

Weinan

Located in the east of Xi'an, Weinan is 120 kilometers from the city proper. With a time-honored history and numerous natural scenic spots, Weinan is a must place when ones tour round Shaanxi Province.

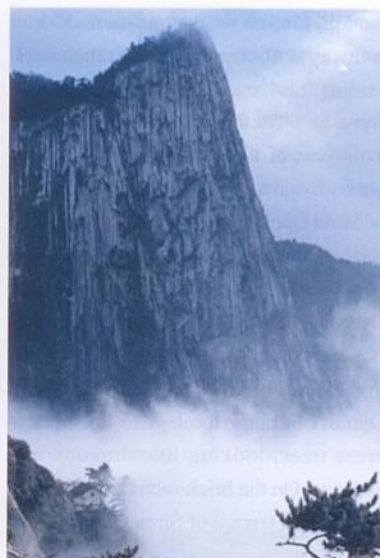
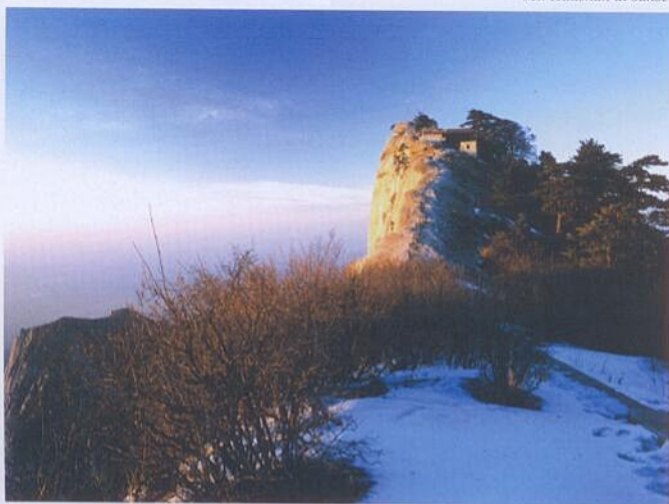
Mt. Huashan

Mt. Huashan, one of China's five famous peaks, borders the Qinling Mountains in the south and the Yellow River in the north. Mt. Huashan is well known for its five tall, straight and exquisite peaks — Chaoyang Peak in the east,

Lotus Flower Peak in the west, Jade Girl Peak in the middle, Wild Goose Peak in the south, and Cloud Terrace Peak in the north. The three peaks in the east, south and west are 2,100 meters above sea level on average; the middle and northern peaks are slightly lower; and the peak in the south is the highest, rising 2,160 meters above sea level. The five peaks in the mountain look just like a lotus flower in full bloom. For thousands of years, Mt. Huashan has attracted visitors with its magnificence and precipices.

It is a common saying that "Mt. Huashan has only one path since ancient times." Only one narrow and zigzag path, 15 kilometers long and stretching from south to north, is available in Mt. Huashan. Going up a flight steps, visitors can appreciate numerous fascinating places of scenic and historic interest on the way. Now Mt. Huashan is a national AAAA scenic area.

Mt. Huashan at sunset



Precipitous Mt. Huashan

Qiachuan Scenic Area

At the middle reaches of Yellow River, the Qiachuan Scenic area is 10 kilometers from south to north, and three kilometers from east to west, with an elevation of 342 meters. From north to south in the Qiachuan Scenic Area stand Bright Mountain, Golden Phoenix Mountain, Heaven Pillar Mountain, Lotus Flower Mountain and Qinyi Mountain. The renowned seven springs with water gushing out and overflowing are scattered in the scenic area, presenting picturesque scenery. The Maiden Spring, one of the seven springs, is a miracle indeed. People will not sink in the pool with numerous spring mouths, but feel comfortable when pushed by spring water and softly massaged by sands.

Xiayang Spring, with the rate of flow

reaching 0.76 cubic meters per second, is the highest figure of the seven springs. In ancient China, a canal was constructed to draw water from the spring and irrigate fields on both sides, stretching to Chaoyi (in present Dali County). In winter, vapors floating in the air lasted over 10 miles, presenting a wonderful scene. The Xiayang Spring was submerged in the river over 100 years ago. Along with the construction of the project of drawing water from the Yellow River, the Xiayang Spring appeared again. The Shaanxi Aquatic Products Institute has built a modernized fish-breeding center to raise improved varieties of fish by using excellent water from the Xiayang Spring, such as *Tilapia mossambica* (an African carp), and white and red silvery pomfrets.

