

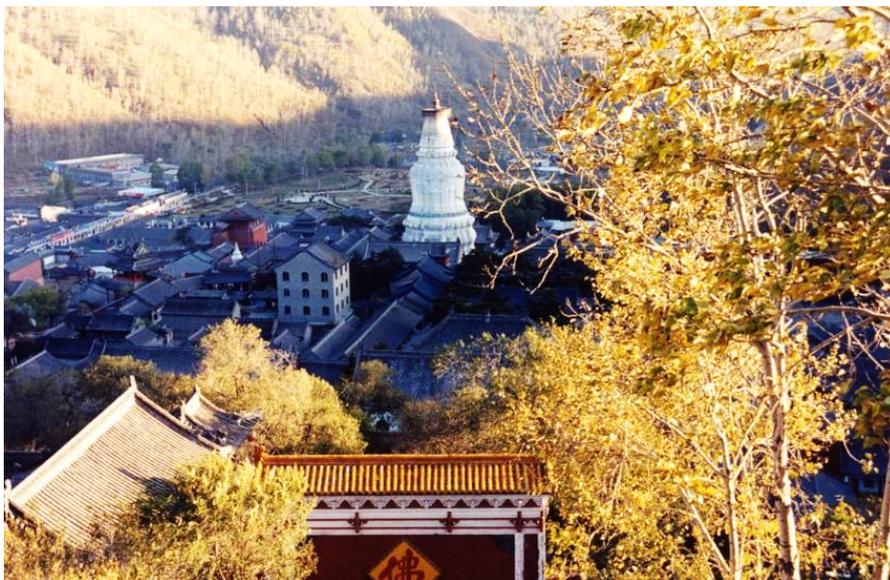
## [ Tour code: GW-ASX-001 ] Datong, Mt. Hengshan, Mt. Wutai, Pingyao, Taiyuan (7 days)

### Shanxi

Shanxi, literally means "West of the Mountains" which refers to the Taihang Mountains. During the Spring and Autumn Period (700-467BC), the province was the territory of the Jin State, so it is also known as the Jin.

Shanxi's long history has provided the province with rich and colorful cultural heritages, which owing to its stability and prosperity has been well preserved, thus, earning the name of "Museum of Ancient Chinese Culture". The more obvious of these include: the Buddhist wonder of the Yungang Grottoes in Datong, the ancient city of Pingyao which was listed as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO in 1997, the oldest and tallest ancient wooden pagoda in China - the Wooden Pagoda of Yingxian County, the remote Shuanglin Temple, Jinci Temple, the longest and most prestigious history in the four most well-known Buddhist holy lands of China – Mt. Wutai, and one of the Five Sacred Mountains in China – Mt. Hengshan, which are well worth the long journeys for the visitors.

Shanxi is also known for Jin Merchants Culture of central Shanxi. Jin merchants constituted a historical phenomenon that last for centuries from Song Dynasty to Qing Dynasty. Jin merchants ranged far and way from Central Asia to the coast of eastern China, by the Qing Dynasty they were conducting trade across both sides of the Great Wall. During late Qing Dynasty, a new development occurred: the creation of Piaohao, which were essentially small banks that provided services like money transfers and transactions, deposits, loans, and etc. After the establishment of the first Piaohao in Pingyao, the bankers of Shanxi enjoyed nearly one hundred years of financial dominance across China before being eclipsed by the rise of modern, larger banks.



### Day01 Beijing-Datong

Take an overnight train to Datong. (No transfer service in Beijing.)

