

Suzhou

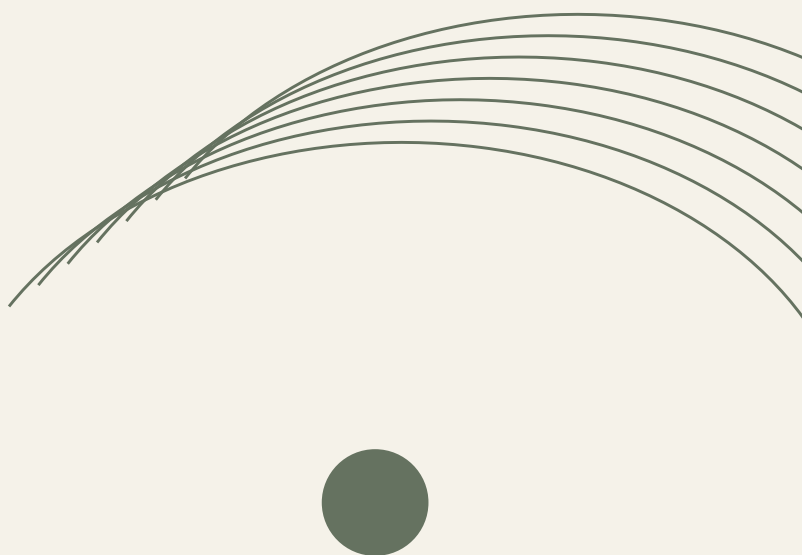
Suzhou, a garden at a time

Three days of gardens, canal streets and a quieter urban rhythm

Independent routes. Practical decisions. Space to explore.

Inside: a usable plan, transport decisions, budget worksheet, Chinese search names and official source links.

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CHINA SIDEWAYS / 01 / ORIENTATION

Choose your base, then your days

This guide fits

Travellers who want to look closely at garden design and prefer staying overnight to a rushed excursion.

The route logic

Two well-chosen gardens usually teach you more than four hurried ones. Leave time between them to notice streets, water and domestic scale. The programme groups central sights and keeps the optional water-town excursion separate.

Old city near Guanqian Street

Useful for restaurants and central movement. Choose a quieter side street if noise matters, and check the route from the station.

Pingjiang-area surroundings

Good for walking atmosphere. Confirm how close a vehicle can come with luggage and whether the hotel is on a noisy commercial lane.

Near metro access outside the old core

Useful for reliable transport and a less atmospheric but simpler arrival. Prioritise station access over an attractive but isolated address.

Three full sightseeing days are assumed. If arrival/departure uses one of them, remove a day or extend your stay.

CHINA SIDEWAYS / 02 / DAY 1

Garden as a landscape

MORNING / Humble Administrator's Garden

Choose this as your main garden and reserve according to current rules. Walk slowly, comparing framed views, rockwork, water and built space. Do not try to photograph every pavilion. A single garden becomes more meaningful when you sit briefly and watch how other visitors move through it.

AFTERNOON / Pingjiang Road area

Take lunch and move to the canal-street area for a shorter public walk. Treat the lanes as a neighbourhood, not a set of interiors you can enter. This balances the formal garden with ordinary urban space and avoids a second large ticketed commitment.

EVENING / A nearby meal

Choose dinner within the old city and keep the return straightforward. An evening canal stroll is optional if you feel comfortable with the route. Avoid adding a distant performance simply to fill the evening.

Decision before you go

Check timed entry and the garden's official notice. If unavailable, substitute one of the other gardens after confirming booking; do not buy an unverified entry guarantee.

Pacing rule: one main activity per half-day. Add lunch, rest and the actual transfer between areas. The order is a suggestion, not a timed booking.