PRINTABLE TRIP ITINERARY

Shanghai & Beijing in 6 Days

Our real April 2023 China trip from Hyderabad with Shanghai, Beijing, the Great Wall, vegetarian cooking and actual spending of ₹67,000 per person.

6 days	₹67,000 pp	China	6 days
TRIP	BUDGET	DURATION	GUIDE

What this guide includes

Actual or planned costs, a readable day-by-day itinerary, practical food and accommodation notes, and public transport station pairs where available.

Important: Historical costs are budgeting references. Verify current prices, route numbers, opening times and entry rules before travel.

Budget and transport

Expense	Per person
Multi-city return flights	₹38,000
China tourist visa and centre fees paid in 2023	₹5,570
Bullet train, metros, buses, ferries and airport rail	₹8,500
Five hotel nights	₹5,800
Fruit and vegetables bought in China (₹4,500 ÷ 5)	₹900
Dry food carried from India (₹800 ÷ 5)	₹160
Attraction admissions	₹2,800
Mutianyu cable car	₹600
Travel eSIM	₹1,500
Itemised subtotal	₹63,830
Miscellaneous and untracked spending	₹3,170
Rounded trip total	₹67,000

Bus, train, tram and ferry route card

Mode	Service	Board at	Get down at	Approx. fare	Note
Metro	Shanghai Metro Line 2	Pudong International Airport	People’s Square	About ¥7	For the central Shanghai base; some Line 2 journeys require a same-platform train change at Guanglan Road.
Metro	Shanghai Metro Line 10	East Nanjing Road	Yuyuan Garden	About ¥3-4	Useful for the Old City and Yuyuan bazaar area.
Train	G-series high-speed train	Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station	Beijing South Railway Station	From about ¥553 second class	Use the train number shown on the booked ticket.
Metro	Beijing Subway Line 4	Beijing South Railway Station	Xidan	About ¥4-5	Change at Xidan for Line 1 toward Tian’anmen East.
Bus	916 Express + H23/H24/H35/H36 transfer	Dongzhimen Transport Hub	Mutianyu Roundabout / Mutianyu stop	About ¥20-35 total	Great Wall public-transport option; transfer details and last buses must be checked on the travel day.

Checked October 2026: confirm live schedules and disruptions in the official operator planner.

Day-by-day itinerary and practical notes

Five of us travelled from Hyderabad to Shanghai and returned from Beijing, combining metro travel, a high-speed train, self-cooked vegetarian meals and China’s biggest landmarks.

Prices are historical rather than live quotations. Use them as a budgeting reference and verify current fares, entry fees and booking conditions before travelling.

Our open-jaw flights meant we did not need to return to Shanghai after Beijing. We booked Hyderabad → Shanghai and Beijing → Hyderabad together for ₹38,000 per person, then connected the cities by a second-class high-speed train.

Exactly what we spent

Our six-day Shanghai and Beijing itinerary

After landing at Pudong, we used Metro Line 2 rather than the Maglev. We walked Nanjing Road, explored The Bund and used the low-cost Huangpu public ferry for skyline views.

We explored the free outer bazaar streets and Nine-Turn Bridge without paying to enter the inner Yuyuan Garden, then walked the Former French Concession and Tianzifang.

We travelled from Shanghai Hongqiao to Beijing South in a second-class G-series train, then explored Nanluoguxiang and the surrounding hutongs.

We reached Mutianyu by public transport, used the cable car and spent the day exploring the wall before returning to Wangfujing.

We visited Tiananmen Square, used our pre-booked Forbidden City tickets, climbed Jingshan Park for the palace panorama and ended around Houhai Lake.

We used the subway to visit the Summer Palace, collected our bags and travelled to Beijing Capital Airport for the return journey to Hyderabad.

Use these for an overview before travelling. In China, use AMap or Apple Maps for live navigation.

Where we stayed

We stayed two nights at Jin Jiang Inn in Shanghai and three nights at Zhongan Hotel in Beijing. Our accommodation total was ₹5,800 per person. We requested cooking facilities in advance rather than assuming they would be available.

How we managed vegetarian food

We carried dry packaged ingredients from India: Maggi noodles, rice, sambar powder and masalas. In Shanghai and Beijing we bought fresh fruit and vegetables, then prepared all our meals ourselves. The India supplies cost ₹800 for five people, while our China groceries cost ₹4,500 for the group.

Mutianyu Great Wall

Using public transport rather than a packaged tour kept the day affordable. We paid separately for the cable car—₹600 per person at the time—and used it to reach the wall before exploring the watchtowers.

Forbidden City and Jingshan view

We booked the Forbidden City before the visit, passed through Tiananmen Square and exited near Jingshan Park. The small additional park fee gave us the elevated panorama over the palace roofs.

eSIMs, translators and maps for China

eSIM suggestions

Install and activate your plan before departure. Airalo China eSIMs offer fixed-data and unlimited options and state that their China roaming route can access services such as Google and WhatsApp without a separate VPN. Compare the current package size, validity, hotspot rules and device compatibility before paying. Nomad and regional Asia plans can be useful alternatives, but check their current mainland-China routing rather than assuming every eSIM behaves the same way.

Translation

Download Simplified Chinese in Google Translate before leaving home so typed and camera translations have an offline fallback. Save the hotel names, addresses, dietary message and major attractions in Chinese as screenshots. Pleco is also useful as a Chinese–English dictionary, especially for food ingredients and individual characters.

Maps and navigation

AMap Global (Gaode Maps) is the best first choice because it now offers English navigation and detailed local transport information. Apple Maps is a convenient alternative for iPhone users in mainland China. Beijing also has an official English-language Beijing Map. Do not rely solely on Google Maps for live mainland navigation; use the Google route links above for pre-trip overview and keep Chinese place names saved for local apps.

China visa: our 2023 cost versus current applications

We paid ₹5,570 per person for the tourist visa and service-centre charges in 2023. That is a historical trip cost, not a current quotation. Application procedures and fees have changed since our journey. Indian passport holders should use the official Chinese Visa Application Service Centre, select the centre responsible for their area, complete the current online process and confirm the latest document, biometric, submission and fee requirements before booking non-refundable travel. The official fee table currently lists a ₹2,900 single-entry visa fee for Indian citizens, with service and optional processing charges handled separately.

Budget traveller’s quick summary

Trip: Hyderabad → Shanghai → Beijing → Hyderabad

Dates: 15–21 April 2023

Travellers: 5

Cost: approximately ₹67,000 per person; ₹3,35,000 total

Highlights: The Bund, Yuyuan, French Concession, Tianzifang, bullet train, hutongs, Mutianyu Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Jingshan Park, Houhai and Summer Palace

Biggest savings: open-jaw flights, public transport and cooking vegetarian meals.

Compare Shanghai and Beijing experiences

Check current activities for both cities and compare inclusions carefully before booking.

Before you travel

Reconfirm every fare, stop, timetable, visa or entry requirement, baggage rule and food-import restriction with the responsible provider.