

The Annual Shanghai Airports Meltdown

David Mumford
1 November, 2023



Key Points

- **Shanghai's ZSSS/Hongqiao and ZSPD/Pudong airports are effectively off-limits to bizav flights at the start of November, unless you're heading to the China International Import Expo event.**
- **Operators will need to consider nearby airports instead: ZSWX/Wuxi, ZSHC/Hangzhou, ZSNJ/Nanjing and ZSNB/Ningbo.**

You won't find it on the Notams, but there are some restrictions coming up in November at Shanghai's ZSSS/Hongqiao and ZSPD/Pudong airports which effectively ban most business/private flights.

It's the same meltdown every year in Shanghai. It's all to do with the annual China International Import Expo event (CIIE) – which this year will be held from Nov 5-10.

Here are the restrictions at the main airports to watch out for this year:

ZSSS/Hongqiao

From Nov 2-8, no business/private flights allowed, including those flights participating in CIIE.

ZSPD/Pudong

From Nov 2-13, the airport will only accept participating CIIE business/private flights. Quick turns (if not participating in CIIE) are not allowed.

It's also worth noting these two extra restrictions at ZSPD which apply year-round:

- Take-off and landing is prohibited between 07-09 local time (23-01z).

- Business/private flights are not allowed to have two peak hour slots between 09-22 local time (01-14z). So you can land during that period, but then you have to wait until 22 local time before you can depart!

Where else to go?

For non-CIIE flights wanting to go to Shanghai during this period, the alternative options may be limited, as parking will fill-up quickly at nearby airports **ZSWX/Wuxi**, **ZSHC/Hangzhou**, **ZSNJ/Nanjing** and **ZSNB/Ningbo**.



Here's the lowdown on those four airports:

ZSWX/Wuxi

Operating hours? H24. But bizjets can only go here between 0700-2300 local time (and Customs are only open from 0830-2300). Outside those hours, you need permission from the airport authority.

Does it have an FBO? Yes, but only for domestic flights.

Driving time to Shanghai? 2hrs (130km)

Other restrictions? You need permission from the military to operate here. Overnight parking is generally not allowed (and there's no hangar for bizjets).

ZSHC/Hangzhou

Operating hours? H24.

Does it have an FBO? Yes, but only for domestic flights.

Driving time to Shanghai? 2hrs 30mins (180km)

Other restrictions? They don't issue arrival/departure slots to business/private flights between 0700-0859 local time. We also heard from one handler that there is a 72hr parking limit in place at the moment.

ZSNJ/Nanjing

Operating hours? H24.

Does it have an FBO? Yes.

Driving time to Shanghai? 3hrs 30mins (300km)

Other restrictions? They don't issue arrival/departure slots to business/private flights between 0700-0859 local time.

ZSNB/Ningbo

Operating hours? H24.

Does it have an FBO? Yes, but for domestic flights only.

Driving time to Shanghai? 3hrs (220km) - providing you take the road over the Hangzhou Bay Bridge

Know a secret airport somewhere near Shanghai where bizav flights can operate to during this period? Let us know!

Shanghai: ZSSS closed to non-sched traffic

Chris Shieff

1 November, 2023



Key Points

- You won't find it in the Notams, but **ZSSS/Hongqiao** (one of Shanghai's two international airports) **will not accept non-scheduled international flights** for the next four to six months.
- This includes both private and commercial operators, and is due to FBO renovations.
- Operators looking to clear customs will need to use **ZSPD/Pudong** instead.

FBO Works at Honqiao

On August 1, official notification was published that the Hongqiao FBO would be closed for major renovation – **including the customs channel**. You can read that here (in Mandarin).

All non-scheduled international flights now need to use the other Shanghai airport, **ZSPD/Pudong**.

No dates are provided for when things at ZSSS will get back to normal. We reached out and have been advised that it could be up to **six months** before non-scheduled international flights will be welcome again. You can contact them directly on fbo@fboshanghai.com for updates on that.

What about domestic flights?

The news is a little better. They can still land at ZSSS. Asides from the FBO being shut, there is little impact. Instead, a VIP room is being used as a replacement facility. Obviously, there will be no customs available.

