

# Shanxi

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## Brief

Shanxi, the cradle of civilization on the banks of the Yellow River, boasts the 2.43 million-year-old Xihoudu stone tools that ignited the dawn of Chinese civilization, while the Taosi ruins attest to the earliest traces of "China." This region is a treasure trove of ancient architecture, where the carvings of the Yungang Grottoes and the mortise and tenon joints of the Yingxian Wooden Pagoda speak of ingenuity, while the ancient city of Pingyao preserves the legend of the Shanxi merchants. The Buddha's light of Mount Wutai resonates with the roar of Hukou Waterfall, while the loyalty of Guandi Temple blends with the richness of aged vinegar. Every inch of this land is engraved with the code of civilization.

## Why Go Here

- Ancient Architectural Wonders
- Cool Buddhist Land
- The Magnificent Yellow River

## Basic info

Time zone: CST (UTC+8)

Area code: +86/0351

Postal code: 030000

Language: Mandarin

Currency: RMB, called "Yuan", "Jiao", "Mao",

10 Jiao = 1 Yuan

Plug:  

Voltage: 220V

Frequency: 50 Hz

Currency conversion:

RMB: ¥

US dollars: 1 USD = 7.2559 RMB

1 RMB = 0.1378 USD



**Police: 110**

**Medical Care: 120**

**Traffic Accident: 122**

**Fire Emergency: 119**

## Sights

### Mount Wutai 五台山



Mount Wutai, a majestic mountain nestled in northeastern Shanxi, boasts five peaks resembling terraces, with the northern peak rising over 3,000 meters. Known as the "Roof of North China," it is also known as "Qingliang Mountain" for its cool summer weather. It is the pilgrimage site of Manjushri Bodhisattva, ranked first among the Four Famous Buddhist Mountains, and one of the world's five most sacred Buddhist sites, along with Lumbini. Temples were first constructed during the Han Dynasty, and the Qing and Huang Temples have carried veneration for millennia.

## Address

Yangbaiyu Village, Taihuai Town, Wutai County, Xinzhou City, Shanxi Province 山西省忻州市五台县台怀镇杨柏峪村

**Recommended play time: 9 days**

## Opening Hours

8:00 AM - 11:00 PM;

For details on the opening hours of various attractions within the scenic area, please refer to the scenic area's public announcement on the day.

## Transportation

### ● Transportation to the Scenic Area

Bus: Take the Taiyuan-Wutaishan shuttle bus from Taiyuan East Passenger Transport Station.

Train: Trains depart from Taiyuan Station for Wutaishan. Wutaishan Station is located in Shahe Town, Fanshi County, approximately 54 kilometers from the Wutaishan Scenic Area. Buses to Taihuai Town depart from the train station.

### ● Transportation within the Scenic Area

Eco-friendly Bus: The Wutaishan Scenic Area's eco-friendly bus service runs between scenic spots and hotels. A purchase is required, regardless of whether you ride it or not, and it can be used multiple times.

Mount Wutai: To reach the summit, take the Mount Wutai bus from Dailuo Peak.

Private cars are permitted within the scenic area.

## Travel Season

● Mount Wutai, with its high altitude and long winters and cool summers, is known as the "Cool Mountain." July and August are the best months for visiting; May to September are ideal for pilgrimages to the peaks and scenic views. Praying at Taihuai Town is open-ended, with the first and fifteenth days of the lunar month being particularly popular.

## ② Yungang Grottoes 云冈石窟



The Yungang Grottoes, nestled at the foot of Wuzhou Mountain in Datong, were first constructed during the Pingcheng period of the Northern Wei Dynasty. They blend Indian, Western, and Central Plains art. The open-air Buddha statue in Cave 20, with its deep eyes and high nose, exemplifies this early style. The scenic area is divided into three zones, with 40 caves open to the public. Caves 5-6 and Wuhua Cave are must-sees.

## Address

No. 1, Yungang Town, Yungang District, Datong City, Shanxi Province  
山西省大同市云冈区云冈镇1号

**Recommended play time: 4-5 hours**

### Opening Hours

09:00-17:00 all year round

### Transportation

- In the city, you can take express bus No. 603 or No. 4 to Xinkaili, and then transfer to No. 3 bus to the Yungang Grottoes Scenic Area.

### Travel Season

- From May to October, the spring is too windy and sandy, the winter is cold, and the summer and autumn are the most suitable seasons.

