

eye on shanghai

go guide

don't leave home without it



under the spotlight

what you see

Shanghai:

- Oriental Pearl TV Tower
- Jade Buddha Temple
- The Bund and Old Shanghai
- Yuyuan Garden
- Huang River skyline of Pudong City

what you get

- Breakfast daily
- 4 nights - 3-4 ★ hotels
- Shanghai - Huangpu River cruise
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 & day 5
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Guided sightseeing - Day 2 with English speaking guide
- All relevant transfers and transportation



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to China. It is essential the visa is procured prior to travel. Visa forms are available from us and also supplied upon booking. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of return from China. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is also the responsibility of the traveller and not of on the go.

climate

In all, China has a great diversity of climates. To sum it up - China experiences hot summers in most parts of the country, very cold winters in the north and comfortable winters in the south! Sep-Oct is warm to hot and dry across the country. Nov-Mar is winter with very cool temps in the north, whilst mild in the south. If combining the north and south, you'll experience 2 distinct weather patterns. Apr-May - perfect in the north, if a little humid and rainy in the south. Jun-Aug can bring a few showers.

time

China is 8 hours ahead of GMT (during BST-7hrs)

money

GBP£1.00 = CNY13.60 USD1.00 = CNY6.99 (subject to fluctuation). The Yuan is exchangeable only in China. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks. ATM machines exist in all major towns and cities.

health requirements

Recommendations - Tetanus and Polio (if no booster in 10 yrs, plus Typhoid (valid 3 yrs) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). A Malarial risk exists in remote areas of the south, and Rabies and Meningitis are present in Tibet and remote areas, so seek medical advice.

how much?

- **ENTRANCE FEES**
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately **USD\$20**
- **TIPPING KITTY**
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route. **USD\$45**
- Can of coke, 330ml **CNY3-5**
- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) **CNY22-5**
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, a beer, local restaurant) **CNY120**
- Beer (local brew Tsingtao - 640ml approx) **CNY4-10**
- Chocolate candy bar (local brand) **CNY7**

bright ideas

- Bring a hat for the sun. Bring a broly for any rain!
- Bring spare camera batteries/film and go snap happy.
- If you fancy a tipple, take advantage of Duty Free buys.
- Buy some Yuan (currency) at the airport on arrival.
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your holiday Mandarin.
- Bring a small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions.
- Keep a photocopy of your passport data pages.

5 things to do/see:

the big 5

- Check out Shanghai's futuristic Pudong skyline, and The Bund. Once old Shanghai's commercial heart, it's a combination of Liverpool and 1920s Manhattan.
- Blow a bit of cash at Xiangyang Clothing Market, Shanghai. Snag bargain casual clothing, bags etc.
- Stroll in peaceful Yuyuan Gardens - a Ming delight.
- Enjoy a drink and a few nostalgic jazz classics at the famous Peace Hotel on The Bund.
- Explore the foreign concessions of Old Shanghai.

5 things to buy:

- Chairman Mao's famous quotation-filled little red book. A classic People's Republic souvenir.
- A Chinese foot massage. Seriously good for the soul.
- A bottle of Maotai - essentially Chinese firewater!
- Your own personal ink seal, personalised in Chinese characters with a carved marble or bronze handle.
- A few choice purchases from the many markets. A fancy new famous brand ski jacket or handbag?





eye on shanghai : itinerary

day 1

Shanghai - Welcome to China and the start of your holiday!
Enjoy an arrival transfer to our hotel. Overnight - Shanghai.

day 2

Shanghai - breakfast. Shanghai - breakfast. Just the mere mention of 'Shanghai' conjures up mystery, romance and general decadence. Pre - 1949, cosmopolitan Shanghai was a magnet for seekers of wealth, idle colonialists, explorers and the dispossessed. The city's oddities were due to the unusual circumstances of the city's existence. Written into the Treaty of Nanjing was the notion of extraterritoriality, which translated as foreign nationals not being bound by Chinese law, but rather by the laws of their own consuls. Basically anything went. Until 1949, foreigners dominated commerce, banking and industry, amassing huge fortunes and transforming the landscape of foreign concessionary sections of Shanghai, including the French, British and American settlements (which eventually became the International Settlement when the Brits combined with the Yanks), where each concession reflected different national personas and attracted different characters. Everything went belly up in 1949, when Mao and the communists took to power and swept the good times and rock and roll away rather swiftly. Many Shanghaiese fled along with expats to neighbouring Hong Kong and oversaw the economic explosion there.

