

Dali

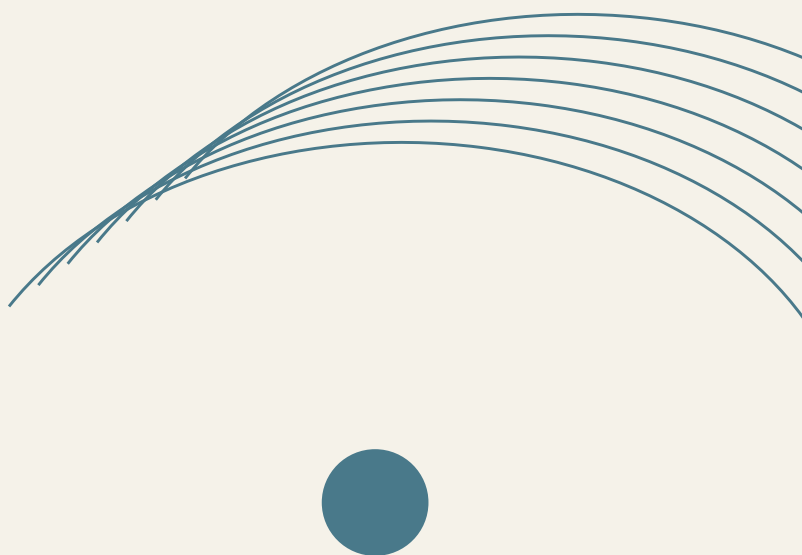
Dali, stay a little longer

Three days around the old town and Erhai, with space between plans

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 a single slower base and prefer lakeside days to a rapid tour of Yunnan.

The route logic

Dali works well when you resist the urge to circle the entire lake in a day. The old town, one lakeside segment and one village outing are enough for a three-day stay. Base choice determines whether everyday meals and transfers feel easy or complicated.

Old-town edge

A practical balance of public streets, meals and quieter accommodation. Ask where a vehicle can stop and whether luggage must be carried through pedestrian areas.

Western Erhai lakeside surroundings

Choose if the lake is the priority. Confirm meals and transport after dark, and do not assume the hotel view means direct access to a public lakeside path.

Xiaguan / modern Dali

Useful for certain arrival and departure arrangements. Check the actual journey to the old town before choosing it for a landscape-focused stay.

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

An old town at ordinary pace

MORNING / Dali old town

Walk a limited public-street circuit and leave time to stop. Avoid treating shops and residential entrances as a compulsory route. If crowds are strong, choose a quieter adjacent public street and return to the busier area later. The morning should give you orientation, not exhaustion.

AFTERNOON / Lunch and a cultural pause

Choose one small cultural venue if its opening is confirmed, or use a long lunch and bookshop/café pause. A slower trip does not require a workshop every afternoon. If booking any craft activity, check language, duration and what is included in the price.

EVENING / Return before adding distance

Eat near the old town or your base. Ask the hotel about tomorrow's lakeside route and the current rules for public paths or rentals. Keep the evening simple so you can start the next day with enough energy.

Decision before you go

Do not rely on a particular shop or café remaining open. The itinerary is anchored to public areas; commercial stops are optional choices made locally.

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.