#### ③ Pingyao Ancient City 平遥古城



Pingyao Ancient City, 85 kilometers from Taiyuan, is a UNESCO World Heritage-approved ancient county town with well-preserved streets and residential buildings. Once a financial center in the late Qing Dynasty, the Rishengchang shopping mall on West Street and the "Wall Street of China" on South Street embody the Shanxi merchants' heritage. The city walls, county government office, and the painted sculptures at Shuanglin Temple evoke memories of this past.

### Address

Kangning Road, Pingyao County, Jinzhong City, Shanxi Province 山西省晋中市平遥县康宁路

**Recommended play time: 6-9 days**

### Opening Hours

All day

### Transportation

- Bus: Take Pingyao No. 1 or Pingyao No. 15 bus, get off at Beimen Bus Station, and walk about 1032 meters to arrive.

#### ④ Yingxian Wooden Pagoda 应县木塔



The Yingxian Wooden Pagoda, also known as the Sakyamuni Pagoda of the Fogong Temple, was built during the Liao Dynasty and is the oldest surviving wooden pagoda. Standing approximately 60 meters tall, it was constructed with mortise and tenon joints, using no nails or rivets. It has survived nine hundred years of wind, rain, and earthquakes, yet remains standing. Although climbing the pagoda is now prohibited, the large Buddha statue on the ground floor, the caisson ceiling, and the plaque "Junji Shengong" (Great Divine Achievement) are still worth a closer look.

## Address

No. 1 Yingyuan Street, Ying County, Shuozhou City, Shanxi Province

山西省朔州市应县应元街1号

**Recommended play time: 2 hours**

## Opening Hours

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM (Monday - Sunday, May 1st - July 3rd)

8:00 AM - 10:00 PM (Monday - Sunday, July 4th - October 15th)

8:00 AM - 5:30 PM (Monday - Sunday, October 16th - December 31st, January 1st - April 30th)

## Transportation

- By bus: From Datong City, take bus No. 19, 28, or 30 to Xinnan Station, then transfer to a bus bound for Ying County.

The bus schedule is irregular and typically departs only when the bus is full. Arrival time is 1 hour and 50 minutes, and the fare is 16 yuan.train station.

## 5 Xiaoxitian 小西天



Located on Fenghuang Mountain in Xi County, Shanxi Province, Xiaoxitian Temple, originally named Qianfo Temple, was built in the seventh year of the Chongzhen reign of the Ming Dynasty. The temple is divided into two courtyards: the Wuliang Hall in the lower courtyard houses bronze Buddhas and carved wooden pavilions; the Daxiong Hall in the upper courtyard is filled with painted hanging sculptures. Its 33-story celestial palace pavilions are stacked, and the five statues of the main Buddha and his disciples are full of vivid shapes and vibrant colors, making it a treasure trove of Ming Dynasty colored sculpture art.

## Address

Phoenix Mountain, 1 km northwest of Xi County, Linfen City, Shanxi Province

山西省临汾市隰县西北1公里凤凰山顶

**Recommended play time: 2 hours**

## Opening Hours

7:30 AM - 6:00 PM (Summer) (Monday - Sunday, May 1st - September 30th)

8:00 AM - 5:30 PM (Winter) (Monday - Sunday, October 1st - April 30th)

## 6 Yanmen Pass 雁门关



Yanmen Pass, located in Dai County, Xinzhou, was one of the "Three Outer Passes" of the Ming Dynasty. A crucial pass since ancient

times, it witnessed events such as King Wuling of Zhao's military campaigns and the Yang family's resistance against the Liao Dynasty. Three gates remain from the Ming Dynasty-built pass, and a couplet inscribed by Fu Shan highlights its significance. The ancient pass offers a glimpse into the vicissitudes of history.

### Address

National Highway 208, Dai County, Xinzhou City, Shanxi Province 山西省忻州市代县208国道

**Recommended play time: 4 hours**

### Opening Hours

8:00 AM - 5:30 PM (April 1st - October 31st, Monday - Sunday)

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (November 1st - March 31st, Monday - Sunday)

### Travel Season

- You can visit Yanmen Pass in all seasons. In summer and autumn, Yanmen Pass is hidden in the dense vegetation, while in winter and spring, it looks even more desolate.

