

MxSchons Tours

**MxSchons Tours**

*The invite-only travel agency for discerning adventurers*



Your Host

**A Personal Welcome from Your Host**

Dear Esteemed Travelers,

On behalf of **MxSchons Tours** — the world’s most exclusive invite-only travel agency (membership: 5 people, waiting list: also 5 people) — I am absolutely thrilled to present to you this meticulously crafted journey to Hangzhou!

We have combined the best of the best to ensure you have an absolutely *legendary* experience. From soaring over West Lake in a helicopter (yes, really!) to picking tea leaves like ancient emperors, from watching 700,000 LEDs light up the night sky to getting lost in magical water towns — this trip has it all.

Our team of experts (me, with help from Claude) has spent countless hours researching the finest restaurants, the most photogenic spots, and the perfect balance of adventure and relaxation. We’ve thought of everything: vegetarian options for certain picky eaters, massage breaks for tired feet, and strategic cafe stops for Chinese study sessions.

This isn’t just a trip. This is a *MxSchons Tours Experience™*.

Pack your bags. Charge your cameras. Prepare your appetites.

Hangzhou awaits!

With excitement and anticipation,

**Max**  
*Founder, CEO, and Chief Adventure Officer*  
*MxSchons Tours*

*P.S. — No refunds. You’re family.*

杭州家庭之旅

HANGZHOU FAMILY TRIP

◆

April 13 – 27, 2026

*Ten Days Exploring West Lake, Tea Villages & Beyond*

**MAX • DION • MARGOT • ALEX & LYNN**

**Meet the Travelers**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Max | Dion | Margot | Alex | Lynn |
| **Max** | **Dion** | **Margot** | **Alex** | **Lynn** |
| Frankfurt | Singapore | Frankfurt | Singapore | Singapore |

**The Journey**

Frankfurt → Hangzhou → Wuzhen → Shanghai → Frankfurt

Singapore → Hangzhou → Wuzhen → Shanghai → Singapore

**Complete Journey Overview**

This trip brings the family together in Hangzhou from two directions: Max and Margot fly directly from Frankfurt, while Dion, Alex, and Lynn travel from Singapore. Everyone reunites in Hangzhou for the adventure, then travels together to Shanghai before parting ways.

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| **Date** | **Location** | **Activity** |
| Apr 13 (Mon) | Frankfurt → Hangzhou | Max + Margot fly direct to Hangzhou; arrive evening |
| Apr 13 (Mon) | Singapore → Hangzhou | Dion + Alex & Lynn fly from Singapore; arrive evening |
| Apr 13 (Mon) | Hangzhou | Family reunion at hotel; late dinner together |
| Apr 14–18 | Hangzhou | West Lake, tea picking, helicopter, G20 light show, local gems |
| Apr 19 (Sun) | Hangzhou → Wuzhen → Shanghai | Scenic route via water town; arrive Shanghai evening |
| Apr 20–21 | Shanghai | French Concession, The Bund, Huangpu cruise, Yu Garden |
| Apr 22 (Wed) | Shanghai → Singapore | Dion + Alex & Lynn fly to Singapore |
| Apr 22 (Wed) | Shanghai → Frankfurt | Max + Margot fly back to Frankfurt |
| Apr 23 (Thu) | Frankfurt | Max + Margot arrive home |

*Dion, Alex, and Lynn remain in Singapore after April 22.*

**Trip Overview**

**AT A GLANCE**

This ten-day journey brings together five family members across two generations to experience Hangzhou and Shanghai during peak spring season. The itinerary balances cultural depth, natural beauty, and modern China while accommodating different energy levels and interests.

