

7-Day Huangshan, Shanghai and Hangzhou Tour

Trip overview

This meticulously paced itinerary seamlessly links three of East China's most iconic destinations via convenient high-speed bullet trains. You will start in the pulsing metropolis of **Shanghai**, where historic colonial architecture gazes across the river at sci-fi skyscrapers. Next, journey to **Hangzhou**, the historic "Heaven on Earth," to immerse yourself in legendary tea cultures and scenic lakeside beauty. Finally, ascend the mist-shrouded peaks of **Huangshan (The Yellow Mountain)** and wander through UNESCO-listed ancient villages that make you feel as though you've stepped directly into a traditional Chinese ink painting. Complete with private local guides, dedicated drivers, and handpicked accommodations, this tour offers a hassle-free, deeply authentic East China vacation.

- **Durations:** 7 Days
- **Destinations:** Shanghai - Anhui - Hangzhou
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/7-day-huangshan-shanghai-and-hangzhou-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Shanghai — Arrival & Private Escort

Touch down in Shanghai, where your grand multi-country journey begins amidst the high-octane energy of China's premier global metropolis. After clearing customs and stepping into the arrival hall, you will be warmly welcomed by your dedicated local guide and private chauffeur holding a personalized name board. Leave the navigation and airport rush behind as you step into a premium, non-smoking private vehicle for a smooth, direct transfer to your downtown hotel.

As you cruise along the elevated expressways, take in your first captivating views of the city's futuristic skyline rising in the distance. Upon arrival at your hotel, your guide will handle all luggage logistics and walk you through a seamless check-in process. The remainder of the day is entirely yours to unwind at your own pace—shake off the jet lag with a quiet cocktail overlooking the neon-lit streets, or relax in the comfort of your room as you prepare for the incredible adventures ahead.

Meals: None (or Flight Meals)

Expert Journey Insights:

To provide a completely effortless arrival experience, our ground team tracks your flight landing data in real-time to adjust for any early arrivals or unexpected delays, ensuring your driver is waiting the exact moment you exit the baggage claim area. If you wish to set up local digital wallets (such as connecting your international credit cards to Alipay or WeChat Pay), exchange currency, or obtain a local SIM card, your expert guide will gladly assist you at the most efficient airport kiosks right before heading to your vehicle. We highly recommend utilizing this first evening to relax and acclimate to the local time zone, as your upcoming schedule features an exciting, in-depth dive into the history, architecture, and towering observation decks of this magnificent megacity.

Day 2: Shanghai Contrasts — Classical Gardens, Vertical Heights & Art Deco Secrets

Begin your immersion into Shanghai with a morning visit to Yu Garden, a magnificent 16th-century classical garden. Walk past traditional pavilions, zig-zag bridges, and koi-filled ponds designed to keep negative spirits away, admiring the brilliant Ming Dynasty craftsmanship hidden within the bustling old city. Next, transition instantly from the past into the future as you cross the river to Lujiazui. Rocket up to the top observation deck of the Shanghai Tower—the world's second-tallest building—for an unparalleled, panoramic view of the vast urban landscape spreading out beneath you.

Returning to earth, your afternoon is dedicated to a curated Art Deco walking tour along the historic Bund and adjacent neighborhoods. Trace the remnants of Shanghai's 1930s golden age through the architectural masterpieces of legendary Hungarian architect László Hudec. Your expert guide will teach you to "read" the bold geometric lines, sunburst motifs, and unique brickwork that defined the city's early cosmopolitan flair. Wrap up your architectural journey inside a preserved, century-old newspaper building. Here, you will enjoy a specialty cup of Old Shanghai-style coffee, immersing yourself in the city's rich, historic café culture while reflecting on a spectacular day of time travel.

Meals: Breakfast

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's itinerary offers an incredible visual narrative of Shanghai's evolution, so we highly recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes for the afternoon architectural exploration through the historic neighborhoods. Because the observation deck at the Shanghai Tower sits over half a kilometer in the air, your guide will monitor local weather and visibility conditions throughout the morning, shifting the ascent timing if necessary to ensure you get the absolute clearest views of the Huangpu River and the city below. The specialty café at the conclusion of your walk is a true hidden gem that brilliantly connects Shanghai's literary past with its modern status as the city with the highest number of coffee shops in the world—making it the perfect, relaxed spot to chat with your guide about local lifestyle trends.

