

Executive Summary

In the area surrounding Shanghai, there are a number of small towns on the water that date back a thousand years or more. Their locations on the water made them ideal spots for trade, and they flourished in Ming and Qing Dynasties. Thankfully, in recent years, these small water towns have not seen much change. Many of the original bridges and buildings are still standing, which allows us to step back into history when we visit these water towns.

At each water town, you can do the following:

- Visit local museums and attractions (usually included in the entrance fee to the city)
- Hire a boat to take you up and down the rivers (approx. RMB 80/boat, depending on location)
- Enjoy delicious local snacks and dishes
- Purchase local handicrafts and art
- Tour the town in a rickshaw (bargain to RMB 5/hour)

Staying in the water towns overnight is suggested, so you can still be there when the rest of the tourists get back on their buses and head home. Evening and early morning are the perfect times to truly experience the traditional lifestyles of these small communities. Each town has hotels available, but you can also find private homes on the water with rooms available for about RMB 100-150 (except in ZhuJiaJiao, where they are not allowed). A local rickshaw driver or shop keeper should be able to point one out to you.

This guide features three popular water towns and should tell you everything you need to know – popular attractions, local foods, handicrafts to buy, and transportation information.

First Edition

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ZhuJiaJiao



Step into ZhuJiaJiao and come face to face with a town that dates back 1,700 years. What began as a bustling country market, flourished during Ming and Qing Dynasties. Once an old shipping port, ZhuJiaJiao (meaning “Pearl Stream”) is one of the most preserved ancient water towns in the area. However, due to its proximity to Shanghai, ZhuJiaJiao has been hit hard by tourism, so expect crowds and plenty of hawkers.

Location and Cost

Located an hour to the west of Shanghai, on the bank of Dianshan Lake, the ancient town covers 2.7 square kilometers. Admission is RMB 10.

Attractions

Bei Da Jie (North Street) - Take a stroll down North Street to enjoy ZhuJiaJiao’s best preserved architecture. Appreciate historic buildings, such as a post office dating back to the Qing Dynasty that is now open to the public. Visit the Temple of Town God, built in 1763, also on North Street.

Kezhi Yuan (Kezhi Garden) - Located on Xijin Street, this is the largest manorial garden in the town. Decorated with Chinese-style pavilions and scattered with peach and apple trees, this garden took 12 years to build.

Ancient Bridges - Only 20 of the towns’ original 36 ancient bridges remain fully in tact. Two of the most popular are the FangSheng and Lang bridges:

- **FangSheng Qiao** (Bridge of Setting Fish Free)
Built in 1571, this stone-arch bridge is the longest and largest of its kind in Shanghai. Once a year in ancient times, locals would set free living things that were being held captive in hopes to be blessed by God. You can also choose to purchase a fish from a vendor to set free in the waters at the foot of the bridge, but you can bet the vendor will scoop the fish right back up, and sell it to someone else.



- **Lang Qiao** (Veranda Bridge)
The only wooden bridge in Zhu Jia Zhao, it looks much like a narrow corridor.



Foods

Recommended Restaurants

Yihong Noodle Restaurant – Try the noodle soup with shredded eel (shan si mian)

Recommended Snacks

Tang Ou - Sweet lotus with sticky rice

Ruzhi Doufu Gan – Dried tofu in soy sauce

Sheng Jian Mantou – Pan-fried pork dumpling

Yang Rou Mian - Lamb noodles

Shao Mai – Steamed dumplings with pork and sticky rice

Ji Rou Huntun - Chicken wonton in soup

Zha Rou - Braised pork in tied rolls

Zongzi - Glutinous rice wrapped in reeds

Xun Qing Dou - Baked soy beans

Mei Gui Dou Fu Ru - Fermented bean curd with rose flavor

Recommended Dishes

Hong Shao Tipang-- Braised pork joint with soy sauce

Cong You Shansi—Fried eel shred with green onion

Caoji Bao—Farmer raised chicken casserole

Hong Shao Heman—Braised white eel with soy sauce

Angci Yu (xie) Bao—Angci fish (with crab) casserole

You Bao Hexia—Fried shrimps

Xia Bao Shan—Fried shrimp with eel shred.