A legacy of the heady times in Shanghai, is The Bund where on and around this waterfront promenade are a vast series of grandiose pre-1949 buildings. After four decades of austerity, economic reforms implemented by Deng Xiaoping reawakened Shanghai. Just across the Huangpu River is the Pudong Special Economic District. Essentially, Pudong is the new Shanghai, a high-tech development of sky scrapers, the centre piece of which is the rocket-shaped Oriental Pearl TV tower.

Historically Pudong has been known as the 'wrong side of the Huangpu River'. Before 1949, the area was characterised by prostitution, unemployed migrants, murder and other crime and the most appalling living conditions in the city. However, in 1990, as China was getting to grips with economic reform, it was decided that the large tract of what was essentially agricultural wasteland would be developed and granted special status. What you see today, and later on the evening cruise, are the fruits of just 15 years of labour. Resembling a sort of giant set-piece from the Hollywood movie - Bladerunner, Pudong is a neon-lit metropolis where some of it's architectural extravaganzas reach the clouds, where Mercedes and BMW cars cruise the new streets and eateries and hotels ooze modernity. The 457-metre high Oriental Pearl TV Tower, despite the high entrance fee and vast crowds eager to pile into the elevators, offers giddy views of Shanghai and plenty of souvenirs in the onsite shops. For a more exclusive viewing experience, consider heading to the Cloud 9 bar, the top-floor cafe of the awesome Hyatt Hotel. It's the highest cafe in China!

Sightseeing of Shanghai takes in the awesome Oriental Pearl TV tower, the Jade Buddha Temple, charming Yuyuan Gardens and the Bund and Old City. The Jade Buddha Temple (Yufosi) offers a restored main hall and the remarkable Jade Buddha, a revered likeness of the Lord, brought back from Burma by a local abbot. The temple offers a small complex of buildings, and the grounds are often filled with the faithful.

Designed and built in 1559 by a high official in the imperial Ming Court, Yuyuan Gardens are a classic and completely authentic example of Chinese garden architecture, featuring walkways, bridges, ponds of greedy carp and koi fish, rockeries, pools and stone edifices, often embellished with stone dragons or tiles depicting dragons. The famous Huxinting (Heart of Lake Pavillion) tea house where tea is served to paying customers as famous as Queen Elizabeth II, is a good place to cool the pace for 30 mins or so. Adjacent to Yuyuan Gardens is a shopping bazaar and food hawk area, where some of Shanghai's best snacks can be shovelled down. This evening, enjoy a cruise on the Huangpu River. Be sure to take a flash for your camera. The views of the illuminated Pudong skyline are breathtaking. Overnight - Shanghai.

days 3 - 4

Shanghai - breakfast. Two whole days to enjoy Shanghai your way. Perhaps head to Nanjing Road, just off the Bund or Huaihai Lu; the main street of the French Concession for amazing shopping, explore the Old City or drop into the historic Peace Hotel for a drink and a spot of jazz. The Peace Hotel is a landmark institution on Shanghai's famous Bund. Formally known as the Cathay Hotel, it was built on the fortunes of the Sassoon family who were big hipsters and shakers in Shanghai real estate prior to 1949.

It catered to the rich and was the place to be seen. Today, it's well worth a visit for the bar with its legendary jazz band, which play nostalgic rhythms amidst 1930s Art Deco elegance.

In fact, right along the Bund, you'll be amazed by the foreign architectural influences. Sort of a cross between the Liverpool, England and Manhattan 1920s skyline. It's a good area to explore, as it offers all this, plus amazing views of the impressive if futuristic Pudong skyline, plenty of eateries with close proximity and the hustle and bustle of Shanghai's premier shopping street. Pre-1949, in the days of the foreign concessions, expatriates described Nanjing Road as across between Broadway and Oxford Street.

