

**Nihao
Plan**

PRIVATE TRAVEL GUIDE

Beijing & *Shanghai*

Five days, two cities, one considered pace

PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY FOR

Emma & Lukas

GUIDE NO. SAMPLE

TRAVEL DATES

12 – 16 Nov 2026

PASSPORT

Germany · 2
adults

STYLE

Comfort ·
History, Food

WELCOME

Dear Emma & Lukas,

Your China, paced around you

You are seeing China for the first time, with five days split between Beijing and Shanghai. We have balanced imperial history, everyday food and strong architecture with enough breathing room to look, eat and wander without rushing.

DURATION	ENTRY	GETTING BETWEEN	EST. BUDGET
5 days · 4 nights	Visa-free · 30 days	1 train	¥ 9–14k

LIVE VERSION

Open this guide on your phone

The online version has clickable links, lets you ask follow-up questions, and is updated if you add your flights or hotel bookings.



What we planned around

YOU TOLD US	SO WE...
First time in China	We kept the route simple, with two cities and clear handovers, so the first visit feels exciting rather than overwhelming.
History and architecture	We paired imperial landmarks with strong modern buildings and historic streets, so you see how old and new China sit together.
Food matters, one vegetarian	We built meals around vegetable, tofu and noodle dishes, with a Chinese note ready for kitchens and room for a vegetarian at every table.
Comfort budget, balanced pace	We chose comfortable, well-located stays and kept each day to a manageable shape, with slower mornings and flexible evenings.

With warm wishes for your journey,

THE NIHAO PLAN TEAM

NOTES

How we shaped this trip around you

DAYS PLANNED	SIGHTS INTRODUCED	PLACES TO EAT	ADDRESS CARDS
5	12	12	25

Who this plan is for

Travellers	Emma & Lukas · 2 adults
Passport	Germany · Visa-free · 30 days
Style	Comfort budget · Balanced pace
Loves	History, Food, Architecture
Food needs	vegetarian (one traveller)
You told us	First time in China

Your pace

You asked for a balanced pace, so we kept the days full but not frantic. Mornings start with the most important sight, afternoons leave room for a slow lunch, a cafe stop or a wander, and evenings stay flexible. We avoid stacking too many big sights in one day, with time to sit and let the history settle.

Eating well

With one vegetarian traveller, China is easier than it looks. We would steer you towards vegetable, tofu and mushroom dishes, plain rice or noodles, and egg-based plates, while flagging broths, lard and oyster sauce. Carry a short Chinese note about meat and fish sauces, and ask before ordering; kitchens are usually willing to cook a simple vegetarian dish.

VEGETARIAN-FRIENDLY PLACES IN THIS GUIDE

- **Shi Minfu Roast Duck (Forbidden City)** 四季民福烤鸭店(故宫店) · Beijing · good vegetarian choice
- **Donglaishun (Wangfujing)** 东来顺饭庄(王府井店) · Beijing · good vegetarian choice
- **Huguosi Snacks (Main Branch)** 护国寺小吃(护国寺总店) · Beijing · good vegetarian choice
- **Kaorou** 烤肉季饭庄 · Beijing · good vegetarian choice
- **King's Joy** 京兆尹 · Beijing · fully vegetarian
- **Da Dong Roast Duck (Tuanjiehu)** 大董烤鸭店(团结湖店) · Beijing · good vegetarian choice
- **Godly Vegetarian Restaurant** 功德林 · Shanghai · fully vegetarian
- **Chunfeng Songyue Lou** 春风松月楼 · Shanghai · fully vegetarian
- **Jujube Tree (Zao Zi Shu)** 枣子树 · Shanghai · fully vegetarian
- **Lost Heaven on the Bund** 花马天堂 (外滩店) · Shanghai · good vegetarian choice
- **Old Jesse** 老吉士 · Shanghai · good vegetarian choice
- **Fu He Hui** 福和慧 · Shanghai · fully vegetarian

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01

CHAPTER ONE

Before You Go

China rewards a little preparation. Spend one evening on entry, money, internet and apps, and everything after that gets much easier.

TIME NEEDED

About 90 minutes

DO IT

2-3 weeks before departure

HARDEST PART

Getting Alipay verified

You don't need a visa

Germany passport holders can currently enter China visa-free for up to 30 days.

ITEM	WHAT APPLIES TO YOU
Policy	Unilateral visa-free entry, up to 30 days per visit, for tourism, business, family visits or transit. Currently announced as valid until 31 December 2026.
Passport	At least 6 months' validity beyond your entry date and at least 2 blank pages.
On arrival	Fill in the arrival card (paper at the airport, or online via the National Immigration Administration before you fly). Fingerprints are taken at the kiosk. Have your first hotel's address and your onward or return ticket ready.
Hotel registration	Hotels register foreign guests with the police at check-in. Always carry your passport: you'll need it for trains, museums and many attractions.
Other passports	If a companion holds a different passport, check their status separately. The 240-hour visa-free transit only applies when you continue to a <i>third</i> country.

DOUBLE-CHECK ONE WEEK BEFORE YOU FLY

Entry policies are set by China's National Immigration Administration and can change. Check the Chinese embassy website for your country a week before departure; we update the online version of this guide if anything changes.

DON'T TRAVEL WITHOUT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Hospitals in big Chinese cities are good, but foreigners usually have to pay upfront, and treatment or an emergency flight home can be very expensive. Before you go, make sure you have a policy that covers medical treatment abroad, emergency evacuation and trip cancellation, and keep its emergency number with your passport.

NOTES

Pay like a local: set up Alipay

China pays by QR code: noodle stalls, taxis, temples, even street vendors. Cards work in big hotels but almost nowhere else.

SET UP ALIPAY AT HOME (15 MIN)

- 1 Download **Alipay** (支付宝) and sign up with your own mobile number.
- 2 Under **Bank Cards**, add a Visa or Mastercard (credit cards work best).
- 3 Verify your identity by uploading your passport photo page. Approval takes minutes to a day.
- 4 Test it with a tiny purchase, such as topping up the metro QR code.

WECHAT PAY AS A BACKUP

Install **WeChat** (微信) and link a *different* card under **Me** → **Services** → **Wallet**. If one app or card is declined, you have the other.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Foreign-card payments may carry a small fee on larger amounts; small daily spending is usually free.
- You either scan the shop's QR code and type the amount, or show your payment code to the cashier.
- Carry some cash for markets, small temples and emergencies. Bank of China ATMs at airports accept foreign cards.
- Businesses must accept cash, but may lack change for a ¥100 note. Keep some ¥10 and ¥20 notes.

EXCHANGE RATE

Check the live rate in your banking app before you go and work out a simple rule of thumb for your currency.

GOOD TO KNOW

Take a photo of your passport's photo page and keep a paper copy apart from the passport itself.

NOTES

Staying connected

Google (Search, Maps, Gmail), WhatsApp, Instagram and most Western news sites are **blocked on Chinese networks**, including hotel Wi-Fi. The simplest fix for visitors:

OPTION	GOOGLE/WHATSAPP?	OUR VIEW
Travel eSIM (data routed abroad)	Yes, works	Best choice. Install at home, switch on when you land.
Roaming on your home SIM	Yes, works	Fine if your plan includes China; check the price.
Local Chinese SIM	No	Good for Chinese apps, but no Google or WhatsApp.

OUR RECOMMENDATION

China eSIM for 5 days

Check that your phone supports eSIM (most phones from 2019 on). Install over Wi-Fi before you fly.

GET YOUR ESIM



Your app kit

APP	WHAT YOU'LL USE IT FOR	TIP
Alipay 支付宝	Payments, Didi taxis, metro QR code, translation	Switch the language to English in settings
WeChat 微信	Payment backup, attraction bookings via mini-programs, messages	Sign up at home; verification can need a friend
Didi 滴滴	Ride-hailing in English with auto-translated chat	Also available inside Alipay
Apple Maps / Amap 高德	Navigation with Chinese map data	Google Maps is often off by 100–500 m
Trip.com	Trains, flights, hotels in English	Saves your passport for real-name tickets
A translator	Menus via camera, conversations	Download Chinese for offline use

WI-FI AND OFFLINE

Public Wi-Fi in China often asks for a Chinese phone number to log in, so don't count on it: your eSIM is your connection. Hotel Wi-Fi usually works with your room number. Before you fly, download offline maps and the Chinese language pack for your translator.