### 7 Datong Ancient City 大同古城



Known as the "Key to the North," the ancient city of Datong served as a strategic military stronghold from the Northern Wei Dynasty through the Ming and Qing dynasties. Remaining unchanged for over a thousand years, it embodies a rich history. A 2008 conservation project has restored its ancient charm, revealing numerous attractions such as the ancient city walls, Huayan Temple, Shanhua Temple, and the Nine Dragon Screen. Climb the city walls to admire the majestic power of the square city walls and savor the magnificent blend of diverse cultures.

### Address

Datong City Wall Strip Park, Xijie Street, Pingcheng District, Datong City, Shanxi Province 山西省大同市平城区西街街道大同城墙带状公园

**Recommended play time: 3 hours**

### Opening Hours

Open all day

### 8 Hukou Waterfall 壶口瀑布



Hukou Waterfall, a rare yellow waterfall, is divided between Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces by the Yellow River. The Shanxi scenic area is located in Ji County. Its scenery changes with each season, with the best viewing periods being the "Peach Blossom Flood" from

April to May and the "Hukou Autumn Breeze" from September to November. During these periods, the mighty waters roar and roar, showcasing the majestic power of the Yellow River.

**Address**

Yanhu Road, Hukou Town, Ji County, Linfen City, Shanxi Province

山西省临汾市吉县壶口镇延壶路

**Recommended play time: 3 hours**

**Opening Hours**

08:00-17:00 all year round



The Wang Family Courtyard, built over three hundred years, is the largest and most imposing of any Shanxi merchant residence. It consists of Gaojia Cliff and Hongmen Fort, connected by a bridge, and contains numerous quadrangles. Gaojia Cliff is exquisitely carved, while Hongmen Fort's stone carvings blend the styles of both the north and south, showcasing the essence of Qing Dynasty architecture and sculpture.

**Address**

Jingsheng Village, Jingsheng Town, Lingshi County, Jinzhong City, Shanxi Province 山西省晋中市灵石县静升镇静升村

**Recommended play time: 3 hours**

**Opening Hours**

08:00-18:00 (January 1st - December 31st, Monday-Sunday)

**Transportation**

- Take the train to Lingshi East Station, then take Lingshi Bus No. 7 and get off at Wangjiayuan Station, which is within walking distance.



Located at the foot of Xuanweng Mountain in Taiyuan, the Jin Temple, dedicated to the Marquis of Jin, Ji Yu, integrates ancestral architecture, gardens, and sculpture. It houses over 100 buildings from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, over 400 inscribed steles, and lush, thousand-year-old trees, representing a treasure trove of art dating from the 7th to 12th centuries.

**Address**

Inside the Tianlongshan Scenic Area of Jinci Temple, Jinyuan District, Taiyuan City, Shanxi Province (east side) 山西省太原市晋源区晋祠天龙山景区内(东侧)

**Recommended play time: 3 hours**

## Opening Hours

08:30-18:00 (Monday-Sunday, April 1st-October 31st)

09:00-17:00 (Monday-Sunday, November 1st-March 31st)

## Transportation

- Take bus No. 301, 308, 848, or 856 and get off at Jinci Park Station.

### 11 Mianshan Mountain in Jiexiu 介休绵山



Mianshan, also known as Jieshan, lies southeast of Jiexiu and is a branch of the Taiyue Mountains. Here, steep cliffs are covered with verdant pines, and hundreds of caves and waterfalls intersect. Ancient cypress trees dating from the Qin Dynasty are considered

the "national crown cypresses." The mountain is home to over 20 ancient temples, including Daluo Palace and Tiewa Temple. In winter, the mountain boasts a spectacular icefall, a spectacle worth a two-day visit.

## Address

Nanhuaizhi Village, Mianshan Town, Jiexiu City, Jinzhong City, Shanxi Province 山西省晋中市介休市绵山镇南槐志村

**Recommended play time: 3-6 days**

## Opening Hours

8:00 AM - 7:00 PM (April 1st - October 31st, Monday - Sunday)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (November 1st - March 31st, Monday - Sunday)

## Transportation

- ① You can take a bus from Taiyuan Jiannan Long-Distance Bus Station to Jiexiu, with buses departing every 15 minutes. At Jiexiu Railway Station, transfer to a local bus or the Mianshan Bus to reach Mianshan.

- ② Jiexiu Railway Station is located in the northwest of Jiexiu. From there, take the scenic area bus to Mianshan, which takes about half an hour and costs approximately 10 yuan. The journey takes about 30 minutes.

