



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



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Best Places to Lodge in Shanghai

Shanghai, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Because of the cheaper cost of labor and materials in China, hotels like the Hilton and Marriott in Shanghai are as fancy (if not more) than the Hyatt and Ritz. Most come with complimentary breakfast and all have high-fashion, trendy bars that even the expats are in awe of. Fine dining and great views, along with convenient, central locations are features of all of these highly recommended hotels.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Shanghai



Pudong Shangri-La Hotel

Twin towers in Pudong are a great place to stay for any devout Shanghai enthusiast.



Westin Shanghai (The)

The Westin way!



JW Marriott Shanghai at Tomorrow Square

Deluxe accommodations in the heart of business Shanghai



Shanghai Metropole Hotel

Centrally located, trendy and hip



The Regent Shanghai

Breathtaking views of the city



Grand Hyatt Shanghai

Sleep in the clouds in famous Jin Mao Tower atop the world



Portman Ritz-Carlton (The)

The epitome of luxury at the heart of Old Shanghai

Day 1 - Shanghai

QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: 86 21 6882 8888
fax: 86 21 6882 6688
<http://www.shangri-la.com/shanghai/pudongshangri-la/en/index.aspx>

location:

33 Fu Cheng Road
Shanghai SH 200120

1 Pudong Shangri-La Hotel

DESCRIPTION: With the addition of a sleek new tower annex boasting a slew of trendy designer restaurants, the Himalayan-themed Chi spa, and a second health club and pool, not only is the Shangri-La currently the biggest and boldest hotel in town, it has the best location in Pudong, with unbeatable views of the Bund across the river. All guest rooms in the 36-story Grand Tower are spacious and superbly appointed with more amenities than you know what to do with, including DVD players, fax machines, 32-inch LCD TVs, and safes equipped to recharge your laptop computer. The original River Wing rooms will all be renovated by the end of 2008, at which point the Bund-view rooms here will likely be the most in demand. To top it all off, staff is delightfully friendly and the service is of a high international caliber. **Facilities:** 6 restaurants; deli; 2 lounges; 2 bars; 2 indoor lap pools; tennis court; 2 health clubs w/Jacuzzi and sauna; Chi spa; concierge; tour desk; large business center; 24-hr. room service; babysitting; same-day laundry service/dry cleaning; executive-level rooms © Frommer's



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: 86 21 6335 1888
fax: 86 21 6335 2888
http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/search/hotel_detail.html

location:

88 Henan Central Road
Shanghai 200002

2 Westin Shanghai (The)

DESCRIPTION: Want royal treatment and impeccable service? Don't think twice and reserve a room at the Westin Shanghai Hotel. Strategically located next to the major shopping areas, tourist hot-spots and other attractions, this hotel makes sure that all its guests are given the best treatment. Pick any of the rooms and avail of top-notch facilities, such as wake-up services, Jacuzzi, coffee/tea maker, ironing board, and much more. The bathroom is where you can spend hours and make yourself feel like a million bucks! It is spacious with a separate shower area. Those here for important business deals need not fret, as the hotel has state-of-the-art meeting rooms with special amenities to meet the needs of a discerning businessman. There is a fully equipped fitness room and a jogging track for fitness freaks. The on-site restaurants serve various cuisines to match all taste buds. And ladies, just forget the blues and enter the spa while your kids are in the playhouse and your hubby is making millions! © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 86 21 5359 4969
fax: 86 21 6375 5988
<http://www.jdoqocy.com/click-2005797-10406976>

location:

399 Nanjing West Road
Shanghai 200003

3 JW Marriott Shanghai at Tomorrow Square

DESCRIPTION: Stay in luxury at the JW Marriott at Tomorrow Square. This 60 storey wonder is spread over 20,000 square meters of space. In sync with all Marriott properties this hotel too offers maximum comfort to its business and leisure travelers. The 342 rooms offer magnificent views of the city and are equipped with a wide range of facilities. From high speed internet access to hydraulic massage showers, they have it all. Guests can dine at any of the hotel's restaurants on site and burn it off at the pool or fitness club. As they offer babysitting facilities, parents can have a relaxed day out touring the nearby sights. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: 86 21 6321 3030
fax: 86 21 6321 3030 / 86 21 6321 7365
<http://www.metropolehotel-sh.com/l-en.htm>

location:

