



GLOBAL RESILIENCE
NETWORK

GRN EXECUTIVE IMMERSION CHINA 2026

AI++ EXECUTIVE IMMERSION IN CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL TRAVEL

PARTICIPANT BRIEFING & JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

SHANGHAI & HANGZHOU | 28-31 MAY 2026

EXECUTIVE WELCOME & PROGRAMME PHILOSOPHY

The China AI++ Executive Immersion has been designed as a highly curated leadership experience bringing together a select group of international travel, tourism, technology, destination, and innovation leaders for direct engagement with China's rapidly evolving travel ecosystem.

More than a traditional conference or study tour, the programme has been structured as an immersive knowledge exchange – providing participants with unique access to strategic perspectives, technological innovation, market insights, operational realities, and cross-cultural dialogue shaping the future of global travel. Participants have been specifically invited not only to learn from the experience, but also to contribute their own expertise, perspectives, and strategic insight throughout the programme.

Each day has been intentionally designed to build a different layer of understanding:

- Shanghai – Strategic Context & Global Dialogue
- Hangzhou / Alibaba Headquarters – Technology, AI & Platform Ecosystems
- Shanghai / British Chamber of Commerce – Market Reality & East-West Commercial Dynamics

Several components of the programme involve direct engagement with organizations, executives, and operational environments that are not typically accessible through traditional conferences, trade shows, or standard study tours. The programme has been intentionally structured to encourage dialogue, relationship-building, practical learning, and collaborative exchange between participants and Chinese and international stakeholders throughout the experience. Participants are asked to exercise professional discretion regarding non-public discussions, operational observations, and commercially sensitive information shared during the programme.

You will separately receive an Executive Context and Background Reading document containing selected research, market intelligence, technology context and strategic article recommendations relevant to this Executive Immersion Programme – happy reading!

Thank you for engaging with GRN on this exciting program.



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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

THURSDAY 28 MAY — SHANGHAI

Venue: The Langham Shanghai Xintiandi

Programme: Executive Salon — AI, Destinations & the Chinese Travel System

Timing: 15:00 – 20:15

Dress Code: Business attire

FRIDAY 29 MAY — HANGZHOU

Programme: Alibaba Executive Immersion

Dress Code: Business attire

Important: This is a dense executive day with coordinated transportation and strict timing discipline.

SATURDAY 30 MAY — HANGZHOU / SHANGHAI

Departure from Hangzhou: 10:00 sharp

Departure Point: Shangri-La Hangzhou

Important Operational Sequence:

1. Departure from Hangzhou
2. Arrival in Shanghai
3. Direct transfer to the British Chamber of Commerce
4. Chamber sessions
5. Hotel transfer after sessions only
6. Participants collect rooms and change
7. Transfer to executive dinner venue

IMPORTANT:

There will be NO HOTEL STOP IN SHANGHAI BEFORE THE BRITISH CHAMBER PROGRAMME. Participants should therefore keep essential personal items with them during the day.

KEY CONTACTS & EMERGENCY SUPPORT

HEAD OF DELEGATION

Christian Delom, President
GRN Mobile: +33 617317030
WeChat ID: christiandelom

DEPUTY HEAD

Jill Sinclair, Chief Engagement Officer
GRN Mobile: +447836610744
WeChat: sinclairglobal

TRAVEL COORDINATOR/CHINA GROUND HANDLER 24/7

Ashley Perez, Managing Director, Arrange Group
Mobile: +44 7973220747
WeChat: Ashley_Perez

HOTEL LIAISON

Langham Hotel - Andrew Hou Event
WeChat: AndrewHou
Hotel Number: +862123302288

Shangri La Hotel
Anny Hu Sales Manager Number: +8657187977951

MEDICAL / INSURANCE

Ensure you carry your medical insurance documents for the trip. Participants should ensure their travel insurance includes international medical coverage and trip disruption protection.