Local agents advise there is **no change** to existing procedures or parking.

ZSPD/Pudong

For international non-scheduled flights then, **ZSPD/Pudong** will be the only Shanghai option for the next few months.

This maybe especially unusual for operators who commonly arrive over the city from the west.

A browse of the **Airport Spy reports** submitted by OPSGROUP members are mostly positive. We'd welcome some new ones though, and so if you have been there lately, we'd love to hear from you. You can submit yours [here](#).

International arrivals at ZSPD can expect to be processed via **VIPP-H** on the chart below. Crew will need to clear customs through the regular customs channel, aka the passenger terminal.

A big heads-up – Universal advise a general parking restriction of **max 48 hours** still applies without a special extension. Which means for longer stays, you may be looking at a **re-position** to ZSSS and back.

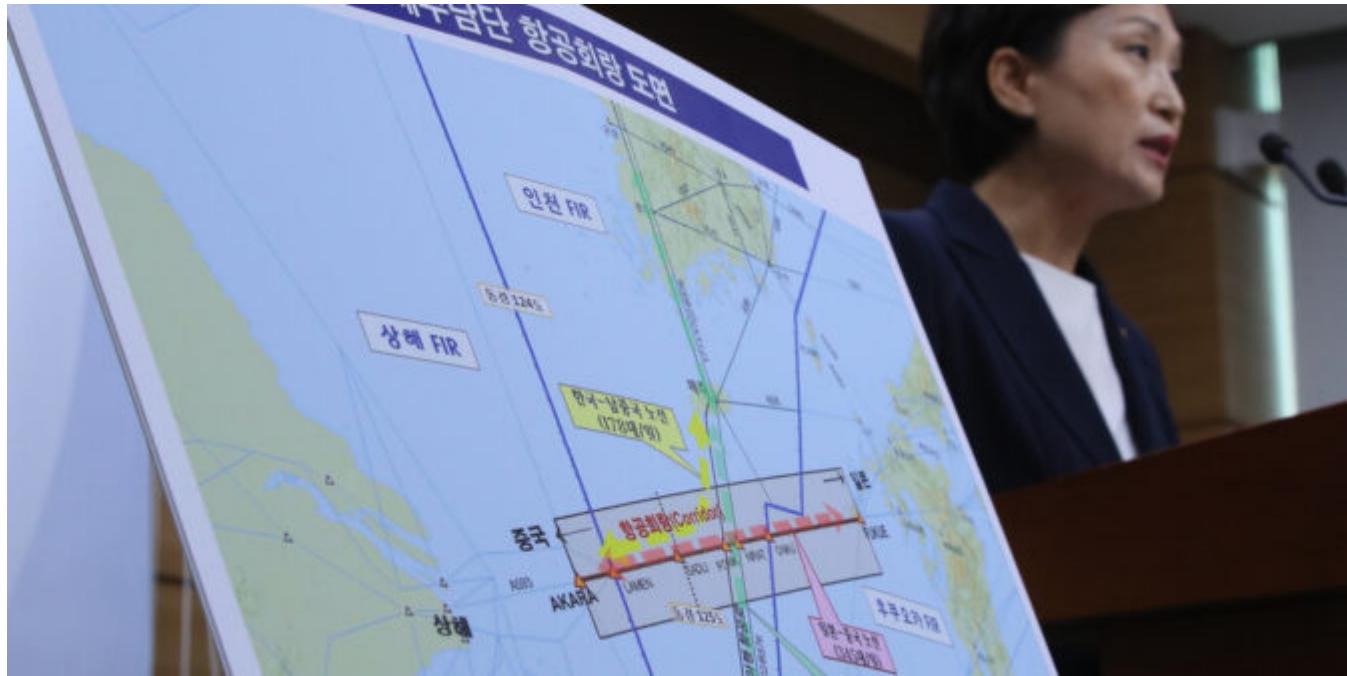
You can reach Universal for handling and other enquiries on chinaoperations@universalaviation.aero

We'll keep you updated.

If international non-scheduled flights resume at ZSSS earlier than expected, we'll let you know. Also keep an eye out for new (and potentially better) procedures and facilities when the FBO re-opens its doors.