Qiachuan Scenic Area is not only famous for its picturesque scenery, but also for its historical sites. Xiayang Ferry here is one of the old ferries on the Yellow River. At the end of the Qin Dynasty when the states of Chu and Han fought with each other, Han Xin, adopted a strategy of

making a feint to the east and attacking in the west. He crossed the river at Xiayang Ferry in a wooden jar to approach Anyi (present-day Linfen), the capital of the state of Wei, where he caught King Bao of the state of Wei. Later local people call Xiayang Ferry as Wooden Jar Ferry.

Sima Qian's Shrine and Tomb

Sima Qian's shrine and tomb are key historical monuments under state protection.

Sima Qian (c. 145 B.C.-?), is a famous historian, writer and thinker of the Western Han Dynasty, and the writer of *Historical Records*, a great history book.

First constructed in 310 (the fourth year of the Yongjia reign period of the Western Jin Dynasty), Sima Qian's shrine borders the Yellow River in the east, backs on to Liangshan Mountain in the west, lies beside the Zhishui River, and stands on a sheer precipice. Crossing the Zhiyang Bridge, visitors will see a path paved with large rocks go directly to the shrine, constructed against

the hill. On the road stands a memorial archway with some Chinese characters, reading "Shrine to Lord Taishi of the Han Dynasty." The South Hall stands in the front part of the shrine, and the rear is the bedrooms.

Sima Qian's tomb, which is behind the bedrooms and in the round shape, was constructed with bricks in the Yuan Dynasty. In front of the tomb is a tombstone with an inscription by Bi Yuan, reading "Tomb of Lord Taishi of the Han Dynasty." On the tomb grow ancient cypress trees, looking like dragons in a distance. On the brick memorial archway on the third terrace of Sima Qian's Tomb, there is an inscription with four Chinese characters, meaning "South of the Mountain and the River," which is from a sentence of Sima Qian's autobiography: "Tilling and pasturing in the south of the mountain and the river."

Add: At the eastern foot of Liangshan Mountain, Zhichuan Town, Hancheng City

Opening hours: 08:00-18:00

Admission: 20 yuan

Transport: Tourists may take a bus to go from Xi'an to Zhichuan Town, or take a train to Hancheng, where they may transfer a bus to Zhichuan Town.

Civilian Residences in Dangjia Village, Hancheng

Nine kilometers southeast of Hancheng City, Dangjia Village has over 100 quadrangles with over 600 years old, and well-preserved castles, secret passages, chastity memorial archways, family shrines and watchtowers, in addition to the clan and village history books, stone paved lanes, eye-catching lintels, exquisite stone,

and brick and wood carvings. The residences in the village, which are named "living fossils of traditional civilian residences of the East," have been included in the "international traditional civilian residence research project." Shaanxi Province has named it "Historical and Cultural Protection Village," with 1.2 square kilometers under protection. Now the village has become a folklore tourist attraction, which is of high appreciation value.

Admission: 15 yuan

Transport: Buses go regularly from Xi'an and Weinan to Hancheng, where tourists can transfer a bus to the village.

Mt. Shaohua

Mt. Shaohua is Located in the south of Liujiaye Village in Shaohua Township, about five kilometers southeast of the seat of Huaxian County. Its main peak is 1664.4 meters above sea level. It is connected with Mt. Huashan in the west. Shaohua includes three towering and precipitous peaks: East Peak, West Peak, and Middle Peak. After the Ming and Qing dynasties, Mt. Shaohua only referred to Middle Peak, which is the highest, steepest and most magnificent of the three. On Middle Peak, there are the ruins of the Jade Emperor Temple, which was constructed in the Ming Dynasty, and renovated in 1672 (11th year of the Kangxi reign period of the Qing Dynasty.)

The three peaks in Mt. Shaohua are closely linked with each other, over 2,000 meters long, and only over 10 meters wide at maximum. A large number of ancient scholars once gasped in admiration at the

tall, steep and dangerous mountain.

Opening hours: 08:00-18:00

Transport: It can be reached by bus at Xi'an Chengdong Bus Station.

