

DATONG & YUNGANG GROTTOES TOUR

SEA AWAY TRIP

A JOURNEY THROUGH ANCIENT SPLENDOR

DESTINATIONS: DATONG, SHANXI

TRANSPORTATION: FLIGHT + COACH + FLIGHT

APRIL 21-23, 2026 TUE-THU



Photo above: Datong Yungang Grottoes, Shanxi Province

Datong & Yungang Grottoes Tour

TOUR OVERVIEW

This 3-day itinerary offers a deep dive into the rich historical and cultural tapestry of Datong, a city that was once the capital of the Northern Wei Dynasty. From breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage sites to astonishing ancient architecture and vibrant city life, this tour is a perfect blend of art, history, and engineering marvels.

DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM

Important Note on Itinerary Flexibility

This proposed itinerary is structured based on current flight availability and is subject to adjustment upon final confirmation of your travel arrangements. To ensure the best possible experience, our local guide may optimize the order of visits based on real-time conditions, such as crowd levels and reservation availability at the sites.

Day 1 April 21 Tuesday **Fly to Datong** **2 nights in Datong (no meals are included)**

16:55 Flight HO1055 Shanghai Hongqiao airport departure
* ***Reference only, subject to final confirmation.***

20:00 Datong Yungang airport arrival
* ***Reference only, subject to final confirmation.***

Airport pickup and drive to hotel in Datong.

Check-in at Datong Garden Hotel for 2 nights.
Dinner is not included

Datong Garden Hotel is located in the heart of the Ancient City, so you might like to take a leisurely stroll through the Old Town to look for some local snacks.

Day 2 April 22 Wednesday **City Wall, Datong Museum, and Hanging Temple** **(Hotel breakfast and lunch are included)**

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Hotel breakfast

- 08:15 Your exploration begins with a walk to the magnificent **Datong City Wall** (10-15 min.). This recently restored Ming Dynasty structure is one of the best-preserved ancient city walls in China. Take a walk along the broad ramparts for a panoramic view of the old city and its striking contrast with the new.
- 09:00 Head to the **Datong Museum** (30 min. by vehicle). Its modern architecture houses a vast collection of relics that tell the story of Datong's past as the capital of the Northern Wei Dynasty and a crucial junction on the Silk Road. This visit provides essential context for the historical sites you will see over the next two days.
- 11:30 We will drive 1.5 hours to **Mount Heng**, one of China's Five Great Sacred Mountains.
- Lunch: Enjoy a local meal near the Hanging Temple.
- 14:30 Visit the magnificent **Hanging Temple** (Xuankong Si). Prepare to be amazed by this engineering feat, a temple that hangs on a cliff and uniquely combines Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Walking its narrow walkways is a truly unique experience.
- 16:30 Drive back to hotel in Datong.
- 18:00/18:30 Hotel arrival, the rest of the day is free for you to relax or explore on your own.

Day 3 April 23 Thursday
Yungang Grottoes, Nine-Dragon Screen, Huayan Temple, and Shanhua Temple
Fly back to Shanghai
(Hotel breakfast and lunch are included)

Hotel breakfast

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08:15 Hotel departure, drive to the Yungang Grottoes, approx. 45 min. -1 hour

The Unforgettable Yungang Grottoes

09:00 Dedicate your morning to the Yungang Grottoes (UNESCO World Heritage Site). This is the absolute highlight of the tour. Marvel at over 51,000 statues carved into the sandstone cliffs, representing the pinnacle of Chinese Buddhist art from the 5th and 6th centuries. The colossal Buddhas, intricate carvings, and vibrant colors in Cave 6, Cave 16-20 (the five iconic caves of Tan Yao), and the 13.7-meter-tall seated Buddha in Cave 20 are simply awe-inspiring.

12:00 Continue to visit Datong's **Nine-Dragon Screen** (Jiulong Bi), one of the most famous dragon walls in China. Built during the Ming Dynasty (14th century), this magnificent glazed-tile wall stretches about 45 meters (148 feet) long and stands 8 meters (26 feet) high. It is decorated with nine large, vividly colored dragons, each portrayed soaring among clouds and waves. The wall was originally constructed to protect the mansion of a Ming prince from evil spirits, and today it is admired as a masterpiece of ancient Chinese decorative art and symbolism.

This is a quick photo stop.

13:00 Enjoy a local **Shanxi-style lunch**:
At noon, savor a delicious Shanxi-style lunch, featuring the region's famous hand-pulled noodles, vinegar-based dishes, and a variety of hearty local specialties that showcase the rich flavors and culinary traditions of northern China.

