some. If you got lucky, you may encounter some big events and a real feast of drum performance, folk dance and Qin opera show will be on display. When you stand in a certain point, you may still see a few old houses that stand awkwardly afar, with yellow smoke curling up from the kitchen chimneys, roosters crowing, dogs barking and children playing outside. This is the real countryside life. Everything is just so quiet and so natural.

15:30 - 16:30: Your next stop is **Local Cave House Dwelling**. Cave dwelling has existed in China for over 4000 years. However, it was in Han Dynasty when this dwelling form become popular and widely used. With the improvement of techniques, cave house has been modernized nowadays, but we can still see what it look like in old times. There are several cave houses left nearby the Yuanjia Village, one of which will be today's visiting objective. You will see a big yard with rectangular walls



surrounded. Inside of the yard are a row of concrete houses in one side, and on the other side, the cave houses. Most cave houses here are carved out of a hillside or excavated horizontally from a

sunken courtyard. There is a big window beside the door to allow as much as light to come through. Entering the house, you will see a big “bed” aside or deep inside. This is a special bed named “Kang” in local dialect. It’s made of mud and bricks. People use bricks to build a rectangular wall and covers it with flat stone slabs. In Winter, people just burn the dry straws and corn stalks inside and the “Kang” will be warm. Another amazing fact is that cave house is quite cool in Summer, and there is little heating required in Winter. This is probably why many people choose to stay at cave house.

17:30: This day trip will come to an end and you will be dropped off at hotel for rest.

What’s Important:

What’s included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.
Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.
Entrance fee for Cave House Dwelling.
Bottled water.

What’s not included:

Personal expenses or private entertainment items at the sights.
Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job (recommended)
Lunch.

What to take: smile and a relaxed enthusiastic attitude.

Good to know:

1. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
2. Please be aware that the clay making experience is changeable. If you prefer other activities or even no experience at all, please advise.

3. 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.
4. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.
5. As honest as local farmers are, we don't suggest you try anything they sell unless you are absolutely sure that you want to buy.
6. 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.
7. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed at anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
8. 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.

FAQ

1. How long is this tours?

Re: The tour lasts about 8-9 hours, starting from the time when you leave your hotel.

2. How far is Yuanjiacun Village?

Re: It's located in northwest of Xian, about 70 km away from city center.

3. Can the itinerary be changed on the spot?

Re: Sure, you can change the itinerary whenever you want. Your tour guide will accommodate your needs. However, any change of plan may cause change of expense. You are expected to cover the extra expense on your own.

4. I want to try some local food, what do you recommend?

Re: Xian people love noodles. If you are not allergy to gluten, we would strongly recommend the hand-pulled noodles with spinach. There are also many other options like Chinese Hamburger,

locally produced Ice Peak, Pomegranate Juice, Pita Bread Soaked in Mutton Soup, etc..

5. I'm a vegetarian, where can I eat?

Re: Don't worry, your tour guide will take you to a local restaurant where only vegetarian food is served.

6. I only eat Halal food, can you help me with that?

Re: In Xian, there is a famous area named the Muslim Quarter, where many Muslims live. You will find a large variety of food to enjoy.

7. I want to see a local market, can you arrange this?

Re: Yes, there are several famous wet markets in Xian. We can take you to one of them to experience how local people live. You can even buy some materials and make dumplings or noodles with a local family.

8. Why do people still live in Cave House?

Re: This is a big issue actually. Cave house has a long history in China. Some people, mostly old people find it quite comfortable to live in. They rather stay here rather than move to a small space like an apartment. For some other people, it's just poverty. People have no choice but to live here. Most of the rural people moved from cave house, but there are still some people left behind.

9. What's the disadvantage of living in cave house?

Re: Cave houses are mostly carved out of a hill, which in one hand makes the cave cool in Summer and warm in Winter. While in the other hand, cave houses can be extremely vulnerable in stormy days, especially when the flood protection on the mountain is inadequate. People die for the collapse of cave. This is also why the local government encourages people to move out, sometimes even use force.