

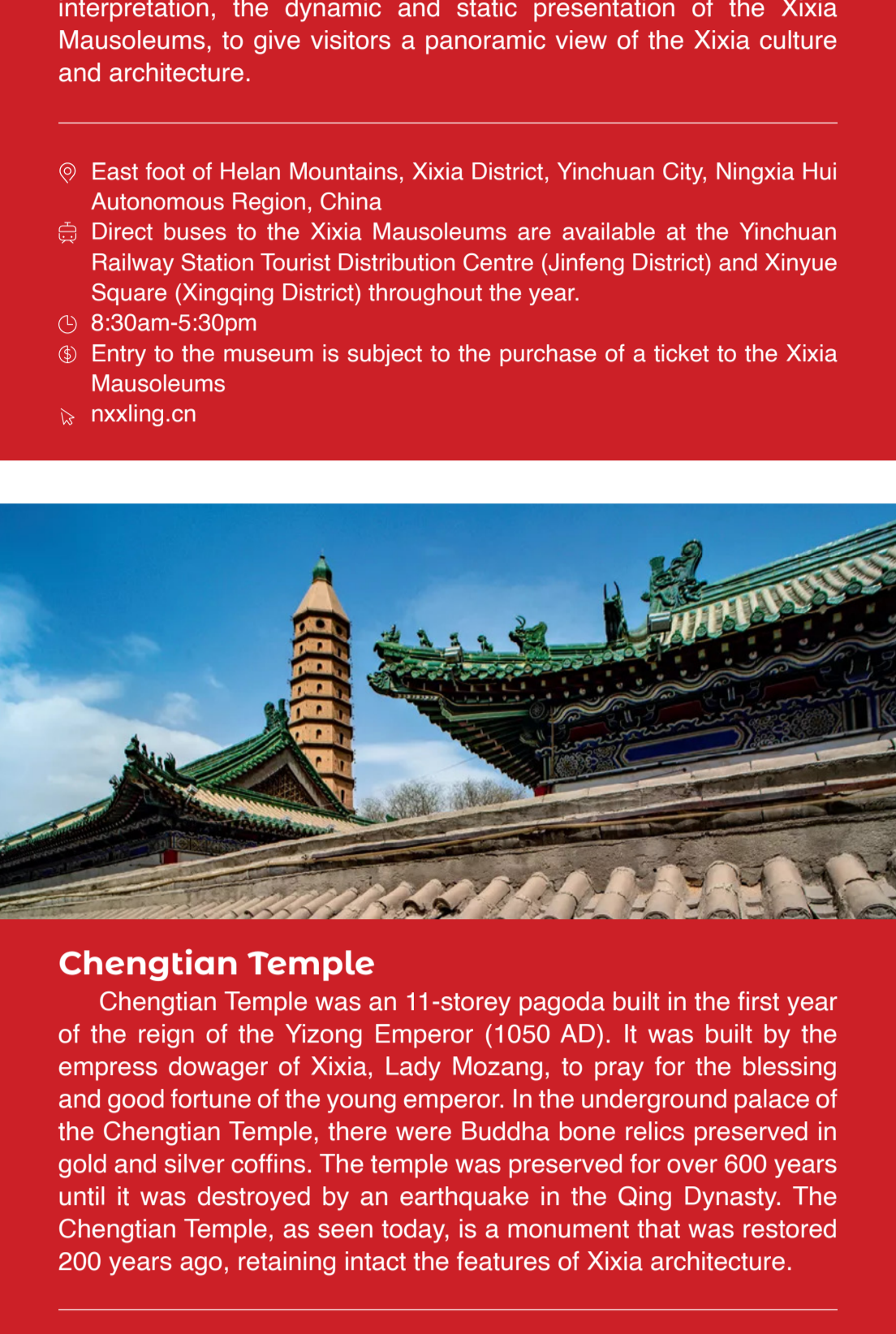
In search of the vanished Xixia Empire



Location of Yinchuan

Yinchuan was once the capital of the Tangut Empire (or Xixia Empire, 1038-1227 AD). This empire developed its own writing system and had a very high level of artistic and technological achievements. In terms of military affairs, their army was so tough and well equipped that the Mongol legions were unable to conquer it in six attempts, and even Genghis Khan, the Great Khan of the Mongol Empire, died mysteriously during the war against Xixia. However, this brought about its downfall. Mongolians carried out brutal massacres after they conquered this empire, causing it vanished completely into history. Take a trip to Yinchuan and let's explore the precious legacy of the Tangut civilisation together.