### 12 Zhangbi Ancient Fort 张壁古堡



Zhangbi Ancient Fort is located in Longfeng Town, Jiexiu County, near Pingyao and Mianshan, offering convenient transportation. Originally built during the Later Zhao Dynasty, it covers 0.12 square kilometers and boasts a distinctive structure consisting of an open fortress above ground and secret passages below. Its integration of astrology, military science, and other cultural heritage has earned it the reputation of a "living fossil" and a "treasure trove."

## Address

Zhangbi Village, Longfeng Town, Jiexiu City,  
Jinzhong City 晋中市介休市龙凤镇张壁村

**Recommended play time: 2 hours**

## Opening Hours

8:00-17:00 all year round

## Transportation

- Bus: Take Jiexiu Bus No. 301 and get off at Zhangbi Ancient Castle Scenic Area Station, which is within walking distance.



The Hanging Temple, carved into the cliff face of Cuiping Peak on Mount Hengshan, was

built during the Northern Wei Dynasty and is one of the earliest surviving high-altitude wooden cliff-carved structures. Its staggered structure, meticulously constructed along the cliff face, earned the nickname "magnificent" by Li Bai, who praised its breathtaking beauty. The suspended plank road offers visitors a thrilling experience of being on the edge of a chasm.

## Address

At the foot of Hengshan Mountain in the southeast suburbs of Hunyuan County, Datong City 大同市浑源县东南郊恒山脚下

