



## Detailed Itinerary

### DAY 1

Arrive in Shanghai

**Transport:** Flight (Your arrangements)

**Accommodation:** Sunrise On The Bund \*\*\*\* (Standard Room)

**Today's Activities:** Airport to Hotel Transfer (Shanghai)



## DAY 2

### Shanghai

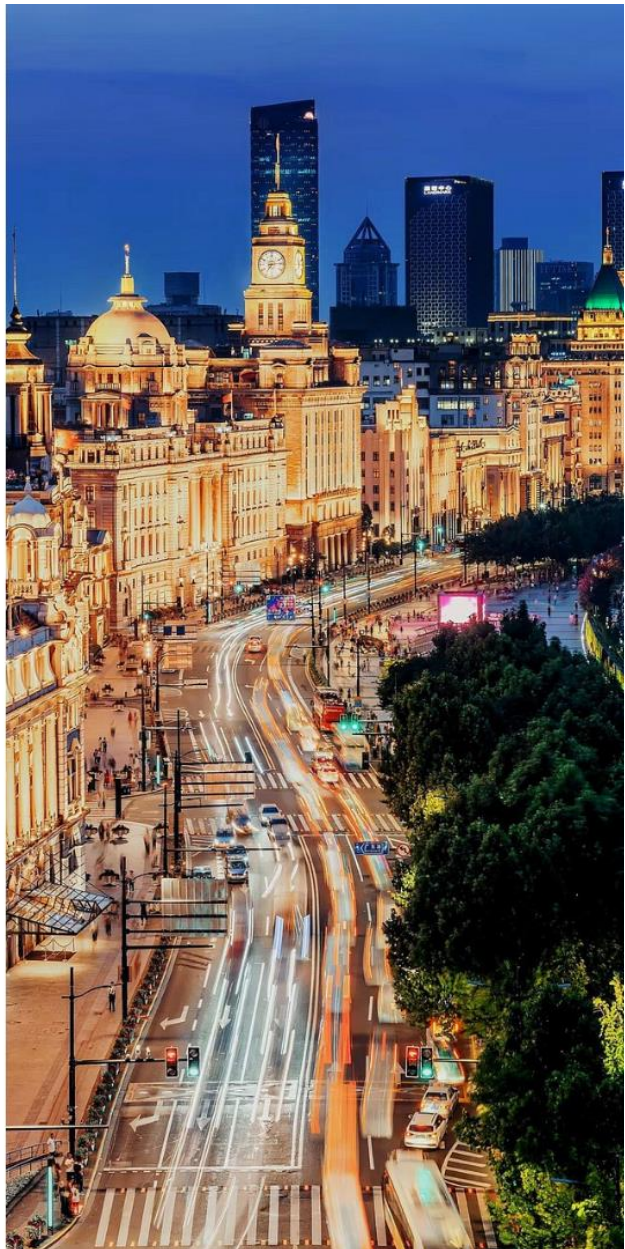
**Accommodation:** Sunrise On The Bund \*\*\*\*\* (Standard Room)

**Today's Activities:** The Bund, Nanjing Road, City God Temple

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person.

**The Bund:** This 1.5-kilometer-long embankment runs along the western bank of Huangpu River. On its west side it is the "architecture gallery" with 52 well-preserved old European style buildings.

This was once the major trading and commercial center of old Shanghai. Today the Bund has taken on new vitality, with futuristic developments, chic restaurants, top end shops and bars.





**Tips:** Mornings in the Bund are foggy. The best time to visit the Bund is in the afternoon or evening. At night The Bund is magic, but the lights are turned off at 10:00PM.

**Nanjing Road:** Nanjing Road is the most famous and busiest shopping street in Shanghai. From time-honored traditional Chinese brand stores to international designer boutiques, Nanjing Road is a shopping paradise where you can find everything.

There are also many hotels, restaurants, theaters, and shopping malls. It's a fascinating glimpse into modern, commercial China.