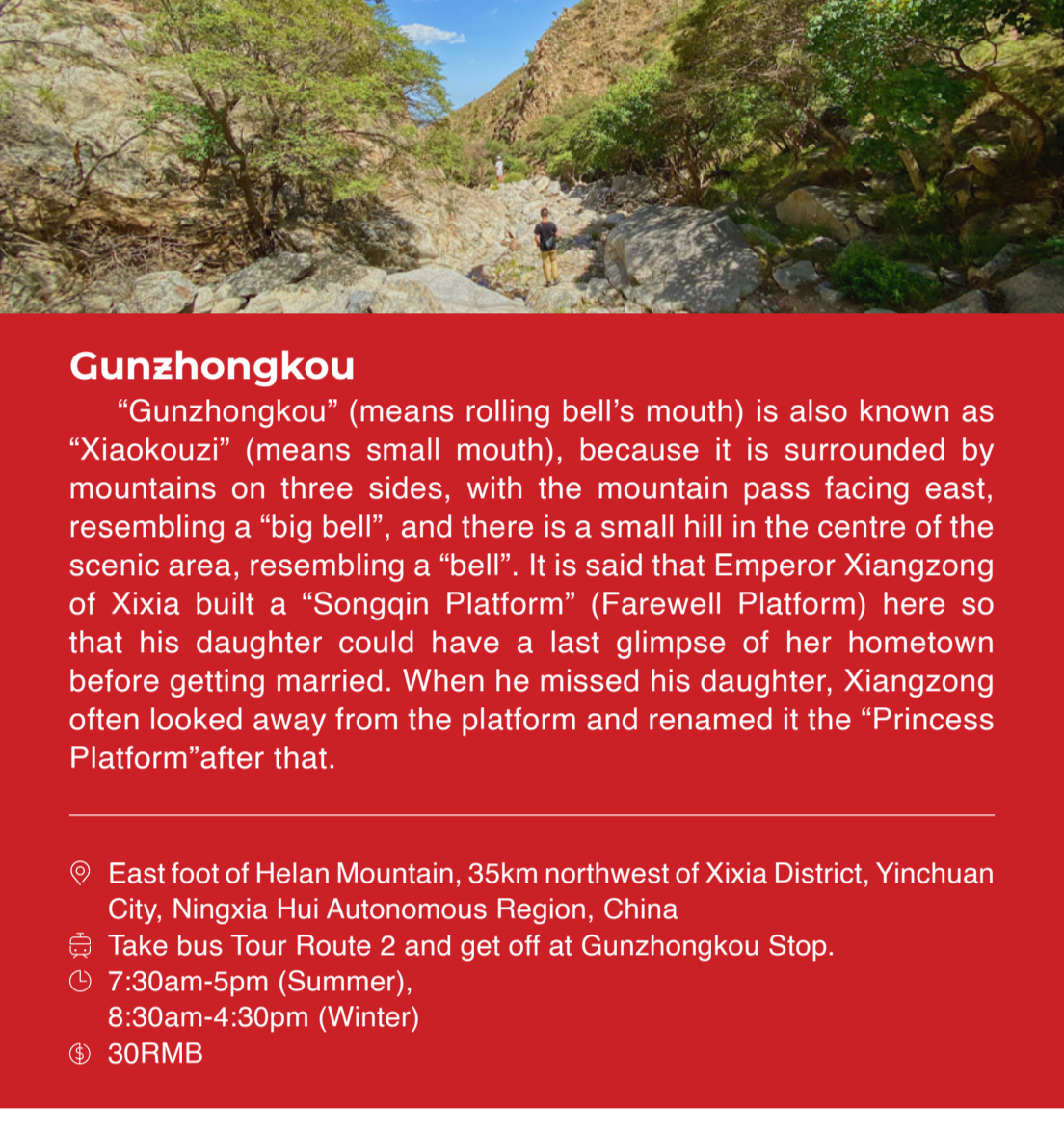
What's hot



Xixia Mausoleums

The Xixia Mausoleums include 9 imperial mausoleums and 250 tombs of imperial relatives and officials of the empire which form the largest existing cultural site of the Tangut people. The site is so massive that it has been described as a "mysterious miracle" and the "Oriental Pyramid". The Xixia Mausoleums were built between the early 11th and early 13th centuries, they have absorbed the advantages of imperial mausoleums since the Qin and Han Dynasties, as well as being influenced by Buddhist architecture, thus forming a distinctive architectural form. A large number of artefacts have been excavated here.

- East foot of Helan Mountains, Xixia District, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
- Direct buses to the Xixia Mausoleums are available at the Yinchuan Railway Station Tourist Distribution Centre (Jinfeng District) and Xinyue Square (Xingqing District) throughout the year.
- 8am-5:30pm (Apr-Oct), 9am-5pm (Nov-Mar)
- 85RMB (Admission with transportation in the scenic area)
- nxixing.cn



Xixia Museum

The Xixia Museum is located in the Xixia Mausoleums Scenic Area. It is a museum focusing on the history of the Xixia and Xixia Mausoleums. The museum displays a large number of fine artefacts unearthed during the archaeological research of the Xixia Mausoleums, such as tangkas, documents, clay sculptures, bronze and ironware, fabrics, porcelain, etc. It also incorporates new and innovative ways of displaying, such as the mysterious Xixia language interpretation, the dynamic and static presentation of the Xixia Mausoleums, to give visitors a panoramic view of the Xixia culture and architecture.

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- 8:30am-5:30pm
- Entry to the museum is subject to the purchase of a ticket to the Xixia Mausoleums
- nxixing.cn



Chengtian Temple

Chengtian Temple was an 11-storey pagoda built in the first year of the reign of the Yizong Emperor (1050 AD). It was built by the empress dowager of Xixia, Lady Mozang, to pray for the blessing and good fortune of the young emperor. In the underground palace of the Chengtian Temple, there were Buddha bone relics preserved in gold and silver coffins. The temple was preserved for over 600 years until it was destroyed by an earthquake in the Qing Dynasty. The Chengtian Temple, as seen today, is a monument that was restored 200 years ago, retaining intact the features of Xixia architecture.

