

Post-AGM07 Tours

Xi'an : An introduction

XI'AN is a prosperous modern city with an incredible history. The capital city of Shanxi province, it holds a key position in the fertile plain between the high loess plateau of the North and the Qinling Mountains to the South.

One of the oldest cities in the world, Xi'an has a vivid and rich history and culture. It was a cultural center of prehistoric civilization and is



considered the birthplace of the Chinese Nation and human civilization in Asia.

As such, Xian is a great place to learn about

Chinese history as it has a

wealth of historical sites and relics to visit. The world-renowned Terracotta Army of the First Qin Emperor, considered the eighth wonder of the world, is located in Xian along with the Tomb of Yang Yuhuan and the Huaqing Pool from the Tang Dynasty,



the peak of China's federal period.

Xi'an was a capital city for more than 2000 years, witnessing the history of eleven different dynasties unfold. Along with Rome and Constantinople, this city played a vital role in bridging the East and West as it was the Eastern terminus of the Silk Road.

Today, Xian is a bustling metropolis with lively streets and modern nightlife. It is an important industrial and manufacturing center and is also home to Xian University, considered one of the best universities in China.

Main Tourist Attractions

Terracotta Army and Emperor Qin Shi Huang's Tomb



The Terracotta Army is a collection of 8,099 larger than life Chinese terracotta figures of warriors and horses located near the Mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang, the first Qin Emperor. The figures were discovered in 1974 near Xi'an, Shaanxi province. Construction of this mausoleum began in 246 BC and is believed to have taken 700,000 workers and craftsmen 38 years to complete.

Located at the foot of the Mountain Li just West of the Terracotta Army is the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang who the warriors were meant to protect. Archaeologists believe that the tomb was originally decorated with gold, silver and pearls; one can only imagine how grand the mausoleum must have been in 221 BC. The artists and workers who designed and constructed the mausoleum were buried alive with the Emperor, literally taking their secrets to the grave. According to the Emperor's official biography, "The Emperor Qin Shi Huang was buried at the foot of Mount Li. The Emperor started to build his mausoleum as soon as he came to the throne. When he unified the whole country, the Emperor Qin Shi Huang conscripted more than seven hundred thousand convicts to help build his mausoleum and install crossbows, which were automatically discharged to prevent tomb plunderers."



Huaqing Pool

Huaqing Hot Springs (*huaqing chi*) is situated 30 kilometers East of Xian at the foot of the Lishan Hills. More than 2500 years ago, the Springs were a popular retreat with Emperors who enjoyed bathing in the perfectly clear mineral waters. Today Huaqing Hot Springs is a favorite of Chinese tourists.



The pools were established during the Qing dynasty, but it is a legend from the Tang Dynasty that added a romantic twist to the Springs, akin to that of Romeo and Juliet. According to local lore, Emperor Xuan Zong had a beautiful concubine named Yang Guifei, a poor girl who the Emperor took a fancy to and promoted to the position of "lady." Legend has it that he was so enamored by her beauty that it distracted him from his daily work. The Empire was being threatened and the courtiers threatened to kill the concubine, blaming her for the Emperor's mismanagement of his nation. Desperate and madly in love, Yang hung herself to save the country and her lover's reputation. The springs were renamed the Huaqing or "The Fair" springs, in honor of Yang Guifei's beauty.

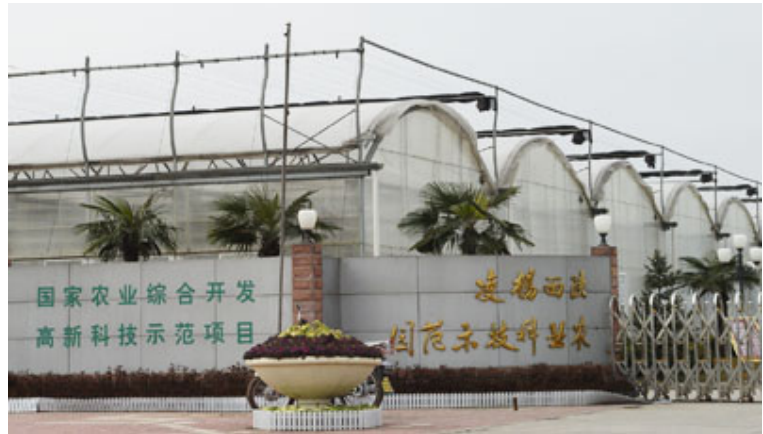
Xi'an City Walls



The Xi'an City Wall is not only the most complete city wall that has survived in China; it is also one of the largest and most complete ancient military defense systems in the world. The city walls were built on the fortifications of the Tang Forbidden City. In addition to the wall, a moat, drawbridges, watchtowers, corner towers, parapet walls and gate towers comprised a complete city defense system. While the 14km of wall does not stretch around the entire city, you can get up on the walls at the East of the railway station and at the South gate adjacent to the provincial museum.

