



Xian

## CITY SECURITY GUIDE

### CRIME

Petty theft, particularly the slashing open of bags and pockets with a razor blade, is common, especially around tourist sites. Personnel should also be aware of petty, opportunistic crime in crowded areas such as markets and transport hubs. However, violent crime is not a serious problem for business travellers.

The police in China generally do not carry fire arms. However, the police in Xian were armed with guns in April 2014 for routine patrols in the city, and the measure will be introduced in other major urban centres. The arming is in response to an incident in March 2014 in Kunming (Yunnan province), when around ten assailants killed at least 29 civilians and injured more than 140 others with knives and machetes at the main railway station.

### TERRORISM

The government considers separatist Uighur Muslims from the north-west Xinjiang province a threat to security and there have been claims of disrupted terrorist attacks outside the far north-west; most notably, the authorities in 2008 arrested several Uighurs in Xinjiang in connection with an alleged plot to carry out attacks at the Olympic Games in Beijing.

The authorities have also linked an October 2013 car incident in Beijing and a March 2014 knife attack in Kunming railway station (Yunnan province) with Xinjiang-based Uighur militancy. If official claims are accurate, these incidents indicate that Uighur militants maintain the intent to conduct attacks outside Xinjiang. However, the security forces' tight surveillance makes it difficult for militant groups to operate beyond remote or stronghold areas. While crude, small-scale attacks by individuals in major cities can never be ruled out, the risk remains low.

### SOCIAL UNREST

Protests are rare and pose a minor risk to travellers.

### TROUBLE SPOTS

Crowded markets in the Muslim Quarter and at the railway station are the worst areas for petty theft. Business visitors should exercise caution at night, and should avoid walking down unlit streets.

### SEEKING HELP

Police officers are accustomed to dealing with foreigners. They are generally courteous and efficient, but lower-ranking officers are unlikely to be able to speak English.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Fire services: 119
- Police: 110; 552729 (foreigners' section)

Ambulance services are not recommended. Contact [International SOS](#) for help with your medical situation.

## CITY TRAVEL GUIDE

### PORT OF ENTRY

Airport code: XIY

Xian Xianyang International Airport (XIY) is 18 miles (29km) north-west of the [city](#). The main Terminal 2 (T2) handles the majority of domestic and all international flights. In May 2012, a new Terminal 3 (T3) building was added to the existing structure to increase passenger-handling capacity; T3 caters to some domestic services. The airport has banking facilities, a restaurant and a small selection of shops, mostly catering to tourists.

Xian is connected to all major Chinese destinations and several international destinations, and is the headquarters of China Northwest and Dragon Air airlines. Airport security is adequate. Airport staff generally do not speak English, but there is a tourist desk where assistance in English is available. PA announcements are in Mandarin and English and are clear and frequent.

### TO CITY CENTRE

There is a taxi rank outside the Arrivals building. Some taxi rank stewards are able to translate the names of major international hotels into Chinese for drivers. Drivers generally refuse to use the meter on the journey from the airport; visitors should negotiate a fare before setting off. The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) runs a shuttle bus service between the airport and its city centre office on Laodong Lu; the journey takes between 50 minutes and an hour.

## **WALKING**

The central area is compact and is easily navigable by foot.

## **TAXIS**

Taxis are abundant in the city centre. They are sometimes metered, but otherwise fares should be negotiated in advance. Visitors should negotiate firmly but not aggressively, starting by halving the price. If the taxi is using the meter, customers must pay an additional charge on top of the price shown on the meter. A surcharge applies between 22.00 and 06.00.

## **CAR HIRE**

Car hire is possible at the airport, though inadvisable. Rather, personnel should seek to hire a car with a driver from international business hotels.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Local buses and trolleybuses are overcrowded and pickpocketing is common. Visitors are advised not to use them, unless they are particularly well acquainted with the city.

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## **DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION**

Click [here](#) to see a full list of diplomatic missions to this country

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