

# Your Welcome Guide To Xi'an by XLIS



西安梁家灘國際學校  
**XLIS** XI'AN LIANGJIATAN  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# Welcome

Welcome to Xi'an and Xi'an Liangjiatan International School (XLIS). We understand that transitioning to a new environment can be both exciting and challenging. This welcome brochure aims to provide you with valuable insights and practical advice that will enable you to adapt with the challenges of living in Xi'an.

This brochure has been compiled by considering the experiences and feedback shared by locals and members of the XLIS community. In the following pages you will find useful information about the accommodation, transportations, shopping, and cuisine etc. Hope this guide can provide you with assistance and support.

Welcome to Xi'an and XLIS



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### General Information about Xi'an

Xi'an is the capital city of Shaanxi Province in China and is known for its rich history and cultural heritage. Located in central China at coordinates 34°16' N, 108°56' E, Xi'an sits at an elevation of approximately 405 meters above sea level, along the banks of the Wei River.



What are the advantages of residing in Xi'an?

- 1. The city is filled with history.** Xi'an is one of the oldest cities in China, with a history that spans over 3,000 years. Living in Xi'an provides an opportunity to immerse yourself in a city with a rich cultural heritage, historical sites, and landmarks such as the Terracotta Army, the City Wall, and the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.
- 2. Cost of living is affordable.** Compared to other major cities in China like Beijing and Shanghai, Xi'an has a relatively lower cost of living. housing, transportation, and daily expenses tend to be more affordable, making it an attractive option for both locals and expatriates.
- 3. Food in Xi'an is one of the best in China.** Xi'an is renowned for its diverse and delicious cuisine. The city is famous for dishes like Xi'an Biang Biang Noodles, Roujiamo (Chinese hamburger), and various types of dumplings.
- 4. It is easy to travel to the rest cities of China.** Xi'an is strategically located in central China, making it a transportation hub with good connectivity to other major cities in the country. The city has an international airport and an extensive railway network, making travel within China and beyond convenient.
- 5. Life in Xi'an is very relaxed.** Many people find that life in Xi'an can be relatively relaxed compared to some other major cities in China. Xi'an is known for its rich historical and cultural heritage, which contributes to a more laid-back atmosphere.



6. **Xi'an is generally considered a safe city.** When people cross the road, vehicles actively stop and yield to pedestrians. Xi'an has a relatively low crime rate. Also, Xi'an has emergency services available, including police, fire, and medical services.

#### **What is the weather like in Xi'an?**

Xi'an experiences a temperate continental climate with distinct four seasons. Spring in Xi'an is mild and gradually warms up. Days are warm and nights are cool. There is relatively more rainfall during this season, so it's advisable to carry an umbrella or raincoat. Summers in Xi'an are hot, with temperatures often exceeding 30 degrees. It is also the rainy season, so be prepared for occasional showers and thunderstorms. Stay hydrated and protect yourself from the sun. Autumn is one of the most pleasant seasons in Xi'an, with comfortable temperatures during the day and cool nights. It's a great time for outdoor activities and sightseeing. Winter in Xi'an are cold and dry, with temperatures often dropping below freezing. It's important to wear warm clothing during this season.

#### **What are the healthcare facilities like in Xi'an? Are there English-speaking doctors?**















There are many hospitals and clinics in Xi'an, and you can find them near your compound which is very convenient. Also, Xi'an has a growing number of international medical centers that serve specifically to expatriates and foreigners like international health care hospital, Gaoxin hospital and Globe Doctor. These centers often have English-speaking doctors and offer services tailored to international patients.

#### **How is the transportation system in Xi'an, and is it easy to get around the city?**

Xi'an has a relatively well-developed transportation and the metro, taxis and Didi are likely to be your primary modes of transportation. Buses can be challenging to navigate for non-Chinese speakers, so it's best to rely on other options. It's important to note that most taxi drivers in Xi'an do not speak English, so having your destination written in Chinese can help facilitate communication. Transportation cards are available for purchase at most metro stations.



