

## Brief Introduction to Xian

Xi'an is the capital of Shaanxi province and is the center of northwest of China. It is also one of the important scientific research and higher education bases in China.

Xi'an, called Chang'an in ancient times, is one of the most famous historical cities in China. It is also one of the oldest cities in the world with a vivid and rich history and culture. Over 2000 years, Xi'an was the capital for thirteen dynasties including the famous Western Zhou, Qin, Han, and Tang dynasties. It was the first Chinese city to open up its doors to the Ancient world during the Tang dynasty when Xi'an blossomed as the first stop on the Silk Road.

Xi'an has a wealth of historical sites and relics to visit. In the downtown of the city, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda of the Tang dynasty, Forest of Stone Tablets, the Bell and Drum towers, City Wall as well as Xian and Shaanxi Museums are most attractive sites to visit. For example, the Xian City Wall is the best preserved, oldest and largest ancient city defense system in China. The Xian and Shaanxi museums' are two excellent museums holding a treasury of relics from the most glamorous parts of Chinese history.

Around the Xian city, you will find the world famous Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses of the Qin emperor at the foot of beautiful Lishan Mountain, which was built to protect the Emperor Qin Shi Huang thousand years ago. To the north and west of Xian city, many amazing sites including Han and Tang imperial tombs, Han Yangling museum, Emperor Wu Ze-tian and her husband's tomb, as well as the [Famen Temple](#) that claims to house the Buddha's fingers and still draws crowds of practicing monks (and tourists) to marvel at the fingers. Around Xi'an are also numerous mountains including famous Qinling Mountain lying to the south of Xian city, [Mount Huashan](#) that is named as one of the five greatest mountains in China.