### **Day02 Datong**

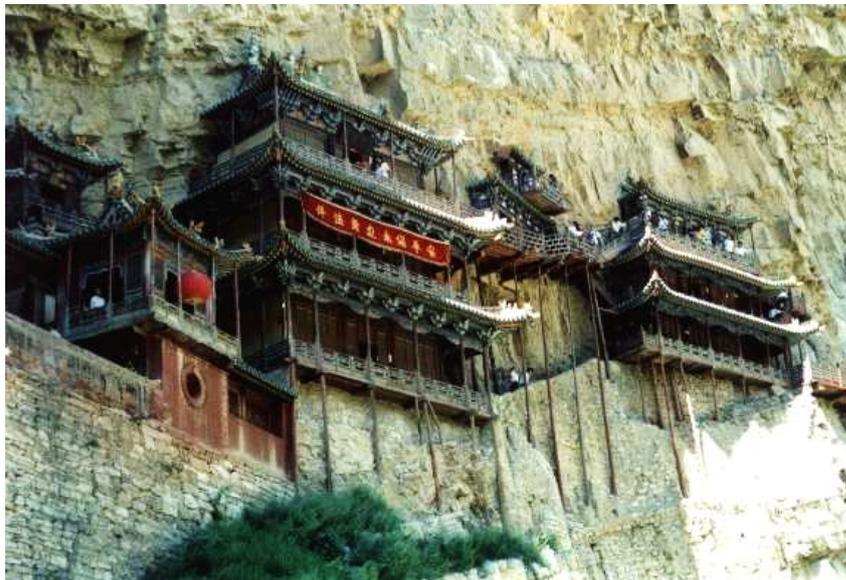
Be picked up at the railway station and have breakfast. Today's highlight is to visit **Yungang Grottoes**, with their 252 caves and 51,000 statues, representing the outstanding achievement of Buddhist cave art in China in the 5th and 6th centuries. Then, visit the **Huayan Temple** which was named after the Huayan sect of Buddhism. (B-L-D)

### **Day03 Datong-Mt. Hengshan- Mt. Wutai**

After breakfast, you will depart to visit Scenic Spots of **Mt. Hengshan**, one of the Five Sacred Mountains in traditional Chinese culture and has been a Taoist shrine ancient times. Then, drive to Mt. Wutai Scenic Group. (B-L-D)

### **Day04 Mt. Wutai**

Today's highlight is visit Mount Wutai including **Pusa Ding** (Bodhisattva on mountain top), **Xiantong Temple**, **Tayuan Temple**, **Shuxiang Temple**, **Puhua Temple**, and **Dailuo Ding** by cable car. Pusa Ding is the biggest and most complete lamasery on Mount Wutai. It is located at the top of Lingjiu Peak where, according to legend, Wenshu Bodhisattva lived. Xiantong Temple is believed to be one of the first constructed after Buddhism was introduced to China and is also the oldest and biggest in Mt. Wutai. Tayuan Temple goes its name for the towering great White Pagoda inside the temple. Shuxiang Temple is one



of the five well-know Buddhist temples on Mt. Wutai. The temple yard is not big, but it has the tallest and biggest hall of all the temples in Taihuai Area. The most famous is the Manjusri Bodhisattva statue in the main hall. Puhua Temple was originally a Taoist

temple and the current temple was rebuilt after 1911. The hill where Dailuo Ding is located looks like a big top and it is one of five peaks on Mount Wutai. Because the grass and trees on the hill are flourishing, the temple at the top of the hill is vividly named Dailuo Ding. (B-L-D)

**Attention:** You can also choose climb to the Dailuo Ding by yourself (1080 steps/one way) instead of cable car.

### **Day05 Mt. Wutai-Jinci Temple-Pingyao**

Drive to **Jinci Temple**, surrounded by the water, mountain, ancient timber and clean spring, in the temple hundreds of palaces, halls, storied buildings, pavilions, booths, platforms, and bridges are scattered here and there. You will also visit **Meiheju Vinegar Cultural Garden**. Then, go on driving to Pingyao. (B-L-D)

#### **Day06 Pingyao-Taiyuan**

Today's highlight is to visit **Pingyao Ancient City**. Take a visit to **Ri Sheng Chang Banking Shop**, still busy and crowded Ming-Qing Street, **ancient city wall** and **Yumen**. You will also visit the famous **Former Residence of Family Qiao**. The doors, windows, eaves, stone stairs, quadrangular railings, and the Chuanxin, Pianxin, and Jiaodao yard are all beautifully shaped. Drive to Taiyuan for overnight. (B-L-D)

#### **Day07 Taiyuan-**

Be transferred to the airport, this wonderful trip is ending. (B)