

Xi'an Introduction

Xian, the eternal city, records the great changes of the Chinese nation just like a living history book. Called Chang'an in ancient times, Xian is one of the birthplaces of the ancient civilization in the Yellow River Basin area of the country. During Xian's 3,100 year development, 13 dynasties such as Western Zhou (11th century BC - 771 BC), Qin (221 BC - 206 BC), Western Han (206 BC - 24 AD) and Tang (618 - 907) placed their capitals here. So far, Xian enjoys equal fame with Athens, Cairo, and Rome as one of the four major ancient civilization capitals.

Xian is the capital of Shaanxi province, located in the southern part of the Guanzhong Plain. With the Qinling Mountains to the south and the Weihe River to the north, it is in a favorable geographical location surrounded by water and hills. It has a semi-moist monsoon climate and there is a clear distinction between the four seasons. Except the colder winter, any season is relatively suitable for traveling.

The cultural and historical significance of Xian, as well as the abundant relics and sites, help Shaanxi enjoy the laudatory title of 'Natural History Museum'. The Museum of Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses is praised as 'the eighth major miracle of the world', Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shi Huang is listed on the World Heritage List, and the City Wall of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644) is the largest and most intact Ming Dynasty castle in the world. In the city, there is the 3,000 years old Banpo Village Remains from the Neolithic Age (approximately from 8000 BC to 5000 BC), and the Forest of Stone Steles that holds 3,000 stone steles of different periods from the Han Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty. Around Xian, the Famen Temple enjoys the reputation of being the 'forefather of pagodas and temples in Central Shaanxi,' because it holds the finger bones of Sakyamuni -- the founder of Buddhism. The natural landscape around Xian is also marvelous Mt. Huashan one of the five best-known mountains in China, is famous for its breath-taking cliffs and its unique characteristics.

Shanghai Introduction

In China there is a saying that 'Xian has witnessed 2,000 years of history, Beijing has witnessed 1,000 years of history while Shanghai bears witness to the last 100 years.' For anyone who is interested in the history of modern China, Shanghai serves as an ideal starting point. Regarded as the 'Oriental Pearl', the city has a unique and important place in modern China and its rich heritage is worthy of exploration.

Yesterday's Shanghai

Shanghai, Hu for short, is situated on the estuary of Yangtze River, a position that led to frequently unwelcome intervention from foreigners seeking to impose their exports on the Empire during the nineteenth century. However, in the 1920s and the 1930s, Shanghai became an important international trade center. With its advantaged natural conditions, rapid development and splendid oriental culture, Shanghai was famed as the 'Oriental Paris' and attracted many entrepreneurs and established businesses. In addition, many foreign scientists, literary figures and artists chose to live, give lectures or just experience the Chinese charm in Shanghai.

They included Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell, Bernard Shaw and the poet Rabindranath Tagore, to name but a few. However, by the middle of the 20th century, the glory of the city was in decline.

Today's Shanghai

Having suffered the ravages of war, turmoil and economic crisis, the fortunes of Shanghai have been revived thanks to the great Reform and Opening Up since 1978. A favorable national policy, efficient administration, regular market mechanism and a large number of talents have come together to enhance by leaps and bounds the city's economic development in recent years.

Now over 300 of the world's top 500 enterprises have opened branches in Shanghai, while many have their research and development centers or headquarters there. Pudong New Area has developed in just five years, and Lujiazui in Pudong has become one of the foremost world class financial and trade zones in Asia. Skyscrapers such as Jinmao Tower and Shanghai Global Financial Center dominate the skyline, while landmark constructions like Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Pudong International Airport and Shanghai International Convention Center offer the finest and best of modern facilities

5 Days/4 Nights Beijing/Xian/Shanghai

Day 1: Beijing-Xian

Fly to Xian--Great Mosque--Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Our guide will meet you at the lobby of Crown Plaza Hotel Beijing Wuzhou. Transfer to airport and take flight to Xian. Upon arrival, our local guide will meet you at the airport. Visit Great Mosque, Big Wild Goose Pagoda and City Wall. Overnight at the hotel. L+D
Great Mosque the Great Mosque in Xian is one of the oldest, largest and best-preserved Islamic mosques in China and its location is northwest of the Drum Tower (Gu Lou) on Huajue Lane

Big Wild Goose Pagoda It is located in the southern suburb of Xian City, about 4 kilometers (2.49 miles) from the downtown of the city.