Shangluo

Shangluo is in the south-east of Xi'an in the Qinling Mountains, with unique natural conditions and a long history. The main tourist routes in Shangluo include the Danjiang River Bank, and Zhashui Karst Cave. Zhashui Karst Cave is the largest karst cave scenic zone in Shaanxi, in addition to Erlang Temple, Sihao Tombs (Four Scholars' Tombs), and Wuguan Pass.

Drifting on the Danjiang River

Located in Danfeng County, the Danjiang River is the longest branch of the Hanshui River, stretching 443 kilometers. *Travel Notes* by Xu Xiake, a renowned geographer and traveler in the Ming Dynasty records the drifting on the Danjiang River. Some famous poets of the Tang Dynasty, such as Li Bai, Du



Fu and Bai Juyi, took boat tours on the river, leaving unmatched poems behind.

Amidst melodious classic music, drifting starts from the boatmen's guildhall where Xu Xiake boarded the boat, and ends at Riyue Beach, totaling eight kilometers and spending two hours. Standing on a raft, tourists can have a nice view of beautiful natural scenery and historical sites on the way. Many foreign friends thought highly of this activity, saying: "It is an ideal and natural summer resort to appreciate unsophisticated scenery of north China, and exquisite scenic spots of south China."

Admission: 50 yuan

Transport: Regular buses go from Xi'an to Shangluo, where tourists can change a bus to go to the Danjiang River.

Hanzhong

Located in the southwest of Xi'an, Hanzhong was a place of strategic importance in ancient China, and a major battlefield in the early Han Dynasty when Chu and Han states contended for hegemony and in the late Han Dynasty when

Shu and Wei states fought with each other, leaving a large number of historical sites, such as Zhuge Liang's Shrine, Dingjun Mountain, Shimen cliff-side carvings of the Han and Wei dynasties, and Ancient Han Terrace, in addition to beautiful natural scenic spots, such as South Lake Scenic Area, which display local characteristics of South Shaanxi.

Ancient Han Terrace

Located at the southeastern corner of Hanzhong City where the Hanzhong City Museum is located, Ancient Han Terrace is one of the key historical monuments under province protection. The terrace is eight meters high, with an area of 7,600 square meters. High and magnificent, it is built with bricks, with three flights of steps, one higher than another. It is the ruins of the palace of Liu Bang, when he was a prince. In the Qing Dynasty, Wangjiang Tower was built here, 17 meters high. Now the museum is composed of the exhibition halls of historical relics, ancient fossils, ancient paintings and calligraphic works, revolutionary relics, etc.

Opening hours: 08:00-17:00

Admission: 10 yuan

Transport: Tourists may get on a bus at the Chengnan Bus Station to go directly to Hanzhong.

Giant Panda Nature Reserve

The giant panda is a national treasure peculiar to China. Foping in Shaanxi Province is one of the habitats of giant pandas.

Located in the northwest of Foping



Giant pandas at Foping

County, the Foping Giant Panda Nature Reserve was set up for protecting giant pandas, with an area of 350 square kilometers. Now the nature reserve mainly includes Daguping and Yueba, in addition to the Hall of Giant Pandas Specimens and a domestication farm in Sanguanmiao.

The giant panda is a bear-like animal, and its face resembles the cat's, weighing 130 to 150 kilograms, and being 1.5 to 1.8 meters tall on average. It has long fur marked with black and white, charmingly naive. The nature reserve is in the high mountains, rising 1,600-3,000 meters above sea level, where there are many ri-

ver valleys and dense forests, with a cool climate, and lushly growing bamboos. As "envoys of friendship" of the Chinese people, giant pandas have crossed vast oceans to show themselves to the people of other countries, and have settled down in Japan, France, Britain, the United States, D.P.R. Korea, and other countries. They have been well received by foreign people.

Visiting time: June 1 to October 31

Admission: 15 yuan

Transport: Tourists may go to Hanzhong from Xi'an by train, or get on a bus at the Chengnan Bus Station to Hanzhong.

Ankang

In the southeast of Xi'an, Ankang boasts beautiful natural scenery, abundant cultural relics, and a large number of tourist attractions, such as Xiangxi Cave, Ox Hill, Tianzhu Mountain Scenic Area, Qinling Forest Part. Ankang embraces several hundred buildings and stone carvings of the Han and Qing dynasties. Special tourist and scenic areas in the Qinba mountainous region of Shaanxi Province are mainly situated in Ankang.