What to book & when

Most of China is walk-in. These are the exceptions on your route: popular places use real-name booking with your passport number, and tickets sell out.

WHAT	HOW TO BOOK	FOR YOUR TRIP
Tiananmen Square 天安门广场	Free but you cannot walk in. Book 1-7 days ahead in the WeChat mini-program 天安门广场预约参观 (slots release 12:00 daily); every guest needs the original passport used for booking. Mao Mausoleum (Tue-Sun 08:00-12:00) has its own booking and reopened 1 Sep 2026 after renovation.	Book from Fri 6 Nov for Fri 13 Nov
Forbidden City (Palace Museum) 故宫博物院	Required, no same-day tickets. Book only on the official Palace Museum website or WeChat mini-program; slots open 20:00 Beijing time seven days ahead and sell out. Book with your passport and bring the same passport; enter via the Meridian Gate (午门).	Before you go · Day 2
Jingshan Park 景山 公园	Optional: timed tickets up to 7 days ahead in the 'Visiting Beijing Parks' WeChat account, or buy at the gate; bring your passport.	Book from Fri 6 Nov for Fri 13 Nov
Temple of Heaven 天坛公园	Book 1-7 days ahead via the WeChat accounts 'Visiting Beijing Parks' or 'Temple of Heaven'; same-day QR tickets at the gate if not full.	Book from Sat 7 Nov for Sat 14 Nov
Lama Temple (Yonghegong) 雍和 宫	Timed entry booked in the official WeChat mini-program (opens 7 days ahead at midnight); walk-up only if same-day slots remain.	Book from Sat 7 Nov for Sat 14 Nov
Jing'an Temple 静 安寺	Advance online booking is recommended as tickets sell out; booking requires your real legal name and passport number exactly matching your passport, and you exchange the voucher for a physical ticket at the counter by showing your physical passport, so foreigners can book with a passport. Tickets can also be bought on site with cash or via WeChat.	Before you go · Day 5

The weather on your dates

CITY	DAY / NIGHT	FEELS LIKE
Beijing	20 °C / 9 °C	clear, crisp and the best season
Shanghai	23 °C / 15 °C	Comfortable and drier; peak travel weather.

Typical averages for the season, not a forecast.

Alipay and WeChat Pay, step by step

ALIPAY 支付宝

- 1 Install **Alipay** from your app store (the blue icon). Choose to register with your own mobile number; you'll get a text code.
- 2 Open *Me* (or *Account*) and switch the language to English if it isn't already.
- 3 Go to *Bank Cards* → *Add a card* and enter a Visa, Mastercard, JCB or other international card in your own name.
- 4 Complete identity verification: enter your passport details and upload a photo of the photo page. It is usually approved within minutes, sometimes a day.
- 5 Set a 6-digit payment password. You'll use it, or Face ID, to confirm payments.
- 6 Find *Transport / Metro* inside the app and add the code for the cities you'll visit, so you can tap through metro gates.

WECHAT PAY 微信支付

- 1 Install **WeChat** (the green icon) and sign up with your mobile number. New accounts sometimes need a friend who already uses WeChat to confirm you; do this at home.
- 2 Go to *Me* → *Services* → *Wallet* → *Cards* and add a **different** card from the one in Alipay.
- 3 Verify your name and passport when asked.

PAYING IN A SHOP

- They scan you: open Alipay → *Pay* and show the barcode.
- You scan them: tap *Scan*, point at the QR code on the counter, type the amount, show the cashier the confirmation screen.

IF A PAYMENT IS DECLINED

Try the other app or the other card, then cash. Large amounts can trigger your bank's fraud check: approve it in your banking app and try again.

Real-name tickets: your passport is your ticket

- Trains, flights and many museums and palaces sell tickets by name and passport number. Enter your name exactly as it appears in the passport's machine-readable line.
 - You show the **same passport** at the station gate or museum entrance; there is usually nothing to print.
- Book for each traveller separately, with their own passport number, including children.
- Foreign passports can't use the automatic ID gates at most stations: use the staffed lane, and allow extra time.

NOTES

COUNTDOWN

Your trip, counted down

Everything to do before you fly, dated for your trip. Tick it off as you go.

30 DAYS BEFORE · TUE 13 OCT

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Check your passport is valid 6+ months beyond your trip and has 2 blank pages | ☐ Buy travel insurance that covers medical treatment abroad |
| ☐ Confirm your entry rules (Chapter One) and apply for a visa now if you need one | ☐ Book international flights and your first hotel |

21 DAYS BEFORE · THU 22 OCT

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Install Alipay and WeChat, add a card and verify your identity | ☐ Check your phone supports eSIM, choose a plan |
| | ☐ Tell your bank you'll use your card in China |

15 DAYS BEFORE · WED 28 OCT

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Train tickets usually go on sale about 15 days ahead: book the trains in Chapter Two | ☐ Book domestic flights |
|---|--|

7 DAYS BEFORE · THU 5 NOV

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Book the timed sights below the day each release opens | ☐ Jingshan Park: Book from Fri 6 Nov for Fri 13 Nov |
| ☐ Download offline Chinese in your translator app and an offline map | ☐ Temple of Heaven: Book from Sat 7 Nov for Sat 14 Nov |
| ☐ Print this guide or save the PDF on your phone | ☐ Lama Temple (Yonghegong): Book from Sat 7 Nov for Sat 14 Nov |
| ☐ Tiananmen Square: Book from Fri 6 Nov for Fri 13 Nov | |

3 DAYS BEFORE · MON 9 NOV

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Install the eSIM over Wi-Fi (switch it on when you land) | ☐ Save your embassy's 24-hour number and your hotel addresses offline |
| ☐ Check the weather and adjust your packing (Pocket Toolkit) | |

THE DAY BEFORE · WED 11 NOV

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Charge your power bank (in carry-on, rating printed on it) | ☐ Keep passports, cards and some cash together |
| | ☐ Screenshot your hotel's Chinese address card |



02

CHAPTER TWO

Your Route

Beijing → Shanghai: 1 train between cities, so you don't lose a day travelling.

CITIES	BETWEEN CITIES	HOTEL CHANGES
2	1 train	1

AT A GLANCE

5 days on one page



DAY	DATE	WHERE	HIGHLIGHTS
1	Thu 12 Nov	Beijing	Wangfujing Street
2	Fri 13 Nov	Beijing	Tiananmen Square · Forbidden City (Palace Museum) · Jingshan Park
3	Sat 14 Nov	Beijing	Temple of Heaven · Lama Temple (Yonghegong) · Nantuoquxiang · Shichahai (Houhai)
4	Sun 15 Nov	→ Shanghai	Yu Garden · City God Temple of Shanghai · The Bund
5	Mon 16 Nov	Shanghai	Jing'an Temple

Beijing → Shanghai by high-speed train

China's bullet trains are fast, punctual and comfortable. This leg is about 1086 km as the crow flies; the fastest trains take roughly 5–8 hours. Exact times and fares change by season, so check the live timetable.

- 1 Book online (the QR code below, or the official 12306 app) with every traveller's passport number. Your passport *is* your ticket; there's nothing to print. Sales open about 15 days ahead.
- 2 Arrive 45–60 minutes early. Big stations have a security check, then a passport check at the gate (use the manual lane for foreign passports).
- 3 Find your gate on the departure boards by train number. Boarding closes 5 minutes before departure.
- 4 On board there's hot water, a dining car and power sockets. Big suitcases go at the end of the carriage.

BOOK THIS TRAIN

Beijing → Shanghai · Sun 15 Nov

Choose a morning train so you arrive with the afternoon free. First class gives two seats side by side and more legroom.

