

Xi'an

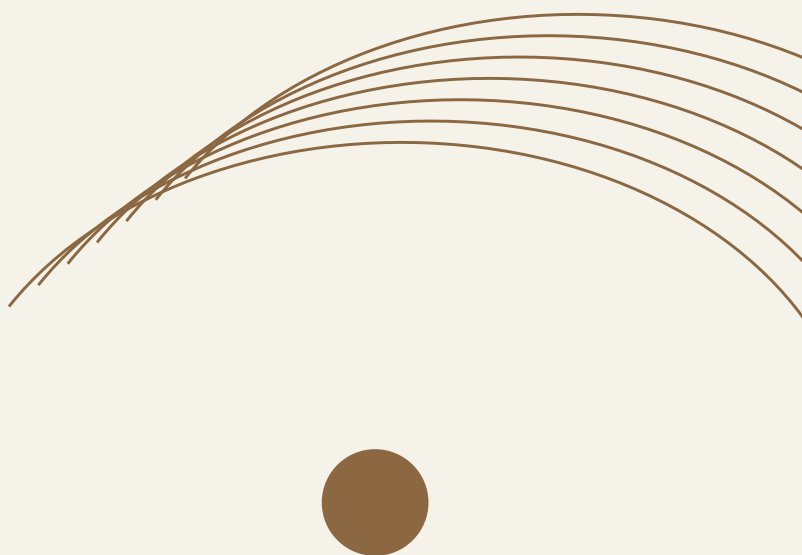
Xi'an, layers of history

Three days of city walls, food streets and the Terracotta Army

Independent routes. Practical decisions. Space to explore.

Inside: a usable plan, transport decisions, budget worksheet, Chinese search names and official source links.

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CHINA SIDEWAYS / 01 / ORIENTATION

Choose your base, then your days

This guide fits

First-time visitors who want archaeology and urban history, with one full excursion day.

The route logic

Keep the city centre and Lintong excursion separate. The Terracotta Army is not a quick downtown stop. Within the centre, a wall visit, a museum and an evening food walk should have different roles rather than becoming three equally long commitments.

Bell Tower / central old city

Useful for the core urban itinerary. Pick a side-street hotel if night-time noise matters, and confirm vehicle access before arrival.

South Gate area

A useful base if you want the wall as a focus and an easy return after evening walks. Check the station entrance and the exact side of the wall.

Near a departure station

Worth considering for a very early train. The convenience is for departure, not automatically for sightseeing; compare the trade-off before booking.

Three full sightseeing days are assumed. If arrival/departure uses one of them, remove a day or extend your stay.

CHINA SIDEWAYS / 02 / DAY 1

The walled city

MORNING / South Gate and a wall segment

Choose one wall entrance and a manageable segment rather than making a complete circuit compulsory. Exposure to heat, cold and wind matters here. Carry water and decide your turnaround point before you feel tired. Confirm opening and exit arrangements locally.

AFTERNOON / A slower central walk

Move into the old city for lunch and a shorter street route. Treat any museum or temple as an optional anchor with a checked reservation. A long wall walk already uses considerable energy; the afternoon should not become a second endurance activity.

EVENING / Bell and Drum Tower area

Use the central area as an evening orientation walk. You can appreciate the surroundings without entering every monument. Keep the way back to the hotel simple and avoid placing a distant performance at the end of the first day.

Decision before you go

In strong heat or rain, shorten the wall visit or move it to a more comfortable part of the day. Do not assume bicycle availability or rental conditions without checking.

Pacing rule: one main activity per half-day. Add lunch, rest and the actual transfer between areas. The order is a suggestion, not a timed booking.