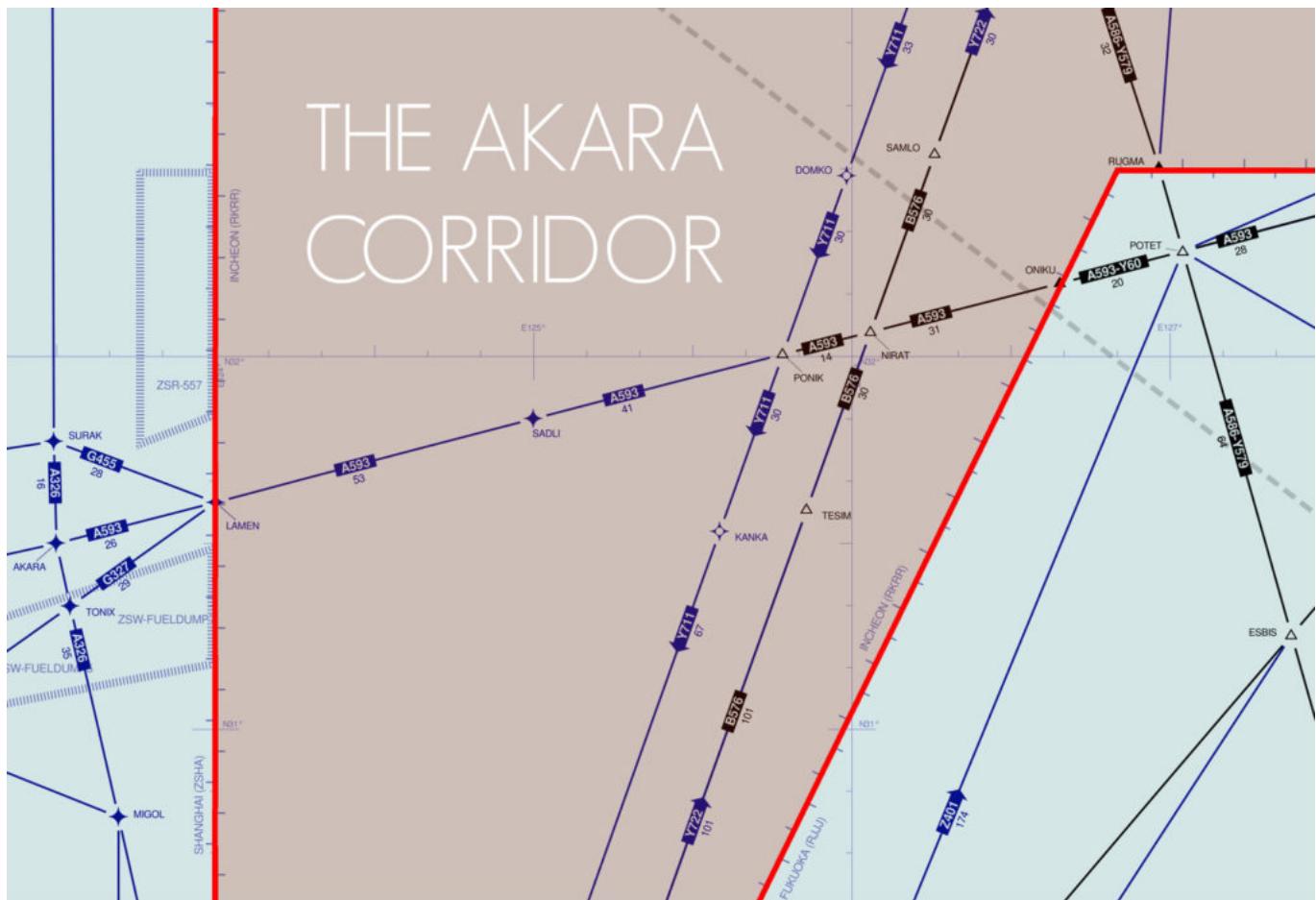
Navigating the AKARA Corridor

David Mumford
1 November, 2023



Some big improvements are on the way for the AKARA Corridor – a piece of airspace 100nm off the coast of Shanghai that connects **China** and **Japan**.