SEE TRAINS & BOOK



Stations & airports

WHERE	CHINESE	NOTES
Beijing South Railway Station	北京南站	Main high-speed hub for Shanghai, Tianjin and Jinan; metro Lines 4 and 14.
Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station	上海虹桥站	Main high-speed hub for Beijing, Hangzhou, and Suzhou; connected to Hongqiao Airport and Metro Lines 2/10/17; allow 30 min for security.



NOTES

Riding China's bullet trains

Fast, smooth and on time. The system is easy once you know the rhythm of a Chinese station.

WHICH CLASS?

CLASS	SEATS PER ROW	FOR YOU IF...
Second 二等座	5 (A B C · D F)	You want good value; perfectly comfortable
First 一等座	4 (A C · D F)	You want more legroom and a quieter carriage
Business 商务座	2-3, lie-flat	You want the best seat on long legs

Window seats are A and F. Travelling as two in second class? Ask for D and F, together on the two-seat side.

YOUR TICKET

Your passport is the ticket. The booking shows the train number (G, D or C followed by digits), carriage 车厢 and seat 座位.

AT THE STATION

- 1 Arrive 45–60 minutes early. Big stations are airport-sized.
- 2 Security at the entrance: passport check, then bags through the scanner.
- 3 Find your train number on the departure boards; they show the waiting area and gate 检票口.
- 4 Gates usually open about 15–20 minutes before departure and close a few minutes before. Use the staffed lane with your passport.
- 5 On the platform, stand at your carriage number, painted on the ground.

ON BOARD

Hot water for tea and instant noodles, a dining car, power sockets at most seats. Big suitcases go in the racks at the end of each carriage.

NOTES



03

CHAPTER THREE · DAYS 1-3

Beijing 北京

Beijing rewards first-time visitors with imperial scale and everyday texture in equal measure. Three unhurried days give you the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven, plus hutong lanes, courtyard cooking and enough vegetarian choice to keep both of you happy.

NIGHTS

3

BASE

Wangfujing

BEST MONTHS

September–October (also April–May)

Your Beijing map



Red: sights on your itinerary · Gold: your hotel area. Day trips further out are listed below.

MAP KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Wangfujing Street: Day 1 · Evening | 2 Tiananmen Square: Day 2 · Sunrise |
| 3 Forbidden City (Palace Museum): Day 2 · Early morning | 4 Jingshan Park: Day 2 · Sunset |
| 5 Temple of Heaven: Day 3 · Early morning | 6 Lama Temple (Yonghegong): Day 3 · Morning |
| 7 Nantuoqiang: Day 3 · Weekday morning | 8 Shichahai (Houhai): Day 3 · Late afternoon to evening |
| 9 Novotel Beijing Peace: Your hotel | |

NOTES



Wangfujing Street 王府井大街 DAY 1

Wangfujing Street is one of Beijing's best-known commercial addresses, set in the central part of the city and often called "China's First Street." Its story reaches back to the 13th century, and its name is tied to a notably sweet well on the street. Trade here began in the middle and late Ming period; by 1903 Dong'an Market had opened on a former drill ground, and banks and shops serving foreign visitors helped the area become a true commercial street.

After 1949 the street gained Beijing's first state-run general department store, the Wangfujing Department Store, and well-known old firms moved in from cities such as Tianjin and Shanghai. Later renewal brought new Dong'an Market in 1993 and a major makeover completed in 1999. Today the district covers about 1.65 square kilometres and mixes department stores, office towers, hotels, restaurants and long-established specialist shops.

Visitors come for the pedestrian street, with its broad red-granite surface and underground utilities, plus malls such as Wangfujing Department Store, Beijing apm and Dong'an Market. The snack street offers regional snacks, souvenirs and folk crafts, while the Roman-style Wangfujing Catholic Church gives the busy district a quieter architectural counterpoint.

CHINESE NAME

王府井大街

ADDRESS

东城区王府井大街

TICKET

Free

METRO

Line 8 to Jinyu Hutong 金鱼胡同, exit A, 2 min walk

BEST TIME

Evening

ALLOW

1.5 hours

DON'T MISS

- Wangfujing snack street for regional snacks and crafts
- Wangfujing Catholic Church, a Roman-style landmark
- Dong'an Market and Wangfujing Department Store
- Old-brand shops such as Shengxifu and Donglaishun
- Pedestrian main street with red granite paving

Visiting tip: Allow about two hours for a relaxed walk, as the pages suggest. The pedestrian section is easy to explore on foot; use the seats and bins along the main street, and look for signs if you need directions. Combine shopping with a snack-street stop and a church visit.

NOTES



Tiananmen Square 天安门广场 DAY 2

Tiananmen Square lies at the heart of Beijing, on East Chang'an Avenue in Dongcheng District. It runs from Tiananmen Gate in the north to Zhengyang Gate in the south, with the National Museum of China to the east and the Great Hall of the People to the west. It measures 880 metres north to south and 500 metres east to west, covers 440,000 square metres and can hold a million people at a grand gathering, making it the largest city square in the world.

Under the Ming and Qing emperors this ground was enclosed and barred to ordinary residents. In modern times it witnessed the May Fourth, December

CHINESE NAME

天安门广场

ADDRESS

东城区长安街

TICKET

Free

HOURS

Timed entry slots from about

The full page is in your own guide



Forbidden City (Palace Museum) 故宫博物院 DAY 2

The Palace Museum is a distinctive museum housed in the former imperial palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties, known to many as the Forbidden City. Founded in 1925, it opened the gates of a royal residence that had witnessed six centuries of change. Its palace complex is described as the world's largest and best-preserved group of wooden palace buildings, and it stands as a source of pride for the Chinese nation and a precious cultural heritage for all people.

The museum holds more than 1.8 million pieces and sets of artworks and artifacts, many inherited from the Qing imperial household. Its collections

CHINESE NAME

故宫博物院

ADDRESS

东城区景山前街4号

TICKET

¥60

TICKET NOTE

¥60 Apr-Oct, ¥40 Nov-Mar;

Forbidden City Museum

The full page is in your own guide



Jingshan Park 景山公園 DAY 2

Jingshan Park sits at the very centre of Beijing's north-south axis in Xicheng District, on ground that served as the imperial rear garden

CHINESE NAME
景山公園

The full page is in your own guide



Temple of Heaven 天坛公园 DAY 3

The Temple of Heaven is the Ming and Qing imperial complex in Beijing for ceremonies honouring heaven and praying for good harvests. It was built in 1420 and lies east of Zhengyangmen in Dongcheng District. Its plan is rich in symbolism: the northern part is round, the southern part square, expressing the traditional idea of a round heaven and a square earth. Two enclosing walls create an inner and outer altar across a site of 273 hectares, with the principal buildings in the inner altar.

The inner altar is divided into two ceremonial zones. In the north, the Altar of Prayer for Grain centres on the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, used in

CHINESE NAME

天坛公园

ADDRESS

东城区天坛东里甲1号

TICKET

¥34

TICKET NOTE

Combo ¥34 covers Hall of

Prayer for Grain, Hall of Prayer for

The full page is in your own guide



Lama Temple (Yonghegong) 雍和宫 DAY 3

In the north-east corner of Beijing, inside the second ring road, stands the Lama Temple, or Yonghegong, the city's largest temple of Tibetan Buddhist teaching. Its halls began under the Kangxi emperor as the residence of Prince Yinzheng before he took the throne, and the Qianlong emperor was born and grew up here. In 1725 the family compound was raised to an imperial palace, and in 1744 it was turned into a Gelug school monastery. Later emperors gave it a religious mission and a political one, as a channel between the court and the Mongol and Tibetan regions.

The buildings run south to north in five courtyards, some twenty timber halls

CHINESE NAME

雍和宫

ADDRESS

东城区雍和宫大街12号

TICKET

¥25

HOURS

09:00-16:30, last entry 16:00

The full page is in your own guide



Nanluoguxiang 南锣鼓巷 DAY 3

Nanluoguxiang is one of Beijing's oldest quarters, laid out at the same time as the Yuan dynasty capital and still following its original plan. It is the only traditional residential district in China to keep its Yuan-era network of hutongs and courtyards intact, and the largest and most distinguished of the chessboard-shaped neighbourhoods that survive. The lane runs north to south for 786 metres, eight metres wide, with eight alleys branching off on each side in a fishbone pattern. Locals liken the shape to a centipede, and old stories tell of two wells at the northern end that served as its eyes.