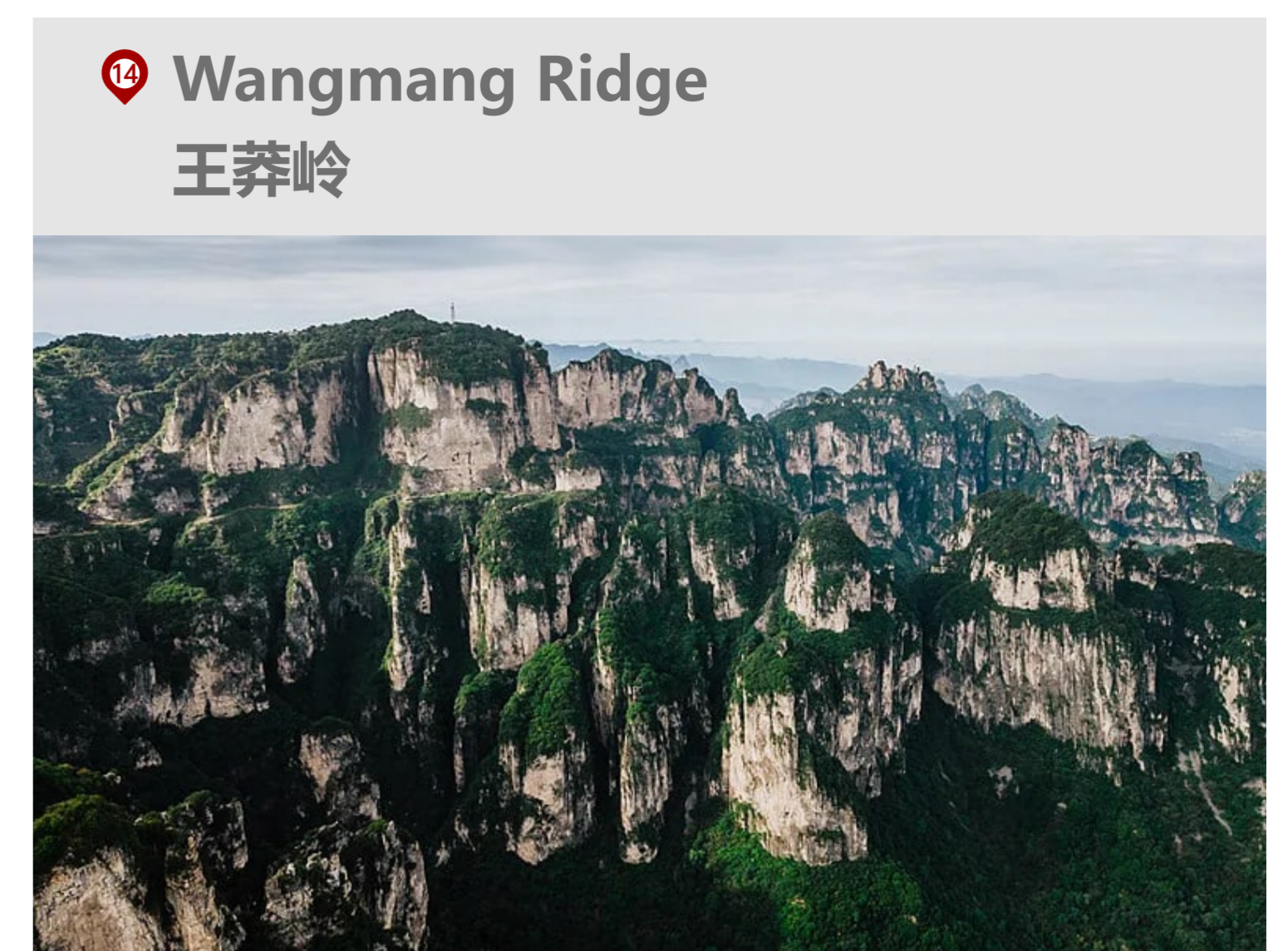
**Recommended play time: 2 hours**

## Opening Hours

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Spring and Autumn)  
(March 1st - April 30th, October 1st - October 31st, Monday - Sunday)

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM (Summer) (May 1st - September 30th, Monday - Sunday)

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM (Winter) (January 1st - February 28th, November 1st - December 31st, Monday - Sunday)



Wangmangling, said to be named after Wang Mang's pursuit of Liu Xiu, is a scenic area encompassing the ecological wonder of Wangmangling in North China, Qizi Mountain, the birthplace of Go, the spectacular Hanging Cliff Highway, and Xiyagou. Nestled at the fault zone between the plateau and the plain, it boasts over fifty peaks, seas of clouds, and extraordinary peaks, creating the magnificent scenery of the Taihang Mountains. With a forest coverage rate exceeding 95%, and temperatures ranging from 18-20°C in summer, this "cool and refreshing paradise" offers a variety of weather conditions and is beautiful in all seasons.

### Address

Yingpan Village, Gujiao Township, Lingchuan County, Jincheng City, Shanxi Province 山西省晋城市陵川县古郊乡营盘村

**Recommended play time: 3 days**

### Opening Hours

8:00-16:00 all year round



Baquan Gorge is a high-quality scenic area within the Taihang Mountains Grand Canyon, encapsulating the essence of the Taihang Mountains. The gorge stretches 13 kilometers, with a relative drop of over 1,100 meters. It boasts over 300 springs and 30 waterfalls, earning its name from the fact that each of its three spring clusters contains eight springs.

### Address

Daxiagu Town, Huguan County, Changzhi City, Shanxi Province

山西省长治市壶关县大峡谷镇

**Recommended play time: 3 days**

### Opening Hours

07:00-16:00 (Monday-Sunday, April 1st-October 31st)

08:00-16:00 (Monday-Sunday, November 1st-March 31st)



Huayan Temple, built in the seventh year of the Chongxi reign of the Liao Dynasty, sits west and faces east, with over 30 buildings arranged along a north-south axis, covering

66,000 square meters. It is one of the earliest and most complete surviving Liao and Jin dynasty temple complexes in my country, and is a National Key Cultural Relic Protection Unit and an AAAA-level scenic spot.

### Address

No. 459, Xiasipo Street, Datong Ancient City, Pingcheng District, Datong City, Shanxi Province 山西省大同市平城区大同古城下寺坡街459号

**Recommended play time: 2 hours**

### Opening Hours

8:30 AM - 6:30 PM (Monday - Friday, April 1st - October 31st)

8:30 AM - 7:00 PM (Saturday - Sunday, April 1st - October 31st)

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Monday - Sunday, November 1st - March 31st)

### Transportation

- You can take bus No. 38 or No. 61 to Huayan Temple Station and walk to the temple.

## Eating

Shanxi cuisine, drawing on the richness of its status as the "World's Hometown of Noodles" and the richness of aged vinegar, paints a unique flavor spectrum. Datong's knife-cut noodles are as chewy and smooth as twirling willow leaves; Jinzhong's oat noodles, delicately shaped like honeycombs, absorb the aroma of the braising sauce and showcase the ingenuity of handcrafting.

Pingyao beef, marinated in traditional methods, boasts distinct textures and a savory, savory flavor; Taigu pancakes are crispy, soft, and sweet, a hallmark of Shanxi merchant cuisine. The rich, sour aroma of aged vinegar permeates dishes like fried pork and Hunyuan jelly. From street food to home-cooked comfort food, every bite imbues the millennia-old tradition and ingenuity of Shanxi.

