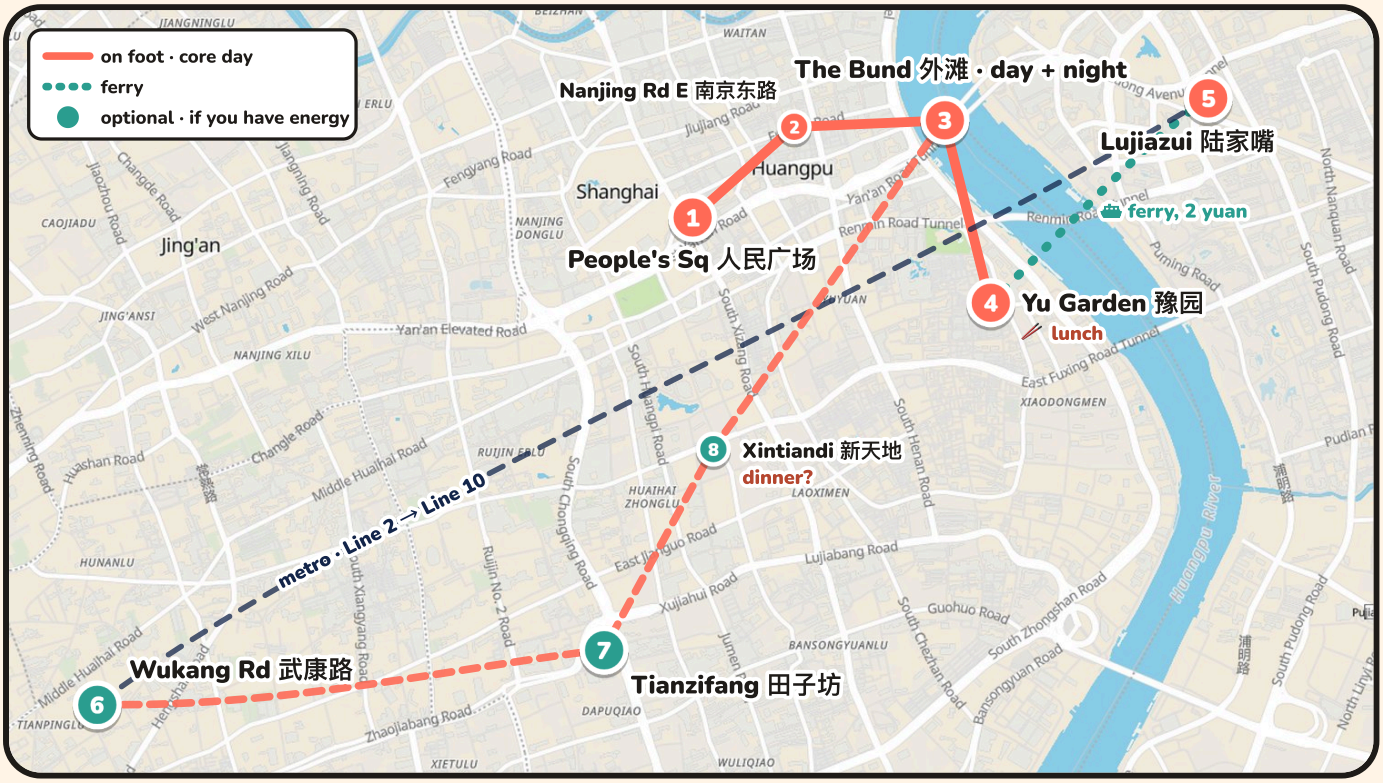
First Time Asia · mapped · timed · priced

Shanghai: your first day

One classic day, 09:00 to the Bund lights. Built from 14 published itineraries, with checked prices.

≈ 370–530 yuan per person | 5 stops + 3 optional | Not on a Monday





Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright, ODbL). Route and pins: First Time Asia.

The day, per person

≈ 370–530 yuan

Metro rides, Yu Garden, a dumpling lunch, the ferry, the Shanghai Tower deck and dinner. The Oriental Pearl instead of the Tower costs more (packages from 259 yuan). Prices checked 13 Nov 2026.

Before you go

- **Not on a Monday:** Yu Garden is closed on Mondays (open on public holidays).
- Get there early: Yu Garden's last entry is around 16:00.
- Items marked CHECK BEFORE YOU GO weren't confirmed on an official page when we checked.

Why this route

- **The Bund** is in all 14 itineraries we compared, and **Yu Garden** in 13. Most send you to Yu Garden early, before the crowds.
- Nanjing Road East always walks straight into the Bund, so the morning is one easy line on foot.
- Most guides, and the city government's own day plans, end on **the Bund at night**. So do we.