PROGRAMME JOURNEY FLOW



**SHANGHAI ARRIVAL
(ON OWN TO LANGHAM HOTEL)**



**EXECUTIVE SALON — AI, DESTINATIONS
& THE CHINESE TRAVEL SYSTEM**



TRANSFER TO HANGZHOU



ALIBABA EXECUTIVE IMMERSION



**BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SHANGHAI SESSIONS**

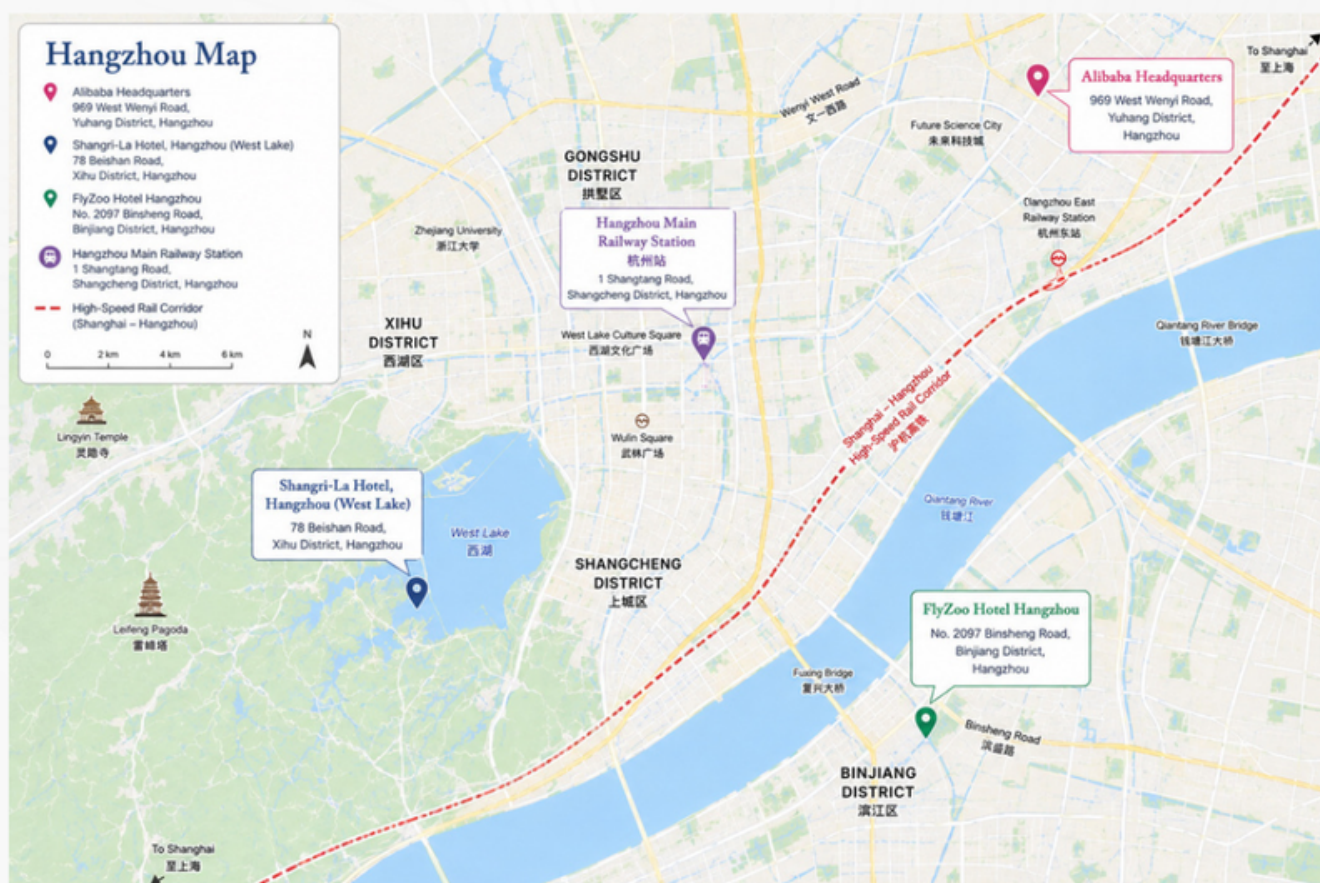
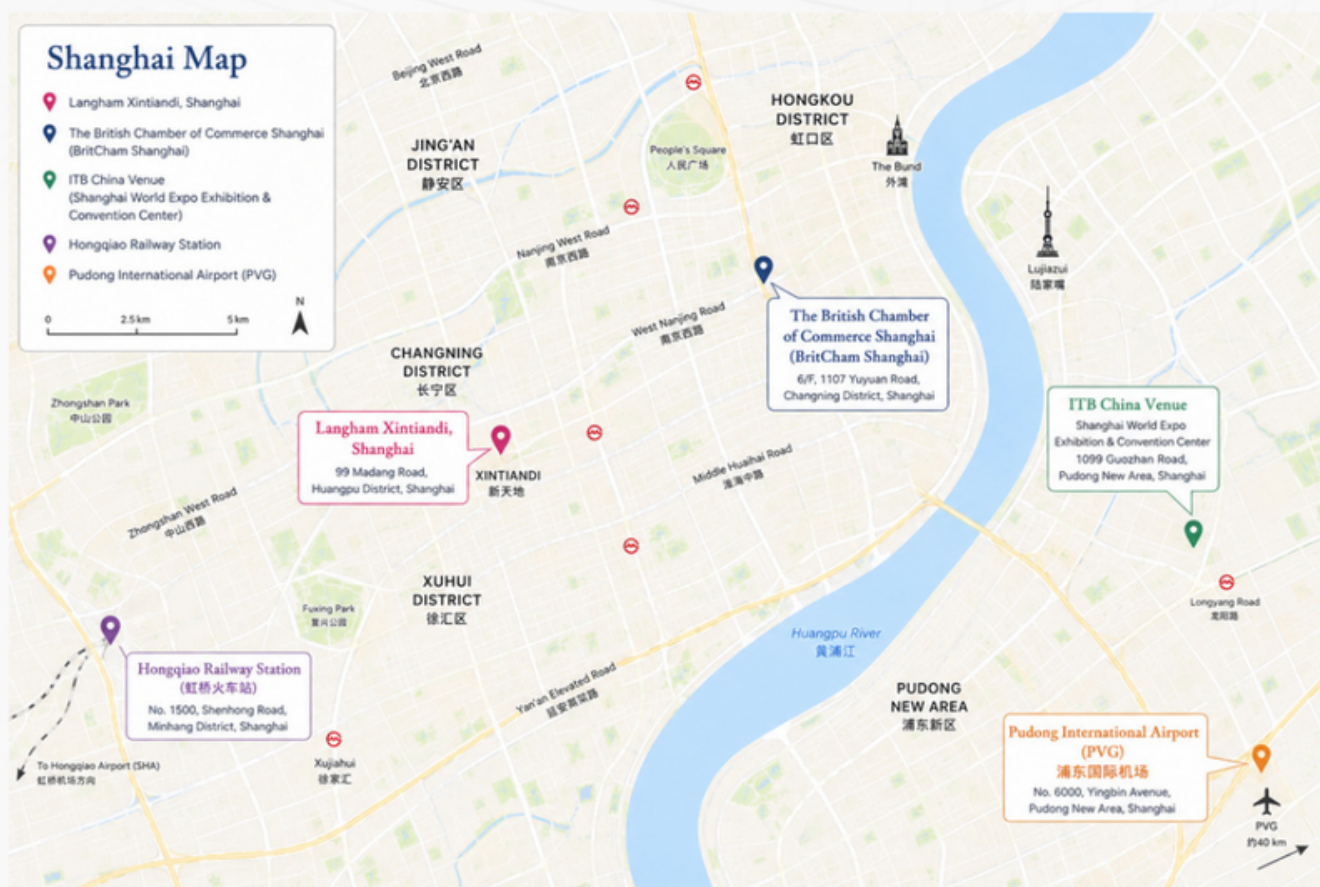