Heye Ya—Steamed dark steamed in lotus leaves



Shopping

Every where you walk in Zhu Jia Jiao, vendors and shop owners call out to you. Try to find unique art, such as painted plate carvings depicting scenes of ZhuJiaJiao. Be sure to bargain hard. With the multitude of tourists, prices can be obnoxiously high.

Accommodation

Caiyuan Hotel 021-59246666 No 100, Xinxi Rd, Zhujiajiao, Qingpu Shanghai

Jingyuan Shuizhuang Hotel 021-59249477 No 300 Xijing Street Zhujiajiao, Qingpu Shanghai

Jahwa United Ltd training center 021-59248100 No1 Nanhuan Rd Zhujiajiao, Qingpu Shanghai



There are no private guesthouses in ZhuJiaJiao.

Transportation

Bus from Shanghai Stadium:


Buses to ZhuJiaJiao run every 30 minutes from 7:30 to 11:10 a.m. at the Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center located under the no. 5 staircase at Gate 12 of the Shanghai Stadium (666 Tianyaoqiao Lu; 021/6426-5555; www.ChinaSSBC.com). Buses return at 4 p.m.

Price for round-trip bus ticket including entrance fee: RMB80

There are also buses leaving from people square: leave from Laochendu Rd and Dagulu start from 5:00-17:30

Also, you can refer to the appendix to find more bus taking point of Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center


E-voucher, print it out and enjoy!



地址: 卢湾区鲁班路100号汇彩生活馆225室(近前园路)
Add: Rm225(2f),Huicai Shopping Center,No.100 Luban Road
(near liyuan road),Luwan,Shanghai.


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XiTang



A soft glow from red lanterns fills the evening sky as you stroll down the narrow lanes in this thousand-year-old water town. Among Ming and Qing dynasty architecture, you'll observe the traditional lifestyles of XiTang's residents. Here you'll see woman washing their clothes and possibly their dinner in the river, and local children playing in the small lanes. While an influx of tourists arrive every morning, it is not as busy as other

water towns, and normal life for the people of XiTang seems to remain unchanged.

Location and Cost

Located in Jiashan County, in northern Zhejiang Province, XiTang is about 3 hours from Shanghai by car. Admission is RMB 60, which includes entrance to all the museums and scenic spots.



Attractions

Button Museum – This museum is home to the biggest button in the world. Here, you can see ancient buttons as well as modern ones on display, and even watch a button be made from shell using traditional equipment.

Yellow Rice Wine Display Hall – Learn about the winemaking process in this museum.

Root-carving Museum – This museum contains some exquisite carvings from roots.

Longtangs – Xitang contains 122 longtangs, which are small lanes off the main waterway. Be sure to wander to Shipi Lane, which is only one meter wide and 68 meters long.



Covered Corridors – This feature makes Xitang unique when compared to other water towns. Due to the rainy climate, each family erects a ceiling over the stone path in front of their home. They connect to form covered corridors. At night, with the rain falling among the glow of red lanterns, you feel as if you are walking in an old movie.

Ancient Bridges – Nine rivers run through Xitang, which explains the 104 wooden or stone bridges in the town. Cross as

many as you can, and be sure to see the Lying Dragon Bridge.

Other attractions include a Chinese Tile Museum, a Chinese Fan Museum, a number of ancient residences and Xiyuan Garden.

Foods

Recommended Snacks



Bazheng Gao (8 Treasures Cake) – Sweet snack made from glutinous rice flour combined with 8 medicinal herbs

Qianshi Gao – Similar to 8 Treasures Cake, but contains only sweet olive (osmanthus) blossoms

Huashen Tang - Peanut candy

Zhima Tang – Sesame candy

Dingji Maiya Tabing – Dingji malt cake

Recommended Dishes

Bai Si Yu - Braised Baisi Fish – bean curd, cooking wine, ginger, spring onions

You Dun Cai Xin - Cabbage hearts braised with oil

Hun Dun Lao Ya Bao - Casserole with duck and wonton

Mao Dou Ling Jiao - Green soybean with water chestnuts

You Yan Xie – Steamed crab in oil and salt

Shopping

As XiTang has not been spoiled by a large number of tourists and vendors, there is not much to purchase aside from the local snacks. Take home a bottle of yellow rice wine (Huangzhou), a package of 8 treasures cake (Bazheng Gao) and possibly some artwork depicting the local scenery.