180 Jiangxi Road
Shanghai 200002

4 Shanghai Metropole Hotel

DESCRIPTION: The Metropole Hotel is located in the buzzing commercial downtown area of Shanghai. This charming, European style hotel, built in 1934, rises 15 storeys high and affords all the services and conveniences expected from a modern day hotel. Also the Bund area, the Shanghai City Hall and the Yu Garden are nearby. Besides, every shopper's paradise—the famous Nanjing Road, is in close proximity too! © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 86 216 1159988
<http://www.RegentHotels.com/Shanghai>

location:

1116 Yan An Rd West
Changning
Shanghai 200085

5 The Regent Shanghai

DESCRIPTION: The Regent Shanghai is a Luxury 5-star international hotel with 57 floors of contemporary architecture. This high rise hotel with 419 rooms and 92 suites located from the 27th to 52nd floor, all with breathtaking views of the city. The hotel features spacious guestrooms in both a classical and contemporary style. All rooms feature high speed internet access and 42 inch plasma TVs - 3 restaurants including all day dining, lobby lounge, 24 hour in-room dining. Other features of the hotel include a 30 meter indoor pool with glass roof on the 26th floor - Spa treatments and fully equipped fitness center and the latest security system. Large ballroom with 1000 pax conference capacity and 9 smaller rooms as well as 2 board rooms for meetings. Basement car park is free to hotel residents. The exclusive Regent Club Lounge offers Wireless Internet access.



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: 86 21 5049 1234
fax: 86 21 5049 1111
<http://shanghai.grand.hyatt.com/>

location:

88 Century Boulevard, Jin
Mao Tower

6 Grand Hyatt Shanghai

DESCRIPTION: Supposedly the highest hotel in the world, the Grand Hyatt Shanghai occupies the top 33 floors of the 87-floor Jin Mao Building. The dramatic height creates a wonderful panorama of the neighboring Pu Xi District and Huang Pu River. The chic and modern atmosphere, the floor-to-ceiling windows in the guest bedrooms, the Hyatt's five-star attention



wcities

Shanghai SH 200121

to detail and fine dining options all make this hotel one of the best Shanghai has to offer. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 86 21 6279 8888

fax: 86 21 6279 8800

<http://www.ritzcarlton.com>

location:

Shanghai Centre

Shanghai 200040



Portman Ritz-Carlton (The)

DESCRIPTION: Despite some heavy competition, this is still a favorite for many business travelers and world leaders (George W. Bush stayed here during the APEC Conference in 2001). Offering all the luxury and service associated with the Ritz-Carlton brand, the Portman exudes every elegance, from the two-story lobby, with its fiber-optic lighting, laminated stacked-glass sculptures, Indonesian ebony columns, and marble and limestone walls, to rooms that are plush and well fitted with LCD televisions with DVD players, thick duvets, three phones, and all the amenities you could want. Service is as you'd expect -- professional and excellent. The adjacent Shanghai Centre provides one-stop shopping with airline offices, a medical clinic, a supermarket, automatic teller machines, a performing arts theater, upscale boutiques, and a little-known cafe called Starbucks. **Facilities:** 4 restaurants; 2 lounges; indoor/outdoor 20m (66-ft.) swimming pool; indoor tennis court; 2 indoor squash courts; indoor racquetball court; 3-story health club and spa; Jacuzzi; sauna; concierge; 24-hr. business center; shopping arcade; grocery; salon; 24-hr. room service; babysitting; same-day dry cleaning/laundry; nonsmoking rooms; executive-level rooms; World Link Medical Center; rooms for those w/limited mobility © Frommer's



Hotels.com

Shanghai Snapshot

Local Info

Shanghai continues to evolve at warp speed. With the May 1st launch of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, Shanghai has undergone a massive makeover and has emerged beautified on the other side. The Expo launch was celebrated in true China style, with massive amounts of fireworks, food, music, dancing and fun and while it did usher in the start of the largest Expo of all time, it was significant because it also ushered in a new area for Shanghai. Here are the latest openings and offerings in a city that is easily the most exciting place in the Middle Kingdom.

Planning Your Trip To Shanghai Pudong Airport has opened its **Terminal Two**, which was servicing Shanghai Airlines, British Airways, Northwest Airlines, Qantas Airways, and Virgin Atlantic Airways when this guide was published. To be sure, check with your airline to find out which terminal it uses. There are now **Shanghai-Beijing express shuttle flights** that depart practically every half-hour from **Hongqiao Airport** that promise a maximum 3-hour turnaround from check-in to baggage claim. One of the coolest things to do is try the Maglev, a beautifully fast train from Pudong International Airport directly to the Shanghai metro system, it is in fact the fastest train on earth.