The name has changed over time: the hump-backed rise of the land earned it

CHINESE NAME

南锣鼓巷

ADDRESS

东城区南锣鼓巷

TICKET

Free

METRO

Line 6/8 to Nanluogu Xiang 南锣鼓巷

The full page is in your own guide



Shichahai (Houhai) 什刹海 DAY 3

Shichahai, with Houhai as its largest lake, is a linked trio of waters in Xicheng: Qianhai, Houhai and Xihai. Its recorded story reaches back to

CHINESE NAME
什刹海

The full page is in your own guide

Where to stay: Wangfujing

Wangfujing puts you within walking distance of Tiananmen and the Forbidden City, and on a straight metro ride to the temples and hutongs in the north. Evenings are easy here, with food halls, bookshops and a lit pedestrian street on the doorstep.

LUXURY

The Peninsula Beijing

北京王府半岛酒店

A Beijing landmark a block from Wangfujing, with large suites, a superb Chinese restaurant and impeccable service. Ideal for a first visit to the city centre.

≈ ¥2200–4000 / night

OUR PICK FOR YOU

COMFORT

Novotel Beijing Peace

北京诺福特和平宾馆

A dependable international four-star tucked behind Wangfujing, walkable to the Forbidden City and subway. Rooms are plain but spacious, and foreign guests are routine here.

≈ ¥600–800 / night

VALUE

Jinjiang Inn Beijing Qianmen

锦江之星北京前门酒店

A reliable Chinese budget chain with simple, tidy rooms within walking distance of Qianmen and the Dashilan hutongs. One of the cheapest ways to stay in the historic centre.

≈ ¥300–450 / night

CHECK PRICES FOR YOUR DATES

Hotels in Wangfujing · 12 – 14 Nov 2026

SEE AVAILABILITY



Getting around Beijing

MODE	USE IT FOR	COST	TIP
Metro	most trips, especially across the city	¥3–9 depending on distance	Buy a Yikatong card or use Alipay/WeChat metro QR; bags are scanned at every station.
Taxi / Didi	late nights, luggage, destinations off the metro	flagfall ¥13; typical cross-town ¥40–80	Use Didi in the app; taxi drivers rarely speak English, so show the Chinese address.
Shared bike	short hops in hutongs and along riverside paths	about ¥1.5 per 15 min via app	Use marked bike lanes and avoid riding on major ring roads.
Bus	local routes and areas off the metro	¥2–3	Use Amap or Baidu Maps for routes; some buses have English announcements.

Getting into Beijing

Your options from the airports and main railway stations. Times and prices are typical; for a late arrival with luggage, a taxi or Didi from the official rank is simplest.

ARRIVING AT	CHINESE	INTO THE CENTRE
Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK)	北京首都国际机场	Capital Airport Express (首都机场线) from T3/T2 to Sanyuanguiao, Dongzhimen and Baidagjiao; flat ¥25, no free transfer to other lines; taxi to central hotels typically 40–60 min.
Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX)	北京大兴国际机场	Daxing Airport Express (大兴机场线) to Caojiao, about 20 min, ordinary class ¥35 (business ¥50), roughly 06:00–22:30; then metro Line 19 (about 50 min to Tiananmen). Taxi about 1 hour and roughly ¥200 by day, night surcharge applies. Airport bus ¥40.
Beijing South Railway Station	北京南站	Main high-speed hub for Shanghai, Tianjin and Jinan; metro Lines 4 and 14.
Beijing West Railway Station	北京西站	High-speed trains to Xi'an, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Hong Kong; metro Lines 7 and 9.
Beijing Railway Station	北京站	Older central station for conventional and some northeast trains; metro Line 2.
Beijing North Railway Station	北京北站	Trains to Badaling Great Wall and Zhangjiakou; metro Lines 2, 4 and 13.
Beijing Chaoyang Railway Station	北京朝阳站	High-speed trains to Shenyang, Harbin and northeast China; less central, so allow extra time.
Qinghe Railway Station	清河站	High-speed trains to Badaling/Zhangjiakou and Inner Mongolia; metro Lines 13 and 19.

TAXIS AT AIRPORTS AND STATIONS

Use the official taxi queue or Didi pick-up point and ignore drivers who approach you inside the terminal. Show the driver your hotel's address card from the Pocket Toolkit.

Good to know in Beijing

- All Beijing subway lines, including the airport lines and the S2 line to Badaling, accept contactless Visa and Mastercard tapped directly at the gates (since 16 June 2025). Alipay/WeChat transport QR codes and UnionPay also work.
- Alipay accepts Visa, Mastercard, JCB, Discover and Diners cards. Payments under ¥200 carry no Alipay service fee; payments of ¥200 or more carry a 3% fee. Verify your passport in the app to raise limits (about US\$5,000 per transaction, US\$50,000 per year).
- Didi works in English, either in the Didi app or as a mini-program inside Alipay, and takes Visa/Mastercard. At airports and stations, walk to the signed ride-hailing pickup area (网约车) before ordering.
A travel eSIM or your home SIM on roaming routes data through a foreign network, so Google, WhatsApp and Instagram work without a VPN. A Chinese local SIM or hotel Wi-Fi does not reach these services. Travel eSIMs are data-only and cannot receive Chinese SMS codes, so keep your home SIM active for verification texts.
- As of May 2026 citizens of 50 countries can enter China visa-free unilaterally and travellers from 55 countries qualify for 240-hour visa-free transit; in early May 2026 three quarters of foreign arrivals in Beijing used visa-free entry. Check [data/rules/visa.json](#) and the National Immigration Administration before booking.



01 Arrival and Wangfujing evening

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER

15:00	Arrive and transfer to hotel. Land, clear passport checks and take the airport express or a taxi into the centre. Keep the afternoon loose and drink plenty of water rather than chasing a sightseeing stop.
16:00	Check in and settle. Unpack, test the shower and let the room cool down. Ask the front desk to write your hotel name in Chinese for taxi drivers, and confirm tomorrow's early start before you go out. <i>Walk about 5 min (0.5 km)</i>
17:30	Wangfujing Street 王府井大街. Walk the length of the pedestrian street as the lights come on, dipping into the department stores and the bookshop. It is an easy first taste of the city's evening rhythm without committing to a long excursion. Free - Metro B Jinyu Hutong, exit A
Eat	Dinner at Donglaishun (Wangfujing) introduces Beijing mutton hotpot; the clear broth, tofu, mushroom and vegetable platters let the vegetarian at the table eat properly alongside the lamb. Donglaishun (Wangfujing) 东来顺饭庄(王府井店) VIEW ON <i>Back to your hotel. Walk about 5 min (0.5 km)</i>

TODAY'S SPEND FOR 2: ≈ ¥200-420 tickets free · food ≈ ¥200-420 · getting-around walking

PLAN B If you are still awake, Qianmen Street and Dashilan give you a restored old shopping quarter with a tram ride, while Sanlitun offers a livelier international bar scene once the evening cools.

INSIDER TIP - SNACK STREET SHORTCUTS

Ignore the novelty skewers on Wangfujing's snack lane; locals head into the attached malls and the side streets behind for noodle shops, dumplings and air-conditioned seating instead.



O2 Imperial Beijing: Tiananmen, Forbidden City

FRIDAY - 13 NOVEMBER

Didi or taxi about 15 min, = ¥15-15 (2 km) - or metro: Line 1 to Tian'anmen East 天安门东, 8 min walk

08:00

Tiananmen Square 天安门广场. Cross the square early, before the tour groups thicken, and look back at the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Carry your passport for the security checks and keep bags light for the queues.

Free · Timed entry slots from about one hour before sunrise (flag raising) until after the flag lowering at sunset · book ahead · Metro 1 Tian'anmen East

Didi or taxi about 15 min, = ¥15-15 (2 km)

09:00

Forbidden City (Palace Museum) 故宫博物院. Work north from the Meridian Gate through the main halls, then slow down in the quieter eastern palaces and garden. Book ahead, keep to the one-way route and allow three unhurried hours.

