

Day Trip to Qianling Mausoleum and Famen Temple

Basics

Trip Code: LS- XA-1D-Qianling & Famen Temple

Trip length: 8-9 hours

Attractions: Qianling Mausoleum, Famen Temple

Overview: This day trip will take you to outside of Xian city to the northwest. Your first destination is the Qianling Mausoleum, the joint tomb for Tang Emperor Gao and his wife Wu Zetian, who was also the only empress in Chinese history. This short visit will unveil the life of this legendary woman. The afternoon trip will be to the Famen Temple where you will dive into the spirit of Buddhism and hear the Buddhist doctrine.

Highlights

- Visit the only joint mausoleum of two sovereigns - Emperor Tang Gaozong and Empress Wu Zetian;
- Unveil the legendary life path of the only female ruler, Wu Zetian in Chinese history;
- Admire a sacred Buddhist temple in Shaanxi Province - Famen Temple;
- Be showered with the benevolence of the Buddhist doctrine;
- Experience the different northwestern Shaanxi culture.

Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	07:30 a.m	Qianling Mausoleum, Famen Temple

07:30: Meet your local representative early in your hotel lobby and begin to explore the grand Northwest Xian.

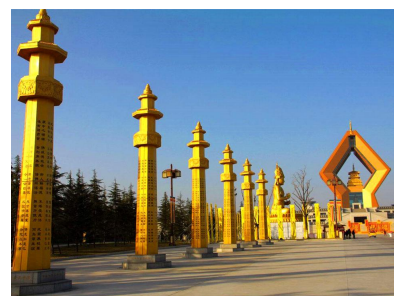
Your first sight today is the Qianling Mausoleum located in Qian county, 85km northwest of

Xian city (80 minutes drive). The **Qianling Mausoleum** is a joint tomb for a Tang dynasty imperial couple Li Zhi and his wife Wu Zetian, who later usurped the throne and crowned herself as the only empress in Chinese history. This tomb is famous for its many stone statues and the mural paintings decorating the subterranean walls of the tombs. Surrounding the main tumulus mound of the two hosts are 17 smaller attendant tombs housing imperial families or ministers, 5 of which have been excavated while the others remain untouched. Li Zhi was the third emperor in the Tang Dynasty, who inherited his father Li Shimin's legacy of 'Reign of Zhen Guan' and created a short period of 'Reign of Yong Hui'. By then the Tang Dynasty was in its prime when the society was inclusive, people were well-fed and well-clothed, and governing was comparably liberal. When Li Zhi passed away, his sons Li Xian and Li Dan ascended the throne successively for short periods before Wu Zetian began her adventure in reigning. She contributed a lot in making the dynasty greater. On this short trip, you will understand how she ruled and what later generations said about her merits and demerits.



11:30 - 12:30: Your guide will take you to a featured Qianxian county restaurant and taste authentic Qianxian food, which is a bit different from Xian food.

13:30 - 15:30: After lunch, you will hit the road again and head for the **Famen Temple**. The Famen Temple is located in Famen county's Baoji City, about 110km from Xian. Dating back 1800 years it enjoys a reputation as the Ancestral Temple of Guanzhong (central Shaanxi area). The temple was originally built in the Eastern Han Dynasty and in later dynasties underwent several name changes, until it was finally named the Famen Temple in the Tang Dynasty and served as an imperial temple. It has become the 'Holy Land' for Buddhism because the temple houses the fingers bones of Sakyamuni. On this trip, you will be immersed in the spirit of Buddhism.



17:00: Hotel drop-off.

What's Important:

What's included:

- Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.
- Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.
- Entrance fee for Qianling Mausoleum and Famen Temple.
- Bottled water.
- Lunch at a restaurant frequented by locals.

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. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed at anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
5. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will only be with your family or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.

6. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.
7. If you need our help in pushing a wheelchair, please let us know. We will hire a person for this task, you just need to pay extra for this.
8. Please let us know even if you have a tiny concern about this trip.

FAQ

1. How long is this tour?

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

2. We are not interested in Buddhism, could you recommend another sight?

Re: The itinerary is changeable all the time. Whichever sight you want to drop, please let us know your preference and we can make recommendations.

3. Can we start later on this trip?

Re: Yes, you can start later. However, we wouldn't recommend you change the starting time if you are travelling in July and August.

4. Does this trip involve a lot of driving?

Re: Yes, compared to other day trips in Xian, this day tour is rather rough. You need to endure about 4 hours drive time.

5. I'm a vegetarian, will I find any food?

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