### Helpful Apps and Websites

-  **WeChat**-Texting, calling, and video chats via the internet, used by over 1 billion in China, similar to WhatsApp. Many people also use WeChat Pay to manage payments with mobile phone.
-  **Baidu Maps**-Copy the address of your destination and paste it to the destinations, and away you go. Within moments you will know how to get to your desired location by metro, taxi, bicycle or foot.
-  **Baidu Translator**-A popular Chinese language translation app, users can translate text, voice, and even images.
-  **Didi**-The most popular Chinese taxi hailing app. Easy to use, like Uber.
-  **Taobao**-The biggest online shopping app where you can buy almost everything you need in your daily life, even the imported goods, like eBay.
-  **Xianease**-An English website that you can find restaurants, bars, hotels, and events of interests for your leisure life in Xi'an. <http://www.xianease.com/>.
-  **Qunar**-A travel APP to help you book your tickets for flight, train, and hotels.
-  **Alipay**-A useful payment APP, especially if you want to buy things on Taobao.
-  **Dianping**-Similar to Yelp to help find new restaurants, hundreds of restaurant reviews, including features like showing highly rated restaurants near you.
-  **UU Errand**-An online errands and delivery platform for consumers in China.
-  **Meituan**-A shopping platform for locally found consumer products and retail services including entertainment, dining, delivery, and other service.
-  **Ctrip**-A leading provider of travel services including accommodation reservation, transportation ticketing, packaged tours and corporate travel management.
-  **Baidu**-The leading search engine in China. It is known as the Chinese Google.
-  **WeChat Official Account**: There are a lot of WeChat official accounts about the life in Xi'an, which will be recommended by Mr. Jun Liang.

## Settling in Xi'an

### Housing

1. **Clean service** the cleaning lady in China is called an Ayi, literally "aunty" in Chinese. The clean service is charged per hour and price range is from 35-50 per hour.
2. **Basic furnishings** the basic furniture like bed, sofa, closet, tables and chairs, AC, fridge, TV, washing machine are included, which will be provided by the landlord.
3. **5-gallon Drinking water** (bottle): Tap water is not drinkable, you can order 5-gallon drinking water in bottle delivered on an official account on WeChat. You will need to pay a 50 RMB deposit for the bottle the first time.
4. **Heating:** Most of the apartments have floor heating system ( $>18^{\circ}\text{C}$  11/15~3/15). You need to pre-pay for it by yourself in the property service office. The heating fee is 5.8 yuan \* the size of your apartment \* 4 months. It is regulated to pay 30% of the fee even if you do not use the heating.
5. **Property management service fee:** The price is generally RMB 1.6~2.2/m<sup>2</sup> for each month. including the complex security, garbage clearance, elevator running, public area power supply, cleaning and maintenance, etc.
6. It is important to keep your **utility cards** topped up on a timely basis. Regularly monitor your meters to avoid unpleasant surprises such as a sudden lack of hot water, or electricity.

### Banking

The renminbi (RMB) is the official currency of China, often referred to as "the people's money." Informally, people also use the terms "yuan" or "kuai" to refer to the currency. Paper money is available in denominations of 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 1, 0.5 and 0.1 yuan. There are also coins for 1 yuan and 0.5 yuan. To summarize, 1 RMB is equivalent to 1 "yuan" or "kuai," 10 "jiao" or "mao". WeChat pay and Alipay are the most popular payment methods in China but the cash is still generally accepted. RMB cash services can be obtained through the following four channels.

1. **Bank outlets** Bank outlets displaying "Currency Exchange" sign can provide you with currency exchange, RMB cash change, and exchange rate query services. A valid ID is often required.
2. **Self-service machines (ATM)** You can withdraw RMB cash by inserting your overseas bank cards in ATM, CRS and other self-service machines marked with logos of the corresponding bank card organizations. The upper limit of a single withdrawal is RMB 3,000, which is also subject to the limit of your bank cards.
3. **Foreign currency exchange agencies** You can exchange foreign currency cash for RMB cash at foreign currency exchange agencies, usually located at airport or hotels Daily limit is the equivalent of RMB 10,000 for each card holder, and annual cumulative limit is the equivalent of RMB 50,000.
4. **Self-service currency exchange machines** You can exchange foreign currency cash for RMB cash on a self-service currency exchange machine with a valid ID. Daily limit is the equivalent of RMB 5000 for each card holder.







### Didi in Xi'an

Didi is Chinese version of Uber. You will need to download it to use it and it's also helpful for calling taxi, especially in rainy days.

### Bus in Xi'an



There are many buses running a wide variety of routes. Most of the buses' price is 2 RMB. You can also have a 50% discount if you use Metro Card.

### Bicycle in Xi'an

Xi'an is a biking friendly city. There are a lot of colorful shared bicycles that line the streets on either side. You can use Alipay or WeChat to scan the bike to unlock it and then lock it up whenever you reach your destination.