= ¥60 · 08:30-16:10 last entry (Nov-Mar 15-30) · closed Mon · book ahead

The full page is in your own guide



03 Temple of Heaven, Hutongs, Shichahai

SATURDAY - 14 NOVEMBER

Didi or taxi about 20 min, = ¥20-25 (5 km) - or metro: Line 8 to Tian Qiao 天桥, 14 min walk

08:30

Temple of Heaven 天坛公园. Come early for the park life as much as the architecture: tai chi groups, dancers and card players under the cypresses. Buy the through ticket so the Hall of Prayer is included.
= ¥34 - Park 06:00-22:00; halls 08:00-17:30 last entry - book ahead - Metro 8 Tian Qiao

Didi or taxi about 35 min, = ¥30-35 (10 km) - or metro: Line 2/5 to Yonghegong Lama Temple 雍和宫, exit F, 1 min walk

11:30

Lama Temple (Yonghegong) 雍和宫. Follow the courtyards north to the towering sandalwood Maitreya, watching how local worshippers use the halls rather than treating it purely as a museum. The Confucius Temple next door is a calm contrast.
= ¥25 - 09:00-16:30; last entry 16:00 - book ahead - Metro 2/5 Yonghegong Lama Temple, exit F

Didi or taxi about 15 min, = ¥15-15 (2 km) - or metro: Line 6/8 to Nanluogu Xiang 南锣鼓巷, exit F, 1 min walk

The full page is in your own guide

What to eat

Beijing cooking is robust and wheat-heavy: hand-pulled noodles, dumplings, sesame pastries and copper-pot hotpot. Vegetarians fare well in Buddhist and modern kitchens, and clear-broth hotpot is easily shared.

北京烤鸭

Běijīng kǎoyā

Peking duck

Crisp skin with pancakes, scallion and sweet bean sauce.

炸酱面

zhàjiāngmiàn

Zhajang noodles

Wheat noodles with fermented soybean sauce and pork.

爆肚

bàodǔ

Quick-boiled tripe

Tripe dipped in sesame sauce, a classic snack.

卤煮火烧

lǔzhǔ huǒshāo

Luzhu huoshao

Pork offal and tofu stew with baked wheat cake.

炒肝

chǎogān

Chaogan

Thick pork-liver and intestine soup.

豌豆黄

wāndòuhuáng

Pea-flour cake

Chilled, mildly sweet pea-flour cake.

VEG



NOTES

POINT TO ORDER

Show this to your waiter

Point at a dish and say *wǒ yào zhège* 我要这个 ("I'd like this one"). Vegetarian? Point at the line at the bottom first.



北京烤鸭

Peking duck



炸酱面

Zhaijiang noodles



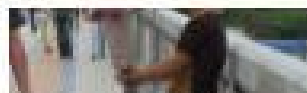
爆肚

Quick-boiled tripe



卤煮火烧

Lu Zhu huoshao



The full page is in your own guide

Where to eat

Siji Minfu Roast Duck (Forbidden City) 四季民福

福佑鸭店(故宫店) **VEG. OK**

BEIJING ROAST DUCK / HOME-STYLE BEIJING · ¥¥ · DONGCHENG (EAST OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY)

Locals' favourite for duck at half the Quanjude price, with a branch a few minutes' walk from the Forbidden City moat. Expect long queues rather than polished service. Order: 烤鸭 (roast duck), 芥末鸭掌, 宫保虾球, 干炸丸子.

Huguosi Snacks (Main Branch) 护国寺小吃(护国寺总店) **VEG. OK**

OLD BEIJING SNACKS · ¥ · HUGUOSI STREET (XICHENG)

A canteen-style institution for Beijing's traditional snacks, from sweet pea-flour cakes to the notorious sour douzhi. Most snacks are vegetarian and clearly displayed at the counter. Order: 豆汁配焦圈 (fermented mung-bean drink with fried rings), 驴打滚, 豌豆黄, 面茶.

King's Joy 京兆尹 **VEG.**

FINE-DINING VEGETARIAN · ¥¥¥ · YONGHEGONG / WUDADYING

Beijing's best-known upscale vegetarian restaurant, with a Michelin star and a courtyard setting beside the Lama Temple. The tasting menus are entirely plant-based and beautifully presented. Order: 松茸汤 (matsutake broth), 仿荤菜 (mock-meat dishes), 时令素点.

Donglaishun (Wangfujing) 东来顺饭庄(王府井店)

VEG. OK

BEIJING MUTTON HOTPOT · ¥¥ · WANGFUJING

A century-old halal house known for paper-thin hand-cut lamb cooked in clear broth in a copper pot. The clear broth and vegetable platters make it easy for vegetarians to eat alongside meat-eaters. Order: 手切羊肉 (hand-cut mutton), 铜锅涮肉 (charcoal copper-pot hotpot), 糖蒜 (sweet garlic), 麻酱烧饼.

Kaorouji 烤肉季饭庄 **VEG. OK**

OLD BEIJING / ROAST MEAT · ¥¥ · SHICHANAI

A Qing-era restaurant on the shore of Houhai where waiters still grill marinated lamb at the table. The lakeside setting makes it a good stop after a hutong walk. Order: 烤羊肉 (pan-roasted mutton), 芝麻烧饼, 它似蜜.

Da Dong Roast Duck (Tuanjiehu) 大董烤鸭店(团结湖店) **VEG. OK**

BEIJING ROAST DUCK / MODERN CHINESE · ¥¥¥ · TUANJIehu (CHAQYANG)

Da Dong's signature is a leaner, extra-crisp duck served in a polished modern dining room. It is pricier than the old state restaurants but consistently good and has plenty of vegetable and tofu dishes. Order: 酥不腻烤鸭 (crisp low-fat duck), 意境菜 tasting plates, 海参 dishes.

HOW ORDERING WORKS

- Many restaurants use QR-code ordering: scan the code on the table with Alipay or WeChat and translate the picture menu with your camera.
- Dishes are shared; for two people order 3 dishes plus rice or noodles.
- Tea or hot water is often free. Tipping isn't expected.
- Vegetarians: show the phrase card in the Pocket Toolkit. Many vegetable dishes use meat stock, so say *bù yào ròu* clearly.



04

CHAPTER FOUR DAYS 4-5

Shanghai 上海

Shanghai rewards first-time visitors who want history, food and architecture in one walkable, river-facing city. The old town, Bund and former concessions give a clear introduction, while vegetarian kitchens make eating well easy for both of you.