Blow a bit of cash at Xiangyang Clothing Market, Shanghai. ASilk Alley and similar shoppers markets across the city are retail havens for bargain knock-off ski jackets, big brand handbags, jewellery, accessories and souvenirs. Some bling jewellery for the lady and perhaps a genuine copy Rolex Sub-Mariner watch and matching Mont Blanc fountain pen and rollerball set for the gent? Overnight (2) - Shanghai.

day 5

Shanghai - breakfast. Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport.

the 20th century & chairman mao

During the 20th century, China was shaken and stirred by a series of major upheavals, brought about the struggle to modernise the nation after around 2,000 years of imperial rule. Naturally, the process was rocked by ideological battles, importantly between the conservative nationalists and the communists who believed in forging a new Chinese order based on the principle of common ownership of property and resources. In 1912, the last emperor, 6-year old Puyi was forced to abdicate and leave his throne. The Chinese Republic was declared and Sun Yat-sen, the leader of the reformist movement was elected Provisional President. He wanted to create a new

China, but Yuan Shikai had other plans. Yuan grabbed hold of the presidential reins and China entered a grim phase, when various warlords who controlled sections of the Chinese army, battled against one another for supremacy over Northern China and the possession of Beijing.

Meanwhile, Sun Yat-sen busied himself and his cronies with reform in Canton. When Sun Yat-sen died in 1925, Chiang Kaishek took his place as leader of the Nationalist Party. Preparing for armed rebellion, the nationalists were conditioned and trained by advisers from the newly created USSR who were working to shape China's political situation. Meanwhile, in Shanghai, Soviet revolutionaries were actively preaching the good of communist ideals and the Chinese Communist Party was subsequently formed in 1921. In 1923, the communists joined forces with the nationalists but strong tensions existed between the two parties. Chiang Kaishek knew that his goals for reform would mean turning to the West and foreign governments, and the Marxists were having none of this. Chang led his army north in 1927, declaring a new nationalist government in Nanjing. He swiftly banned the Communist Party and purged his party of left-wingers.

Many were killed during this period, as communists fought to keep the nationalists at bay. The escape the purge, the communists undertook an arduous 23 200 km trek, heading through China's west in 1935, known as the Long March. Of the 100,000 who took part, only around 10,000 survived. The veterans of this march included their leader Mao Zedong who went on to form an elite arm within the Communist Party that would eventually rule China. Eight years of war with the Japanese had sapped the nation but taught the communists how to survive in extreme hardship. The communists outclassed the nationalists in every aspect of the fierce civil war that began in 1946 and end in October, 1949, when Mao Zedong stood with his supporters at the gates of the Forbidden City in Beijing. Meanwhile, Chiang Kaishek fled to offshore Taiwan where he set up a rival government.

Better known as Chairman Mao, Mao Zedong or Mao Tse-tung (1893 - 1976) was the founder of the People's Republic of China. Still revered as a true statesman to the people, he transformed China into a Communist nation. Land was redistributed, industry was absorbed by the state and, most unfortunately, opposition was not tolerated. Tibet was bought under control in the 1950s. When Mao wanted to wipe the slate clean and construct a totally new China, thousands of intellectuals, teachers and others were imprisoned or killed during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-1970. Despite the conclusion of the Cultural Revolution in 1970, oppression continued until his death in 1976. At that point, Deng Xiaoping, Mao's long term political enemy emerged as China's new leader. With his new communist ideals and wish for economic reforms, China strengthened and blossomed. However, the introduction of a comparatively free market has allowed China to trade and present itself on the world's stage.

Note: This itinerary is semi-independent in style. The city stay is arranged and operated exclusively for you on a departure date of your individual choosing. You travel by yourself (with local representation at various points) without joining a group. However, on occasion consolidation of travellers may occur during some sightseeing. Whilst a rating of 3-4 star hotels is given, accommodation can be upgraded at additional cost. Please ask!

The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.



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