**Tips:** Ignore people offering to take you to buy discounted products.



**City God Temple:** Located next to the Yuyuan Garden. Also known as the City God Temple, it was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century CE during the Ming Dynasty.

The City God Temple is a Taoist temple composed of many halls, the Grand Hall, Middle Hall, Bedroom Palace, Star Gods Hall and more. The religious festivals of the temple are legendary.

**Popular Local Restaurant:** We will arrange for lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants. Your local tour guide will recommend specific restaurants based on your interests.

Some typical Shanghai dishes include xiaolongbao (steamed buns), braised pork in brown sauce and duck stuffed with the eight treasures.

### DAY 3

Shanghai

**Accommodation:** Sunrise On The Bund \*\*\*\*\* (Standard Room)

**Today's Activities:** Zhujiajiao Water Town

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person.



**Zhujiajiao Water Town:** Shaped like a fan, Zhujiajiao Water Town has hundreds of years of history. Thousands of examples of Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty architecture line the lake shores. The famous 36 stone bridges retain their ancient style.

The tour includes seven attractions including the Zhaxidawa Tibetan Culture Museum, Helong Art Gallery, and the Chenghuang Temple.

**Tips:** The commercial center of Zhujiajiao is well developed so there are many shopping opportunities.

**Popular Local Restaurant:** We will arrange for lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants.

#### DAY 4

Shanghai to Xian

**Transport:** China Eastern Airlines MU2166 (Shanghai Hongqiao Airport - Xian Xianyang Airport) Dep 18:00 – Arrive: 8:45PM (Economy class)

**Accommodation:** Xi'an Eastern House Boutique Hotel \*\*\*\*\* (Elegant Room)

**Today's Activities:** Shanghai Old Street, Yuyuan Garden, former French Concession Precinct, hotel to airport Transfer (Shanghai), Airport to Hotel Transfer (Xi'an)

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person.

**Yuyuan Garden:** Yuyuan Garden is located in the center of Shanghai old quarters. It was a private garden built in 1559 during the Ming Dynasty, with typical Chinese classic architecture and style.

The complex covers an area of 2.5 acres, with rockeries, pavilions, ponds and corridors. Yuyuan Garden is surrounded by a busy marketplace, where visitors can find everything from popular local snacks, handicrafts, antiques and souvenirs.

**Tips:** There are many hawkers at the entrance of Yuyuan Market. If you don't want to buy anything, the most effective way to deal with them is simply to ignore them.



**Former French Concession Precinct:** The former French concession covers a large area. A walking tour in the former French concession will take you to the most important historical buildings like the 100-year-old French colonial style structures.

**Shanghai Old Street:** The old quarter of Shanghai has some well-preserved old residential houses and narrow lanes where visitors can get a glimpse of local people's life. Walking along the lanes will transport you back to the old days of Shanghai. There are also many shops and booths selling antiques, crafts and souvenirs.

**Popular Local Restaurant:** We will arrange for lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants.



## DAY 5

Xian

**Accommodation:** Xi'an Eastern House Boutique Hotel \*\*\*\*\* (Elegant Room)

**Today's Activities:** The Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Xian City Wall with bicycle

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person.



**The Terracotta Warriors and Horses:** Discovered accidentally in 1974, this incredible army of over 7000 soldiers, archers, horses and chariots in full battle array has guarded Emperor Qin's tomb since 210BC.

Each figure is unique, and the painstaking repair and excavation continues in 3 pits which are protected inside huge hangars. One and a half hours from Xian, there is an excellent museum and a film about the history of the vaults. Photos (no flash) are allowed.

**Tips:** Wear comfortable walking shoes.

**Xian City Wall with Bicycle:** The walls, ramparts, gates and watchtowers form one of the oldest and most complete city defenses in China. The walls were built in the 13th century CE surrounding the city center. It is a major landmark as well as the best preserved, oldest and largest of the city defense systems in China.

A bicycle ride along the 14km perimeter of the city wall takes about 2 hours. Made of black bricks, the road is a little bit bumpy. You can choose to ride the entire perimeter or a part. If the weather is not good for biking on the city wall, we will substitute a visit to the Bell Tower. Your guide will be happy to take you to the Bell Tower after you have been to look at the city wall.