### Driver's License

If you're planning to drive in Xi'an, it's important to note that China does not recognize driver's licenses issued overseas. This means that even if you have a valid driver's license from your home country, you'll still need to take a written test to obtain a Chinese driver's license. Fortunately, you

won't need to take a practical driving test. To prepare for the written test, you'll need to undergo a medical checkup and ensure that your driver's license and passport (information page) are properly translated. Additionally, downloading the Laowai Drive Test app can be helpful. The exam (available in many languages) is conducted on a computer system that randomly selects 100 questions, and you'll need to score at least 90 points to pass. If you need assistance navigating this process, you can ask help from the foreign life assistant.

### Cuisine

Xi'an Cuisine is the representative culinary achievement in northwest China. Because of the abundant use of salt, vinegar, capsicum and garlic, Xi'an dining is in general sour and spicy. There are also some delicious western style restaurants like Italian, French, Indian and Spanish restaurants.

1. **Crumbled Flatbread in Mutton Stew**, which is also known as Yangrou Paomo. It is a soup dish that involves torn wheat flour flatbread, mutton, and bean vermicelli.
2. **Rou Jia Mo** is a kind of Chinese-style hamburger made of flatbread and chopped stewed meat.
3. **Liangpi** is a kind of noodle-like cold dish made of wheat or rice flour. It has various seasonings including special red pepper oil, salt, vinegar, mashed garlic cucumber chips, and bean sprouts.
4. **Biang Biang Noodles**, which got its name for the sound of "biang biang" during the cooking processes.





## Staff Recommendations

### Recommendation-Wholesale Markets

1. Qinggong Wholesale Market 轻工批发市场
2. Yiwu Small Commodities Shopping Market 义乌小商品商城
3. Zhuque agricultural products Wholesale Market 朱雀农产品批发市场
4. Shuyuan Gate cultural street 书院门
5. Jing Kang Tea Cultural Street 金康路茶文化街

### Recommendation-Malls

1. Sunshine Mall 阳光天地
2. Capital Outlets 首创奥特莱斯
3. SAGA International Shopping Mall 赛格国际购物中心
4. Joy City Shopping Mall 大悦城
5. Wanda Gaoxin Plaza 高新万达
6. Yitian Holiday Village 益田假日天地高新
7. Zhongda International Shopping Mall 中大国际
8. IKEA 宜家

### Recommendation-Hiking Places

1. Cuihua Mountain 翠华山
2. South Wutai Mountain 南五台山
3. Lou Guan Tai East 东楼观台

### Recommendation-cycling Places

1. Xi'an city wall
2. Chanba Ecological District Cycling Lane
3. Xi'an Greenway

### Recommendation-Skiing Resorts

1. Zhaojin International Ski Resort
2. Bailuyuan Ski Resort
3. Cuihua Mountain Ski Resort
4. Xi'an Bonski Indoor Ski Center

### Recommendation -Hot springs spots

1. Lintong Angsana Spa Hot Springs
2. Huaqing Aegean Hot Springs
3. Taibai Mountain Hot Springs

### Recommendation-Family-friendly

1. Lewa City-Lewa Adventure 乐华城
2. Xi'an Resort of Huaxia cultural Tourism 华夏文旅
3. Qujiang Polar Ocean Park 曲江海洋馆
4. Qingling Four Rare Animals Science Park 秦岭四宝科学公园

### Recommendation-Cultural Creative Blocks

1. Old Market Folk Cultural Block 老菜场文化创意街区
2. 3511 Cultural Block 3511文化创意产业园
3. Dahua 1935 - a block in industrial style. 大华1935

### Fun in Xi'an

1. Enjoy the night view of the Bell Tower.

2. Have a look at the Asia's largest musical fountain at the Dayan Pagoda.
3. Enjoy night view of the Dayan Pagoda on the rooftop of Joy City shopping center.
4. See the Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum of Qinshihuang's Mausoleum.
5. Ride on the Xi'an City Wall.
6. Feel the past of Xi'an at Shaanxi History Museum.
7. Admire Chinese calligraphy at Xi'an Beilin Museum.
8. Visit Hanyang Mausoleum and see the sea of ginkgo.
9. Pick cherries in Bailuyuan Highland.
10. Enjoy cherry blossoms at Qinglong Temple.
11. Take a hot spring bath at Huaqing Palace, a royal palace in the ancient times where emperors took baths.
12. Enjoy the lotus in the Tang Paradise, an ancient royal garden.
13. Feel the charm of the four treasures of the study at Shuyuan Gate.
14. Go to the Xingqing Park, a typical park in the northern China style.
15. Climb Huashan Mountain, try Sky Plank Road, and watch the sunrise.
16. Enjoy cloud sea at Nanwutai Mountain.
17. Have a look at the ginkgo tree planted by emperor Li Shiming at Guanyin Temple.
18. Feel the rich artistic atmosphere at Xi'an Film Studio.
19. Watch shadow puppet play at Gao Family Courtyard.
20. Feel the artistic charm at Shaanxi Province Art Museum.
21. Go to Meibei Lake to admire the picturesque scenery.
22. Take a picture with your beloved ones at red wall of Guang'ren Temple.
23. Search for treasures in wholesale market on Kangfu Road.
24. Explore the most beautiful round-the-mountain highway in Lishan Mountain.
25. Take a walk in Chang'an Park.
26. Visit the popular Kuming Lake.
27. Go to Xicang Market, a grocery street of flowers, birds, fish, and other animals.
28. Take a set of Ins-style photos in the Nature Hall of Xi'an Expo Park.
29. Ride a horse at Guanshan Grassland.
30. Visit Dahua 1935, a block in industrial style.