Shanghai's subway system now has 11 functional lines. For visitors, **Metro Line 4** is another way to get to Pudong; **Metro Line 8** will be useful to access World Expo sites; and **Metro Line 9** now connects directly with outlying areas like Qibao ancient town and Sheshan. With many newly paved roads and a more efficient metro and road network, transportation in Shanghai is at its peak.

Where to Stay Topping the list of new luxury hotels is the high-flying **Park Hyatt**, the tallest hotel in the world, located in the Shanghai World Financial Center in Pudong. A sister property, the elegant **Hyatt on the Bund**, part of the Grand Hyatt line, is located nearby just north of the Bund in Hongkou. **Le Royal Meridien**, ideally located at the start of the Nanjing Lu Pedestrian Mall, is now the tallest hotel in Puxi and the newly opened **Swissotel Shanghai** is well situated right next to the City Air Terminal Building and the Jing An subway station. The **Renaissance Yuyuan**

Hotel is the first top-caliber hotel right in the old Chinese city, minutes from Yu Garden. Finally, **The Conrad** and the **Jumeirah HanTang Xintiandi** hotels located next to Xintiandi have generated quite a buzz since their 2008 debut.

In the last few years, boutique hotels have become all the rage in Shanghai. Leading the way are the design-centered **JIA Shanghai**, in a renovated mansion on Nanjing Lu; the **Mansion Hotel**, evoking 1930s Shanghai in the French Concession; the ultra-luxurious **Pudi Hotel** also in the French Concession; and Shanghai's first carbon-neutral hotel, **URBN Hotel**. Meanwhile, Shanghai's famous **Peace Hotel** was renovated last year and is now ready for its close up. Also undergoing a total refurbishment is the 1934 Art Deco **Yangtze Hotel**, which remained moderately priced despite the face lift. The River Wing of the **Pudong Shangri-La Hotel** was also renovated and has some of the city's most sought-after Bund view rooms. On the budget scene, Chinese business motels continue to proliferate, and make for adequate inexpensive stays if you're just looking to crash somewhere for a night or two. A **Motel 168**, located right above the Maglev station, is now the closest hotel to Pudong Airport, while the Australian-managed **Argyle International Airport Hotel** is a 5-minute walk from Hongqiao Airport. **Where to Dine** We're happy to report that many of our restaurant recommendations from the previous edition are still around and thriving, even as restaurant openings and closings continue at a dizzying rate. Headlining the list of must-try new restaurants is **Jade on 36**, where Chef Paul Pairet delivers an on-par avant garde dining experience that alone is worth a trip to Shanghai. We've also introduced some wine bars in this edition, including **Enoteca**, **Just Grapes**, and **Otto Gourmet Cafe**, which all serve tasty vittles with their vino. **What to See and Do in Shanghai** **The Bund** still stands in all its glory, but plans to build a vehicle tunnel underneath the main street to Hongkou will likely create some traffic snarls. Shanghai's most famous Art Deco landmark, the **Peace Hotel**, has also closed for renovations until mid-2010. The world-class **Shanghai Museum** now offers affordable admission, but the downside is the additional crowds you'll have to contend with as a result. As the city explodes with World Expo fervor,