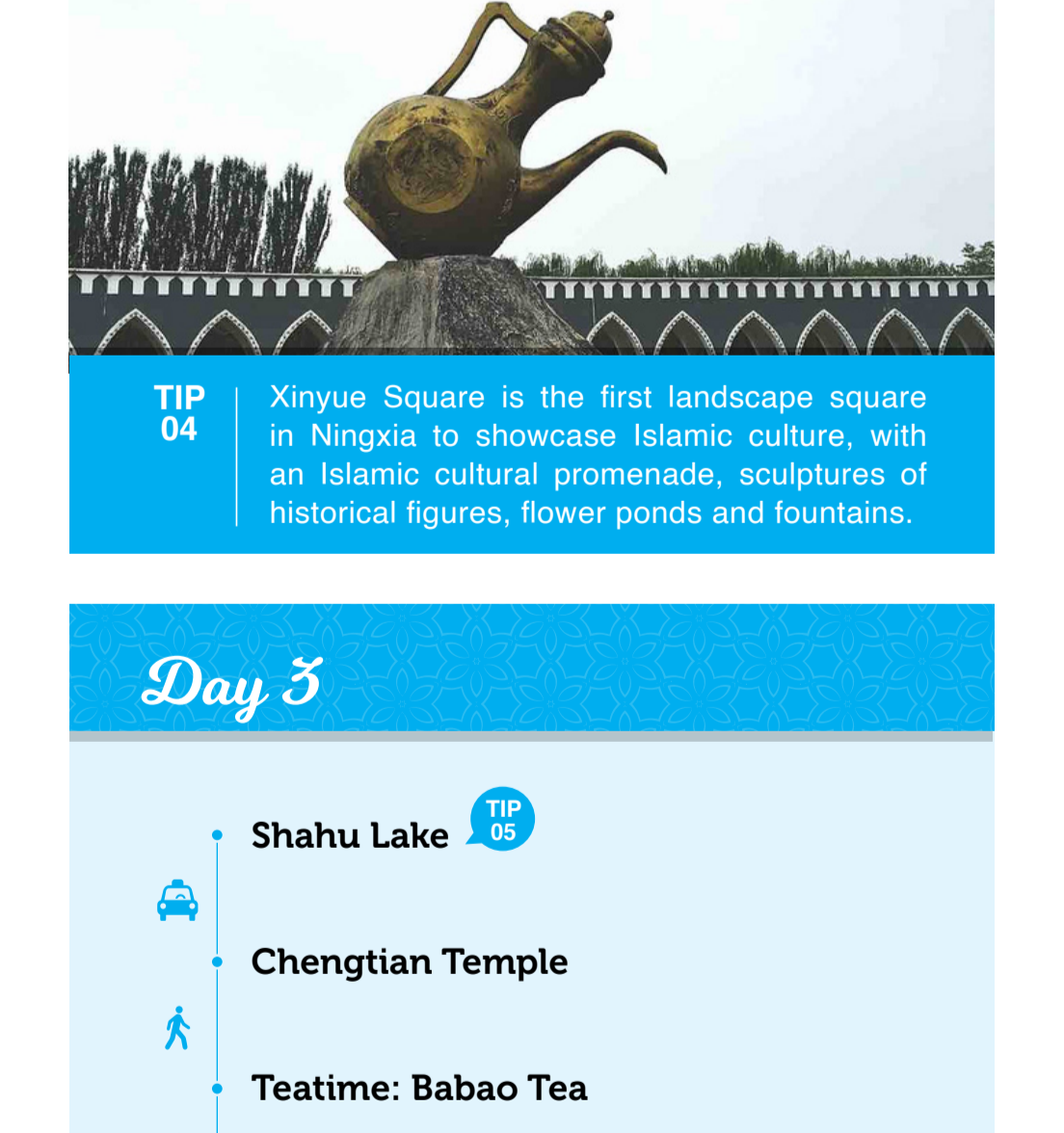
- 121 Limin Street, Xingqing District, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
- Take bus no. 9, 10, 16, 24 or 602 in the town and get off at Xita Stop.
- 9am-5:30pm, closed on Monday
- Admission 10RMB, additional 20RMB will be charge for climbing the pagoda



Baisikou Twin Pagodas

Situated on a hillside terrace of Helan Mountains, the Baisikou Twin Pagodas are the best-preserved Xixia pagodas, with a history of nearly 1,000 years. The two pagodas are 100 metres apart, resembling a pair of lovers, hence the name "Husband and Wife Pagodas". The east pagoda is a 13-storey octagonal brick pagoda, with relief carvings of various animal heads on each side of the eaves. The west pagoda is of the same height and is thicker than the east pagoda, with a parabolic shape. Artefacts such as Sanskrit and Tangut inscriptions and Yuan Dynasty silver coins have been found inside the west pagoda.

