

# Laoniawan: where the Great Wall meets the Yellow River

One day down a canyon that is also a frontier: from a Ming fort in Shanxi, below the Great Wall, to the Yellow River at Laoniawan in Inner Mongolia, where the Wall meets the river.



**1 day**

Add a second day for the river walk towards Wanjiazhai



**10 km**

Huashi Fort to Shenniu Square, one way



**+300 m**

In small ups and downs; mostly downhill to the river



**1,150 m**

At the start. Far too low for altitude sickness



**4–5 h**

Four recorded walks: 2¾ to 5 hours on the move



**¥2,000** ≈ €265

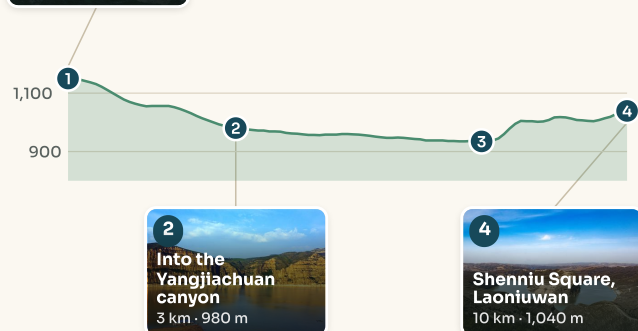
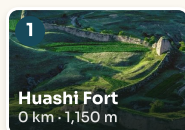
2 sharing a car from Datong, a room of your own, meals



**May–Jun, Sep–Oct**

Mild and dry. Hot and stormy in July and August

## HEIGHT ALONG THE TRAIL · 10 KM · ▲300 M · ▼410 M



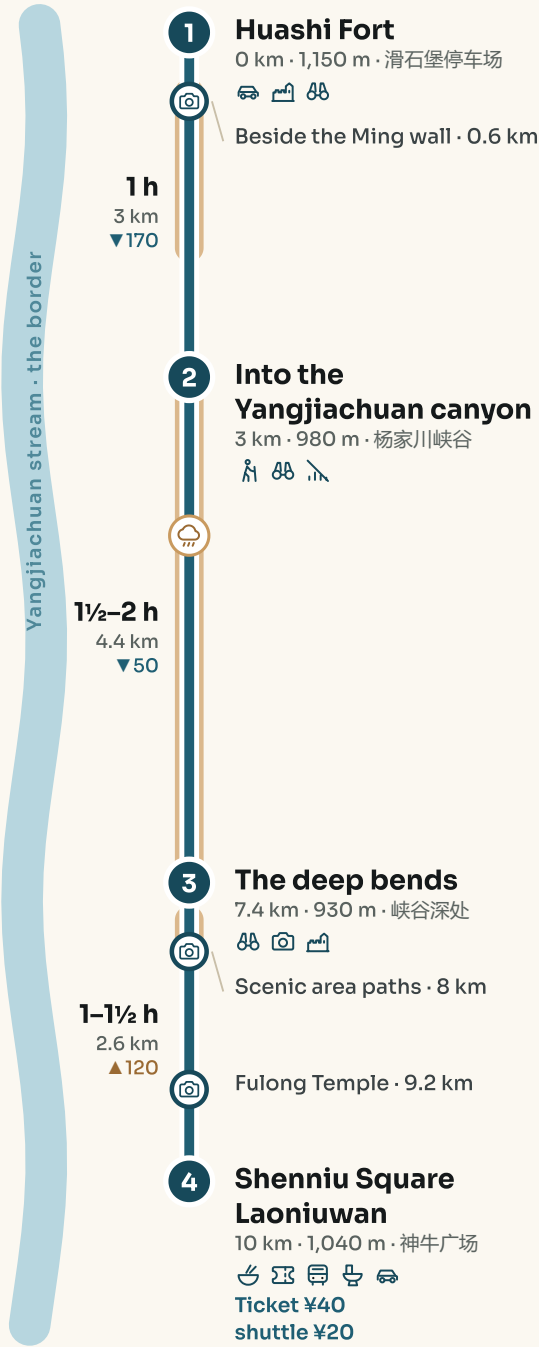
Photos: 2 黄河山曲 (Panoramio) (CC BY-SA 3.0) · 4 Hongwei Dong (CC BY 3.0) · Wikimedia Commons

# The trail at a glance

 Beside the wall, not on it · Floods in heavy rain · Steep climb out  
Walking time between stops · ▲ m · ▼ m



← N



# 1 day, hour by hour

## DAY 1

06:30 

### GETTING THERE

**Car with driver from Datong · 3 h ·  
≈¥1,000–1,300 a day**

Book a car with driver through your Datong hotel the day before. Start: Huashi Fort car park (滑石堡停车场); end: Shenniu Square (神牛广场).

09:30



Start at Huashi Fort. 2 L of water each.

10:00



Along the Ming wall above the canyon.

10:45



Down to the canyon floor.

12:30



The deep bends. Lunch from your bag.

14:00



Shenniu Square. A late lunch; your car meets you.

18:30



Sunset at Wanghe Tower, on the Shanxi bank.

### WHERE WE'D SLEEP

 **Pianguan Huanghe Hotel**

偏关黄河山庄

 —  ¥175–190  ¥242

Trip.com