Accommodation

Xitang Holiday Restaurant Accommodation 0573-4567388

Kaixun Grand Restaurant Accommodation 2 stars 0573-4564888

Yuyuan Garden Grand Restaurant Accommodation 0573-4564927

Phoenix hotel Accommodation 0573-4561858

Xinxin hotel Accommodation 0573-4560299

Transportation

Train to JiaShan

This is probably the most efficient way to travel, because it can allow you more freedom and flexibility. Take the train from Shanghai to JiaShan (approx. 1.25 hours) leaving from the Shanghai South Railway station at the Jing Jiang Park Subway Station (line 1). Numerous trains leave each day, and a hard seat is approximately RMB 8. Buses leave regularly for XiTang from the JiaShan bus station around the corner from the train station. The 15-minute ride costs RMB 3.5, and taxis to XiTang cost RMB 25-30.

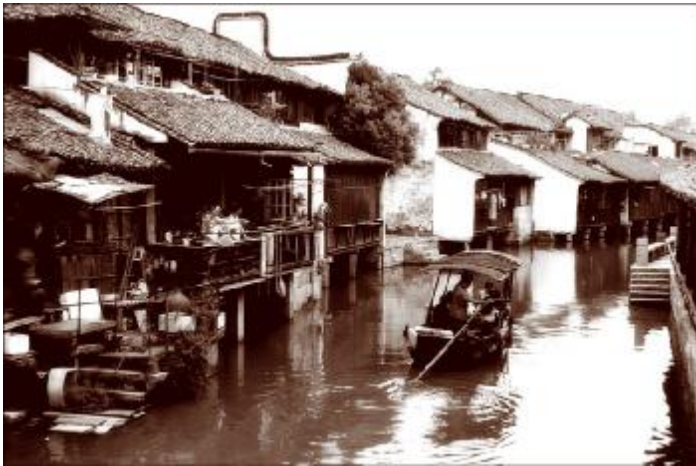
Bus from Shanghai Stadium

A bus to XiTang departs at 9 a.m. on weekends from the Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center located under the no. 5 staircase at Gate 12 of the Shanghai Stadium (666 Tianyaoqiao Lu; 021/6426-5555; www.ChinaSSBC.com).

Price for round-trip bus ticket including entrance fee: RMB 120



WuZhen



Stepping into WuZhen is like stepping into a traditional black and white ink wash painting - the houses' white walls contrasting sharply with their black tile and timber framework. A town with over a thousand years of history, WuZhen's popularity is largely due to famous writer and novelist Mao Dun. A native of WuZhen, he described the warmth of the town in several of his novels.

You too will feel the warmth, as you stroll along the water. There are numerous places where you can learn about the culture in a hands-on environment. Have a try at dyeing cotton or help make some cut tobacco. Or, take a step back to witness the making of cloth shoes, silk cotton, rice wine and traditional snacks. Finally, let the culture envelope you by sipping on a cup of white chrysanthemum tea while taking in the history that surrounds you.

Location and Cost

WuZhen is located an hour north of Hangzhou in Zhejiang province, just north of the city of Tongxiang. Admission is RMB 60, which includes entrance to all the museums and scenic spots.

Attractions

WuZhen is unique in that it has been divided into several districts, each of which portraying cultural traditions and ancient features that have been preserved:

- *Traditional Workshops District:* View and participate in the production of local specialties (batik fabric, white rice wine, local snacks, etc.)
- *Traditional Residences District:* Visit a number of traditional family residences available, each with unique features.
- *Traditional Culture District:* Find an ancient Taoist temple, the home of Mao Dun, the Wenchang pavilion, as well as other sites.
- *Traditional Food and Beverage District:* Enjoy famous teahouses and restaurants serving up WuZhen specialties.
- *Traditional Shops and Stores District:* Shop till you drop among stores selling WuZhen handicrafts.



Former Residence of Mao Dun – Visit the home of famous revolutionary writer Mao Dun, located in the middle part of Guan Qian Street of the town. The home is a traditional Chinese-style house built in the Qing Dynasty. The Mao Dun Museum is located just east of the museum.



Xiuzhen Guan – Take a trip to this Taoist temple, which was constructed in the Xian Ping Yuan period of the Bei Song Dynasty. It is one of three most renowned Taoist temples in Southern China. A giant abacus hangs over the gate with this inscription: "Man may have 1,000 schemes, but God has just one disposition."

