

General Information Note

7th UNWTO International Meeting on Silk Road Tourism

Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China

18-20 June 2015

1. Local Contact Person in Shaanxi

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2. VENUE

The 7th UNWTO International Meeting on Silk Road Tourism will take place at the Wyndham Grand Xi'an:



The contact details of the hotel are:

Wyndham Grand Xi'an

No.208 Ci'en East Road, Qujiang New District, Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province, China

Postal Code: 710061

Tel: 86 29 68219976

Fax: 86 29 68219928

Website: www.wyndhamgrandxian.com

Official country delegations: Regarding accommodation, please contact silkroad@unwto.org

Price: Special Rates for Participants: RMB 800 approximately USD 130

Please book the hotel via Mr. Zhao Baipeng (contact details available below) and silkroad@unwto.org

3. THE CITY OF XI'AN

Xi'an, capital city of the Shaanxi Province, is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China and generally considered to be one of the cradles of world civilization. One of the most popular tourism destinations worldwide, its outstanding cultural heritage includes: the Terracotta Warriors and Horses, also referred to as one of the "Eight Great Wonders of the World"; the mausoleum of the first emperor of China, one the first Chinese relics to be inscribed on the World Heritage List; and the ancient city wall, famous for its good conservation and historic value.

4. TRANSFER ARRANGEMENT AND AIRPORT MEETING SERVICE

Arrival-and-departure transfers will be provided to all delegates attending the meeting: Xi'an Xianyang International Airport – Official Hotel of the Meeting – Xi'an Xianyang International Airport. Transfer time is about 40 minutes. The Wyndham Grand Xi'an hotel is located in city of Xi'an.

In order to arrange the transfers, delegates are kindly requested to send their arrival, departure and accommodation details to silkroad@unwto.org

5. VISA REQUIREMENTS

All participants must be holders of a valid passport or any other officially recognized travel document. Delegates from countries that require visas for China must obtain these from their nearest Chinese Embassy, High Commission or Consulate prior travel to China

The Countries and territories entitled for visa exemption and visa on arrival are listed under following link: www.visaforchina.org

In case participants need additional assistance with their visa applications, please contact: silkroad@unwto.org

5. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

EXCHANGE RATE

The Chinese currency unit is the Chinese Renmenbi (CNY). Notes are available in denominations of 100RMB, 50RMB, 20RMB, 10RMB, 1RMB.

Most tourist areas accept and exchange American Dollars. The bank note, however, must be relatively new and in good conditions. Traveler's cheques are exchanged in most large sized banks. The exchange-rate is approximately 1USD = 6.26RMB (source: Bank of China, March 2015)

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Upon arrival, foreign visitors are advised to fill in a Baggage Declaration Form. Additionally, any person carrying more than the aggregate amount of USD 5,000 or CNY 20,000 into China must declare this at Customs. Please bear in mind that failure to abide to Chinese custom laws is a criminal offense that is prosecuted. In case you have any further questions regarding the custom laws of China, please contact the official customs service.

CLIMATE

Xi'an has a continental climate - it is expected to be quite hot during the period of the meeting. The average temperature in June ranges from 19°C to 32°C

TIME ZONE

Xi'an is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +8.00).

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Chinese is the official language. English can be used at hotels and restaurants.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in China is 220 Volts at 50 Hertz. Outlets in China generally accept NEMA plugs. **Please bear in mind that you will need a converter if your appliances do not fit the requirements mentioned above.**

BUSINESS HOURS

Government officials (e.g., immigration) work from 08:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 17.30 (Monday to Friday). Banks open from 09:00 to 17:00. Government offices are closed on public holidays. Department stores open around 10:00, and close between 20:00 and 22:00.

HEALTH

No vaccination is required.

HOTEL

Wyndham Grand Xi'an

No.208 Ci'en East Road, Qujiang New District, Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province, China

Post Code: 710061

Tel: 86 29 68219976

Fax: 86 29 68219928

Website: www.wyndhamgrandxian.com

Price: Special Rates for Participants: RMB 800 approximately USD 130

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6. REGISTRATION, BADGES AND MEALS

The registration desk will open at the Wyndham Grand Xi'an on Wednesday, **17 June 2015**. Delegate Cards will be issued at the registration desk. Participants are kindly requested to keep their delegate card at hand throughout the duration of the meeting.

Please note that the meals specified in the meeting programme will be provided to all attending delegates.

7. OFFICIAL MEETING LANGUAGES

The official meeting languages will be Chinese, English and Russian. (Simultaneous translation will be provided).

8. TECHNICAL TOUR

Thursday, 18 June – Afternoon

Big Wild Goose Pagoda

大雁塔

The Big Wild Goose Pagoda is a Buddhist pagoda located in southern Xi'an. It was built in 652 during the Tang Dynasty and originally had five storeys, although the structure was rebuilt in 704 during the reign of Empress Wu Zetian, and its exterior brick facade was renovated during the Ming Dynasty. One of the pagoda's many functions was to hold sutras and figurines of the Buddha that were brought to China from India by the Buddhist translator and traveler Xuanzang. At the front gate stands a statue of Xuanzang.