you can now climb to the top of the **Lupu Bridge** for a bird's eye view of the Expo grounds on the shores of the Huangpu River. For art and sculpture lovers, the **Shanghai Sculpture Space**, formerly a steel plant, and the **Zendai Museum of Modern Art** in Pudong, are just two of the many new spaces to view the works of contemporary Chinese artists. Last, but certainly not least, the tallest building in China, the **Shanghai World Financial Center**, boasts a 100th-floor all-glass observation deck that will surely be the tallest, and likely the biggest attraction in town. **Shopping** Two years after the closing of the Xiangyang Clothing Market, sellers of knockoff designer goods have largely relocated to two other main areas: the **Qipu Lu Market** in Zhabei District, and the **A.P. Plaza** at the Science and Technology Museum (Shanghai Keji Guan) stop on Metro Line 2 in Pudong, though the vendors actually selling brand-name goods are more scattered and don't tend to advertise their wares quite so openly or brazenly anymore. The **Friendship Store**, still as overpriced as ever, has moved to Changshou Lu in Jing An district. One of the latest trends in Shanghai is to convert former factories and warehouses to high-end shopping and entertainment complexes, such as the **High Street Loft** in the French Concession, a favorite with the trendy set. Meanwhile, **Taikang Lu 210** in the French Concession continues to expand and draw ever greater crowds to its charming boutiques, galleries, and cafes. **Shanghai After Dark** Nightlife continues to flourish despite (or perhaps because of) the large turnover of bars and clubs. **Tongren Lu** is Shanghai's main bar and clubbing street, but will likely be replaced by another bar street during the life of this guide. Hot new nightclubs include **Attica**, located in the Bund with some of the best views of Shanghai; the consistently popular **bonbon** off Hengshan Lu; **The Shelter**, in a former bomb shelter in the French Concession, and a favorite for alternative indie music; the gigantic **Muse**, all the way out in the New Factories in Jing An district; the ultra-hip Philippe Starck-designed **Volar** just outside Fuxing Park; and the Pudong-based **The Wall**, on the Riverside Promenade with great views of the Bund, and filling the club void left by the closing of Pu-J's Entertainment Centre in the Jin Mao Tower. The bar scene gets ever more crowded and sophisticated,

Shanghai Snapshot continued

with David Laris' **The Vault** and its popular Thursday martini nights a top draw, as is Jean Georges' **JG Bar** at the same Three on the Bund address. Just up the street, **Bar Rouge** at Bund 18 recently underwent renovations and is still the destination for the hip set; three floors below it is the more elegant **Lounge 18**. Other newer bars of note include **Mao** and **Mural**, which offer affordable drinks and endlessly amusing people watching. As far as hotel bars go, **Vue Bar** at the Hyatt on the Bund boasts the best of both worlds by showcasing views of both Pudong and the Bund.
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History

A Small Fishing Village The first evidence of settlements in the Shanghai area actually date to 5000 B.C., though it wasn't until the 5th to 7th centuries that Shanghai appeared on the map as a small fishing village on the banks of the Wusong Jiang (today's Suzhou Creek). The creek was known as Hu (for the crab traps in the river), and had its source in nearby Tai Hu (Lake Tai). Eventually Shanghai would be known as Hu, and to this day, the name is still in use as a short form to denote the city, for example in the Huning Expressway connecting Shanghai to Nanjing. During the Tang Dynasty in 751, the Shanghai region was incorporated into the county of Huating, but it was not until 1292 that Shanghai, benefitting from its proximity to Hangzhou, the capital of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), quickly developed from a commercial town (zhen) to a county seat (xian). By the early 1400s, Ming Dynasty engineers had dredged the Huangpu River (also known as Shen), making it the main tributary to serve Shanghai. In 1553, a city wall was built around what is today's Shanghai's Old Town (Nanshi) as defense against Japanese pirates. In 1603, Shanghai had its first contact with the Jesuits through local son Xu Guangqi who was baptized Paul by Jesuit priest Matteo Ricci in Beijing, and who later deeded some of his land in Shanghai (today's Xujiahui, meaning Xu family village) to the Catholic Church. By the end of the Ming Dynasty, in 1664, Shanghai had become a major cotton and textile center; and its population would soon reach 200,000. **Foreign Occupation** In 1832, the British-based East India Company explored Shanghai and the Yangtze River as a potential trading center