### Chinese Culture

In Chinese culture, there are certain customs, traditions, and etiquette that are important to observe. Here are some general DOs and DON'Ts to keep in mind:

#### DOs:

1. Do show respect to elders and people in positions of authority. Age and seniority are highly valued in Chinese culture.
2. Do address people by their formal titles and use proper forms of address, such as "Mr.," "Mrs.," or professional titles, until invited to use given names.
3. Do show modesty and humility.
4. You can address your driver as "shifu," which translates to "master." This title shows respect and can also be used for addressing skilled workers.
5. Do abide by the laws and regulations of China when writing comments on social media in China.



6. Do wait for the host or the eldest person to start eating before beginning your meal.
7. Do greet others with a slight nod or handshake, particularly in formal or professional settings.

**DON'Ts:**

1. Don't point directly at someone with your finger, as it is considered impolite. Instead, use an open hand or gesture with your whole hand.
2. Don't discuss sensitive topics such as politics, Taiwan, Tibet or Hong Kong as separate from China as they are part of the People's Republic of China.
3. Don't stick your chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice. This resembles the ritual of incense burning at funerals and is considered inauspicious.
4. Don't wear revealing or provocative clothing when visiting temples or other religious sites.
5. Don't discuss personal financial matters or ask about someone's income. Such topics are considered private and impolite.
6. Don't give certain gifts with symbolic meanings that may be interpreted negatively. For instance, it is best to refrain from giving clocks, knives, or pears as gifts to Chinese friends. Clocks symbolize the end of someone's time, which can be associated with death or ill fortune. Knives are linked to the idea of severing or ending a relationship, while pears sound similar to the Chinese word for "separate."
7. Don't photograph military installations, including buildings, sites, and facilities directly used by China for military purposes.

**FAQs**

**1. How to transport pets to Xi'an?**

Here is a general outline of the process:

- a. 60 days before departure, implant a pet microchip (international standard) and administer the first dose of rabies vaccine at a veterinary hospital.
- b. 39 days before departure, administer the second dose of rabies vaccine and rabies antibody titer test.
- c. 1 month before departure, after obtaining rabies antibody titer test report, apply for a pet health certificate.
- d. 3 weeks before departure, contact the airline to confirm if there are flights that allow pets and if there are available pet spaces.
- e. 3-5 days before departure, obtain an export permit for the pet.
- f. 1-2 days before departure, complete customs declaration and provide pet information.
- g. 3-4 hours before departure, bring the pet to the airport for check-in and complete the necessary procedures for transporting the pet.

**Note:**

- a. Microchip: All pets must have a microchip compatible with international standards.
- b. Rabies Vaccinations: Pets must have a rabies vaccination within a year of departure (older than 30 days at the time of travel) and a second rabies vaccine.
- c. Rabies Titer Test: A rabies titer test is required for pets from non-approved countries.
- d. One Pet per Passport: A strict one pet per passport rule applies if entering China directly.

**2. What kind of power adapter need to bring with?**

Officially, China's electricity supply runs at 220 V and uses angled two- or three-pin

plugs. So, make sure you buy or pack an international travel power adapter/converter.

**3. How to ship the personal packages to Xi'an?**

According to China's relevant policies and regulations, personal packages mailed to China will be sampled by customs randomly. Once the package is selected, the customs will open the package for inspection, the customs will check the contents of the package and estimate the value. If it is less than 1000 yuan, the package will be released normally. If it exceeds 1,000 RMB, you need to declare separately and passport required. If it's not followed, the package will be returned. DHL, EMS, FedEx and Sevenses are highly recommended. Professional shipping company like Sevenses has experience and knowledge of the specific requirements for shipping and will assist you with the entire process including customs clearance.