Zhu Family Hall – Step into history while visiting this residence built in the late Qing Dynasty. This two-story house features unique flooring in the hallways – square bricks, unusual for the time.



WuZhen Folklore Museum – View displays of local customs, particularly related to celebrations such as weddings, birthdays and festivals.

Fanglu Pavilion – Enjoy a rejuvenating cup of tea at the best teahouse in WuZhen. Just south of the Ying Bridge find the relaxation you're looking for at the Fanglu Pavilion.

1,000-year-old Ginkgo Tree – In the center of town, you'll find one of the only living witnesses to the long history of WuZhen.

Foods

Recommended Snacks



San Bai Jiu (Three White Wine) – A mild, sweet wine with a glutinous rice base.

Bai Ju Huai (White Chrysanthemum) – This sweet flower is commonly used in teas, which also has several medicinal uses.

Sanzhenzhai Ji (Three Treasures Chicken) – Find this delicious braised chicken at the Sanzhenzhai Food Store.



Gusao Bing (Sister-in-law cake) – a mixture of flour, sugar and sesame, set in a mold depicting a Chinese character or beautiful design.



Xundou Cha (Baked Bean Tea) – This tea mainly consists of baked young soybeans combined with dried osmanthus flowers, sesame, and other ingredients.

Recommended Dishes

Hong Shao Yangrou-- Braised lamb with soy sauce

Yuan ti—Pork joint, (can be braised with soy sauce, steamed, salted)

Fenzheng Rou - Pork and sticky rice steamed in lotus leaves

Recommended Restaurants and Snack Shops

Jiujiang Mansion Restaurant (Jiujianglou) – This hundred-year-old restaurant has served up literary award winners as well as APEC guests. Dine in style at the only designated international tourist restaurant in town.

Fengyuan Restaurant – If you are in the mood for some traditional snacks, or would like to dig into some fresh local farmer's dishes and seafood, then head to fengyuan restaurant.

Sanzhenzhai Food Store – This spot is known for its braised chicken, duck and pork.

Shopping



Local Handicrafts

Batik (Blue Print Cotton) – In WuZhen's dyeing workshop, find clothes, purses, toys, and fans made of this printed material. You can even participate in the process of making it!

Bamboo Engravings – Purchase some small gifts such as fans, pencil holders, and brush pots all carved from bamboo.

Silk Cotton – This traditional cloth is made from silkworm cocoons.

Accommodation

Ziye Grand Hotel – largest 3 star hotel in WuZhen 0573-872-8088

Wangfo Hotel – 3 star standard hotel, just beside Wuzhen tourist site 0573-872-8188



Transportation

Train to JiaXing

This is probably the most efficient way to travel, because it can allow you more freedom and flexibility. Take the train from Shanghai to JiaShan (approx. 2 hours) leaving from the Shanghai South Railway station at the Jing Jiang Park Subway Station (line 1). Numerous trains leave each day. Buses leave regularly for WuZhen from the JiaXing bus station close to the train station. The hour-long ride costs RMB 8.

Bus from Shanghai Stadium

Buses to WuZhen depart at 7:55 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on weekends from the Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center located under the no. 5 staircase at Gate 12 of the Shanghai Stadium (666 Tianyaoqiao Lu; 021/6426-5555; www.ChinaSSBC.com).

Price for round-trip bus ticket including entrance fee: RMB 140



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Appendix:

Other bus taking point of Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center

Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center (Hongkou Station)
 444 East Jiangwan Rd. (Gate 2 Hongkou Football Field)
 56963248

Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center (Yangpu Station)
 640 Longchang Rd. (Shanghai Yangpu Stadium)
 65803210

Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Center (Circus City)
 2266 Gonghe Xin Rd (Shanghai circus city, Metro line 1 Circus City station)
 56659121

Detailed time table:

	Hongkou	Yangpu (weekend only)	Circus City (weekend only)
Zhujiajiao	8.45 AM weekend only	8.15AM	9.15AM
Wuzhen	8.30AM everyday	7.20AM	8.30AM
Xitang	7.40AM everyday	8.30AM	9.20AM

Ticket booking hotline: 63771917, 63770961 63769868
 Consulting hotline: 64265555, English some times is available.

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