- Baisikou, east foot of Helan Mountain, Helan County, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
- Take bus Tour Route 6 and get off at Baisikou Shuangta Stop.
- 9am-6pm, daily
- 10RMB



Gunzhongkou

"Gunzhongkou" (means rolling bell's mouth) is also known as "Xiaokouzi" (means small mouth), because it is surrounded by mountains on three sides, with the mountain pass facing east, resembling a "big bell", and there is a small hill in the centre of the scenic area, being a "bell". It is said that Emperor Xiangzong of Xixia built a "Songqin Platform" (Farewell Platform) here so that his daughter could have a last glimpse of her hometown before getting married. When he missed his daughter, Xiangzong often looked away from the platform and renamed it the "Princess Platform" after that.

- East foot of Helan Mountain, 35km northwest of Xixia District, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
- Take bus Tour Route 2 and get off at Gunzhongkou Stop.
- 7:30am-5pm (Summer), 8:30am-4:30pm (Winter)
- 30RMB



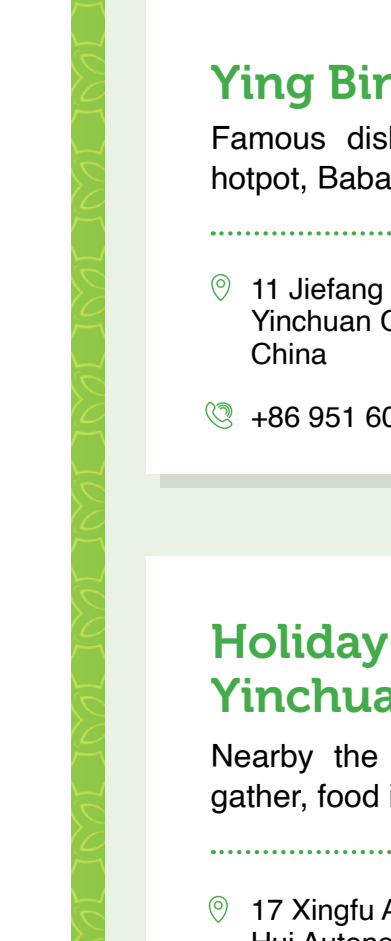
Xixia Culture Park

The Xixia Culture Park is themed on the Xixia culture, integrating leisure and tourism experiences, science education demonstrations, catering and entertainment services. The park invites Tangutologists to research and design, so it can accurately restore the royal and marketplace buildings in Xixia characteristics. The Xixia Market Street is a comprehensive restoration of the Xixia military, economic, cultural and handicraft development to its heyday. In addition, the park has created a large-scale live action horse battle performance, a thrilling live restoration of the "Battle of Hequ".

- 1496 Beijing West Road, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China (Diagonally opposite to Xixia Square)
- Take bus Route 108 in the city and get off at Xixia Square Stop.
- 8:30am-5:30pm, daily
- 60RMB
- ixixiafy.com



What to eat



Yangrou Cuomian

Lamb is one of the daily staples of the Xixia people, and "Yangrou Cuomian" (rolled noodles with lamb meat) is a popular noodle dish in the Ningxia Autonomous Region. The noodles are rolled to the thickness of chopsticks and cooked, then topped with a broth made with lamb and served with diced lamb and fresh seasonal vegetables. Those who enjoy spicy foods can season with red chilli oil.



Babao Tea

"Babao Tea" (Eight Treasures Tea) has a long history and was once a traditional drink for the Hui people on their long journey along the ancient Silk Road. There are various recipes for Babao Tea, one of which is, rock sugar, Chinese wolfberries, golden dates, liquorice, jasmine flowers, cassia seeds and flavoured lotus flowers. The finest Babao Tea was given to the Xixia royal family as a tribute once.

Youxiang

Yinchuan is not a city with strong Islamic culture, and it's a good idea to try Hui Muslim food here. "Youxiang" is a traditional Hui snack, it is also a common food for festive celebrations. It is made with fermenting flour, dough is deep-fried in hot oil over a slow fire until it is crispy and fragrant. There are various types and flavours of Youxiang, including savoury, light or sweet.