for tea, silk, and opium, but was rebuffed by proud local officials. Not to be denied, the British eventually forced the Chinese to import British opium (which it produced in British India) by waging the First Opium War between 1839 and 1842 against a weak and corrupt Qing government that proved no match for the British. The war finally ended with the Treaty of Nanjing, which opened five Chinese cities, including Shanghai, to British consuls, merchants, and their families, and also ceded Hong Kong Island to the British. Soon, the British, French, Americans, Germans, and other foreign powers began to move into Shanghai, carving out for themselves sovereign "concessions" where they were not subject to Chinese laws, but to their own as established by their respective governing councils. The British established their Concession in 1845, the Americans in 1848 in Hongkou, north of Suzhou Creek, and the French set up their concession in 1849 west of the old Chinese city and south of the British concession, subjecting themselves to direct French rule through the Conseil d'Administration Municipale. In 1850, the first English-language newspaper in Shanghai, the North China Herald, was launched. But peace and calm were elusive. Starting in 1850, a man named Hong Xiuquan who believed himself to be Jesus' younger brother led a group of Taiping rebels through southern China in an attempt to overthrow the corrupt Qing government. Though they bypassed Shanghai and established their capital in Nanjing, an offshoot group, the Small Sword Society, which claimed affiliation with the Taipings, took over Shanghai's old Chinese city, driving thousands of Chinese into the foreign concessions. Many Westerners became rich from building housing for the Chinese refugees. The Small Sword Society was eventually defeated by Qing troops in 1855, though the Taping Rebellion itself didn't end until 1864. Hardly deterred by these uprisings, the British and the Americans merged their concessions and formed the International Settlement in 1863, subject to rule by the Shanghai Municipal Council. In the second half of the 19th century, those seeking fame and wealth were starting to arrive in Shanghai in droves to have a go at making their fortune. A number of Sephardic Jew businessmen especially prospered from the opium trade and real estate, and would go on to build some of Shanghai's finest

buildings of the early 20th century, such as the Children's Palace and the Peace Hotel (1929). By 1871, the term "Shanghai," meaning to drug and forcibly kidnap hands for a departing ship, had entered the English language, as during this time, many sailors were literally "Shanghai'd," waking up at sea on clipper ships bound for China. While Shanghai was starting to prosper, events at the national level were becoming increasingly dire as the Qing government grew weaker. In 1895, the Treaty of Shimonoseki after Japan defeated China in the Sino-Japanese war allowed the Japanese to set up factories in Shanghai and other ports. Finally in 1911, following the abdication of China's last emperor, Pu Yi, the year before, the Republic of China was established under Sun Yat-sen, bringing to an end Chinese imperial rule. The following year, the foreign population in Shanghai topped 10,000, a number which only increased as White Russians fleeing the Russian Revolution in 1917 made Shanghai's international concessions their temporary home. It is worth noting, however, that even when foreign influx was at its greatest, foreigners never numbered more than 4% of Shanghai's total population. **War and Revolution** As Shanghai's wealthy, Chinese and foreigners alike, continued to live the high life and get even richer, corpses were starting to pile up on the streets, many having perished from cold and hunger, and the seeds of revolution were being sown. In 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was founded in Shanghai, with Mao Zedong in attendance. In 1925, in what has come to be regarded as the beginning of the end of Western imperial power in China, a student protest on behalf of exploited Shanghai workers led to students being shot at by the foreign Shanghai Municipal police. This "May 30th Movement" coalesced anti-foreign sentiment and paved the way for communist revolutionaries in China. Also around this time, Shanghai's triads were making their presence felt as Du Yuesheng ("Big-eared Du") took power from Huang Jinrong ("Pockmark Huang") as head of the powerful Green Gang. On April 12, 1927, Du's gang assisted Chiang Kai-shek, the new leader of the Kuomintang (Nationalists), in rounding up and executing communist leaders in Shanghai at today's Longhua Martyrs' Cemetery near Longhua Temple, thus forcing the communists to go underground

Shanghai Snapshot continued

and initiating a protracted civil war between the two groups. All this time, wealthy Shanghai continued to prosper and party. During the 1920s and 1930s, this "Paris of the East" reached its zenith as the leading center of trade and finance in Asia, and home to the greatest architecture, finest shops, and most lavish and decadent nightlife. It was this last feature that gave Shanghai its concurrent reputation as the "Whore of Asia." In 1935, the population was nearly four million, including 60,000 foreigners, of which a little less than half were European Jews who had fled here to escape from Hitler. Shanghai was then the only place in the world that was willing to accept the "stateless refugees". But the good times could not and did not last. In 1937 Japan attacked China, taking over the Chinese-administered parts of Shanghai on August 13. That same year, the Shanghai Municipal Council tallied 20,000 corpses of homeless people who had died in the streets. The Japanese did not occupy the International Settlement and French Concessions until December 8, 1941. (For the Chinese, World War II has always been known primarily as the Anti-Japanese War.) In 1943, in response to German requests to implement the Final Solution in Shanghai, the occupying Japanese army forced the stateless Jews into a confined "Designated Area" in Hongkou District. British and American forces also relinquished their extraterritorial powers and concessions to the Chinese that year. World War II finally ended with the Japanese surrender in 1945. After the war, tensions once again quickly flared between the Communists and Nationalists who had agreed to a temporary truce during the war to fight against a common enemy, the Japanese. After many protracted battles all over the country, Mao Zedong proclaimed the creation of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949, thus ending the civil war (earlier, communists had "liberated" Shanghai on May 25 without incident). Chiang Kai-shek, his wife, Soong Mei-ling, and the rest of her Soong family, except for Soong Ching-ling (the widow of Sun Yat-sen), beat a hasty retreat to Taiwan. Within a year, the remaining colonialists and foreign companies had pulled out of Shanghai and the Communist Party began to shut down the city's many industries, including vice industries, and sent the once-thriving city into a slumber for almost 30 years. In 1966, led by the Shanghai-based "Gang of Four,"

