



Roots of Chinese Culture 14-Day Tour (CIT006)

Taiyuan 太原 – **Wutai Mountain** 五台山 – **Heng Mountain** 恒山 – **Yingxian** 应县 –
Datong 大同 – **Pingyao** 平遥 – **Linfen** 临汾 – **Yuncheng** 运城 – **Luoyang** 洛阳 –
Dengfeng (Shaolin Monastery) 登封 – **Zhengzhou** 郑州 – **Kaifeng** 开封

Note: The Chinese names listed in the itinerary are written with the simplified characters used in Mainland China.

Day 1: U.S.A. – Beijing

Today you will board a plane bound for China, where you will witness the vicissitudes of China's five thousand-year history. Your tour will begin in the dynamic capital city of **Beijing**, a city that encompasses the vast range of China's cultural styles.

Day 2: Arrival in Beijing

Today, after arriving in Beijing, you will be greeted at the airport by CIT's professional bilingual tour guide and escorted to the hotel where you will be staying overnight.

Beijing Accommodations: **Grand Gongda Jianguo Hotel** 工大建国 (5-Star) or equivalent

<http://www.bjut-hoteljianguo.com/en/hotelinfo.html>

Day 3: Beijing – Taiyuan

Today you will take a high-speed train to the capital of Shanxi Province, **Taiyuan**, which has been an important line of defense against foreign invasion since ancient times. There you will visit the **Interactive Coal Museum of China**. China mines more coal than any other country, and the construction of this museum is a major event in the development of China's coal technology. Its function is to collect and preserve important relics and historical data in order to review and summarize China's advances in coal technology and mining industry safety, thereby demonstrating the progress that has been made in these areas. The museum features an underground mine designed to vividly and realistically show the entire process of coal mining, from the discovery of coal to its excavation, so that you may better understand the richness of the long history of Shanxi's coal industry. After you have watched a documentary on coal mining, descended into the bowels of the earth in a cage elevator, and taken a ride on a mine train, you will have personally penetrated the mysterious world of coal mines. Following your tour of the museum, you will have a chance to enjoy authentic **Shanxi-style noodles**.

Day 3 Attractions:

Interactive Coal Museum of China (中国煤炭体验馆, Zhōngguó Méitàn Tìyànguǎn)

Taiyuan Accommodations: **Yuyuan Hotel** 榆园大酒店 (4-Star) or equivalent

<http://www.yuyuanhotel.com/>

Day 4: Taiyuan – Wutai Mountain

Today you will travel to **Wutai Mountain**, the most important of the “four great Buddhist mountains” in China and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. First, you will visit **Bodhisattva Peak**, one of the “five sacred Buddhist sites” on Wutai Mountain and the most opulent of its temples. From there you will go to one of the first temples built in China, **Xiantong Temple**, which is just as renowned as Luoyang's famous White Horse Temple. Xiantong Temple is the oldest temple at Wutai Mountain and is also the largest and most influential. The third sacred site you will visit, **Tayuan Temple**, known for the soaring white tower that houses sacred bones of the Buddha, is traditionally called “the Great White Tower” and is considered a symbol of Wutai Mountain. The fourth and last site you will visit is the **Temple of Ten Thousand Buddhas**; also known as “the Temple of Five Grandfathers,” it is where visitors to Wutai Mountain feel inspired to burn the most incense. For dinner this evening, you will enjoy a **Buddhist vegetarian banquet**.

Day 4 Attractions:

Wutai Mountain (五台山, Wǔtái Shān)

Bodhisattva Peak (菩萨顶, Púsà Dǐng)

Xiantong Temple (显通寺, Xiǎntōng Sì)

Tayuan Temple (塔院寺, Tǎyuàn Sì)



Temple of Ten Thousand Buddhas (万佛阁, Wànfó Gé)

Special Arrangements: Wutai Mountain vegetarian banquet

Wutai Mountain Accommodations: Wutai Mountain Flower Hotel 五台山花卉山庄 (4-Star) or equivalent <http://www.xn--dlqq8ikoe6yba003ae65g.com/>