**Tips:** Bike renting fee is included. Your guide will help you rent the bike, explain the route then wait for you at the same place. You can also choose to walk around the wall if biking is not suitable.

**Tips:** No bike helmet is available for the biking on the city wall.

**Popular Local Restaurant:** We will arrange for the lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants. Your local tour guide will recommend specific restaurants based on your interests and itinerary. Some typical Xi'an dishes include Chinese Hamburger, Xian cold noodle, Biángbiáng noodles, Hot and sour soup dumpling, Flatbread in mutton soup.



## DAY 6

### Xian to Beijing

**Transport:** Train No. G90 (Xian Bei (north) Railway Station - Beijing Xi (west) Railway Station) Depart: 6:22PM – Arrive: 10:32PM (second-class)

**Accommodation:** Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing \*\*\*\* (Deluxe twin bed room)

**Today's Activities:** A Bite of Xi'an (includes food experience at Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque), Big Wild Goose Pagoda, hotel to train station transfer (Xi'an), train station to hotel Transfer (Beijing)

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance person.



**A Bite of Xi'an. Includes food experience at Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque:** When people mention Xi'an, they think of the Terracotta Army, but the city has another highlight, its food.

Food in the great metropolises of Beijing and Shanghai is much more varied, but food in Xi'an has its unique and distinctive flavor. Flour is one of the main ingredients in much Xi'an food so many westerners choose Xi'an as one of their favorite food-cities in China.

This Xi'an experience offers an opportunity to taste different kinds of local food at the Muslim Quarter. This is a true foodie adventure. Choose from delicious delights such as roujiamo (Chinese hamburgers), biangbiang noodles, steamed cold noodles and pita bread soaked in lamb soup. There is something here for every taste and flavor from mild to very spicy.

Behind the bustling Muslim Quarter, the Great Mosque is like a different world: quiet and ceremonial. It is built in traditional Chinese architectural style, rare for a mosque.

Taste Xi'an food and immerse yourself in the Muslim atmosphere, just as Marco Polo did when he arrived here 743 years ago.

**Big Wild Goose Pagoda:** Big Wild Goose Pagoda was first built in 652 in the Tang Dynasty to house sacred scriptures. The pagoda collapsed not long after it was built. It was rebuilt between 701 and 704 on the order of Empress Wu Ze Tian.

**Popular Local Restaurant:** We will arrange for the lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants.

## DAY 7

### Beijing

**Accommodation:** Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing \*\*\*\*\* (Deluxe twin bedroom)

**Today's Activities:** The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Hutong Walking Tour in Dongcheng District, Cooking Class in a Hutong Family's House

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person.

**The Forbidden City:** The Forbidden City, in the very heart of Beijing, was home to 24 emperors during the Ming (1368–1644) and Qing (1644–1911) dynasties. It is the largest and best preserved ancient imperial architectural complex in the world, featuring a great square, halls and gates, along with intricate halls, gardens, courtyards and living quarters.



The exhibitions, both permanent and temporary, are important treasures of ancient China. You will enjoy a leisurely walk with many stops for about 2 hours (2 kilometers). The walks in the Forbidden City are easy to moderate over flat surfaces.



**Tips:** Drinks and liquids are not allowed in the Forbidden City but can be purchased inside.

The Imperial Palace is closed on Monday afternoons throughout the year.

**Tiananmen Square:** Tiananmen Square is the largest city square in the center of Beijing, named after the Tiananmen (literally, Gate of Heavenly Peace) which sits to its north, separating it from the Forbidden City.

The square has great cultural significance as it was the site of several key events in Chinese history. As the world's largest city square and enduring symbol of China's national pride, it is surrounded by many imposing buildings including the Heavenly Gate (entry to the Forbidden City), museums, government buildings and Chairman Mao's Mausoleum.

**Cooking Class in a Hutong Family's House:** Located at a traditional hutong, (ancient alleyways), this activity offers an opportunity to get close to the local culture and people.