The timetable

09:00 — 1 **People's Square 人民广场**
Start by metro. Skip the museum for now: until Nov 2027 it only shows a paid special exhibition.
free · metro from 3 yuan
CHECK BEFORE YOU GO a metro fare change is pending (hearing held 7 Sept 2026)

09:15 — 2 **Nanjing Road East 南京东路**
Walk the pedestrian street east, straight to the river.
free

09:45 — 3 **The Bund by day 外滩**
The riverside promenade. Your photo of the Oriental Pearl is across the water.
free

10:45 — 4 **Yu Garden 豫园**
The garden, the Zigzag Bridge and the City God Temple area. Go before the crowds. Open 9:00–16:30, last entry about 16:00, closed Mondays.
40 yuan
Apr–Jun & Sep–Nov. 30 yuan Jul–Aug & Dec–Mar approx

12:15 — **Lunch: soup dumplings 南翔馒头店**
Nanxiang Steamed Bun, at Yu Garden (85 Yuyuan Rd). Takeaway window downstairs, dine-in upstairs.
about 40–100 yuan
Average ~93 per person (city food guide, Mar 2026) typical range

13:30 — **Ferry across the river 东金线**
Dongjin line, from East Jinling Rd to Dongchang Rd in Pudong. Pay with the Shanghai transport QR code or a transport card. Daytime only (last boats around 18:15–18:30).
2 yuan

14:00 — 5 **Lujiazui 陆家嘴**
Up one tower: the **Shanghai Tower** 上海中心, 118th floor, **or** the **Oriental Pearl** 东方明珠. Bring your passport for tickets.
Tower 180 yuan approx
Pearl: packages 259–279 yuan. Basic ticket
CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

16:00 — 6 **Former French Concession 武康路**
Optional. Metro Line 2 → Line 10, then plane trees and old villas along Wukang Road.
free walk

17:30 — 7 **Tianzifang → Xintiandi 田子坊 · 新天地**
Optional. Lane-house alleys, then the stone-gate houses of Xintiandi.
free

18:30 — **Dinner 新天地 / 外滩**
In Xintiandi, or near the Bund (most guides' pick).
about 100–200 yuan
CHECK BEFORE YOU GO rough range; check your restaurant's average on Dianping

19:00 — 3 **The Bund at night 外滩夜景**
Back to the river for the lights on both banks. The finale most guides end on.
free
Lights on from 19:00, until at least 22:00 CHECK BEFORE YOU GO (switch-off time varies)

Running late?

Drop the teal stops (6, 7). The core is People's Square → Bund → Yu Garden → ferry → Lujiazui → Bund at night.

Paying

The metro and the ferry take the Shanghai transport QR code (WeChat or Alipay) and transport cards. Set up the QR code before you fly.

Prices per adult, checked 13 Nov 2026. Sources on page 3.

Show this to a driver

请带我去这里

"Please take me here." Point at the name.

人民广场 People's Square	**南京东路步行街** Nanjing Road East (pedestrian street)
外滩 The Bund	**豫园** Yu Garden
南翔馒头店（豫园路85号） Nanxiang Steamed Bun, 85 Yuyuan Rd	**金陵东路轮渡站** East Jinling Rd ferry pier
上海中心大厦 Shanghai Tower	**东方明珠** Oriental Pearl Tower
武康路 Wukang Road	**田子坊** Tianzifang
新天地 Xintiandi	**外滩（看夜景）** The Bund (for the night view)

Sources (all checked 13 Nov 2026)

1. **Yu Garden 40 yuan (peak season):** Shanghai government portal, english.shanghai.gov.cn (page dated 18 Nov 2024). 30 yuan off-season and opening hours: consensus of goasia.cc (Oct 2026), tuniu, Huangpu district page approx
2. **Nanxiang ~93 yuan average:** english.shanghai.gov.cn/en-GlobalTasteinShanghai2026-LocalFlavors/20260316/00b0c6d1698d406c8d532a6e169e1a1e.html · lunch range also from Ctrip reviews and chinafortravelers.com
3. **Ferry 2 yuan, Dongjin line hours:** english.shanghai.gov.cn/en-Individuals-Transportation-PublicTransport/20260813/474fc35ff5a54d51aeeb68b2cb981088.html · paying: english.shanghai.gov.cn/en-PaymentMethods/20240517/757f50ea064d4f8195f819dd79316630.html
4. **Metro from 3 yuan:** english.shanghai.gov.cn/en-Latest-WhatsNew/20260820/6676e7847de746e9aef956c40460bd84.html · fare-change hearing: thepaper.cn (Sept 2026)
5. **Shanghai Tower 180 yuan** approx: Meet in Shanghai (2025), dahepiao.com (May 2025), 2026 guide. How to buy: shanghaitower.com
6. **Oriental Pearl packages 259–279 yuan:** list prices quoted by m.sh.bendibao.com (May and Sept 2026). The basic ticket wasn't confirmed: the official site blocks automated checks.
7. **Bund lights from 19:00:** Guangming Daily (Aug 2026), thepaper.cn (Dec 2025, relaying the city's notice), Shanghai greening & city appearance bureau notice (Feb 2024). Switch-off time conflicts (22:00 vs 23:00).
8. **Dinner 100–200 yuan** rough: chinafortravelers.com, citiesinsider, gotripzi, government dish-price page (May 2026).
9. **The route:** what 14 published one-day itineraries agree on, including Lonely Planet (2025), China Highlights (2026), Wander in China (2026), Baba Goes China (2026), Nick Kembel (2026), Trip.com (2025) and the Shanghai government's own "Spend a day in Shanghai" pages.

Mobile data in China
YonoSIM is our team's travel eSIM. Use code **FTASIA** at checkout:
shops.yonosim.com/firsttimeasia

FTASIA

Watch the guide: Shanghai Part 1 on YouTube, **@firsttimeasia**.

Prices and hours change. We checked everything on 13 Nov 2026; confirm the items marked "check before you go" on the day. Free to share, not for resale.



© 2026 First Time Asia