

### Guide for Self-organized Tour in Shanghai

If you are tired of the trips organized by travel agencies with tight schedule, you may hire a personal assistant and organize your own tour trip in Shanghai. You may choose the downtown or the suburban area or even those neighboring ancient towns of Shanghai as your destination and then spend a day or two for sightseeing, shopping or simply relaxing.

For self-organized tour trip, you may only need to scratch a plan for the trip and then enjoy the flexible schedule as well as surprises and discoveries popping up one after another. There are many places besides those in the old stories of travel agencies (the Bund, Xintiandi, People's Square, Lujiazui, Chenghuang Temple, Yu Garden) for you to choose. You may penetrate deep into the lanes of Shanghai and find the mystery of stone-gate buildings, go to the suburban areas of Shanghai to visit those old Buddha Temples, pop in those exquisite bars on Hengshan Road in the evening, or even surprise a peasant family as a tour guest for a day in Chongming.

#### Tips:

1. Hotel is the top concern. Especially in peak seasons of tourism when most of the hotel rooms have been booked, you need to be sure about the hotel reservation.
2. If you do not know Chinese, you need to hire a personal assistant as the tour guide for your trip. The bus drivers and taxi drivers hardly speak foreign languages and the public signs in English of some places even make you more confused than it is in Chinese.
3. Shanghai is a big city with lots of interesting places. You need to be good at making tour plans if you want to enjoy your flexible trip with reasonable arrangement. If you want to visit the suburban areas, please mind the time on the way.
4. The public transportation system in downtown area is complete and convenient while that of the suburban area is developing. Some of the taxies in certain district do not run cross-district business; the time of the last bus of some lines is as early as 5 pm or 4 pm. Please pay attention to the issues concerning transportation of your tour.

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