### ◆ Pingyao Beef 平遥牛肉

Pingyao beef, a signature Shanxi delicacy, inherits the ancient cooking techniques of "selection, salting, braising, butchering, and trimming." Its rosy red color and firm texture are neither lean nor greasy, and its braising aroma is rich and lingering.



### ◆ Taigu Cake 太谷饼

The Taigu Pancake, known for its "Pingyao Beef and Taigu Pancake," originated during the Xianfeng period of the Qing Dynasty and is a representative delicacy of Shanxi merchants. Made with carefully selected ingredients and baked using traditional methods, it is crispy, soft, sweet, and resists hardening even after prolonged storage.



### ◆ Liulin Bowl 柳林碗团

Liulin Wantuan (Liulin Wantuan) is said to have been created by Shi Le's army. It's made by steaming buckwheat flour in a bowl and then removing it from the bowl. After cutting, it's tossed with spicy oil and aged vinegar. It has a chewy, smooth texture, and a sour and spicy flavor that's appetizing. It's a famous Shanxi snack that symbolizes reunion.



### ◆ Overgrown Meat 过油肉

Fried pork is Shanxi's "first dish," said to have originated during the Northern and Southern Dynasties. Lean pork is marinated and oiled, then stir-fried with mushrooms and drizzled with aged vinegar for a rich, golden, tender, and tart flavor, embodying the essence of Shanxi cuisine.



### ◆ Datong Knife Cutter 大同刀削面

Datong knife-cut noodles are the epitome of Shanxi noodle cuisine. Sliced with a sharp blade, they resemble willow leaves, are chewy and smooth, and paired with a variety of marinades, they offer a rich, fresh, and fragrant flavor, showcasing the flavors of Shanxi.



### ◆ Sheep Mortal 羊杂割

Yang Za Ge (mutton offal) is a classic Shanxi snack beloved by the locals. It's made by simmering fresh mutton offal with vermicelli noodles. The broth, slowly simmered to a rich, savory flavor, is rich and hearty, and a sprinkle of chopped green onions and chili oil further enhances its flavor.



### ◆ Wenxi Cooked Cakes 闻喜煮饼

Wenxi Boiled Cakes, known as the "King of Pastries," are among Shanxi's eight famous pastries and a vibrant symbol of southern Shanxi cuisine, with a heritage spanning centuries.

Using carefully selected flour, honey, and sugar, they are meticulously crafted through a series of traditional processes, including filling, wrapping, frying, and battering. Shaped like a plump full moon, the crust is coated with white sesame seeds, each grain distinct. The texture is crispy and soft, yet sweet without being greasy. The warmth of the honey blends with the richness of the sugar filling, leaving a lingering aftertaste.



### ◆ Top 10 Bowls of Gaoping 高平十大碗

Gaoping's Ten Bowls is a unique banquet in Gaoping, Shanxi, showcasing the warmth and sophistication of locals and a profound fusion of folk customs and cuisine.

The banquet features ten dishes, each with its own distinct flavor, including Shuibai Rou, Gutao Rou, Wanzi Rou, and Sichuan Tang Rou. Crafted with meticulous care and carefully selected ingredients, these dishes are cooked using traditional methods like stewing and steaming, resulting in vibrant colors and rich aromas. From home-style dining to festive celebrations, this feast is a feast for the senses and a testament to the culinary wisdom and warm hospitality of Shanxi.



## Notes

### Hospital

#### ● The First Hospital of Shanxi Medical University 山西医科大学第一医院

Address: No. 85, Jiefang South Road, Yingze District, Taiyuan City (Main Campus)  
Tel: 0351-4639114 (Switchboard)  
Website: <http://www.sxmuyfy.com/>  
Opening hours: 24 hours

#### ● Shanxi Medical University Second Hospital 山西医科大学第二医院

Address: No. 382, Wuyi Road, Xinghualing District, Taiyuan City  
Tel: 0351-3365400 (Switchboard)  
Website: <http://www.sxmu2h.com/>  
Opening hours: 24 hours

#### ● Shanxi Provincial People's Hospital 山西省人民医院

Address: No. 29, Shuangtasi Street, Xinghualing District, Taiyuan City

Tel: 0351-4960088 (Switchboard)  
Website: <http://www.sxsrmmyy.com/>  
Opening hours: 24 hours

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# Shanxi Attractions Map