NIGHTS

1

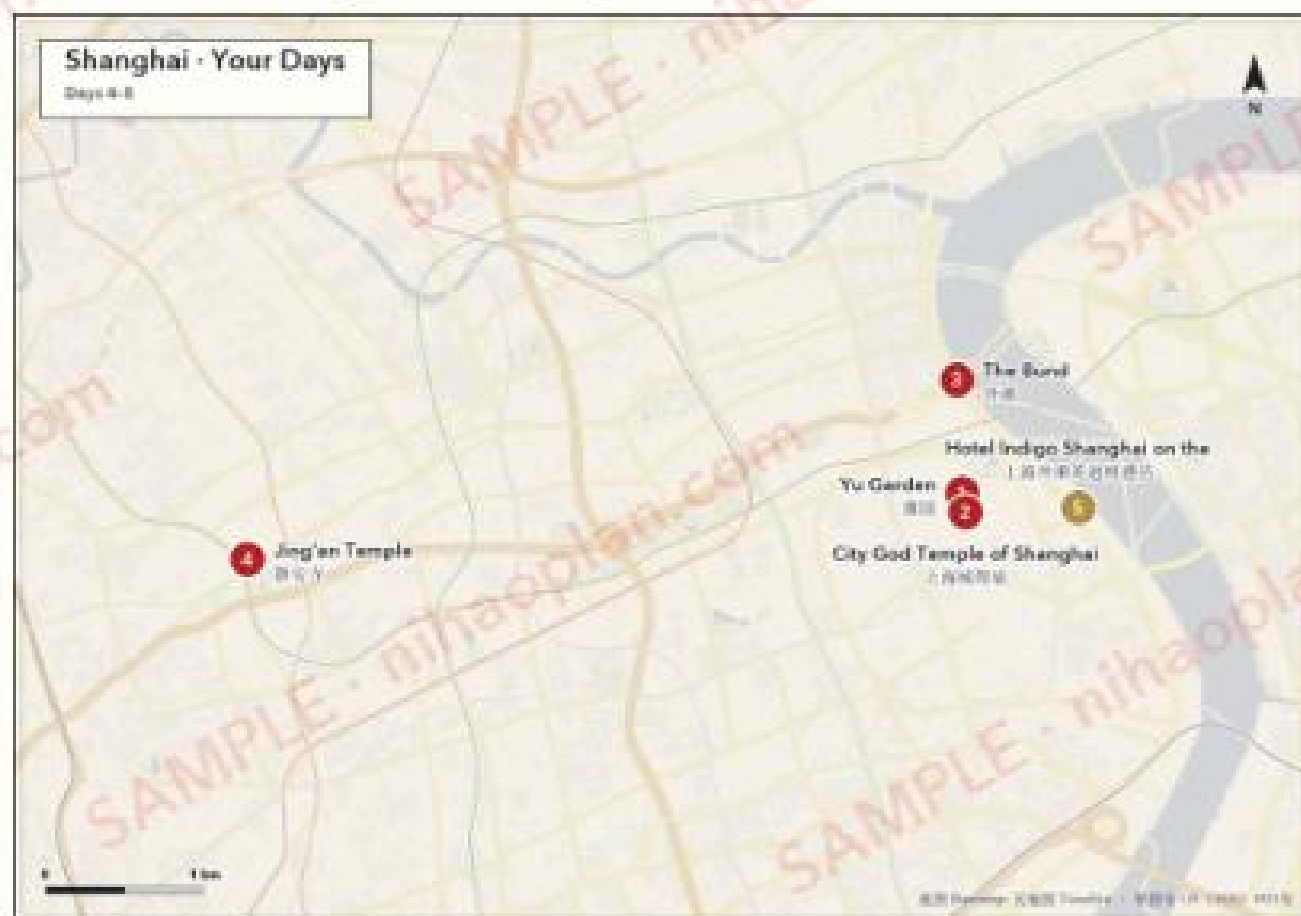
BASE

The Bund / South Bund

BEST MONTHS

Mar-May and Sep-Nov

Your Shanghai map



Red: sights on your itinerary · Gold: your hotel area. Day trips further out are listed below.

MAP KEY

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Yu Garden: Day 4 · Weekday right at opening | 2 City God Temple of Shanghai: Day 4 · Morning, then snack in the bazaar |
| 3 The Bund: Day 4 · Sunset into evening when both skylines are lit | 4 Jing'an Temple: Day 5 · Morning; also striking lit up at night |
| 5 Hotel Indigo Shanghai on the Bund: Your hotel | |

NOTES



Yu Garden 豫园 DAY 4

Yu Garden lies in Huangpu District, in the northeast of Shanghai's old city, with Yuyuan Bazaar and the City God Temple just to its southwest. It is a classical Jiangnan garden, a national key cultural relic protection unit and a 4A-rated scenic area, and for many travellers it is the most convenient of China's great southern gardens to reach.

Pan Yunduan, a Shanghai native who had served as Sichuan's provincial administration commissioner, began work in 1559 on vegetable plots beside the family home, wanting his father, Pan En, to enjoy an easy old age. The

CHINESE NAME

豫园

ADDRESS

黄浦区安仁街218号

TICKET

¥ 40

HOURS

The full page is in your own guide

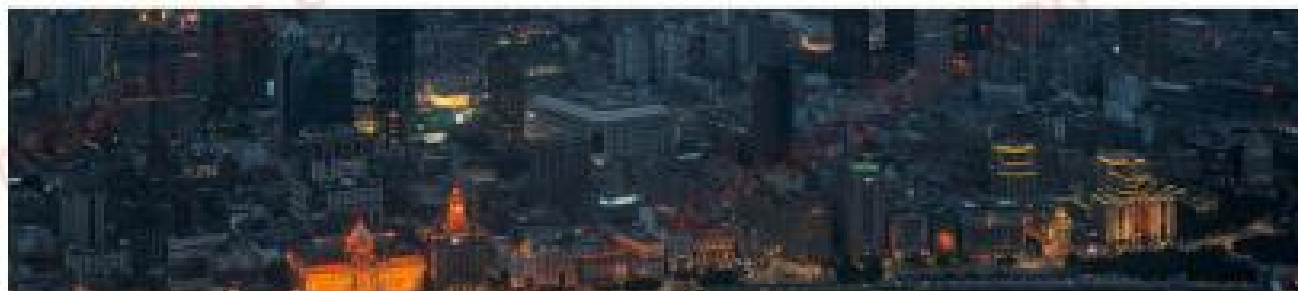


City God Temple of Shanghai 上海城隍庙 DAY 4

The City God Temple, or Chenghuangmiao, stands on Fangbang Middle Road in Huangpu district, in the old-town quarter just south of

CHINESE NAME
上海城隍庙

The full page is in your own guide



The Bund 外滩 DAY 4

The Bund is a waterfront district in Shanghai's Huangpu District, running for about 1.5 kilometres along the west bank of the Huangpu River. It is one of China's most significant urban ensembles and a revealing record of the city's development. Its long row of buildings gathers many architectural styles into a single, memorable streetscape. The historic area covers roughly 101 hectares and is widely regarded as the starting point of modern Shanghai's urban history.

Walking here, you see 52 classical-style buildings of varied design, often known as the Bund's international architecture exhibition. Many were built as

CHINESE NAME

外滩

ADDRESS

黄浦区中山东一路

TICKET

Free

TICKET NOTE

Free: the riverside viewing

The full page is in your own guide



Jing'an Temple 静安寺 DAY 5

Jing'an Temple stands at 1686 Nanjing West Road, in the middle of one of Shanghai's busiest commercial quarters, where tall buildings crowd around a walled complex of halls, towers and courtyards. It is among the earliest Buddhist temples in the Shanghai area. Tradition places its founding in 247, when it was known as Huchong Chongyuan Temple and stood on the north bank of the Wusong River; it received the name Jing'an in 1008. In 1216 the abbot Zhongyi moved it away from the crumbling riverbank to where it now stands, and the surrounding district still carries its name.

The temple has been damaged and rebuilt repeatedly over the centuries. Its most recent large reconstruction began in 1998 and took Song-dynasty building methods as its model, which shows in the ridge ornaments, the overhanging eaves and the bracket sets, in roofs of yellow and dark grey copper tile, and in structural timber brought from Myanmar. The main hall is fitted together with mortise-and-

CHINESE NAME

静安寺

ADDRESS

静安区南京西路1686号

TICKET

= ¥50

TICKET NOTE

50 CNY per person, includes the incense coupon (香花券) and is non-refundable after purchase; students and seniors

The full page is in your own guide

Where to stay: The Bund / South Bund

The Bund and South Bund put the river, old city and ferry crossings within an easy stroll, so a balanced first trip needs less transit. You can start with Yu Garden, drift to the waterfront and return for dinner without crossing the city.

LUXURY

The Peninsula Shanghai

上海半岛酒店

The most polished address on the Bund, with river-view rooms, a rooftop bar and impeccable service; a short walk from Nanjing East Road.

≈ ¥2,800–5,500 / night

OUR PICK FOR YOU

COMFORT

Hotel Indigo Shanghai on the Bund

上海外滩英迪格酒店

Design-led hotel with some of the best river views in the city and a popular rooftop bar; good value for a Bund location.

≈ ¥800–1,300 / night

VALUE

Jinjiang Inn (Shanghai People's Square)

锦江之星 (上海人民广场店)

Branch of China's most dependable budget chain, right in the centre near Nanjing East Road and the metro; simple, safe and used to foreign travellers.