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| **Dates** | Monday, April 13 – Wednesday, April 22, 2026 (China) |
| **Full Journey** | April 13–27 including Singapore time + return to Germany |
| **Travelers** | Max (DE), Dion (SG), Margot (DE), Alex & Lynn (SG) |
| **Accommodation** | Wulin Jingyu Tingyuan Hotel — Panorama Canal View Rooms |
| **Weather** | 21–22°C highs, 12–13°C lows, occasional spring rain |
| **Dietary** | Options for vegan (Max); others omnivore |
| **Est. Budget** | ~50,000 RMB total (~$6,800 USD) for all 5 people |

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Wulin Jingyu Tingyuan Hotel**

A refined boutique hotel blending traditional Jiangnan architecture with modern comfort. Located in the historic Wulin district, the hotel features elegant courtyard gardens, tea lounges, and rooms designed with classical Chinese aesthetics. Prime location for exploring both West Lake and the Grand Canal area.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

* Tea Leaf Picking at Meijiawu Village — Hands-on Longjing harvest during peak season
* Helicopter Flight Over Hangzhou — Route D covering West Lake, pagodas, and Qiantang River
* Qiantang River Night Cruise — G20 Summit light show with 700,000 LEDs
* Wuzhen Water Town — Illuminated canals en route to Shanghai
* Shanghai Exploration — French Concession, The Bund, Yu Garden, Huangpu River
* Gongyan Oriental Art Dinner — Immersive Han Dynasty dinner theater

**Day-by-Day Itinerary**

**Day 1 — Monday, April 13**

**ARRIVAL**

*A day of travel and reunion. The family converges on Hangzhou from two directions: Max and Margot fly direct from Frankfurt, while Dion, Alex, and Lynn travel from Singapore. Both groups arrive in the evening for an exciting reunion at the hotel and a late dinner together.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| Daytime | Max + Margot: Flight Frankfurt → Hangzhou (direct) |
| Daytime | Dion + Alex & Lynn: Flight Singapore → Hangzhou |
| Evening | Both groups arrive Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport |
| ~8:00 PM | Transfer to Wulin Jingyu Tingyuan Hotel; family reunion! |
| 9:30 PM | Late dinner at 新白鹿 (Xin Bailu) — popular local chain, great intro to Hangzhou flavors |

*Pre-book separate airport transfers for each group (~280–400 RMB each). Coordinate arrival times for smooth reunion. Xin Bailu has vegetarian options for Max.*

**Day 2 — Tuesday, April 14**

**GENTLE START**

*A recovery day after the travel. Max gets his first Chinese class in while others relax. The afternoon brings everyone together for the classic West Lake experience and an easy introduction to Hangzhou street food at the night market.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 9:00–10:30 | Max: Chinese class at cafe. Margot relaxes; Alex & Lynn explore canal. |
| 11:00 | Group reunites. West Lake lakeside promenade stroll. |
| 12:30 | Lunch at 楼外楼 (Lou Wai Lou) — Hangzhou's most famous restaurant since 1848 |
| 14:30 | City God Pagoda for panoramic views |
| 17:30 | Wulin Night Market — street food intro |

*Lou Wai Lou: Try the legendary West Lake Vinegar Fish and Dongpo Pork. Tofu dishes available for Max. Cafe: 河下咖啡 (Hexia Coffee) — canal-side, peaceful for study.*

**Day 3 — Wednesday, April 15**

**NATURE & TEA**

*The signature Hangzhou nature day. Morning starts with the beloved Nine Creeks walk through bamboo groves and shallow streams, followed by the highlight: hands-on tea picking at Meijiawu during peak Longjing harvest season. The day culminates with an immersive Han Dynasty dinner theater.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 9:00–10:30 | Max: Chinese class at Longjing village cafe |
| 11:00–13:00 | Nine Creeks Meandering Walk — shaded, scenic streams |
| 13:00 | Lunch at 龙井草堂 (Longjing Caotang) — garden restaurant in the tea village |
| 14:30–17:00 | Tea Picking at Meijiawu — picking, roasting, tasting (158 RMB/person) |
| 19:00 | Dinner at Gongyan Oriental Art — Han Dynasty dinner theater (498 RMB/person) |