The host will teach you how to make dumplings with simple ingredients and seasonings. Everybody will get involved in mixing fillings, creating dough, rolling the wrappers and pinching the dumplings.

The host will also teach how to cook other local dishes. You will not only learn the technique and skills, but also hear the stories of Chinese traditions. The atmosphere is friendly, relaxing and fun.

It's great for travelers who want a unique experience while staying in Beijing. Enjoy a meal cooked by yourself.

**Hutong Walking Tour in Dongcheng District:** Hutongs are a maze of historic alleyways with traditional single-story courtyard houses, which are now fast disappearing. They are a remnant of the old Beijing.

In this tour, you will walk through the narrow alleys, as well as visit a local family to discover the traditional lifestyle and how these unique residential houses and culture are protected. You can also ascend the Bell Tower to have a bird's-eye view of the hutong area.





## DAY 8

Beijing

**Accommodation:** Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing \*\*\*\* (Deluxe twin bedroom)

**Today's Activities:** The Mutianyu Great Wall (with round-trip cable car)

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person.

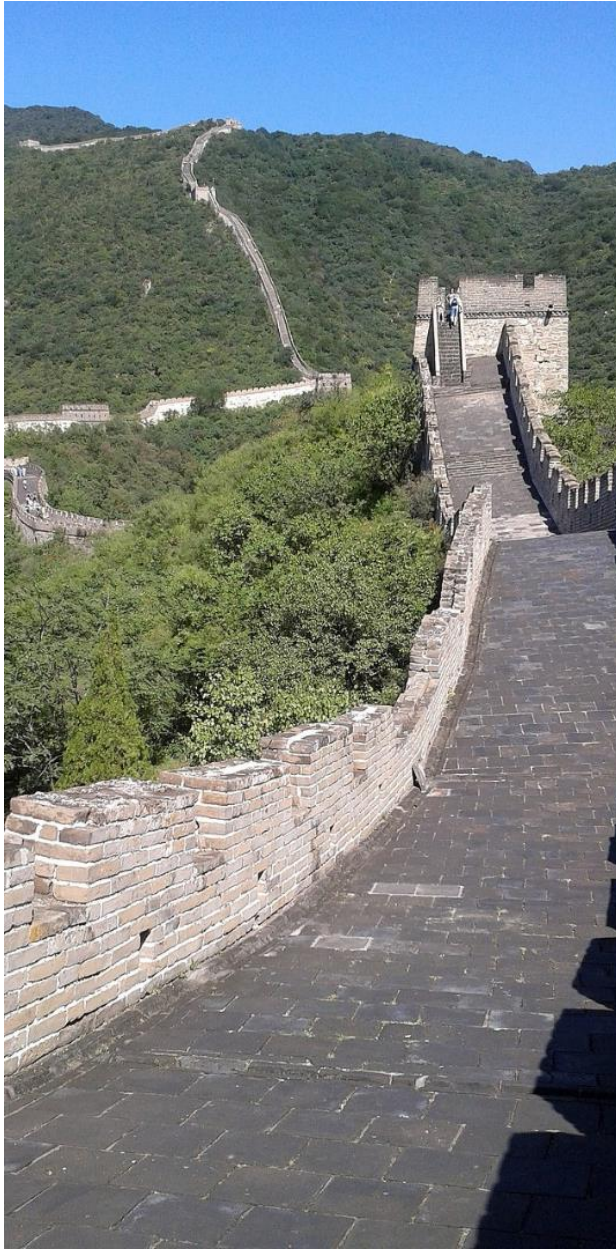


**The Mutianyu Great Wall with round way cable car:** The Mutianyu section of the Great Wall is ranked top on TripAdvisor among all the Great Wall sections for its picturesque scenery and beautifully restored architecture. It is about 1.5 hours' drive from downtown Beijing. A 2½-kilometer section was fully restored in 1986.

To save time for you, we arrange a round-trip cable car to ascend and descend the wall, instead of spending about 40 minutes climbing steps. At the Wall, you have free time to walk around after your guide provides information.