In effect the airspace is being simplified. Currently, South Korea's Incheon ACC controls North/South routes, while Japan's Fukuoka ACC controls East/West. The two operate on different frequencies - **a cause for concern for emergency descents** while heavy aircraft out of ZPSD/Shanghai are often penalised with inefficient levels.



This area has always been unusual in that more than one center has had responsibility for controlling

aircraft at different waypoints.

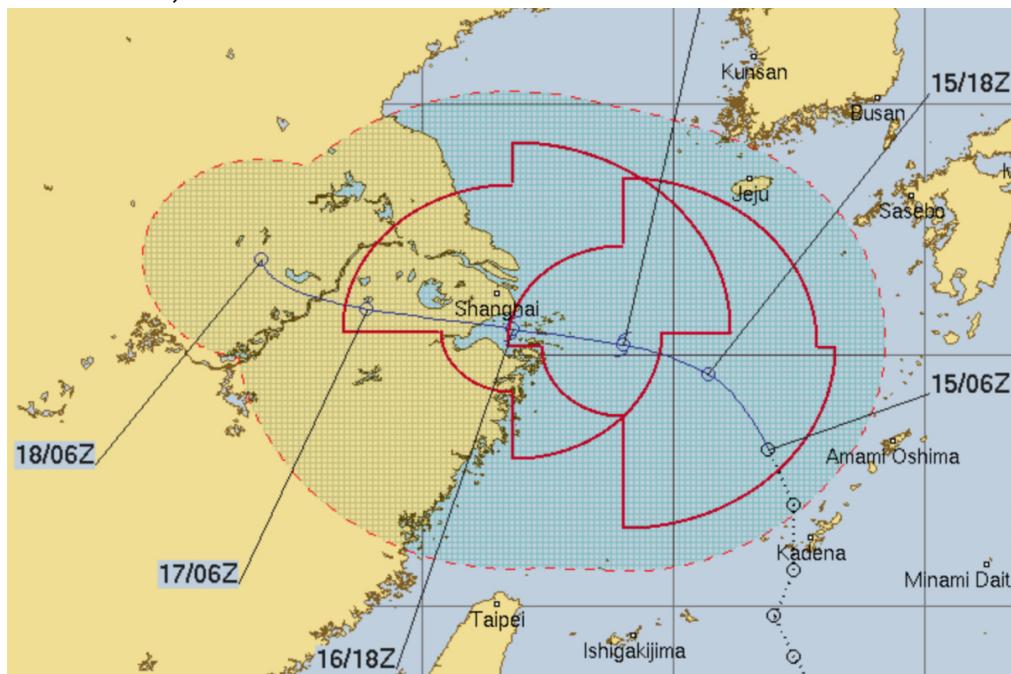
But on 11 Jan, 2021, ATC authorities in Japan, China and South Korea agreed to implement a proposal from ICAO regarding ATC management in this area - **so from 25 March 2021, South Korea will control all flights in this area.**

There will also be a new East/West route in addition to airway A593 to further improve efficiency. You can read all about the changes in more detail [here](#).

Attention Shanghai: Typhoon inbound, jets must move out

OPSGROUP Team

1 November, 2023



Typhoon Rumbia is expected to make landfall just south of Shanghai early on Aug 17, with gusting winds of up to 55kts.

Just as before with Typhoons Ampil and Jongdari which hit Shanghai earlier this month, both Shanghai airports **ZSPD/Pudong** and **ZSSS/Hongqiao** now have restrictions in place for GA/BA flights. They are advising the following:

1. All GA/BA aircraft currently parked at the airports **must either go in the hangar or leave before 1000 local time on Aug 16.**
2. All landing and parking requests of GA/BA aircraft are **unlikely to be accepted until 1200 local time on Aug 18**, by which time the storm is expected to have passed.
3. Operators should **report outbound schedules** of GA/BA aircraft currently parked at the airports as soon as possible.

Best to get in touch with your handler if you haven't already.

And if you are in the region and have more information to share, **let us know!**

Extra Information and latest warning texts and graphics:

- **Joint Typhoon Warning Centre**