*April is peak Longjing harvest (Yuqian grade). The Meijiawu experience includes drone aerial photos. Longjing Caotang specializes in tea-infused local dishes.*

**Day 4 — Thursday, April 16**

**BIG EXPERIENCES**

*The most spectacular day of the trip. After a relaxed morning, the group takes a helicopter flight over West Lake for breathtaking aerial views. Evening brings the famous G20 Summit light show viewed from a river cruise — 700,000 LEDs illuminating 35 buildings.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 9:00–10:30 | Max: Chinese class |
| 11:00–12:30 | Group brunch at hotel or nearby cafe |
| 13:30 | Depart for Xinlian Heliport (Xiaoshan District) |
| 14:30–16:00 | Helicopter Flight — Route D (~25 min): West Lake, pagodas, river |
| 18:00 | Early dinner at 知味观 (Zhiweiguan) — famous for dim sum and Hangzhou classics |
| 19:30 | Qiantang River Night Cruise — Qianyin boat (168 RMB/person) |
| 20:30 | G20 Light Show — 700,000 LEDs on 35 buildings |

*Helicopter: 2,580 RMB/person. Zhiweiguan (est. 1913): Try xiaolongbao, cat ear noodles, and shrimp-stuffed lotus root. Vegetable dumplings for Max.*

**Day 5 — Friday, April 17**

**REST & LOCAL FLAVORS**

*A well-deserved rest day after the intensive helicopter and cruise day. Sleep in, enjoy a traditional breakfast, then indulge in affordable professional massages. Evening brings a special Hangzhou dining experience.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| Morning | Sleep in, relax at hotel |
| 11:00 | Late brunch at 游埠豆浆 — savory soy milk, fried dough, scallion pancakes |
| Afternoon | Group Massage — Yaoshi Blind Massage (~50–100 RMB/person) |
| Evening | Dinner at 外婆家 (Grandma's Home) — beloved local chain, excellent value |

*Grandma's Home: Hugely popular for authentic home-style Hangzhou cooking. Try tea-smoked duck, braised pork belly, and stir-fried greens. Always has vegetable dishes. Expect a short wait — worth it.*

**Day 6 — Saturday, April 18**

**MORNING MARKET & LOCAL GEMS**

*An early start for the authentic morning market experience at Dama Long — 240 meters of old Hangzhou charm that disappears by noon. The rest of the day is free for revisiting favorite discoveries or exploring new corners of the city.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 7:00 | Morning Market — Dama Long (大马弄) — 240m of authentic local life |
| 9:00–10:30 | Max: Chinese class at cafe |
| 11:00 | Leisurely walk around Grand Canal scenic area |
| 12:30 | Lunch at discovered favorite or hotel restaurant |
| Afternoon | Flexible: Shopping, cafe hopping, or see Optional Activities |
| 19:00 | Farewell Hangzhou dinner at 朴竹 Pu Zhu (Michelin Green Star) or favorite spot |

*Dama Long opens ~6:30 AM, busiest 7–9 AM. Try 葱包桧 at 胡阿姨葱包桧. Pu Zhu: Hangzhou's first Michelin Green Star — elegant vegetarian fine dining if Max wants a special meal.*

**Day 7 — Sunday, April 19**

**WUZHEN & SHANGHAI**

*A scenic travel day that doubles as an experience. The journey to Shanghai passes through the magical water town of Wuzhen — perfectly positioned to catch the famous illuminated night scene before continuing to Shanghai for the final leg of the China adventure.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 9:00 | Check out of Wulin Jingyu Tingyuan Hotel; luggage in car |
| 9:30 | Depart Hangzhou for Wuzhen (private car, ~1.5 hours) |
| 11:00 | Arrive Wuzhen; store luggage at visitor center (free) |
| 11:30 | Lunch in Wuzhen — local noodles, rice cakes |
| 13:00–18:00 | Explore Xizha (West Gate) — canals, bridges, traditional architecture |
| 18:00 | Lights come on at dusk — Wuzhen's legendary illuminated scene |
| 20:00 | Depart Wuzhen for Shanghai (~1.5 hours) |
| 21:30 | Arrive Shanghai; check into hotel; light supper nearby |