Yangling Agriculture University Exhibit Garden

The Agricultural Science and Technology Demonstration Park is the largest agricultural high-tech demonstration park in Shaanxi Province and in NorthWestern China. Covering 133,340 sq m, it features, among others, several greenhouses and a research training center. The exhibit garden provides an opportunity to see firsthand advanced cultivation techniques for modern agriculture. Many professors and experts teach and carry out research and production activities in the Park. It is also a popular tourist attraction and a site for science education for youngsters. It was built by the Shaanxi Yangling World Facilities Agricultural Development Company.



Tentative Itinerary

Tour Route		Three-Day Business Tour of Xi'an	
Day 1/ Dec.7	Beijing/Xi'an	Stay at Purple Mountain Hotel Xi'an	
09:30-11:00	Beijing → Xi'an (1.5hour flight)		
	After breakfast, an English-speaking Tour Leader will accompany you to the Capital Airport for the flight to Xi'an where a local tour guide will meet you		
	Reception from Xi'an Airport, Back to Yangling (2hours)		
12:00-13:00	Lunch		
13:00-16:00	Visit to the Yangling Agriculture University Exhibit Garden		
16:00-18:00	Back to Xi'an		
18:30-19:30	Dinner		

Day 2/ Dec.8	Xi'an	Stay in Purple Mountain Hotel Xi'an	
07:30-09:00	Breakfast at Hotel		
09:00-12:00	After breakfast, visit Terra-cotta Warriors Museum; 2 hours by coach		
12:00-13:00	Lunch at Qinhuang Yushan restaurant		
13:30-18:30	Visit Huaqing Hot Spring Pool then return to Xi'an and visit Xi'an City Wall		
19:00-20:30	Dinner (Dumpling Banquet and Tang show).		

Day 3/ Dec.9	Xi'an /Beijing	Back to Beijing	
07:00-08:00	Breakfast at Hotel		
08:30-11:00	Visit Shaanxi History Museum		
11:30-13:00	Lunch, followed by transfer to Airport		
	Xi'an → Beijing(1.5hour flight)		
	When you arrive in Beijing, the English-speaking Tour Leader will pick you up at the Airport and transfer you to your hotel		

The above itinerary is for your reference only; the itinerary will be confirmed subject to the flight schedule prior to your departure.

Price includes:

- All domestic land transportation, airfare and domestic airport tax;
- Private transfers with driver between airports, hotels and all sightseeing activity, (All local transport to the various destinations including airports, hotels, tourist attractions, guided tours);
- 4 star hotel accommodations based on two persons sharing one room & twin private facilities;
- Buffet breakfast, Chinese lunch and dinner as specified in the itinerary;
- All the admission fees to tourist spots specified in the itinerary;
- Well-trained English-speaking tour guide; Driver & tour guide tip US \$ 5 per person per day
- Travel insurance.

Price excludes:

- Personal expenses
- incidental expenses
- Single Room Supplement

Tentative starting date: Dec.7 (Registration should be completed 15 days before tour departure)

Price: USD580/ Person Single Room Supplement: USD55/ Person

The price applies to a tour group of no less than ten persons

Hotel Recommendation

Purple Mountain Hotel Xian

★★★★



Purple Mountain Hotel is a modern deluxe hotel built by the Jiangsu Provincial Government. It is about 45-min drive to Xianyang International Airport and 20-min drive to the famous Bell Tower.

The hotel features 232 guest rooms with bright and spacious environment and full facilities. The restaurants on the 4th and

5th floors provide an ideal place for both dinners and banquets. Purple Mountains Hotel is an ideal residence for your trip to world-famous destinations in Xi'an.

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Telephone 86-29- 87668888

<http://purple-mountain.hotel.sinotour.cn/>



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