

Dūnhuáng Travel out of town to the incredible Mògāo Grottoes and the Singing Sand Dunes and spend the night in Dūnhuáng.

🚗 4½ hrs to Jiāyùguān

Jiāyùguān Spend a day or two in Jiāyùguān to visit its splendid desert fort at the western end of the Great Wall. 🚗 4 hrs to Lánzhōu

Lánzhōu Lánzhōu has little of interest, but it's the launchpad for a four-hour bus trip to Labrang Monastery in Xiàhé, where you can spend the night. ✈️ 1 hr to Xī'ān or 🚗 9 hrs to Xī'ān

Běijīng Spend three days exploring the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall.

✈️ 4 hrs to Dūnhuáng

Xī'ān Come face to face with the Terracotta Warriors before returning to town to walk around its magnificent city wall and dine in the Muslim Quarter. 🚗 6 hrs to Shànghǎi

Shànghǎi Shànghǎi's most grandiose sight is the Bund, but the Shànghǎi Museum is not to be missed, while the French Concession is the place for boutique shopping and charming bars.