

2-Day Pingyao Highlights Tour

Trip overview

Step back in time and experience the living history of imperial China with our curated **2-Day Pingyao Highlights Tour**. Perfect for travelers with limited time, this private, expertly guided journey takes you beyond the standard tourist trails to discover the ultimate cultural treasures of Shanxi province.

Over two days, you will wander through the cobblestone alleys of China's best-preserved walled city, uncover the birth of Chinese modern banking, and walk among the grand architecture of high-ranking Qing Dynasty officials. With a comfortable non-smoking private car, a dedicated local guide, and a seamless train station pickup and drop-off service, you will bypass the crowds and immerse yourself deeply in the authentic lifestyle, legendary Kung Fu culture, and ancient charm of Pingyao.

- **Durations:** 2 Days
- **Destinations:** Pingyao
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/2-day-pingyao-highlights-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Pingyao Arrival, Rishengchang Former Bank & Ancient City Wall

Your private guide will welcome you right at the train station exit, holding a personalized sign. A comfortable, non-smoking private vehicle with an experienced local driver will transfer you directly to your hotel nestled within the ancient town. After a quick check-in, begin your half-day exploration of China's best-preserved ancient walled city. Your first stop is the **Rishengchang Former Bank**, the pioneer of China's modern banking system. Your guide will unveil the fascinating secrets of how this network managed vast wealth across empires 150 years ago using encrypted bank drafts.

Next, you will visit the **Armed Escort Company Museum** to discover the birthplace of *Xing Yi Quan* (a powerful form of Chinese Kung Fu). During the turbulent Qing Dynasty, safeguarding tangible wealth was a high-stakes business, giving rise to armed guards. Here, you will learn about the daily lives, strict codes, and martial arts legends of the top 10 escort masters who protected imperial treasure lines. To wrap up the afternoon sightseeing, ascend the majestic

Ancient City Wall at dusk. Walking along the ancient ramparts offers a spectacular, bird's-eye view over the sea of traditional sweeping roofs as the town transitions into the evening. Conclude your day with dinner around **Ming-Qing Street**, the most vibrant historical avenue in the heart of the city. As night falls, thousands of traditional red lanterns light up, bringing the ancient streets to life with a magical, timeless atmosphere.

Accommodation: Hongshanyi Inn (4-star) / Yunjincheng Folk Hotel (5-star).

Expert Tips:

Hotels inside the walled city are converted from authentic, centuries-old Ming and Qing dynasty courtyards. While they offer unmatched cultural charm, please note that the traditional wooden architecture means soundproofing may not be as robust as in modern high-rise hotels. Additionally, many rooms feature traditional Chinese Kang style beds (raised brick platforms). They are highly authentic but can feel a bit firm for western sleeping habits. If you prefer a softer night's sleep, simply let your guide know at check-in so we can request extra mattress padding from the hotel staff.

Day 2: Shuanglin Temple, Wang's Family Compound & Pingyao Departure

Your morning begins with a short 10-minute drive to the serene **Shuanglin Temple**, an incredible hidden gem often referred to as the "unrestored glory" of Pingyao. Housing over 2,000 exquisitely preserved colored mud sculptures dating back over a thousand years, this temple offers a peaceful and deeply authentic artistic experience. Afterward, you will drive south for about an hour toward the massive **Wang's Family Compound**. Along the way, your guide will take you to a handpicked local restaurant for lunch, helping you navigate the menu to sample the most authentic regional Shanxi noodles and local delicacies.

Often called the "Forbidden City of Folk Architecture," the Wang's Family Compound is a masterclass in imperial-era luxury. Unlike the merchant-owned Qiao's Family Compound, the Wang family consisted of high-ranking government officials, giving their home an elite social status and defensive grandeur. Built over three centuries, the entire compound spans a staggering 250,000 square meters, with about one-fifth of it open to explore. You will spend about two hours walking through a labyrinth of 123 historic courtyards and 1,118 rooms, marveling at the intricate brick, wood, and stone carvings. Following this grand exploration, your private driver and guide will transfer you comfortably to the train station for your onward departure, drawing a perfect close to your Pingyao journey.

Accommodation: None (Departure).

Expert Tips:

The Wang's Family Compound is built entirely along a sloping hillside, meaning the tour involves walking up numerous stone steps, inclines, and high thresholds. We highly recommend wearing comfortable, supportive walking shoes with good grip. Additionally, because the compound is exceptionally grand and open, there is very little shade along the ramparts and stone courtyards. If you are traveling during the sunnier months, packing a sun hat, sunglasses, and sunblock will make your open-air exploration much more comfortable.

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

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