The cable car ascends to and descends from tower 14. Hike “the most beautiful and interesting part of the Great Wall” — between the 14th and 23rd watch towers — acknowledged by hikers as "the golden route". It normally takes about 2 hours to complete the hike. Then descend and take a bus to transfer back to our vehicle.



**Tips:** Those with less mobility may want to use walking sticks.

**Popular local restaurants:** We will arrange for the lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants. Some typical Beijing dishes include shredded pork in Beijing sauce, noodles with soybean paste, Mongolian hot pot and Beijing roast duck.

## DAY 9

Beijing

**Accommodation:** Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing \*\*\*\*\* (Deluxe twin bedroom)

**Today's Activities:** Summer Palace with Boat Ride and the Garden of Virtue and Harmony  
Wangfujing Shopping Street, Houhai.

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person.

**Wangfujing Shopping Street:** Wangfujing is considered the central heart of the city of Beijing. Along the 810-metre-long street and in an area of about 810 square meters are over 200 shops. The new street provides convenience for pedestrians since vehicles are prohibited from most of the shopping area.

In spite of being modern, the renovated Wangfujing Street has retained its traditional cultural atmosphere. The street combines traditional and modern styles with culture and commerce.

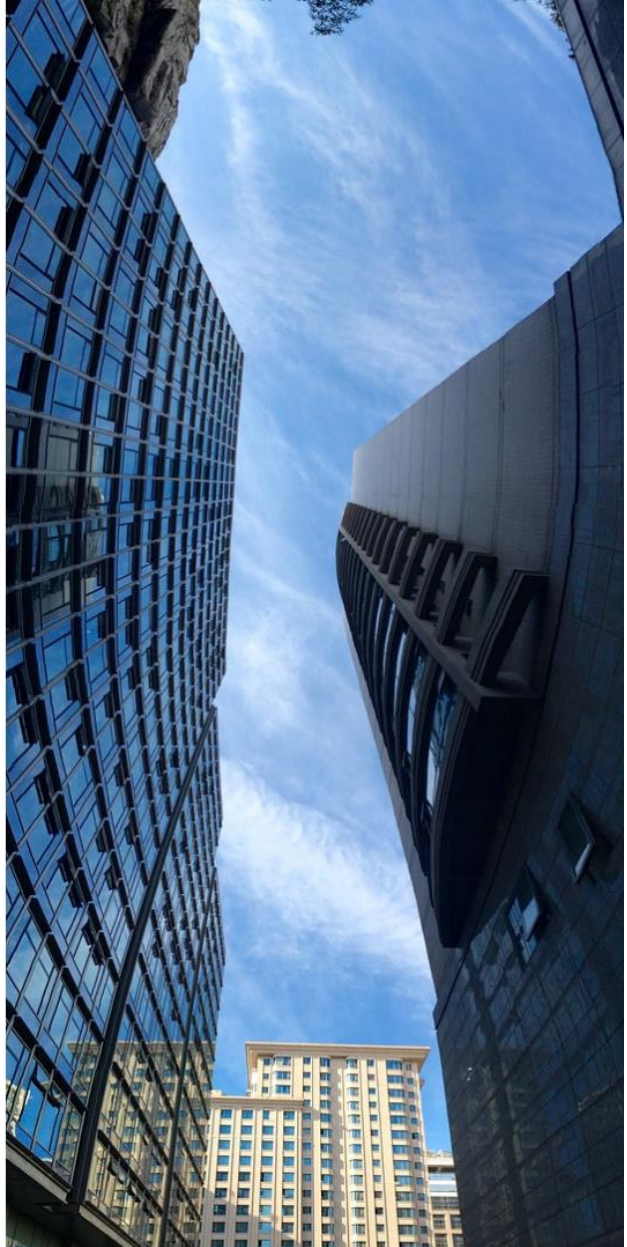
**Houhai:** Houhai is a lake in central Beijing, one of the three parts of Shichahai. In recent years it has become famous for nightlife because it is home to several popular restaurants, bars, and cafes. The area is especially popular with foreign tourists visiting Beijing but is also often visited by the expatriate community and younger locals.