**EXECUTIVE DINNER —
END OF PROGRAMME**



**EVENT: GRN PARIS LEADERSHIP
FORUM — 29 OCTOBER 2026**

MAPS & ORIENTATION PAGES



OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

PRIMARY COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

Official WeChat delegation group (mandatory)

BACKUP COMMUNICATION

- International roaming SMS
- WhatsApp (where available)

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD MONITOR MESSAGES REGULARLY THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAMME FOR:

- Operational updates
- Transport timing changes
- Meeting point coordination
- Emergency communication



ESSENTIAL DIGITAL PREPARATION

China operates through a highly digital and mobile-first ecosystem. Proper preparation before departure is crucial.

Participants are strongly advised to complete all digital setup BEFORE departure.

MANDATORY BEFORE DEPARTURE

- WeChat installed and activated
- Alipay installed and activated
- DiDi installed or accessible through Alipay/WeChat
- VPN installed and tested
- International roaming or eSIM activated

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

- Offline maps downloaded
- Translation apps installed
- Two international payment cards available
- Hotel addresses saved offline

IMPORTANT CHINA CONNECTIVITY NOTES

- Gmail may work inconsistently without VPN
- Google Maps functionality may be limited
- Some corporate VPNs may fail in China
- WhatsApp reliability can vary
- Some Western cloud services may be unstable

Participants should also comply with their own organization's IT, cybersecurity, and travel policies.

