

EVERONIA

MODERN CHINA, WITH THE CONCESSION ERA UNDERFOOT

Shanghai

A seven-day itinerary, with practical notes for every day.

The week we would *plan for you.*

This is a real week in Shanghai. The seven days are in the order we would run them, starting on the Bund promenade and ending with a last look at the same skyline over dinner.

Treat it as a starting point, not a package. Every trip we plan is rebuilt around the people travelling: your pace, your appetite, your companions.

Each day ends with a short planning note. Yu Garden runs on an opening window, the observation decks sell by time slot, and the city has two airports on opposite sides of town. The notes explain what usually goes wrong, so you can plan around it, with us or without us.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

- 01 The Bund and Historic Shanghai
THE BUND

- 02 Classical Gardens and the Old Town
OLD TOWN

- 03 Modern Shanghai
PUDONG

- 04 Art and the French Concession
FRENCH CONCESSION

- 05 Shanghai Disneyland
DISNEY RESORT

- 06 Zhujiajiao Water Town
ZHUJIAJIAO

- 07 Local Shanghai and Farewell
JING'AN

THE LATEST VERSION

Hours, prices and entry rules change through the year. For the current version of everything in this guide, see everonia.com/destinations/shanghai



Day 01

The Bund and Historic Shanghai

Begin on the Bund, walking the riverfront promenade past the old trading houses with the towers of Pudong rising across the water. In the afternoon, follow Nanjing Road's pedestrian stretch to People's Square, the open green centre of the city. Come back to the Bund after dark, when the skyline lights up and the river fills with lit cruise boats and barges.

MORNING

- 1 Walk the Bund promenade

AFTERNOON

- 2 Follow Nanjing Road's pedestrian street
- 3 Cross into People's Square

EVENING

- 4 Return to the Bund for the night skyline

PLANNING NOTE

Set up payments before you fly

Shanghai runs on Alipay and WeChat Pay, and both need setting up before you leave home. Both have accepted overseas Visa and Mastercard since 2024, and most everyday payments are simple: cafes, restaurants and the river crossings all take it. Cash is declining but still useful for the small old-town stalls. Your guide helps with restaurant and ticket moments on the ground.



Day 02

Classical Gardens and the Old Town

Spend the morning in Yu Garden, a Ming dynasty garden of rockeries, ponds and zigzag bridges in the heart of the old town. The bazaar outside carries the afternoon: snack stalls, teahouses and the lanes of the old city around the City God Temple. As evening falls, cross to Xintiandi, where the old lane houses have been restored into restaurants and bars.

MORNING

- 1 Explore Yu Garden

AFTERNOON

- 2 Graze the snack stalls of Yuyuan Bazaar
- 3 Wander the old city lanes around the City God Temple

EVENING

- 4 Walk Xintiandi after dark

PLANNING NOTE

The opening window is the difference

Yu Garden is a small garden with a big reputation, and by late morning the lanes outside are shoulder to shoulder. We book tickets against your passport and time entry for the opening window, when the rockeries and zigzag bridges still belong to the early walkers. The garden comes first, the bazaar after; run it the other way and you queue for both.



Day 03

Modern Shanghai

Cross the river to Lujiazui and start high. From the observation deck of the Shanghai Tower, the whole city spreads out below, with the Jin Mao Tower just across the street. Spend the afternoon at ground level among the towers, the elevated walkway and the riverside parks. In the evening, board a Huangpu River cruise and watch both skylines slide past, lit from end to end.

MORNING

- 1 Ride up the Shanghai Tower
- 2 See the Jin Mao Tower

AFTERNOON

- 3 Walk Lujiazui at street level

EVENING

- 4 Cruise the Huangpu River after dark

PLANNING NOTE

Book the deck for the light

The Shanghai Tower deck sells by time slot, and the slot worth having is the hour the light turns, when the city goes from daylight to lit. We book it ahead and keep the river cruise for after dark, so the day reads street level by afternoon, skyline by night. Haze can soften the long views from the deck; the river cruise still shows the city well on those days.



Day 04

Art and the French Concession

Begin the day at M50 Creative Park, the gallery district in the old cotton mills along Suzhou Creek. In the afternoon, head south into the former French Concession, walking the plane-tree streets and browsing the narrow lanes of Tianzifang. As evening comes, settle on Anfu Road, where small cafes and wine bars fill with locals as the neighbourhood winds down.

MORNING

- 1 Browse the galleries at M50 Creative Park

AFTERNOON

- 2 Walk the plane-tree streets of the former French Concession
- 3 Explore the lanes of Tianzifang

EVENING

- 4 Find a table on Anfu Road

PLANNING NOTE

The galleries keep their own hours

M50 is open all day as a district, but the individual galleries set their own hours and change their shows through the year. We check what is on before you fly and route the morning around the exhibitions worth your time. The Concession afternoon is a walking afternoon under the plane trees, so this is the day for comfortable shoes.



Day 05

PRIVATE CAR SOUTHEAST, ABOUT FORTY MINUTES

Shanghai Disneyland

Give the whole day to Shanghai Disneyland. Your driver drops you at the gates for opening, and the park is yours at your own pace: the castle, the headline rides and the parades. We arrange tickets ahead of time so you walk straight in. Stay for the evening fireworks over the castle, then your car is waiting for the ride back into the city.