Day 3: Bullet Train to Huangshan — Ancient Wellness Crafts & Tunxi Old Street

Bid farewell to Shanghai's glittering skyscrapers this morning as you board a sleek high-speed train for a smooth, scenic three-hour journey to Huangshan. Relax in your comfortable seat as the ultra-modern rail network whisks you away from the coast, watching the urban sprawl smoothly transform into a shifting landscape of misty emerald hills, terraced fields, and traditional white-walled villages. Arriving in Huangshan, enjoy an authentic introduction to regional Huizhou cuisine at a handpicked local restaurant before diving into a unique sensory experience.

Step inside a quiet, traditional workshop to discover the time-honored art of making herbal fragrance plaques—a beautiful Chinese wellness craft designed to balance energy and promote well-being. Under the guidance of a master artisan, you will grind aromatic medicinal herbs into a fine powder, blend them into a smooth, fragrant paste, and meticulously press the mixture into hand-carved wooden molds. While your handmade plaque sets to air-dry, your guide will escort you to **Tunxi Old Street**. Often described as a "living scroll" brought to life from a classical Chinese painting, this bustling pedestrian street showcases impeccably preserved Ming and Qing dynasty architecture. Stroll along the vintage stone pavements, explore multi-generational shops selling fine tea and calligraphy ink, and let the enticing aromas guide you to local food stalls for an evening of independent culinary discovery.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's transit flawlessly bridges China's high-speed modernity with its deep-rooted ancestral traditions, and your first-class train tickets are pre-booked to ensure a highly relaxing journey. When preparing your daypack this morning, please keep your physical passport easily accessible, as it acts as your digital boarding pass at the high-speed rail security gates. The herbal fragrance workshop is a wonderfully tactile experience where you can completely customize the scent profile of your plaque using regional botanical ingredients; the finished piece will be safely packed for you, serving as a naturally therapeutic and deeply personal keepsake that will gently perfume your luggage for the remainder of your trip.

Day 4: Ascending the Yellow Mountain — Clouds, Pines & Mythic Peaks

Prepare to enter a living Chinese landscape painting today as you journey into the heart of **Huangshan (The Yellow Mountain)**, a UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated for centuries by poets and artists. Your adventure begins with a ride on the **Yungu Cable Car**, gliding effortlessly over deep chasms to soar above mist-shrouded peaks. As you ascend, look out for the mountain's legendary "Four Wonders": the dramatically twisted guest-greeting pines clinging to sheer cliffs, the bizarrely formed granite rock formations, and the shifting, ethereal seas of clouds that cascade through the mountain passes.

Once on the summit ridgeline, you will step out into a pristine alpine wonderland alongside a dedicated local expert who spends over 200 days a year exploring every hidden nook and cranny of this massif. Under their master storytelling, you will traverse the winding stone pathways to iconic vantage points, discovering the deep geological history, spiritual myths, and imperial secrets that have anchored this mountain at the center of Chinese cultural identity for millennia.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's mountain exploration involves navigating beautifully engineered but uneven stone pathways with significant stairways, so wearing high-grip, comfortable hiking shoes or athletic footwear is essential for a safe and enjoyable journey. Weather on the mountain can change

rapidly—shifting from brilliant sunshine to thick mountain mist in a matter of minutes—which is exactly what creates the famous "Sea of Clouds" effect; we highly recommend dressing in versatile layers and carrying a light, windproof jacket in your daypack. To ensure a completely unhurried experience on the peaks, your larger luggage will be securely stored at the base hotel, and you will only need to carry a small overnight backpack with your essentials up the cable car for your premium mountaintop stay.

Day 5: Dawn on the Peaks to the Creative Haven of Bishan Village

Wake up before first light for the chance to witness a breathtaking alpine spectacle—a magical sunrise over the jagged ridges of the Yellow Mountain. Watch from a premier vantage point as the morning sun slowly pierces the horizon, painting the sea of clouds and twisted pines in rich hues of gold and amber. Even on misty mornings, the mountain reveals an ethereal, ink-painting beauty that has captivated poets for centuries. After a hearty mountaintop breakfast, board the cable car for a smooth descent back to the valley, where your private driver waits to escort you to **Bishan Village**.