≈ ¥250–400 / night

CHECK PRICES FOR YOUR DATES

Hotels in The Bund / South Bund • 15 – 16 Nov 2026

SEE AVAILABILITY



Getting around Shanghai

MODE	USE IT FOR	COST	TIP
Metro	Most city trips and airport/rail links	¥3–6 typical; ¥8–15 airport trips	Use a transit QR code in Alipay/WeChat or a Shanghai Public Transport Card; every station X-rays bags.
Taxi / Didi	Late nights, luggage, and direct trips	Flagfall ¥16 for 3 km, then about ¥2.7/km; cross-town ¥50–100	Use Didi in English and match the plate; show the destination in Chinese.
Bike share	Short hops in the former French Concession and along the Bund	About ¥1.5–2 per 15 min	Use Meituan/HelloBike via Alipay; park only in marked bike zones.
Bus	Local routes and cheap scenic rides	¥2 flat	Board at the front and tap a transit QR/card; stops are in Chinese, so use a map app.

Getting into Shanghai

Your options from the airports and main railway stations. Times and prices are typical; for a late arrival with luggage, a taxi or Didi from the official rank is simplest.

ARRIVING AT	CHINESE	INTO THE CENTRE
Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)	上海浦东国际机场	Maglev to Longyang Road in about 8 min (¥50 one way, ¥80 return within 7 days; roughly 07:00–21:40 from the airport), then metro Line 2 into town; or metro Line 2 all the way (about 70 min). Taxi 45–60 min.
Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA)	上海虹桥国际机场	Metro Line 2 or 10 to the centre in about 35–40 min; Hongqiao Railway Station (high-speed trains) is next door. Taxi 30–40 min.
Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station	上海虹桥站	Main high-speed hub for Beijing, Hangzhou, and Suzhou; connected to Hongqiao Airport and Metro Lines 2/10/17; allow 30 min for security.
Shanghai Railway Station	上海站	Central-north station for conventional and some high-speed trains; Metro Lines 1/3/4; busy at rush hour.
Shanghai South Railway Station	上海南站	South station for slower and regional trains; Metro Lines 1/3/15; less useful for most tourists.

TAXIS AT AIRPORTS AND STATIONS

Use the official taxi queue or Didi pick-up point and ignore drivers who approach you inside the terminal. Show the driver your hotel's address card from the Pocket Toolkit.

Good to know in Shanghai

- Shanghai Metro gates accept contactless Visa cards on 21 lines and 517 stations (Visa tap-to-ride); Alipay/WeChat metro QR codes also work.
 - Alipay accepts Visa, Mastercard, JCB, Discover and Diners cards. Payments under ¥200 carry no Alipay service fee; payments of ¥200 or more carry a 3% fee. Verify your passport in the app to raise limits.
- A travel eSIM or home SIM on roaming reaches Google, WhatsApp and Instagram without a VPN; a Chinese SIM or hotel Wi-Fi does not. Keep your home SIM active for SMS codes.

NOTES



04 Old Town, Bund & First Evening

SUNDAY - 15 NOVEMBER

11:30	Morning train into Shanghai; transfer to hotel. Arrive on the morning train and take the metro or a taxi to your Bund-area hotel, allowing time to settle after the journey and orient yourself with a map of the old city.
12:15	Check in and drop bags. Check in, drop bags and ask the desk for a simple walking route through the old town; keep valuables light before the afternoon's crowded lanes and temple courtyards.
12:30	Vegetarian lunch near Yu Garden. Ease into Shanghai with a vegetarian lunch near Yu Garden, choosing steamed buns, noodles or tofu dishes; this keeps the afternoon flexible before the garden and temple visits. <i>Walk about 15 min (1.0 km)</i>
13:30	Yu Garden. Enter Yu Garden for its monkeys, kni ponds and dragon walls, then stroll down in the

The full page is in your own guide



05 Jing'an Temple & Early Departure

MONDAY - 16 NOVEMBER

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 08:30 | <p>Check out and store luggage. Check out and leave luggage with the hotel, packing a small day bag for Jing'an. Confirm your onward train details and allow a comfortable buffer for the metro ride across town.</p> <p><i>Didi or taxi about 25 min, = ¥20-25 (7 km) - or metro: Line 14/2/7 to Jing'an Temple 静安寺, exit 1, 1 min walk</i></p> |
| 09:00 | <p>Jing'an Temple 静安寺. See Jing'an Temple's gold roofs and quiet halls early, before the office crowds fill the surrounding streets. Circle the courtyards slowly, then look back from the pavement for the contrast of temple and towers.</p> <p>= ¥50 · 07:30-17:00 · book ahead · Metro 14/2/7 Jing'an Temple, exit 1</p> |
| 10:15 | <p>Metro to Jing'an for lunch. Take the metro to Jing'an for lunch, using the ride to rest and repack your bags mentally. The station area is busy, so follow signs carefully and keep the meal stop simple.</p> |

The full page is in your own guide

What to eat

Shanghai food is sweet-savoury Jiangnan cooking, with soup dumplings, scallion noodles and river fish. Vegetarians fare well in Buddhist kitchens and specialist houses, where tofu and mushrooms are treated with real care.

小笼包

xiǎo lóng bāo

Soup dumplings

Pork soup dumplings; lift with a spoon to avoid burning.

生煎包

shēng jiān bāo

Pan-fried pork buns

Crisp bottom, juicy pork filling.

红烧肉

hóng shāo ròu

Red-braised pork belly

Sweet soy-braised pork belly; rich and sticky.

葱油拌面

cōng yóu bàn miàn

Scallion oil noodles

Simple scallion-oil noodles; ask for no shrimp if vegetarian. **VEG**

四喜烤麸

sì xǐ kǎo fū

Braised wheat gluten

Wheat gluten with mushrooms and peanuts; usually vegetarian. **VEG**

素鸡

sù jī

Braised vegetarian chicken

Soybean roll braised in sweet soy; a vegetarian "chicken." **VEG**



NOTES

POINT TO ORDER

Show this to your waiter

Point at a dish and say *wǒ yào zhège* 我要这个 ("I'd like this one"). Vegetarian? Point at the line at the bottom first.



小笼包

Soup dumplings



生煎包

Pan-fried pork buns



红烧肉

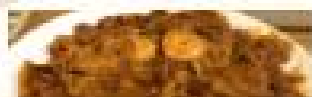
Red-braised pork belly



葱油拌面

Scallion oil noodles

VEG



The full page is in your own guide

Where to eat

Godly Vegetarian Restaurant 功德林 VEG

BUDDHIST VEGETARIAN · 11 · PEOPLE'S SQUARE / NANJING WEST ROAD

A Buddhist vegetarian house founded in 1922, still the classic address for mock-meat Shanghai cooking. Popular with local families and temple-goers. Order: Vegetarian 'lion's head'; mock crab with roe; mushroom noodles.

Chunfeng Songyue Lou 春风松月楼 VEG

BUDDHIST VEGETARIAN (NOODLES AND BUNS) · 11 · YU GARDEN / CITY GOD TEMPLE

One of Shanghai's oldest vegetarian restaurants (founded 1910), tucked in the City God Temple bazaar. Excellent cheap vegetarian lunch after sightseeing. Order: Vegetarian noodle soups; mushroom buns; mock-meat stir-fries.

Jujube Tree (Zao Zi Shu) 枣子树 VEG

CHINESE VEGETARIAN · 11 · JING'AN (FENGXIAN ROAD)

A long-running, relaxed vegetarian restaurant that made meat-free Chinese cooking mainstream in Shanghai. Big menu, English-friendly, good for groups. Order: Mock-meat dishes; vegetarian dumplings; mushroom casseroles.

Lost Heaven on the Bund 花马天堂 (外滩店) VEG OK

YUNNAN · 1111 · THE BUND

Atmospheric, lantern-lit Yunnan restaurant near the Bund with plenty of meat-free dishes — mushrooms, salads and rice noodles. Good for a stylish dinner without a tasting-menu price. Order: Banana flower salad; Yunnan wild mushrooms; cold rice noodles; grilled fish.