Additional information:

- Xi'an Tourism China: <http://en1.xian-tourism.com/xiantraveldetail.asp?listID=357>
- Travel China Guide: <http://www.travelchina.guide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/bigwildgoose.htm>
- China Highlights: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/xian/attraction/big-wild-goose-pagoda.htm>

Saturday, 20 June

The Terracotta Warriors and Horses

兵马俑

The Terracotta Warriors and Horses pit, located in the Lintong District of Xi'an city, 1225 meters west of the mausoleum of Qin Shihuang (the first emperor of China), is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world. The 16,300-square-meter excavation site contains more than 7,000 life-size terracotta figures depicting the warriors and horses of the Qin dynasty army. They were first discovered in 1974 by the local residents. In 1987, the Terracotta Warriors and Horses pit was inscribed on the World Heritage List and honored as one of the "Eight Great Wonders of the World".

Additional information:

- UNESCO World Heritage Center: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/441>
- China Highlights: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/xian/terracotta-army/>
- Travel China Guide: http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/terra_cotta_army/

Huaqing Hot Springs

华清池

The Huaqing Hot Springs are a complex of hot springs located in an area characterized by mild weather and scenic views of the northern foot of Mount Li, one of the three major peaks of the Qin Mountains. The Huaqing Hot Springs are located approximately 25 km east of Xi'an. It was built in 723 by Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang dynasty as part of the Huaqing Palace, using the locally-occurring geothermal heating, and is famous as the supposed scene of Xuanzong's romance with his consort Yang Guifei

Additional information:

- China Highlights site: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/xian/attraction/huaqing-hot-springs.htm>
- Travel China Guide: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/huaqing.htm>

A Song of Everlasting Sorrow

长恨歌

The dramatic interpretation of the Tang dynasty poem by Bai Juyi (772-846) "A Song of Everlasting Sorrow" depicts the romance between Emperor Xuanzong and Lady Yang Yuhuan. Performed by top Chinese artists from various fields, this dramatic art performance is famous both in China and abroad for its combination of history, art and the modern combination of culture and technology.

Xi'an Ancient City Wall

西安古城墙

The Xi'an Ancient City Wall, also known as Xi'an Circumvallation, is centrally located in Xi'an. With a height of 12 meters, a bottom width of 18 meters and a top width of 15 meters, the ancient city wall also has 4 entrances or city gates. It was built in 1370-1378 mainly for defensive purposes. Due to its good conservation and its historic value, it is one of the most visited tourist attractions of Xi'an.

Additional information:

UNESCO: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5324/>

The Bell Tower

钟楼

The Bell Tower is centrally located on the "Four Main Roads" junction of Xi'an. The original City Bell Tower was constructed in 1582 and was located in the western part of the city. However, in 1739 it was reconstructed and moved to its present location. A Ming Dynasty bell weighing approximately 14.76 tons hangs inside the tower, which in the past used to strike at dawn.

Additional information:

- Travel China Guide: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/bell.htm>
- China Highlights: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/xian/attraction/bell-tower.htm>

The Drum Tower

鼓楼

The Drum Tower was built in 1380 during the early Ming Dynasty, and got its name from the huge drum located within the building. In contrast to the Bell Tower, where the bell was struck at dawn, the drum was played at sunset to indicate the end of the workday. There are twenty four drums in total within the Drum Tower. These drums represent the twenty-four Solar Terms, a weather calendar created by the Chinese in order to guide agricultural production.

Additional information:

- Travel China Guide: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/bell.htm>
- China Highlights: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/xian/attraction/drum-tower.htm>

Xi'an Muslim Quarter
西安回民街

The Muslim Quarter of Xi'an is famous for its gastronomic and cultural offer. Also known as Huimin Street or Xi'an Muslim Street, although the quarter as such comprises Beiyuanmen Street, North Guangji Street, Xiyangshi Street and Dapiyuan Street, its history dates back a 1000 years.

Additional information:

- China Highlights: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/xian/attraction/muslim-street.htm>
- Travel China Guide:
<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/moslem-street.htm>

In order to make the necessary arrangements, participants wishing to take part in the tour are kindly requested to confirm their attendance.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / COORDINATORS

<p>Ms. Alla PERESSOLOVA Silk Road Programme Manager World Tourism Organization Fax: + (34) 91 571 37 33 E-mail: silkroad@unwto.org</p>	<p>Ms. Tao Mei (Local Contact in Shannxi) Fax: (+86 29) 85261416 E-mail: 136400131@qq.com</p>	<p>Mr. Zhao Baipeng (Hotel Booking) Tel: (+86 29)85263697 Fax: (+86 29)85227331 Mobile: (86)13991919512 E-mail: zbp@citsxa.com / silkroad@unwto.org</p>
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