Day 5: Wutai Mountain – Heng Mountain – Yingxian – Datong

After breakfast, you will tour Wutai Mountain's temple complex, which includes **Shuxiang Temple** and **Puhua Temple**. Then you will go sightseeing at **Heng Mountain**, one of the "five famous Taoist mountains." There you will take a tour of **Xuankong Temple** (also known as the **Hanging Temple**), famed for its scenery, the precariousness of its mountainside location, and the strangeness and skill of its construction. Made entirely of wood, the temple has a small foundation that only covers an area of 152.5 square meters, but it contains 40 rooms. Finally, you will stop in **Yingxian** ("Ying County") to visit the **Yingxian Wooden Pagoda**, also known as the **Sakyamuni Pagoda of Fogong Temple** or simply the **Muta** ("wooden pagoda"). Built in 1056, the 200-foot tall Muta is the oldest temple made completely of wood still standing in China. Afterward, you will travel to **Datong**, where you will have dinner.

Day 5 Attractions:

Wutai Mountain (五台山, Wǔtái Shān)

Shuxiang Temple (殊像寺, Shūxiàng Sì)

Puhua Temple (普化寺, Pǔhuà Sì)

Heng Mountain (恒山, Héngshān)

Xuankong Temple or Hanging Temple (悬空寺, Xuánkōng Sì)

Fogong Temple (佛宫寺, Fógōng Sì)

Yingxian Wooden Pagoda (应县木塔, Yìngxiàn Mùtǎ)

Datong Accommodations: Yungang International Hotel 云岗国际 (5-Star) or equivalent

<http://www.ygih.com/>

Day 6: Datong – Taiyuan

After breakfast, you will tour the **Yungang Caves** (or **Yungang Grottoes**), a complex of 45 ancient Buddhist caves that are known as an "Oriental treasure house" because they contain some 51,000 stone Buddha statues. The Yungang Caves, whose construction began more than 1,500 years ago, are one of the three biggest such Buddhist grotto complexes in China. After lunch you will return to Taiyuan, where in the evening you can take a relaxing stroll in the "pedestrian street" shopping area near your hotel and take in the local culture.

Day 6 Attractions:

Yungang Caves (云岗石窟, Yúngāng Shíkū)

Taiyuan Accommodations: Yuyuan Hotel 榆园大酒店 (4-Star) or equivalent

<http://www.yuyuanhotel.com/>

Day 7: Taiyuan – Pingyao

Today, after breakfast, you will visit the **Shanxi Museum**, where you can explore Shanxi's thousands of years of history and see how each period of China's history has influenced Shanxi culture. After lunch, you will travel to **Pingyao**. Among China's ancient cities, Pingyao stands out as the one whose traditional character is the best-preserved. Pingyao's **ancient city wall** is one of the four most famous in China, and it's also one of the oldest and largest brick city walls of any small city in Shanxi and even in all of China. The city's **Sunrise Prosperity Draft Bank**, the rural ancestor of China's modern banks, was the first private financial organization to provide banking services to customers in different areas. You will also visit **Mingqing Street**, which has been a commercial distribution center since the Ming Dynasty; there are storefronts lining the street and shops everywhere, once earning the area a reputation as "the number one financial center of the Qing Dynasty." Afterward, you will take a nostalgic tour of some of the city's ancient establishments.

Day 7 Attractions:

Shanxi Museum (山西博物院, Shānxī Bówùyuàn)

Pingyao City Wall (平遥古城墙, Píngyáo Gǔchéngqiáng)

Sunrise Prosperity Draft Bank (日升昌票号, Rìshēng Chāng Piàohào)



Mingqing Street (平遥明清街, Píngyáo Míngqīng Jiē)

Pingyao Accommodations: **Shanxi Grand Hotel** 洪善驿民俗宾馆 (5-Star) *or equivalent*
<http://www.sxpyhsy.com/>

Day 8: Pingyao – Linfen

After breakfast you will take a tour of Pingyao's **Shuanglin Temple**, famous for its rare painted statues from the Song and Yuan dynasties. Then you will travel to **Linfen** to see its **Yao Temple**, which was built during the Jin Dynasty in memory of Emperor Yao, who according to legend was the first emperor of China. It is said that Emperor Yao discussed matters of state with four trusted high-ranking officials in **Five-Phoenix Tower**, one of several famous buildings located on the temple grounds. The tower gets its name from the fact that these officials were called "the Four Phoenixes," and Emperor Yao himself was called "the King of the Phoenixes."