MORNING

- 1 Arrive at Shanghai Disneyland for opening

AFTERNOON

- 2 Take the rides and parades at your own pace

EVENING

- 3 Watch the fireworks, then ride back to the city

PLANNING NOTE

A theme-park day runs on timing

Shanghai Disneyland works best arriving as the gates open, with the headline rides done before the late-morning build. We arrange the tickets ahead of time so you walk straight in, and the car stays with you, so the evening return after the fireworks runs on your schedule, not a shuttle's.



Day 06

PRIVATE CAR WEST, ABOUT AN HOUR

Zhujiajiao Water Town

Trade the skyline for the canals of Zhujiajiao, a water town on the city's western edge that has kept its Ming and Qing street plan. Spend the day wandering the stone lanes, crossing the humpback bridges and taking a boat along the main canal, with tea and river fish for lunch along the way. Return to Shanghai as the evening comes in.

MORNING

- 1 Arrive in Zhujiajiao and walk the stone lanes

AFTERNOON

- 2 Take a boat along the main canal
- 3 Cross the old humpback bridges

EVENING

- 4 Return to Shanghai

PLANNING NOTE

Beat the day-trip coaches

Zhujiajiao is about an hour west by car, and the tour coaches arrive from late morning. An early start gets you the stone lanes and the humpback bridges while they are still quiet. Weekdays are quieter than weekends; around the public holidays the canals fill, and we plan this day elsewhere in the week.



Day 07

Local Shanghai and Farewell

Begin the final day at Jing'an Temple, its gold roofs boxed in by the towers of West Nanjing Road. Shop or wander your way along West Nanjing Road, then take the afternoon stroll on Wukang Road, the most photographed street in the old concession quarter. For the last evening, return to the Bund for a final look at the skyline over dinner.

MORNING

- 1 Visit Jing'an Temple

AFTERNOON

- 2 Walk West Nanjing Road
- 3 Stroll Wukang Road

EVENING

- 4 Return to the Bund for a final skyline view

PLANNING NOTE

Check which airport before you pack

Shanghai has two airports on opposite sides of the city: Pudong to the east, Hongqiao to the west, and they are not interchangeable on departure day. Departure-airport confirmation is part of the trip pack we brief. Keep the last day light; the evening on the Bund is a better ending than a rushed extra site.

When to visit, and how it feels.

MONTH	MAX °C	RAIN MM	CROWDS
January	9	72	● Mild for winter, often grey and damp. The museums and the Bund stay comfortable.
February	11	65	●●●● Chinese New Year lands mid-February in 2026, and the Spring Festival holiday fills Yu Garden and the old town.
March	15	97	● Early spring, cool and changeable. The plane trees in the former French Concession begin to green.
April	21	84	●● Warm and comfortable, one of the best months. The Qingming holiday in early April brings one short peak.
May	26	91	●●● The May Day holiday, May 1 to 5, is one of the year's busiest windows. Late May settles down.
June	29	225	●● The plum rains arrive: warm, humid and wet. Plan indoor afternoons and river evenings.
July	33	163	●●● The hottest month of the year, humid with it. School summer holidays fill Disneyland and the towers.
August	33	226	●●● Typhoon season brings the year's second rain peak, still school-holiday busy. Evenings on the river are the reward.
September	29	132	●● Warm days and thinning crowds, though late-season typhoons can pass through.
October	24	70	●●●● National Day week, October 1 to 7, is China's biggest travel week of the year. Late October is golden.
November	18	61	● Crisp and clear, with the plane trees turning along Wukang Road. A quiet, flattering month.
December	11	50	● The driest month of the year, cool and quiet. The skyline is at its sharpest on the cold clear nights.

Temperature and rainfall are China Meteorological Administration climate normals, 1991 to 2020. Crowd levels follow the Chinese public-holiday calendar and school-holiday travel patterns.

Before you fly, *read this page.*

Payments

Set up Alipay or WeChat Pay before you fly. Both have accepted overseas Visa and Mastercard since 2024, but in-app limits and small-merchant acceptance still vary. Keep one bank card and a little cash for the small old-town stalls and the odd market vendor that still prefers it.

Getting around

High-speed rail links Shanghai Hongqiao to Suzhou in about twenty-five minutes on the fastest service, Hangzhou in about forty-five, and Beijing in about four and a half hours. Within the city, the metro is fast and cheap, but for Disneyland and Zhujiajiao a private car and driver is the practical option.

Tickets and entry

Yu Garden tickets are booked against passport details, and the opening window is the slot worth having. The Shanghai Museum admits individual visitors with a passport; the East branch closes on Tuesdays, the People's Square branch on Mondays, except national holidays. The observation decks sell by time slot and Disneyland tickets are tied to the date, so we book both ahead.

When to go

March to May and September to November are the most comfortable windows. Chinese New Year, the May Day holiday and National Day week, October 1 to 7, fill every major site. June brings the plum rains and August the typhoon-season rain peak, so summer days lean indoors by afternoon. The month-by-month calendar in this guide shows the quiet months.

ENTRY RULES POLICY CURRENT AS OF 7 JULY 2026

Shanghai follows mainland China entry rules. Ordinary Australian, British, New Zealand and Canadian passports have up to thirty days visa-free, confirmed through 31 December 2026. United States passports still need a tourist visa under current rules. If your dates fall after the current window, we manage the visa application as part of your trip. Tell us your nationality before we quote, and we check the live wording for your country.

DESIGNED AROUND YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS

You enjoy the trip, *we do the rest.*

From your first enquiry to your last airport pickup, our specialists design your trip and stay in contact every step of the way. The guides, drivers and hotels you'll meet are part of our trusted network we've worked with for years, briefed to the same standards.

START THE CONVERSATION AT

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