

MyChinaTrip

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

SHANGHAI

City survival guide

Five decisions before you land.

Landing and getting into town

Where to stay

Yu Garden and the old city

Three days: subtract, don't stack

Eat by meal, not by list

Make more of your China trip.

mychinatrip.app

CITY SURVIVAL GUIDE | EP. 2

SHANGHAI

Which Shanghai is yours?

5 DECISIONS
before you land.



MyChinaTrip

MAKE MORE OF YOUR CHINA TRIP

Swipe for the 5 decisions →

Landing

Two airports. Pick your route before you land.

SHANGHAI
上海



01



Pudong (PVG)

Shanghai Pudong International Airport



To downtown: **Line 2** runs straight to People's Square. Cheap, no transfers.



The Maglev hits **300 km/h** — fun ride, but it stops at **Longyang Road**. Not the fastest way downtown.

02



Hongqiao (SHA)

Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport



You're already close.
Lines 2 / 10.



Note: T1 uses a temporary walkway since Oct 8 — follow signs to **Exit 1**, not your old map.

GET YOUR BEARINGS
IN SHANGHAI



Hongqiao (SHA)
Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport

Line 10

Line 2

Downtown
People's Square

Line 2



Pudong (PVG)
Shanghai Pudong International Airport

Maglev

Longyang Road

- Metro Line 2 (connects both airports)
- Metro Line 10 (to Hongqiao)
- Maglev (PVG → Longyang Road)

Huangpu River

0 10 20 km



Landing after midnight?

Judge by when you walk out of arrivals, not when the plane lands.



Screenshot your hotel address in Chinese before you fly.

Where to stay

Stay where your evenings want to be.

A MORE
MEMORABLE
SHANGHAI

 Hongqiao
International Airport
(SHA)

←  Hongqiao
(see note below)

 People's
Square

 Jing'an /
Former French
Concession

 The Bund /
East Nanjing Rd

 Lujiazui

Huangpu
River

0 5 10 km



The Bund / East Nanjing Rd

Skyline photos, river walk at dusk.
Price: view premium + crowds.



Iconic
skyline



Riverside
walks



Energetic
atmosphere



People's Square

The hub for first-timers
heading every direction. Not quiet.



Central
location



Easy to get
anywhere



Lively
and busy



Jing'an / Former French Concession

Slow mornings, coffee, design streets.
Old buildings vary house by house —
check elevator, noise, room size.



Cafés & design



Charming old
buildings



Leafy streets



Lujiazui

High-rise hotels, business convenient.
The river crossing is the price you pay.



Modern skyline



Business
friendly



Cross the river
to main sights



Hongqiao (optional)

Only split a night at Hongqiao if you have an early train or flight.



Hongqiao
International Airport
(SHA)



Before booking, check the real walk from hotel door to metro entrance.

Yuyuan

Yuyuan is all over your feed for a reason — but the garden, the bazaar, and the old streets are three different things.



The Garden

A 400-year-old Ming garden.



9:00 – 16:30

Last entry 16:00



Closed Mondays



¥40 in October — buy at the gate or on the official mini-program.



Go in the morning; by midday it's packed.



The Bazaar

For the night lights, not the food.



Eat before you come.



Through Nov 15: free waterside concerts on the Nine-Turn Bridge stage — check the schedule, crowds get controlled.



Old Streets

Pair it with the old streets nearby — that's your half day.



Explore the streets around Yuyuan.



Don't give it a full day.



Great for local atmosphere, shops, and photos.



Garden in the morning, lights at night. Never both at noon.

Three days? Subtract, don't stack.

A simpler plan, a richer Shanghai.
Here's how to make the most of 3 days.

*Same skyline,
different you.*

01

Day 1 — The postcard

The Bund at dusk, river walk.



The lights run 18:00 – 22:00
in October (published schedule).
Time your walk for just after
they come on.



Classic skyline views, historic
buildings, and an unbeatable
atmosphere.



Walk from the Waibaidu Bridge
towards Lujiazui (or reverse).
It's free and always a good idea.



*Same skyline,
different you.*



*The shot
everyone posts!*



The elevator door opens to the Bund

Take the silver egg elevator on the North Bund
(Metro Line 12, International Cruise Terminal).
It leads to a yakitori bar, not a café — go for the photo,
the riverside walk around it is free.



Metro Line 12
International Cruise Terminal
(国际客运中心)



Go for the photo.
The riverside walk is free.

02

Day 2 — Street life

Wukang / Anfu, then sit down.



Pick one or two streets
(Wukang or Anfu).



Then sit down
somewhere —
a café, wine bar
or local restaurant.



Enjoy the vibe.
Don't checklist
every photo spot.

03

Day 3 — Pick ONE

Art day or architecture day. Not both.



Art day



- Check what's actually
on (exhibitions change).
- Top picks: Power Station
of Art (PSA), West Bund.
- Give yourself time to
really see it.



Architecture day



- Explore Shanghai's
unique mix: old & new.
- Ideas: Wukang Mansion,
former French Concession,
Lujiazui skyline.
- Quality over quantity.



Shanghai Disneyland = a full-day swap.

It's amazing — but it's a full-day trip, not an add-on. Don't squeeze it in.



*Save it
for a full day.*



Never put a fixed-booking day back-to-back with a far-suburb day.

Eat by meal not by list.

Shanghai's food scene is huge. A simple meal plan helps you eat better, not just more.



01



Breakfast



Shanghaiese noodles or soup dumplings, in a neighborhood — not a queue.



Local spots, local life



Shorter waits, better vibe



A great start to the day

02



One xiaolongbao meal



Have one dedicated xiaolongbao meal — these are delicate, soupy dumplings.



Different from shengjian



Best fresh and hot



A Shanghai must-do

03



One shengjian meal



Have one dedicated shengjian meal — crispy bottom, juicy inside. They're different things.



Crispy, juicy, and savory



A different flavor experience



Also a Shanghai classic

04



One proper benbang dinner



Have one proper benbang dinner, best with a table.



More dishes to share



A relaxed, sit-down meal



Taste Shanghai's local flavors

05



Leave room



Leave the rest open — for your companions' tastes, and the food you miss from home.



Be flexible



Try what others love



And find a taste of home, too



Dianping 4.5★ + 1,000 reviews is the safety line.