*Wuzhen entry: 150 RMB. Vegan options limited — try 定胜糕 (rice cake + red bean) and 青团 (green rice cakes). Max should bring backup snacks.*

**Day 8 — Monday, April 20**

**SHANGHAI DAY 1**

*A full day exploring China's most cosmopolitan city. The morning wanders through the tree-lined boulevards and Art Deco architecture of the French Concession. Evening brings the magical experience of The Bund at sunset followed by a Huangpu River cruise.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 9:00 | Leisurely breakfast at hotel |
| 10:00–13:00 | French Concession walk: Wukang Road → Fuxing Park → Tianzifang |
| 13:00 | Lunch at Lost Heaven — stunning Yunnan cuisine in a beautiful heritage building |
| 15:00–17:00 | Shanghai Museum (free, air-conditioned) or continued exploration |
| 17:30 | The Bund promenade — sunset views, Pudong skyline |
| 19:00 | Huangpu River Night Cruise (~135 RMB, 45 min) |
| 21:00 | Dinner at 上海老饭店 (Shanghai Lao Fandian) — classic Shanghai cuisine since 1875 |

*Lost Heaven: Beautiful setting, excellent mushroom and vegetable dishes for Max. Shanghai Lao Fandian: Try hongshao rou (red-braised pork), drunken chicken, and crab dishes in season.*

**Day 9 — Tuesday, April 21**

**SHANGHAI DAY 2**

*The final full day of the China adventure. Morning brings the historic Yu Garden at opening time before the crowds. The afternoon is flexible for last-minute shopping, exploring, or simply savoring the final hours in China.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 8:30 | Early start — head to Yu Garden area |
| 9:00 | Yu Garden (豫园) — arrive at opening for quietest experience (40 RMB) |
| 10:30 | Brunch at 南翔馒头店 — legendary xiaolongbao since 1900 |
| 12:00 | Explore Yu Garden Bazaar — traditional shops, souvenirs |
| Afternoon | Flexible: Nanjing Road shopping, more French Concession, or rest |
| 18:00 | Final dinner at 功德林 (Godly Vegetarian) — Shanghai's oldest vegetarian since 1922 |
| Evening | Pack, early night before morning flight |

*Nanxiang: The original xiaolongbao restaurant — expect queues but worth it. Godly Vegetarian: A fitting final meal with both history and excellent food everyone can enjoy. Half-price Yu Garden entry for seniors 60+.*

**Day 10 — Wednesday, April 22**

**FAREWELL & DEPARTURE**

*The final morning in China. After breakfast together, the family shares a bittersweet farewell at Pudong Airport before going separate ways: Dion, Alex, and Lynn head back to Singapore, while Max and Margot begin their long journey back to Frankfurt.*

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 6:30 AM | Wake up, final packing |
| 7:30 AM | Depart hotel for Pudong International Airport |
| 9:00 AM | Family farewell at airport |
| Morning | Dion + Alex & Lynn: Flight Shanghai → Singapore |
| Morning | Max + Margot: Flight Shanghai → Frankfurt |
| Afternoon | Dion + Alex & Lynn arrive Singapore |
| Next Day | Max + Margot arrive Frankfurt |

*Allow 2+ hours at Pudong Airport for international departure. Hotel near Pudong recommended for easiest morning.*

**Post-Trip**

**APRIL 22–23**

*The adventure concludes in Shanghai, where the family parts ways: Dion, Alex, and Lynn return to Singapore while Max and Margot fly back to Frankfurt. A bittersweet farewell after an unforgettable journey together.*

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| **Date** | **Activity** |
| Wed, Apr 22 | Dion + Alex & Lynn fly Shanghai → Singapore; arrive afternoon |
| Wed, Apr 22 | Max + Margot fly Shanghai → Frankfurt |
| Thu, Apr 23 | Max + Margot arrive Frankfurt |

**Optional Activities**

These experiences can be swapped into flexible afternoon slots or replace other activities based on the group's energy and interests.