Day 2: Xian-Shanghai

Museum of Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses--City Wall--Shaanxi History Museum--Fly to Shanghai

Have breakfast at the hotel, visit Museum of Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses, City Wall and Shaanxi History Museum. Transfer to airport and take flight to Shanghai. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to hotel. B+ L+D



Museum of Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses the Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century.

City Wall After the establishment of the Ming dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang followed his advice and began to enlarge the wall built initially during the old Tang dynasty (618 -907), creating the modern Xian City Wall.

Shaanxi History Museum The museum occupies an area of 65,000 square meters (16 acres). It is a grand complex of buildings imitating the architecture style of the Tang Dynasty (618-907)

Day 3: Shanghai

Yuyuan Garden--Jade Buddha Temple--The Bund- Oriental Pearl TV Tower--Shanghai Museum

Have breakfast at the hotel, visit Yuyuan Garden, Jade Buddha Temple, The Bund, Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Shanghai Museum. B+ L+D

Yuyuan Garden is the largest of Shanghai's ancient gardens with architectural styles of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The garden has six areas, each with its own style.

Jade Buddha Temple is one of the most famous Buddhist temples to be found in Shanghai. The White Jade Buddhas were brought here from Burma in the nineteenth century.

The Bund also called the Zhongshan Road, is a famous waterfront and regarded as the symbol of Shanghai for hundreds of years. It starts from the Baidu Bridge, which is at the connecting point of the Huangpu River and the Suzhou Creek, to the East Jinling Road and winds a 1500 meters (less than one mile) length.

Oriental Pearl TV Tower is the modern symbol of Shanghai City. Standing beside the Huangpu River and the Bund with a height of 468 meters (1536 feet), it is the tallest TV tower in Asia and the third highest in the world.



Shanghai Museum located in the center of Shanghai in People's Square, Shanghai Museum is a large museum of ancient Chinese art. The museum style and presentation surround visitors with artifacts demonstrating ancient wisdom and philosophy.

Day 4: Shanghai-Suzhou

Tongli Water Village--Humble Administrator's Garden--Garden of the Master of the Nets

Have breakfast at the hotel, drive to Suzhou. Visit the Tongli on the way. Upon arrival, visit the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Garden of the Master of the Nets. Overnight on the train. B+ L+D

Tongli Water Village originally named Fushi, Tongli is an age-old but very well preserved water township with a history of more than 1,000 years. Located on the eastern shore of Taihu Lake, just 18 kilometers (11 miles) from Suzhou City, Tongli town is 63 square

kilometers (24 square miles) in area and has a population of over 33 thousand.

Humble Administrator's Garden It was initially a private garden of a former government servant named Wang Xianchen. It was said he intended to build a garden after retired and just do some gardening work like planting trees and vegetables there, which was said to be the life of a humble man by him.

Garden of the Master of the Nets It is the smallest of the Suzhou residential gardens, yet it is the most impressive because of its use of space which creates the illusion of an area that is much greater than its actual size.



Day 5: Suzhou/Shanghai/Next destination
Have breakfast at the hotel, return to Shanghai. Transfer to airport and take flight to next destination. Service ends. B

Price included:

1. Coach/Van for Transfers & sightseeing
2. Excellent English Speaking tour guide.
3. Entrance fees as mentioned in the program
4. Three nights accommodation (twin share bases) in 4 star hotel.
5. Meals as listed in the program; B=breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner
6. Economic flight with tax of airport:
 - * Beijing/Xian MU2106 (07:45-09:35)
 - * Xian/Shanghai HU7845(14:15-16:15) or MU291 (15:10-17:05)

Remarks: The flight schedule is only for reference