Hui Xiaochi

"Hui Xiaochi" (means braised food) is a famous traditional Ningxia snack made with a wide range of ingredients, such as vermicelli, tofu, meat, vegetables, etc. It is soft and tender, with a delicious flavour. "Hui Jiaban Wanzi" (braised Jiaban and balls, Jiaban is a food made of minced meat, potato and egg) and "Hui Yangza" (braised haggis, a mixture of lamb head, hooves, heart, liver, etc) are must-try dishes.

Where to go

- By train/subway
- By taxi
- By bus
- On foot

Day 1

- Breakfast: Sanzi **TIP 01**
- Xixia Mausoleums & Xixia Museum
- Lunch: Yangrou Cuomian
- Xixia Culture Park
- Huaiyuan Night Market **TIP 02**

TIP 01 Like Youxiang, Sanzi is also a unique food in Ningxia. It is a deep-fried snack with a crispy texture made of flour.

TIP 02 "Huaiyuan Latiao" (spicy gluten bars), "Gongting Suniuru Cake" (royal crispy beefcakes), "Gaoshan Xiaoyangyu" (highland potatoes), "Bingzhou" (ice desserts) are well-known dishes at Huaiyuan Market that should not be missed.

Day 2

- Breakfast: Youxiang
- Baisikou Twin Pagodas
- Gunzhongkou
- Lunch: Hui Xiaochi
- Zhenbeibao China West Film Studio **TIP 03**
- Xinyue Square **TIP 04**

TIP 03 The Zhenbeibao China West Film Studio was the filming location for Stephen Chow's "Journey to the West". The scenes and props of some movies that have been filmed here are preserved and restored in the studio.

TIP 04 Xinyue Square is the first landscape square in Ningxia to showcase Islamic culture, with an Islamic cultural promenade, sculptures of historical figures, flower ponds and fountains.

Day 3

- Shahu Lake **TIP 05**
- Chengtian Temple
- Teatime: Babao Tea
- Nanguan Mosque **TIP 06**
- Airport

TIP 05 The Shahu Lake has the majesty of the desert and the beauty of the Jiangnan water town. It is known as a cultural tourist destination that is "rarely found in the world". You can enjoy camel rides, sand skiing, flower viewing and exciting water sports in summer.

TIP 06 Nanguan Mosque built in the Ming Dynasty is one of the largest mosques in Ningxia. It has a high status in the hearts of the Hui people of Ningxia.

Halal choice

Chinese Cuisine

Lao Wei's House Halal Yangrou Cuomian Restaurant

Famous dishes: Yangrou Cuomian
290 Taikang Street, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
+86 139 0957 7982 10:30am-8:30pm

Chinese Cuisine

Yiyun Family Halal Theme Restaurant

Famous dishes: Hui Xiaochi, fried Hubo, Tangmian Youxiang
301 Zhengyuan North Street, Jinfeng District, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
+86 951 391 5876 9:30am-9pm

Chinese Cuisine

Mu Er Zhai Beef Noodle Soup

Famous dishes: Beef noodle soup
Next to Xibei Gate 2 of Juyuan, Yinjiagu South Street, Jinfeng District, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
+86 171 8958 3888 All day

Chinese Cuisine

Ying Bin Lou (Jiefang West St)

Famous dishes: Shouzhuo Yangrou, mutton hotpot, Babao Tea
11 Jiefang West Street, Xingqing District, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
+86 951 602 5950 10am-9pm

Accommodation

Holiday Inn Express Yinchuan Downtown

Nearby the place where Muslim hui people gather, food is great
17 Xingfu Alley, Fengjing, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
+86 951 567 5666 ihg.com

Accommodation

Kempinski Hotel Yinchuan

Nearby Nanguan Mosque, with a very convenient 24hr limousine service from the airport
160 Beijing Middle Road, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China
+86 951 516 5888 kempinski.com