ALIPAY SETUP – ESSENTIAL

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL – SETUP STEPS

1. Download Alipay from the App Store or Google Play
2. Ensure you install the international version
3. Register using your mobile number
4. Verify your identity using passport information if requested
5. Add an international bank card (Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted)
6. Enable international card payments if prompted
7. Test a small transaction before departure

USING ALIPAY IN CHINA

- Open Alipay and select “Pay” to display your QR code
- Alternatively use “Scan” to scan merchant QR codes
- Confirm payment amounts carefully before approval
- DiDi payments can normally process automatically through Alipay integration

IMPORTANT

China is overwhelmingly mobile-payment based. Cash usage is now extremely limited.

RECOMMENDED

- Carry two international payment cards where possible
- Keep a small RMB cash backup (200–500 RMB) for emergencies or connectivity issues

ALIPAY TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDANCE

Payment Declined

- Check international payments are enabled on your card
- Try an alternative card if available

QR Code Not Scanning

- Ensure camera permissions are enabled
- Increase screen brightness if required

App Appears in Chinese

- Go to Settings → General → Language → English

ACCOUNT LOCKED

- Contact Alipay support through the application
- Ask the ground handler for assistance if necessary

VPN & CONNECTIVITY GUIDANCE

RECOMMENDED VPN SOLUTIONS

- ExpressVPN
- Astrill VPN
- NordVPN
- LetsVPN

ESIM & MOBILE CONNECTIVITY

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Participants should prepare either:

- International roaming
- Or
- eSIM connectivity

RECOMMENDED ESIM PROVIDERS

- Airalo
- Holafly
- Nomad
- Kolet

IMPORTANT

Some Western applications and services may function inconsistently in China.

This may include:

- Gmail
- Google Maps
- Google services
- Some cloud platforms
- Some social media services

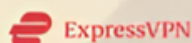
VPNs should be installed **BEFORE** arrival in China.

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ALSO COMPLY WITH:

- Their own corporate IT policies
- Cybersecurity requirements
- Local regulations

RECOMMENDATION

Activate and test connectivity **BEFORE** boarding your flight.



[What is a VPN?](#) [What We Offer](#) [Download VPN](#) [Support](#) [Blog](#) [My Account](#) [English](#)

[Get Started](#)

The VPN that just works

Go further with the #1 trusted leader in VPN

[Get ExpressVPN](#)

30-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

BEFORE DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE

- ☒ Valid passport
- ☒ Chinese visa if required
- ☒ Travel insurance
- ☒ WeChat installed
- ☒ Alipay activated
- ☒ DiDi available
- ☒ VPN installed
- ☒ International roaming or eSIM activated
- ☒ Offline hotel addresses saved
- ☒ Emergency contacts available offline
- ☒ Chargers and adapters prepared



OPERATIONAL LOGISTICS

OFFICIAL TAXI

- Use the official taxi rank only
- Typical fare: 150–250 RMB
- Estimated travel time to central Shanghai: 45–75 minutes
- Do not accept unsolicited drivers

DIDI (RECOMMENDED)

- China's equivalent of Uber
- Widely used and reliable
- Use designated ride-hailing pickup areas

TRANSPORT GUIDANCE

- Always use DiDi or official taxis
- Carry your hotel address in Chinese characters – provided at the hotel reception
- Stay with the group wherever possible
- Respect departure timings strictly

LUGGAGE GUIDANCE

Please travel with manageable luggage.

IMPORTANT FOR 30 MAY

As there is NO HOTEL STOP BEFORE THE BRITISH CHAMBER PROGRAMME, participants should keep with them:

- Passport
- Medication
- Chargers
- Valuables
- Business Cards
- Essential Documents

There will be rest stops en route.