**Summer Palace with Boat Ride and the Garden of Virtue and Harmony:** Situated in the northwest of Beijing, the Summer Palace is 9 miles (15 kilometers) from the downtown area. It is the largest and best-preserved royal park in China.

The Palace greatly influences Chinese horticulture and landscape. It has long been recognized as 'The Museum of Royal Gardens'. You will have a leisurely walk in the park.

**Tips:** Please note that some areas like Longevity Hill and the opera recital area require an additional entrance fee.

**Popular local restaurants:** We will arrange for lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants.





**Beijing Roast Duck:** Beijing Roast Duck is a dish from Beijing that has been prepared since the imperial era. The meat is characterized by its thin, crisp skin, with authentic versions of the dish serving mostly the skin and little meat, sliced in front of the diners by the cook.

Ducks bred specially for the dish are slaughtered after 65 days and seasoned before being roasted in a closed or hung oven. It's the epitome of Beijing cuisine. Our selected restaurants mainly are Fangzhuang Quanjude, a renowned restaurant in Beijing and Duck Private Kitchen, a highly recommended restaurant. Your local tour guide can recommend others.

## DAY 10

Beijing

**Accommodation:** Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing \*\*\*\* (Deluxe twin bedroom)

**Today's Activities:** The Southern Gong and Drum Lane (Nanluoguxiang), Xiushui Street, Temple of Heaven

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch allowance per person. Most clients find this allowance more than adequate.

**The Southern Gong and Drum Lane (Nanluoguxiang):** Hutongs are the old-style alleyways and courtyard houses which were built during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Nanluoguxiang is one of the most famous Hutong districts. Nanluoguxiang is an 800-meter long with north-south alleyways east of Houhai.

There are many bars, cafes, and chic shops in Nanluoguxiang which are all designed in classical Chinese Hutong style. It is a mix of history, fashion and culture and very popular.

**Xiushui Street:** Xiushui Street (Silk Market) has a variety of goods: silk, cashmere, clothes, leather goods, garment, hats, shoes, carpet, souvenir, jewelry, almost anything imaginable can be found in this glitzy market. Most of the vendors in Xiushui can speak a little English and they usually show the price on a calculator. You need to be good at bargaining.



**Temple of Heaven:** Built in 1420 during the Ming dynasty, the Temple of Heaven is a complex of Taoist buildings where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties visited for annual ceremonies to pray for good harvests.

The park of the temple of Heaven is full of life. In the morning lots of local elderly people meet there to sing, exercise, and practice tai chi.

Take an easy stroll through the 675-acre park in the south of Central Beijing. Or just sit under a shady tree and people watch.

**Popular local restaurants:** We will arrange for the lunch or dinner included in the package to be eaten at popular local restaurants.



## DAY 11

Depart Beijing

**Transport:** Flight (Your arrangements)

**Today's Activities:** Hotel to airport Transfer (Beijing)

**Meals:** Breakfast



What's included:

- Private, fully dedicated bilingual guide throughout the tour.
- Airport transfers.
- Accommodation in 4-star hotels.
- All breakfasts, most other meals.
- In-country transportation.
- Classes and exhibitions where applicable.

- Entrance fees to venues on the schedule.

What's not included:

- International flights.
- International airport departure tax if applicable.
- Any visa required.
- Services and activities not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Expenditure of a personal nature.
- Personal travel insurance (required).
- Optional activities.
- Tips.

**Payments:**

Deposit \$500. Pay deposit [here](#). Single Supplement, \$650.00. Pay single supplement [here](#).

Every effort will be made to match solo travelers with other same-gender solo travelers, if requested, based on availability on a first come, first served basis.

Deposit is refundable, minus small processing fee, until 90 days before the start of the tour.

You will receive a link to make the final payment due 60 days before the start of the tour.

**Other information:**

Travels with Talek reserves the right to change this itinerary at any time for improvement.

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