**XIXI NATIONAL WETLAND PARK**

**China's First National Wetland Park**

A vast urban wetland just 5km from West Lake, Xixi offers a completely different Hangzhou experience — peaceful waterways, traditional villages, and rich birdlife. The park inspired the classic phrase 'Xixi and West Lake, like two pearls of Hangzhou.'

* Entry: 80 RMB (boat ride additional 60 RMB — recommended)
* Duration: Half day (3–4 hours with boat)
* Getting there: Metro Line 3 or 19 to Xixi Wetland Station
* Best for: Nature lovers, photographers, escaping crowds
* Tip: The slow boat ride through the wetland channels is the highlight — very peaceful

**HANGZHOU BAY ECO DAY TRIP**

**Wetlands, Wind Turbines & Coastal Scenery**

A full-day adventure combining nature and renewable energy installations. Best suited for those interested in eco-tourism and dramatic coastal landscapes.

* Hangzhou Bay National Wetland Park — eco-education center with solar/wind/geothermal
* Cixi Coastal Wind Road — drive beneath 33 massive wind turbines
* Duration: Full day (1.5–2 hour drive each way)
* Best for: Those wanting a break from historic sites

**LINGYIN TEMPLE**

**One of China's Largest Buddhist Temples**

A magnificent 1,700-year-old temple complex set against forested hills, with the remarkable Feilai Peak Buddhist carvings. A deeply atmospheric spiritual experience.

* Entry: 75 RMB (Feilai Peak) + 30 RMB (Temple)
* Duration: Half day (2–3 hours)
* Lunch nearby: Dayin Qingxin vegetarian buffet (30 RMB) — temple food tradition
* Best for: Those interested in Buddhist culture and forest settings

**FAMILY PHOTOSHOOT**

**Professional Photography in Hangzhou**

Hangzhou offers stunning backdrops for professional family photos. Consider two separate mini-sessions to capture both sides of the family.

* Session 1: Max + Margot — mother-son portraits at West Lake or tea plantations
* Session 2: Dion + Alex & Lynn — family portraits, perhaps with Hanfu (traditional dress)
* Locations: West Lake, Longjing Tea Village, Wuzhen, Grand Canal
* Cost: Basic session 500–1,000 RMB; Hanfu package 800–2,000 RMB/person
* Booking: Search '杭州旅拍' on Xiaohongshu/Dianping; book 1–2 weeks ahead

**Restaurant Guide**

A mix of legendary establishments, local favorites, and vegetarian options. Reservations recommended for dinner at popular spots.

**HANGZHOU CLASSICS**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Restaurant** | **Specialty** | **Price** |
| 楼外楼 Lou Wai Lou | West Lake Vinegar Fish, Dongpo Pork — est. 1848 | 150–250/person |
| 知味观 Zhiweiguan | Dim sum, xiaolongbao, cat ear noodles — est. 1913 | 80–150/person |
| 外婆家 Grandma's Home | Home-style Hangzhou — beloved local chain | 60–100/person |
| 新白鹿 Xin Bailu | Popular local chain — great value, diverse menu | 50–80/person |
| 龙井草堂 Longjing Caotang | Tea-infused dishes — garden setting in tea village | 100–180/person |
| 宫宴 Gongyan Oriental Art | Han Dynasty dinner theater — immersive experience | 498/person |
| 朴竹 Pu Zhu | Michelin Green Star — elegant vegetarian fine dining | 300–500/person |