BUSINESS CULTURE & ETIQUETTE

**CHINA REMAINS HIGHLY STRUCTURED IN
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTS.
PLEASE:**

- Arrive early
- Remain reachable
- Follow schedules as we are on strict schedules
- Maintain business attire during official sessions
- Respect hierarchy and formal introductions
- Keep interventions concise and professional

BUSINESS ETIQUETTE

- QR code exchange is standard practice
- Have your WeChat QR code ready
- Exchange details after initial greetings
- Professional tone is expected at all times

TOASTING ETIQUETTE

- “Ganbei” means cheers / finish your drink
- Wait for the host to initiate toasts
- Stand during formal toasts
- Senior guests toast first

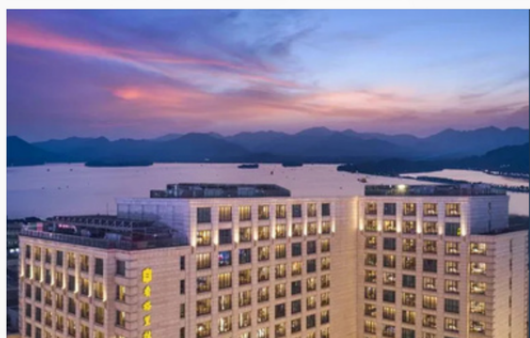


HOTELS & VENUES



SHANGHAI HOTEL

The Langham Shanghai Xintiandi
99 Madang Road
Huangpu District
Shanghai 200021
China



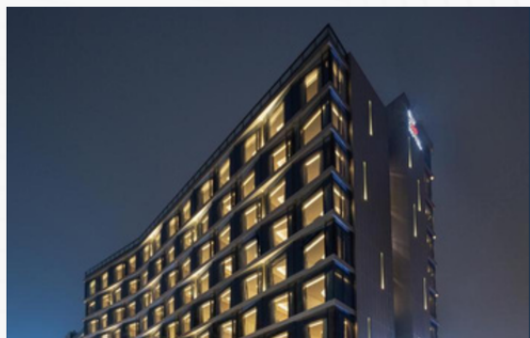
HANGZHOU HOTEL

Shangri-La Hangzhou
78 Beishan Road
Xihu District (West Lake)
Hangzhou 310007
Zhejiang, China



ALIBABA YUHANG DISTRICT

960-1 West Wen Yi Road Yuhang
District, Hangzhou 311121
Zhejiang Province,
China Tel: 0571-88943332



ALIBABA BINJIANG DISTRICT FLYZOO HOTEL

699 Wang Shang Road Binjiang
District, Hangzhou 310052
Zhejiang Province,
China Tel: (+86) 571-8502-2088



BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SHANGHAI

2107, Oriental Centre
699 West Nanjing Road
Jing'an District

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITY & FLEXIBILITY

Participants are responsible for ensuring they hold valid travel documentation, appropriate visas, travel insurance, and any required medical coverage for participation in the programme.

While the GRN team and local partners will make every reasonable effort to deliver the programme as outlined, schedules, speakers, venues, transportation arrangements, and operational elements may occasionally require adjustment due to local conditions, operational considerations, weather, transportation disruption, government requirements, or circumstances beyond organisational control.

Participants are expected to comply with local laws, venue protocols, operational instructions, and their own organisation's travel and cybersecurity policies throughout the programme.



PHOTOGRAPHY, MEDIA AND CONTENT

Photography, video recording, and limited media capture may take place throughout the programme for documentation, communications, editorial, promotional, and future GRN programme purposes.

By participating in the programme, participants acknowledge that event photography, video, and selected session content may be used by the Global Resilience Network (GRN) and programme partners in connection with future communications, publications, reports, digital content, and related programme activities.

Participants are respectfully asked not to record, distribute, or publicly share confidential or commercially sensitive discussions without prior permission from the relevant parties.

Certain sessions may operate under modified attribution or non-attribution guidelines communicated on site.



APPENDIX – QUICK LINKS

CHINA DIGITAL ARRIVAL CARD

Complete this before you depart and download the QR code to save time on arrival

<https://s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPhone/>

RECOMMENDED ESIM PROVIDER

<https://www.airalo.com/>

RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

- WeChat
- Alipay
- DiDi

RECOMMENDED VPN SOLUTIONS

- ExpressVPN
- Astrill VPN
- NordVPN
- LetsVPN

IMPORTANT:

VPNs should be installed BEFORE arrival in China.

CLOSING NOTE

The GRN Executive Immersion China 2026 is intended not as a standalone event, but as part of a broader ongoing leadership dialogue examining the future of global travel, technology, resilience, and transformation.

Enjoy and we look forward to your feedback!!

Participants will also receive advance information regarding the forthcoming GRN Paris Leadership Forum taking place in Paris on 29 October 2026.

For additional information:

Global Resilience Network

www.globalresilience.network

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**GLOBAL RESILIENCE
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