Day 8 Attractions:

Shuanglin Temple (双林寺, Shuānglín Sì)

Yao Temple (尧庙, Yáo Miào)

Five-Phoenix Tower (五凤楼, Wǔ Fèng Lóu)

Linfen Accommodations: **Tang Yao Hotel** 唐尧大酒店 (4-Star) *or equivalent* <http://www.lfityhotel.com/>

Day 9: Linfen – Yuncheng

After breakfast, you will first visit the Paleolithic-era **Ding Village Ruins** before heading to **Guandi Temple** in **Xiezhou**, near the city of **Yuncheng**. Guandi Temple is the largest extant temple in China dedicated to Guan Yu, a formidable general from Chinese history who became one of China's most popular gods. Because Xiezhou was General Yu's hometown, this grand temple has a lofty status among China's temples and has garnered people's respect and interest for hundreds of years.

Day 9 Attractions:

Ding Village Ruins (丁村文化遗址, Dīngcūn Wénhuà Yízhǐ)

Guandi Temple (关帝庙, Guāndì Miào)

Yuncheng Accommodations: **Tongbao International Hotel** 通宝国际酒店 (4-Star) *or equivalent*
<http://www.tongbaohotel.cn>

Day 10: Yuncheng – Luoyang

After breakfast, our tour bus will take you to the city of **Luoyang** in Henan Province, to see **White Horse Temple**, which was built more than 1,900 years ago during the Eastern Han Dynasty and was the first Buddhist temple built in China. Afterward, you will tour the **Longmen Caves** (or "**Dragon Gate Grottoes**"), one of China's "four great cave complexes," which was dug 1,500 years ago; now there are more than 1,300 caves that contain more than 100,000 Buddhist statues and more than 40 Buddhist pagodas. The Longmen Caves were designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Among the most famous sights in the area are **Guyang Cave**, **Fengxian Temple**, **Lotus Cave**, and **Ten Thousand Buddha Cave**, all of them invaluable cultural sites and relics. Next you will proceed to **Guanlin**, where the decapitated head of Guan Gong (Guan Yu) is buried. Because Guan Gong was venerated as a military sage in the ancient world, his tomb was built to be grand and imposing. Finally, you will visit **Tianzija Museum**, which boasts relics dating back to the 8th century B.C., when Luoyang (then called Luoyi) was the capital of the Zhou Dynasty. For dinner, we have arranged a truly unique "**shuixi**"-style meal.

Day 10 Attractions:

White Horse Temple (白马寺, Báimǎ Sì)

Longmen Caves (龙门石窟, Lóngmén Shíkū)

Guyang Cave (古阳洞, Gǔyáng Dòng)

Fengxian Temple (奉仙寺, Fèngxiān Sì)

Lotus Cave (莲花洞, Liánhuā Dòng)

Ten Thousand Buddha Cave (万佛洞, Wànfó Dòng)

Guanlin (关林, Guānlín)

Tianzija Museum (天子架, Tiānzǐjià Bówùguǎn)

Special Arrangements: a taste of "**shuixi**"-style (水席, shuǐxí) **cuisine**



Luoyang Accommodations: **Hua-Yang Plaza Hotel** 华阳广场国际酒店 (4-Star) *or equivalent*
<http://www.huayanghotel.com/>

Day 11: Luoyang – Dengfeng – Zhengzhou

Today you will venture to **Song Mountain** to visit the **Shaolin Monastery**, the ancestral home of the Chan branch of Buddhism (“Zen” in Japan) and also the birthplace of the Shaolin school of martial arts. Within the temple are many stelae, or stone tablets, of great aesthetic value. **Thousand-Buddha Hall** and **White Clothes Hall** are named for the exquisite paintings featured within. During your visit, you will also have the opportunity to watch a **Shaolin martial arts performance** of matchless brilliance. Next you will see the **Pagoda Forest**, a cemetery filled with hundreds of stupas, or tomb pagodas, where many eminent Shaolin monks are buried. Afterward, you will enjoy a feast of authentic **Henan-style cuisine**, followed by a visit to the **Henan Museum**, which features a fabulous collection of relics from Henan Province’s glorious past. Finally, you will travel to **Zhengzhou**, where you will eat dinner and spend the night.

