

Report 4 – My 4-Day Itinerary in Xi'an

As one of China's most ancient and historically significant cities, Xi'an was formerly known as Chang'an (长安) and served as the starting point of the Silk Road. It's also home to one of the largest and oldest Muslim communities in China. Personally, I think Xi'an is a bit underrated since most tourists only talk about places like Shanghai, Chongqing, and Chengdu. But Xi'an is full of culture, history, and even great hiking spots. Here's how we spent our four days there:

Day 1 – From Beijing to Xi'an + Exploring the City



We took the earliest train from Beijing to Xi'an at around 9 AM and arrived around 1 PM. After lunch, we headed straight to Big Wild Goose Pagoda (大雁塔), one of the most iconic landmarks in Xi'an. The pagoda was built to house Buddhist scriptures brought back from India by the famous monk Xuanzang, an important figure along the Silk Road.

In the evening, we visited The Bright City (大唐不夜城), located near the pagoda. The whole area lights up beautifully at night with lanterns, performances, and interactive art installations which felt like stepping back in time to the Tang Dynasty.

Day 2 – Hiking Mount Hua (华山)



On our second day, we took a train from Xi'an North Station (西安北站) to Huashan North Station (华山北站), then caught a shuttle bus to the visitor center. From there, we took a gondola up to the West Peak and began our hike toward the East Peak.

The trail took us about 6 hours, but the views were absolutely breathtaking. The hike is rated easy to moderate, so it's beginner-friendly. There are also small shops along the trail to rest and recharge, which made the experience very convenient.

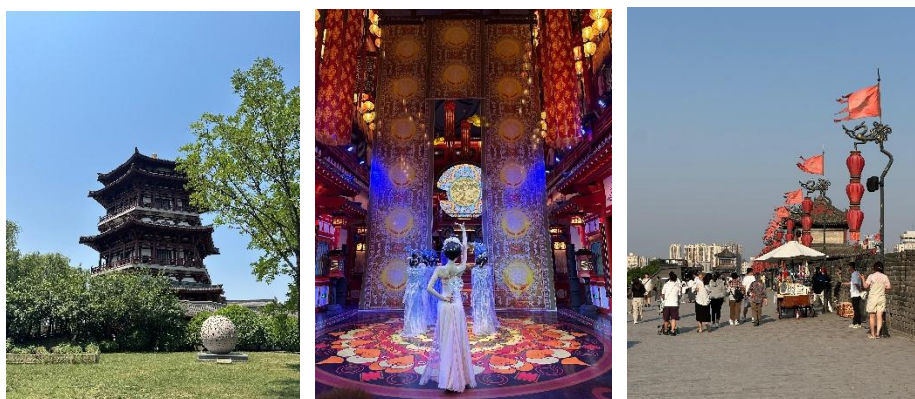
Day 3 – Terracotta Army & Huaqing Palace



We spent Day 3 visiting the Terracotta Warrior Museum (秦始皇兵马俑博物馆). It's about an hour from Xi'an by shuttle bus. The museum showcases thousands of life-sized terracotta soldiers, horses, and chariots that were buried to protect Emperor Qin Shi Huang in the afterlife. Interesting fact about this place is that each soldier has unique facial features, hairstyles, and armor, reflecting different military ranks.

After that, we visited Huaqing Palace (华清宫), a historical resort famous for its hot springs. It was an imperial retreat as early as the Western Zhou Dynasty and was later renovated by Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang Dynasty. The site features elegant architecture, peaceful gardens, and statues that capture the essence of the Tang era.

Day 4 – Leisure Day & City Highlights



On our last day, we enjoyed a relaxing city walk. First, we visited Tang Paradise (大唐芙蓉园), a cultural theme park designed in the style of a royal Tang Dynasty garden. It's a great spot for taking photos and exploring Tang-era culture.

Later, we headed to Chang'an Twelve Hours Theme Street (长安十二时辰主题街区) in the Bright City area. This immersive street features Tang-style architecture, live performances, and

interactive experiences. You can even rent a costume, roleplay as a Tang noble, and take part in live storytelling scenes.

To wrap up the day, we walked along the top of the Xi'an City Wall (西安城墙), enjoying peaceful views of the city. We also had dinner at Hui Min Street (回民街), one of the most popular food streets in Xi'an, known for its variety of delicious local snacks. In my opinion, it's definitely a must-visit spot for any traveler.