Old Jesse 老吉士 VEG OK

HOME-STYLE SHANGHAINESE · 1111 · FRENCH CONCESSION (TIANPING ROAD)

Cramped, noisy and beloved — Shanghai's most famous small benbang kitchen, with a menu of home-style classics. Vegetable dishes are plentiful and simply cooked. Order: Red-braised pork; fried river shrimp; scallion oil noodles; stir-fried greens.

Fu He Hui 福和慧 VEG

FINE-DINING VEGETARIAN (CHINESE) · 11111 · JING'AN (YUYUAN ROAD)

Shanghai's landmark vegetarian fine-dining room, with a Michelin star and quiet, tea-house atmosphere. Fully plant-based tasting menus only. Order: Seasonal set menus; mushroom courses; tea pairings.

HOW ORDERING WORKS

- Many restaurants use QR-code ordering: scan the code on the table with Alipay or WeChat and translate the picture menu with your camera.
- Dishes are shared; for two people order 3 dishes plus rice or noodles.
- Tea or hot water is often free. Tipping isn't expected.
- Vegetarians: show the phrase card in the Pocket Toolkit. Many vegetable dishes use meat stock, so say *bú yào ròu* clearly.

Address cards for drivers

Every stop on your trip, in Chinese. Show the card on your phone or cut it out; drivers recognise these at once.

YOUR HOTEL · BEIJING

北京诺富特和平宾馆

北京市东城区金鱼胡同5号

请送我到这儿 · Please take me here

WANGFUJING STREET

王府井大街

东城区王府井大街

Day 1 · Beijing

DONGLAISHUN (WANGFUJING)

东来顺饭庄(王府井店)

北京市东城区王府井大街109号

TIANANMEN SQUARE

天安门广场

北京市东城区

The full page is in your own guide

TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

天坛公园

东城区天坛东里甲1号

Day 3 - Beijing

LAMA TEMPLE (YONGHEGONG)

雍和宫

东城区雍和宫大街12号

Day 3 - Beijing

NANLUOGUXIANG

南锣鼓巷

东城区南锣鼓巷

Day 3 - Beijing

SHICHAHAI (HOUHAI)

什刹海

西城区什刹海

Day 3 - Beijing

KING'S JOY

京兆尹

KAOROUJI

烤肉季饭庄

The full page is in your own guide

CITY GOD TEMPLE OF SHANGHAI

上海城隍庙

黄浦区方浜中路249号

Day 4 - Shanghai

THE BUND

外滩

黄浦区中山东一路

Day 4 - Shanghai

CHUNFENG SONGYUE LOU

春风松月楼

Day 4 - restaurant

LOST HEAVEN ON THE BUND

花马天堂（外滩店）

黄浦区延安东路17号

Day 4 - restaurant

JING'AN TEMPLE

静安寺

GUJUBE TREE (ZAO ZI SHU)

枣子树

The full page is in your own guide

SHANGHAI PUDONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

上海浦东国际机场

国际出发 - Departures, please

Flight home - Mon 16 Nov

Addresses come from public listings. Please compare them with your booking confirmations.

GOOD TO KNOW

Download the offline Chinese pack for your translator app before you fly; it reads menus through the camera.

NOTES

The full page is in your own guide

Point & speak

ENGLISH	CHINESE	PINYIN
I am vegetarian. No meat, no fish.	我吃素，不要肉，不要鱼。	wó chī sù, bú yào ròu, bú yào yú
Hello / Thank you	你好 / 谢谢	nǐ hǎo / xièxiè
How much is this?	这个多少钱?	zhège duōshao qián?
Not spicy, please	请不要辣	qǐng bú yào là
The bill, please	买单	mǎidān
Where is the toilet?	洗手间在哪里?	xǐshǒujiān zài nǎlǐ?
Can I pay with Alipay?	可以用支付宝吗?	kěyǐ yòng zhīfùbǎo ma?
I don't understand	我听不懂	wǒ tīng bù dǒng
Please help me	请帮帮我	qǐng bāngbang wǒ
I'm allergic to ...	我对……过敏	wǒ duì ... guòmǐn

GOOD TO KNOW

Hot water is free almost everywhere in China: a small cup or bottle lets you make tea all day.

NOTES

Emergency

POLICE

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AMBULANCE

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FIRE

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Hospitals with English-speaking staff

CITY	HOSPITAL	PHONE
Beijing	Beijing United Family Hospital 北京和睦家医院 2 Jiangtai Road, Chaoyang	+86 10 5927 7000 24 h: +86 10 5927 7120
Beijing	International Medical Center (IMC) Beijing 北京国际医疗中心 S-106 Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmao Road, Chaoyang	+86 10 6465 1561
Beijing	Peking University Third Hospital 北京大学第三医院 49 Huayuan Bei Lu, Haidian	+86 10 8226 6699
Shanghai	Parkway Shanghai Hospital 上海百汇医院 1172 Jie Road, Minhang	+86 400 819 6622 (24h)
Shanghai	Parkway Gleneagles Medical and Surgical Centre 上海瑞鹰门诊部 4F Tomorrow Square, 389 Nanjing West Road	+86 400 819 6622 (24h)
Shanghai	Huashan Hospital Worldwide Medical Centre 华山医院 12 Wulumuqi Middle Road, Jing'an	+86 21 5288 9999

- **Your embassy:** the Embassy of Germany is in Beijing. On your route there is also a consulate-general in Shanghai (德意志联邦共和国驻上海总领事馆). Save the 24-hour emergency number from your foreign ministry's website before you go.
- **If your passport is lost or stolen:** (1) report it at the nearest police station and ask for a loss report 护照丢失证明; (2) contact your embassy or consulate for an emergency travel document; (3) take both to the local exit-entry administration 出入境管理局 for an exit visa before you fly. Keep a photo of your passport and a paper copy apart from it.
- **International clinics in big cities** speak English and deal with insurers; ask your hotel for the nearest.
- **Scams to ignore:** friendly "students" inviting you to a tea ceremony or art show in tourist areas. Walk away politely.

NOTES

Toilets, tipping and manners

TOILETS 洗手间 · 厕所

- Public toilets are free and common: in metro stations, malls, parks and at sights. Malls and hotels have the cleanest.
- Many are squat toilets; malls usually have a Western-style cubicle, often marked with a sign.
- Carry tissues and hand sanitiser: paper and soap aren't guaranteed.
- In older buildings, put paper in the bin, not the toilet.

TIPPING

- Not expected in restaurants, taxis or hotels. Some high-end restaurants add a service charge to the bill.
- Private guides and drivers on day trips appreciate a tip if you were happy.

MANNERS THAT HELP

- Don't stand chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice; it recalls funeral offerings.
- Pour tea for others before yourself; a light tap of two fingers on the table says thank you.
- Avoid giving clocks or sets of four as gifts; the words sound like "death" and "end".
- Queues can be loose; stand your ground politely.
- Dress modestly in temples, take hats off in halls, and ask before photographing monks or worshippers.
- No photos where you see the no-camera sign, especially in museums' special galleries.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ticket sales at many sights stop 30 to 60 minutes before closing time, even if the gates stay open.

NOTES

MONEY PLAN

Estimated budget

For 2 travellers, 4 nights, excluding international flights. Your plan is built for Comfort.

	VALUE	COMFORT	LUXURY
Hotels	≈ ¥1,150–1,750	≈ ¥2,600–4,000	≈ ¥9,400–17,500
Food & drink	≈ ¥1,500–2,500	≈ ¥3,000–5,000	≈ ¥7,000–12,000
Between cities		¥1,500 – 2,100 in every style	
Sights & tickets		¥ 400 – 500 in every style	
Local transport		¥ 300 – 700 in every style	
Extras		¥ 800 – 1,500 in every style	

Your plan in detail

The full page is in your own guide

THE SMALL PRINT

Notes & credits

This guide was prepared exclusively for Emma & Lukas from your travel preferences, with the help of AI. Places come from our city database; prices, opening hours and policies are for reference and may change, so please confirm important details (entry rules, how to book, opening days) before you travel.

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一路平安 · *Have a wonderful journey, Emma & Lukas*

[NIHAOPLAN.COM](#)

GOOD TO KNOW

Ask your hotel to write tomorrow's addresses in Chinese, or use the address cards at the back of this guide.

NOTES