**SHANGHAI HIGHLIGHTS**

|  |  |  |
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| **Restaurant** | **Specialty** | **Price** |
| Lost Heaven | Yunnan cuisine — stunning heritage building | 150–250/person |
| 上海老饭店 Lao Fandian | Classic Shanghai — red-braised pork, crab — est. 1875 | 120–200/person |
| 南翔馒头店 Nanxiang | Original xiaolongbao — legendary since 1900 | 50–100/person |
| 功德林 Godly Vegetarian | Shanghai's oldest vegetarian — est. 1922 | 70–120/person |

*All restaurants have some vegetarian options. Lou Wai Lou, Zhiweiguan, and Grandma's Home have good tofu and vegetable dishes for Max.*

**Budget Estimate**

All prices in RMB. Exchange rate: ~$1 USD = 7.3 RMB

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Per Person** | **×5** | **Total** |
| **ACCOMMODATIONS** |  |  |  |
| Wulin Jingyu Tingyuan Hotel (6 nights × 3 roo | ms) ~700/night | ×3 | 12,600 |
| Shanghai hotel (3 nights × 3 rooms) | ~800/night | ×3 | 7,200 |
| **EXPERIENCES** |  |  |  |
| Helicopter flight (Route D) | 2,580 | ×5 | 12,900 |
| Qiantang River night cruise | 168 | ×5 | 840 |
| Tea picking (Meijiawu) | 158 | ×5 | 790 |
| Gongyan dinner theater | 498 | ×5 | 2,490 |
| Wuzhen entry (full day) | 150 | ×5 | 750 |
| Huangpu River cruise | 135 | ×5 | 675 |
| Yu Garden entry | 40 | ×5 | 200 |
| Massage sessions (2×) | 150 | ×5 | 750 |
| **TRANSPORT** |  |  |  |
| Airport transfer Hangzhou | ~350 | group | 350 |
| Private car HZ→Wuzhen→Shanghai | ~1,200 | group | 1,200 |
| Local taxis/Didi (~10 days) | ~1,500 | group | 1,500 |
| **FOOD & DINING** |  |  |  |
| Daily meals (~180/day × 9) | 1,620 | ×5 | 8,100 |

**ESTIMATED TOTAL**

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| --- | --- |
| **Base Trip Total** | ~50,000 RMB (~$6,800 USD) |
| With Optionals (photoshoot + Xixi) | ~54,000 RMB (~$7,400 USD) |
| **Per Person Average (base)** | ~$1,360 USD / ~10,000 RMB |

*Excludes international flights. Budget can be reduced by ~12,000 RMB by skipping helicopter.*

**Practical Information**

**KEY CONTACTS**

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| **Service** | **Contact** |
| Tour Operator | John Wu: WhatsApp +86 135 6716 1784 |
| Tour Guide | Dannie (from previous trip) |
| Wulin Jingyu Tingyuan Hotel | To be confirmed |
| Binjiang Pier (cruise) | +86-571-85178197 |

**BOOKING TIMELINE**

* 30 days before: Gongyan Oriental Art dinner reservation
* 15 days before: Photoshoot booking (if desired)
* 7 days before: Helicopter, cruise, Meijiawu tea experience
* 2–3 days before: Confirm all reservations, check weather for helicopter

**USEFUL PHRASES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **English** | **Pinyin** | **Chinese** |
| Lighter pressure | qīng yī diǎn | 轻一点 |
| Harder pressure | zhòng yī diǎn | 重一点 |
| Pure vegan | chún sù | 纯素 |
| No meat, fish, eggs | bù yào ròu, yú, dàn | 不要肉、鱼、蛋 |
| This is delicious! | zhè ge hěn hǎo chī | 这个很好吃 |

**PACKING REMINDERS**

* Layers (15–23°C range, cooler evenings)
* Rain jacket or umbrella (7–14 rainy days typical in April)
* Comfortable walking shoes
* Power adapter (China: Type A/I, 220V)
* VPN installed (for Google, WhatsApp)
* WeChat and Alipay set up before arrival
* Backup vegan snacks for Max (Wuzhen especially)

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*Safe Travels*

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