**4. What to do if unlike the chosen apartment and want to move out?**

If you need to move out when you arrive but the lease signed, the foreign life assistant will can help you communicate with the landlord to discharge the lease and find another apartment for you, but you will need to pay the default fee and renting agency fee by yourself. While searching for a new accommodation, you have the option to temporarily stay in the school dorm or a hotel.

**5. How to open a bank account in Xi'an?**

Once you receive the work permit visa, the school finance department will send the copy of your passport and work permit visa to the bank of China for preliminary reviewing. If your application is approved, you will need to visit the bank of China in person with your passport, work visa, foreign experts certificate card, proof of residence, and work contract.

**6. What are the local customs and etiquette I should be aware of?**

Local people are warm and welcoming but inevitably, moving to the new environment requires a settling period and adjustment to local norms. It's our obligations to follow the local laws and regulations as well as respecting the moral rules and local customs in China.

Being open-minded, patient, polite and modest are highly valued virtues when maintaining positive relationships with the students, colleagues, and wider community. You are always welcomed to contact School Senior Leader Team or your Life Assistant Jun as well for any concerns or questions.

# Services at XLIS



### The Foreign Teacher Life Assistant

XLIS offers a life assistant service specifically designed to support foreign teachers in their daily lives.

**Foreign Teacher Life Assistant:** Mr. Jun Liang, the foreign teacher life assistant from Treeshine (an external company that manages the cafeteria, cleaning, and security guards at XLIS).

#### Job Responsibilities Include:

1. Apartment renting & flight pick-up.
2. Assistance with Chinese SIM Card and internet service in the apartment.
3. Communications with Chinese landlords about rent payment, facility maintenance and help with the electricity, heating fees and service fees in property management centers.
4. Translation help for the teachers about daily life matters.
5. Coordination and arrangement the mailing, receiving and storage of the luggage.
6. The tour to IKEA and Metro supermarket arranged by school.

#### Contact Information:

1. Email Address: liangjun@treeshine.cn
2. WeChat Account: junleung24
3. Phone Number: +86-15229306900

You can add WeChat account by scanning this QR code.

**WeChat** app is a widely used messaging app that allows us to send messages, make voice and video calls, and share photos and videos.

You may try to download and use it.

Here are the steps of downloading and setting up:

1. Search for WeChat on the App Store (for iOS) or Google Play Store (for Android) on your mobile device. Or search this website on your phone <https://weixin.qq.com/>
2. Once the download is complete, open the app and follow the instructions to create an account.
3. You can choose to sign up with your phone number, and then set up your profile.





XLIS is a caring community where diversity is embraced. We have welcomed excellent educators from all over the world to join this big family. XLIS strives to provide a range of services to support the staff's need.

### **Buses at XLIS**

1. Ensuring staff arrive at school and home safely is a top priority at XLIS. Each morning XLIS has 7 school buses routes for teachers to arrive safely to school each day.
2. The shuttle buses departure by 16:10 will change into 16:50 of every Tuesday and Tuesday during the ECA period.
3. The early morning shuttle bus to school leaves at 6:00 am and the last shuttle bus leaves XLIS at 5:40 pm. If there are any changes, you will be informed in advance.



### **Air Quality Management at XLIS**

At XLIS, we understand the importance of having good IAQ and how developing an effective IAQ program can benefit the health and education of our students and staff. XLIS partnered with and invested in a new pressurized HVAC and IAQ system from PureLiving China, a leading company in China on providing effective IAQ systems for school, sport, and office environments. The IAQ system was implemented and designed to improve the overall indoor air quality of the school, allowing clean fresh air to flow directly into the classrooms raising the positive clean air pressure inside each room, keeping bad air particles and pollutants outside, creating a safer, healthier learning environment.

### **Food at XLIS**

1. There are many types of food served at XLIS including Chinese, western and Korean food. The breakfast starts at 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning and lunch starts at 11:30 to 13:30.
2. Each month, your staff card will receive a regular balance and you can use the card to make purchases.
3. XLIS Cultural Lunches: One of the ways XLIS explores different cultures is through food. At XLIS we strive to support our community with healthy and delicious food choices every day, but once a month our school explores different food cultures from around the world.



### **Childcare Service at XLIS**

All the children will be supervised by our school TAs and the TA Department will arrange the childcare schedule each semester. We will offer service from 3:30pm – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. If the school has an event or meeting, the service will also be provided accordingly. For anyone who wants to register for the daycare, they need to sign in 10 days prior to the school year to [lan.wu@xalis.com](mailto:lan.wu@xalis.com). If the child/children is/are signed up for our childcare service, they are expected to attend.