



INDEPENDENT TRAVEL GUIDE

CHINA: XI'AN & CHENGDU

Pandas, the Terracotta Army and an 8-day route

BALU_TRAVEL

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

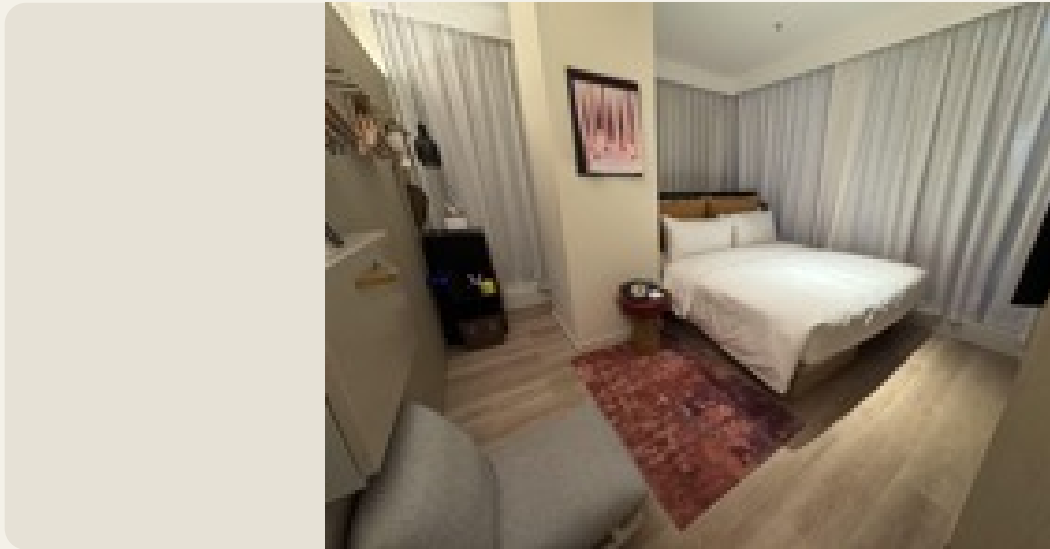
The route runs from Xi'an to Chengdu and balances history, mountain scenery, food and family-friendly experiences.



- Prices and schedules change, so keep a time and budget buffer.
- Use WeChat and Alipay for payments and Didi for taxis.
- Download Maps.me areas in advance and keep a translation app ready.
- Carry tissues, water, rain protection and comfortable walking shoes.

LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND WHERE TO STAY

Both cities are easy to connect by high-speed train.



- Use Xi'an Xianyang and Chengdu Tianfu or Shuangliu airports depending on your flight.
- The metro is fast and inexpensive. Didi is best for locations far from stations.
- In Xi'an, stay near the City Wall or Muslim Quarter. In Chengdu, Chunxi Road or Taikoo Li works well.
- Keep small cash for markets and local stalls even if most payments are digital.

Book intercity trains and airport transfers ahead of busy travel dates.

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL AND XI'AN CITY WALL

After a long journey, keep the first evening simple.



- Check in and walk around the City Wall area.
- Have dinner nearby and try biangbiang noodles.
- If everyone has energy, take a short evening walk for the illuminated gates.
- Save the full wall circuit for the following day.

DAY 2 - CITY WALL AND FOOD TOUR

The wall is the best introduction to Xi'an's scale and layout.



- The full loop is roughly 14 km. Cycling is the easiest way to see more of it.
- Spend the afternoon in the Muslim Quarter exploring crafts and food stalls.
- Plan an evening tasting route instead of one large dinner.
- Keep room for dumplings, noodles and local snacks.

DAY 3 - TERRACOTTA ARMY

A major archaeological site that deserves an early start.

- Visit the pits in reverse order if you want to reach Pit 1 before the largest crowds.
- Allow time for the museum displays as well as the excavation halls.
- Return to central Xi'an for dinner rather than rushing to another attraction.
- A guide or audio guide adds useful context to the scale of the site.

Pit 1 is the visual highlight, but the smaller exhibits explain the story.

DAY 4 - MOUNT HUASHAN

A demanding but memorable mountain day.



- Choose a route using the North, West or South peaks based on fitness and time.
- Cable cars reduce the climb but do not remove all the stairs.
- Bring trekking shoes, water and a windproof layer.
- Check weather, cable car operation and return transport before leaving Xi'an.

Do not add another major activity to this day.

DAY 5 - XI'AN PHOTOS AND EVENING LIGHTS

Use a lighter day for a costume photo session and favourite city locations.



- Traditional costume rental is available near the pagoda area.
- Visit the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda surroundings before sunset.
- Return after dark for the illuminated streets and fountains.
- Keep the schedule relaxed after Huashan.

TRANSFER TO CHENGDU AND DAY 6

Take the high-speed train, settle near Chunxi Road and switch from imperial history to Sichuan life.

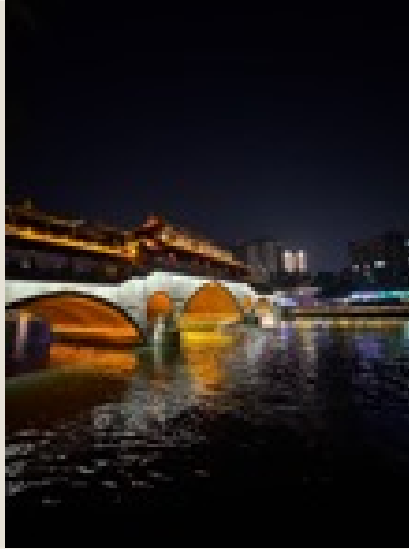


- Visit the panda base early, when the animals are more active.
- Spend the afternoon in People's Park and try a traditional tea house.
- The optional Jinsha Museum adds history without another long transfer.
- Finish with Sichuan Opera and its famous face-changing performance.

Arrive at the panda base near opening time.

DAY 7 AND PRACTICAL BUDGET

Kuanzhai Alley and Jinli Street make an easy final city day.



- Explore traditional-style lanes, crafts and snacks during the day.
- Photograph Jinli after sunset when the lanterns are on.
- Daily food estimate from our trip: Chengdu CNY 80-180, Xi'an CNY 100-200.
- Allow CNY 10-40 per day for city transport and a separate buffer for tickets.
- Install WeChat, Alipay, Didi, Maps.me, Trip.com, a translator and a VPN before departure.

Travel to the airport about three hours before an international flight.