Bishan is far from a typical, static open-air museum; it is a thriving, avant-garde rural utopia where centuries-old Huizhou architecture blends seamlessly with modern creative vision. Spend your afternoon discovering this artistic sanctuary. Meet an inspiring local couple who breathed new life into three abandoned historic structures, masterfully transforming a former pigsty, an old oil workshop, and a grand Ming Dynasty mansion into boutique, heritage guesthouses. Stroll down to a magnificent, beautifully restored ancestral temple that has been brilliantly repurposed into an acclaimed independent bookstore. Throughout your walk, your private guide will give you an insider's look at the philosophy behind the Bishan Project, revealing how artists, intellectuals, and villagers have come together to construct a sustainable, culturally rich rural utopia.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today balances a spectacular, high-altitude morning with an intimate, flat walking tour through one of China's most fascinating contemporary cultural experiments. Sunrise times on Huangshan vary depending on the season, so your guide will notify you the evening before of the exact optimal wake-up call and provide a map to the closest, crowd-free overlook platform. When visiting the repurposed ancestral temple bookstore in Bishan, we highly recommend taking a moment to sit in the central open courtyard to flip through their extensive collection of local art, design, and regional history books, which offer an incredibly deep look into the modern architectural revival sweeping through central China.

Day 6: High-Speed Rail to Hangzhou — West Lake Private Cruise & Merchant Mansions

Board a sleek high-speed train this morning for a swift, scenic two-hour ride to Hangzhou, a city Marco Polo once lauded as the finest and most splendid in the world. Upon arrival, your private guide and chauffeur will escort you to a premier local restaurant to savor authentic Hangzhou cuisine, celebrated for its delicate, fresh flavors. Afterward, step aboard a private boat for an exclusive cruise on the legendary **West Lake**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. From the tranquil water, enjoy a completely unobstructed perspective of the city's most iconic vistas, watching the historic Leifeng Pagoda and the willow-lined Su Causeway glide gracefully past your window.

Stepping back onto land, journey into the historic Qinghefang district to explore the **Former Residence of Hu Xueyan**. This sprawling, masterfully preserved estate offers a rare look into the opulent lifestyle of one of China's wealthiest and most influential merchant-barons of the late Qing Dynasty, showcasing grand courtyards, exquisite woodcarvings, and elegant rockery gardens. Conclude your afternoon at the nearby living museum of **Traditional Chinese Medicine**. Go far beyond textbook history as you enter a working apothecary, where you will witness master pharmaceutical artisans demonstrating the ancestral art of manual pill-rolling, precise hand-slicing of raw herbs, and compounding herbal prescriptions using traditional brass tools.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's journey beautifully transitions you from the dramatic peaks of Anhui to the poetic, water-bound elegance of Zhejiang Province, and your first-class rail tickets are fully pre-arranged for maximum comfort. For the afternoon walking tour through the Hu Xueyan mansion and the traditional medicine halls, comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended to easily navigate the historic stone thresholds and courtyard paths. The Traditional Chinese Medicine museum is a highly interactive, sensory space; your guide will gladly help translate the names of the aromatic herbs and can assist you in sampling a cup of freshly brewed, seasonal herbal wellness tea, a popular local ritual for health and vitality.

Day 7: Longjing Estates & Executive Cross-Provincial Departure Logistics

Spend an exquisite morning immersing yourself in the refined scholar culture of Chinese tea at a private estate within the **Meijiawu Tea Village**. Don a traditional harvesting hat and basket as you embark on a privately escorted walk through the premium, high-altitude tea terraces alongside a multi-generational estate owner. Master the exact technical metrics behind picking pristine "one-bud-one-leaf" specimens, followed by a private viewing of the masterful hand-firing process inside the estate's roasting house. Conclude with a private, curated tasting session to decode the delicate orchid notes of authentic West Lake Longjing tea.

Indulge in a magnificent, private lakeside culinary experience showcasing high-end Huaiyang and tea-infused gastronomy. Following lunch, your private chauffeur provides a swift transfer to the station for your first-class high-speed rail transit to Shanghai, arriving in just 45 minutes. Upon stepping off the train, your Shanghai VIP ground team will receive you directly at the platform, managing all luggage handling and transferring you in a premium executive vehicle straight to the international airport terminal—or checking you into your luxury hotel should you choose to extend your journey.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

VIP Operator Insights:

Today's cross-provincial transit is managed with absolute precision by our synchronized regional teams; your Hangzhou guide ensures a smooth boarding process, while your Shanghai team monitors your train's arrival in real-time to ensure your private executive vehicle is waiting immediately outside the VIP exit gates. The premium, hand-picked tea leaves you harvest or purchase at Meijiawu are sealed in professional, flight-ready packaging, making for an exceptional and deeply authentic luxury keepsake to enjoy at home. Please ensure your physical passport remains easily accessible throughout the day, as it is required for verification at both the high-speed rail gates and airport immigration checkpoints.

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

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