Day 11 Attractions:

- Song Mountain** (嵩山, Sōngshān)
- Shaolin Monastery** (少林寺, Shàolín Sì)
- Thousand-Buddha Hall** (千佛殿, Qiānfó Diàn)
- White Clothes Hall** (白衣殿, Báiyī Diàn)
- Pagoda Forest** (塔林, Tǎlín)
- Henan Museum** (河南博物馆, Hénán Bówùguǎn)

Special Arrangements: **Shaolin martial arts performance** (武术表演, wǔshù biǎoyǎn), **Henan-style cuisine**

Zhengzhou Accommodations: **Jianguo Hotel Xinhua Henan** 新华建国 (4-Star) *or equivalent*
<http://www.xhjg.cn/>

Day 12: Zhengzhou – Kaifeng

After breakfast, you will drive to **Kaifeng** to visit the **Qingming Riverside Landscape Garden**, a reconstruction of a Song Dynasty riverside town based on the famous painting “Along the River During Qingming Festival,” by the Song Dynasty painter Zhang Zeruī. As in Virginia’s Colonial Williamsburg, people in the town wear Song Dynasty-style clothing, and as you walk among them it will seem as though you have journeyed a thousand years into the past. Afterward, you will visit the **Memorial Hall of Lord Bao**, which was constructed in honor of Bao Zheng, a revered high official of the Northern Song Dynasty. You will then continue onward to the **Northern Song Pagoda**, which has been officially recognized as a “national treasure” of China. Though nicknamed “the Iron Pagoda” because of its deep brown color, its bricks are actually made of liuli (“colored glaze”), which is similar to crystal glass. After dinner at the restaurant that serves the most famous **steamed buns** (包子, bāozi) in Kaifeng, you can stroll along **Imperial Song Street**, which features Song Dynasty-style restaurants and shops that sell antiques, calligraphy, and souvenirs, and visit the **Shanxi-Shaanxi-Gansu Guild Hall**.

Day 12 Attractions:

- Qingming Riverside Landscape Garden** (清明上河图, Qīngmíng Shànghé Tú)
- Memorial Hall of Lord Bao** (包公祠, Bāogōng Cí)
- Northern Song Pagoda** (北宋宝塔, Běisòng Bǎotǎ)
- Imperial Song Street** (宋都御街, Sòngdū Yùjiē)
- Shanxi-Shaanxi-Gansu Guild Hall** (山陕甘会馆, Shānshǎngān Huìguǎn)

Kaifeng Accommodations: **New Century Grand Hotel Kaifeng** 开元名都 (5-Star) *or equivalent*
<http://www.kaiyuanhotels.com/default.html>

Day 13: Kaifeng – Zhengzhou

Today you will return to Zhengzhou, which is located in central Henan Province, on the south bank of the **Yellow River**. Zhengzhou is one of the most important industrial cities in China, and because it is situated on China’s Central Plains, it is of great importance as a center of transportation. It is also known as a commercial city because of its commercial prosperity in ancient times. After your arrival in Zhengzhou, you will proceed to the **Yellow River Scenic Area**, whose sights include **Five Dragons Peak**,



the famous **“Yellow River Mother” Statue**, and the **Yellow River Stone Tablet Forest**, a cluster of many stelae (stone tablets) of every description. You will also take a **tour of the Yellow River** on a hovercraft. As night approaches, you will stroll through the **Gulou Night Market** and enjoy a dinner of **Cantonese food** and **“Old Ma” hot pot**.

Day 13 Attractions:

Yellow River Scenic Area (黄河游览区, Huáng Hé Yóulǎn Qū)

Five Dragons Peak (五龙峰, Wǔ Lóng Fēng)

Yellow River Mother Statue (黄河母亲塑像, Huáng Hé Mǔqīn Sùxiàng)

Yellow River Stone Tablet Forest (黄河碑林, Huáng Hé Bēilín)

Gulou Night Market (鼓楼夜市, Gǔlóu Yèshì)

Special Arrangements: hovercraft tour of the Yellow River, **Cantonese dinner with hot pot**

Zhengzhou Accommodations: **Jianguo Hotel Xinhua Henan** 新华建国 (4-Star) *or equivalent*

<http://www.xhjj.cn/>

Day 14: Zhengzhou / departure from China via Beijing or Shanghai

Today you will take a flight to **Beijing** or **Shanghai**, where you can either fly back to the United States or continue your vacation in China; if you'd like to make additional travel arrangements, please let us know.