Serenity at Huayan Temple

14:00 Visit Huayan Temple, a massive temple complex reflecting the Liao and Jin Dynasties' architectural style. It is unique for being split into two sections:

Upper Monastery: Home to the magnificent Daxiong Baodian (Great Hall), one of the largest Buddhist halls in China.

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Lower Monastery: Features the Bojia Jiaocang Tibetan Scripture Hall, built underground and housing a revolving sutra cabinet—a true architectural gem.

Continue to **Shanhua Temple**, an ancient complex dating back to the Tang Dynasty. Renowned for its tranquil atmosphere and harmonious layout, the temple features beautifully preserved halls. Key highlights include the majestic Three Buddhas and the Sutra Pavilion, creating a perfect setting for quiet contemplation.

- 17:00 **Free Time for Refreshments & Souvenirs**
A dedicated period to enjoy a coffee, sample a local snack, or pick up some final mementos. This also serves as a comfortable buffer for the day's schedule.
- 18:30 Drive to Datong Yungang Airport
- 19:15 Datong Yungang airport arrival
- 20:45 flight HO1056 Datong Yungang airport departure
* ***Reference only, subject to final confirmation.***
- 23:20 Shanghai Hongqiao airport arrival
* ***Reference only, subject to final confirmation.***

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

April 21-23, 2 nights

Datong Garden Hotel

Datong Garden Hotel is a comfortable 4-star hotel located conveniently near the city center, offering easy access to Datong's major attractions. The hotel features spacious and well-appointed rooms, modern amenities, and attentive service. Guests can enjoy on-site dining with a selection of local and international cuisine, a fitness center, and a serene garden area for relaxation.

TOUR PRICE

Datong & Yungang Grottoes Tour

Min. 8 guests travelling together, valid through April 2026

CNY 3600 per person twin share room

CNY 4200 per person single room

What's Included

✓ Dedicated Tour Coordinator

SEA Away Trip representative

✓ Private Transfers

Air-conditioned coach for all scheduled transfers

✓ Guided Experiences

English-speaking local guide in Datong

✓ Accommodation 2 nights in standard rooms

✓ Meals

2 breakfasts + 2 lunches (as specified in daily itinerary)

✓ Admissions & Logistics

All entrance fees + scenic area shuttles + travel insurance

What's Excluded

X Flights (e.g., Shanghai – Datong - Shanghai on April 21 and April 23)

X Meals & beverages unless specified (e.g., lunches, extra alcohol beyond tastings)

X Personal expenses (souvenirs, laundry, minibar, etc.)

X Optional activities (e.g., private tours not in itinerary)

X Gratuities (guides/drivers at your discretion)

For the organization of the away trip, SEA hires a reputable vendor. The vendor offers the following terms and conditions.

RESERVATION, DEPOSIT & BALANCE

Reservation deadline: **March 24, 2026**

Deposit: **CNY 1000** is required upon booking confirmation.

Balance due: **April 1, 2026**, Final payment

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The vendor reserves all rights to make changes at mentioned price in any special circumstances. These can be the change of currency rate, transport prices, fuel prices, tax, extra cost of certain services or other circumstances that the vendor does not have chance to avoid in advance. Generally, the confirmed prices will not be adjusted less than 8 weeks before travel starts.

PAYMENT

The payment can be settled by cash, via WeChat, Alipay. If the payment does not reach the vendor by the agreed date, the vendor has the right to cancel your booking.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If cancelled after April 01, 2026 (including April 01), CNY 1000 per person.

If cancelled within 48 hours of the start of the tour or after, there will be no refund given.

LIABILITY CLAUSE

The local vendor is responsible for arranging and delivering the services specified in the confirmed itinerary, and shall exercise reasonable care and comply with applicable local laws and industry standards in doing so.

The vendor accepts liability for any loss or injury resulting directly from its own negligence or improper arrangement of services, such as issues related to food, accommodation, or transportation. Where applicable, the vendor will provide or assist with travel insurance to cover such incidents.

However, the vendor shall not be held liable for any damage, delay, or loss caused by third-party service providers (e.g., hotels, transportation companies, airlines), or by circumstances beyond the vendor's control, including but not limited to natural disasters, political unrest, or force majeure events. Any additional expenses arising from such events shall be borne by the client.

NOTES ON THE TOUR

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To the extent permitted by law, the vendor shall not be held liable for any service disruptions or losses caused by force majeure or unforeseeable events beyond its control (e.g., natural disasters, epidemic outbreaks, flight delays). The vendor and clients will, however, make reasonable efforts to minimize any resulting loss or inconvenience.

Any changes to the itinerary made by the clients during the tour are at their own expense. Services voluntarily canceled or not utilized by the clients during the trip will not be refunded.