



## Xi'an Study Tour Itinerary

Travel Dates: April 14-18, 2010

*Singapore-Xi'an-Maijishan-Baoji-Xi'an-Singapore*

<p><b>Day 1</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>April 14</b></p>	<p>Singapore-Xi'an Sheraton Hotel****</p>	<p><b>Travel Day: Meet at Changi Airport , Terminal 1, at 7:00 AM</b></p> <p>Flights: CZ 352 Q SIN/CAN 0900/1250 CZ 3201 N CAN/XIY 1650 /1905</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Late Supper at the Xi'an Sheraton Hotel</li> </ul>
<p><b>Day 2</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>April 15</b></p>	<p>Xi'an-Baoji Foguangge Hotel (a special pilgrim's hotel)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up early to depart at 7:00 AM to Tianshui to visit the beautiful Buddhist site of <b>Maijishan</b>, 1 of China's 4 most important grottoes with 194 caves containing 7,200 Buddhist sculptures and 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of murals, dating back to the N. Wei (386-534 CE) . A nominated UNESCO World Heritage Site. [Lunch at Maijishan; they have a simple restaurant?]</li> <li>Afternoon continue (arrive by 4 PM) to <b>Famen Temple (Famensi)</b>, one of China's most revered Buddhist temples to see an incredible Treasure Museum that includes a finger bone relic (<i>sarira</i>) of the Buddha.</li> <li>Overnight in Baoji, cradle of the Zhou and Qin Dynasties</li> </ul>
<p><b>Day 3</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>April 16</b></p>	<p>Sheraton Xi'an Hotel</p> <p>262 Feng Hao East Rd, Xi'an</p> <p>Phone: +86 (29) 8426-1888</p> <p>Fax: +86 (29) 8426-2188</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another early start to visit the fabulous ancient capital of <b>Yongcheng</b> and the <b>Qin Tomb Duke Jinggong</b> (r. 577-537 BCE), considered by Chinese archaeologists as rivaling the terracotta soldiers of Qin Shih Huangdi</li> <li>Travelling east, we stop at the famous <b>tomb district</b> including the tomb of one of the most famous Chinese Generals, <b>General Huo Qubing</b> (Chinese: 霍去病; 140 BC – 117 BC), who fought the tribal <i>Xiongnu</i> (site of the famous stone statue, "Huns under the hoofs of horses")</li> <li>Then it's on to the tomb complex of the <b>Emperor Gaozong</b> and his notorious wife, <b>the Empress Wu Zetian</b>, one of the great patronesses of Buddhism, identified by her ardent supporters as Maitreya Buddha. The <b>Qianling Mausoleum</b> is the only Chinese tomb where two "emperors" are buried. One of its most famous structures is the life-size sculptures of the sixty-one foreign emissaries who attended the Emperor's funeral.</li> <li>Visits to the <b>Yongtai Princess'</b> tomb, murdered together with her young husband by the Empress Wu, and if time permits, the Yide or Zhanghuai Prince 's tomb. All have beautiful Tang murals.</li> <li>Back to Xi'an to overnight again at the Xi'an Sheraton Hotel. Dumpling dinner at Defachang (famous dumpling restaurant).</li> <li>[Optional] evening visit (by taxi) to Xi'an's wonderful night market near the central mosque</li> </ul>
<p><b>Day 4</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>April 17</b></p>	<p>Sheraton Xi'an Hotel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We start early to visit the <b>world-famous terracotta army</b> of the first emperor of China, Qin Shihuang (1 hour drive east of the city)</li> <li>Return to town to visit the tranquil <b>Stele Forest</b> on the grounds of an <b>ancient Confucian Temple</b>, established in 1090 during the Northern Song Dynasty, known for its collection of more than 1,000 stone monuments engraved during the Han to Qing Dynasties (recording both China's history and calligraphic styles before the invention of paper).</li> <li>We visit the <b>Little &amp; Big Wild Goose Pagodas</b> and the excellent <b>Xi'an City History Museum</b> (on the grounds of the LWGP with one of China's few known Sogdian tombs) and if time, the Provincial Museum</li> <li>[[Optional] evening visit (by taxi) to Xi'an's wonderful night market near the central mosque</li> </ul>
<p><b>Day 5</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>April 18</b></p>	<p>Xi'an Singapore</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An (optional) early morning walk, then we head to the airport at 9:30 AM to catch our flights home: CZ 3220 N XIY/CAN 1240/1500 CZ 351 E CAN/SIN 1700/2045</li> </ul>