2012 Prices and Departure Dates

Departure Saturday	From SFO/LAX					
	Land Only	Air Ticket & Land	Single Occupancy	Fuel Surcharge	Taxes & Fees	Total Price*
11/3,17	\$1,699	\$2,199	add \$420	\$360	\$100	\$2,659
12/1,29	\$1,699	\$2,199	add \$420	\$360	\$100	\$2,659

2013 Prices and Departure Dates

Departure Saturday	From SFO/LAX					
	Land Only	Air Ticket & Land	Single Occupancy	Fuel Surcharge	Taxes & Fees	Total Price*
1/26	\$1,899	\$2,399	add \$500	\$360	\$100	\$2,859
2/16	\$1,899	\$2,399	add \$500	\$360	\$100	\$2,859
3/2,16	\$1,899	\$2,399	add \$500	\$360	\$100	\$2,859
4/6,20	\$2,099	\$2,699	add \$600	\$360	\$100	\$3,159
5/4,18	\$2,099	\$2,699	add \$600	\$360	\$100	\$3,159
6/1,15,29	\$1,999	\$2,799	add \$600	\$360	\$100	\$3,259
7/13,27	\$1,999	\$2,799	add \$600	\$360	\$100	\$3,259
8/10,24	\$1,999	\$2,799	add \$600	\$360	\$100	\$3,259
9/7,21	\$2,099	\$2,699	add \$600	\$360	\$100	\$3,159
10/5,19	\$2,099	\$2,699	add \$600	\$360	\$100	\$3,159
11/2,16,30	\$1,899	\$2,399	add \$500	\$360	\$100	\$2,859
12/28	\$1,899	\$2,399	add \$500	\$360	\$100	\$2,859



* **"Total price" includes air ticket, fuel surcharge, taxes and fees, land transportation, meals (with some exceptions on international arrival and departure days), hotels, tour guides, complimentary accident insurance, and all of the attractions listed on the itinerary (including the "special arrangements") but does NOT include the additional charge for single occupancy; the base price per traveler assumes that hotel rooms are shared by two people.**

Please read the "Standard Booking Notice" on our website's [Booking page](#) before making your tour reservations.

Charges for children: Children 11 years and under who share a room with two adults and do not ask for an extra bed will be charged the listed child fare or 75% of the regular adult price; if they need an extra bed in the same room with two adults, the cost will be 90% of the regular adult price. Children 12 and older will be charged at the regular adult price.

Airfare: Prices listed are for departures from Los Angeles (LAX) and San Francisco (SFO), based on Air China (CA) V Class. For New York (JFK) departures, the additional tour fare is \$100; fuel surcharge, taxes and fees are as listed. Fuel surcharge and taxes are associated with airlines and are subject to change at any time without prior notice. For departure gateways other than Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), and New York (JFK), please add appropriate USA domestic add-on fare (certain exclusions may apply):

Eastern Time Zone: add \$350, **Central Time Zone:** add \$350, **Mountain Time Zone:** add \$250, **Pacific Time Zone:** add \$100

China International Travel CA, Inc. cancellation policy: Notice of cancellation must be received by fax or mail; verbal notice only will not be considered sufficient. Please contact CIT to confirm that we have received your cancellation notice. A cancellation fee will be charged according to the following criteria:

- 60 or more days prior to departure: \$200 per person will be assessed.
- 45-59 days prior to departure: \$300 per person will be assessed.
- 30-44 days prior to departure: \$400 per person will be assessed.
- 15-29 days prior to departure: \$500 per person will be assessed.
- 3-14 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person will be assessed.
- Less than 3 days or nonappearance: 100% of total charge.

If tickets for any form of transportation (including, but not limited to, airline, cruise, or train) have already been issued or final confirmation has been received at time of cancellation, an additional penalty will be assessed in accordance with the policies of the company providing the transportation.

We strongly suggest that our clients consider purchasing cancellation insurance to prevent the loss of your tour investment in the event of illness, accident, or some other unforeseeable circumstance that might prevent you from going on the tour. Please see our website's [Booking page](#) for more information about the insurance policies we sell from USI Affinity, a trusted travel insurance company.