which included Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, a former Shanghai actress, the Cultural Revolution began. Initially a campaign to rid Chinese society of bourgeois elements and to maintain constant class struggle, it descended into social, political, and economic chaos and violence, and ended only in 1976 with the arrest of the Gang of Four. **Reform and Reawakening** Earlier in 1972, however, China's rapprochement with the outside world had started to take place. After Henry Kissinger undertook several secret missions to Beijing to re-open relations with the Chinese, Richard Nixon and Premier Zhou Enlai signed the Shanghai Communique at the Jin Jiang Hotel in 1972, paving the way for normalization of relations between the United States and China, though official ties weren't reestablished until 1979. By then Mao had died (in 1976), and a rehabilitated Deng Xiaoping had initiated "opening and reforms" (gaige kaifang) the year before in 1978. Economic reforms quickly took off, and by 1982, Shanghai had opened the Hongqiao Development Zone to attract foreign investors. In 1989, weeks of student protest ended in violence in Beijing in the Tian'anmen massacre. In Shanghai, mayor Zhu Rongji and predecessor Jiang Zemin maintained calm, which no doubt partially helped Jiang become China's paramount leader later in 1997 after the death of Deng Xiaoping. Zhu Rongji became the chief architect of China's economic revolution and China's premier in 1998. More importantly for Shanghai, in 1990 Deng Xiaoping designated Shanghai to spearhead China's economic reform, with the Pudong New Area on the east side of the Huangpu River slated for development into Shanghai's new financial center. Overnight, this former swamp and farmland rapidly transformed into the home of some of China's biggest buildings, including China's first (and largest) stock exchange, the tallest TV tower in Asia, the tallest building in China, and the tallest hotel and the second-largest department store in the world. The building frenzy continued throughout the 1990s and into the 21st century, with new infrastructure seemingly popping up every year, such as the Pudong International Airport, the Nanjing Lu Pedestrian Mall, the Yan'an Elevated Expressway, new bridges, tunnels, a high-speed magnetic levitation line, and a public transportation system that, when complete, will overtake London's in size.

During this time, Shanghai also started to host world events such as the Fortune 500 Global Economic Forum in 1999, the APEC Conference in 2001, and the first Formula One Grand Prix race in China in 2004. As its crowning glory, Shanghai won the bid in 2002 to host the World Expo of 2010, thus returning the city to what many feel is its rightful place on the world stage. Now a financial and fashion capital within China, Shanghai's amazing launch of the 2010 Expo and continued focus on 'Better City: Better Life' is bringing it into the world's eye. © 2000-2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Restaurants Insights

As with its economic development, Shanghai's restaurant scene is perpetually evolving and improving with each new establishment pushing the envelope for higher standards. One can dine very well in Shanghai with budgets small and large, though ambiance, service and fare vary from the two CNY street corner kebabs, to a CNY200 glass of wine imported from the Ashanti Dome vineyards in South Africa. Shanghai's authentic international cuisine allows diners to complement Mexican tacos and margaritas with a side order of live mariachi band at JJ Mariachi's, or down a pint of Guinness pulled by a Dubliner at O'Malley's Irish Pub, or have chicken tandoor prepared the way it is meant to be made by Indian chefs. So for authentic French, Japanese, Korean, or Italian food (the list goes on and on), Shanghai has just the place.

When it comes to Chinese food, there is no exception. A resurgence in Shanghai chic has resulted in many eateries designed in sleek modern style while serving homestyle Shanghainese food. There are also numerous Cantonese restaurants that rival their Hong Kong counterparts, serving excellent food in stylish surroundings. The following restaurants are only a handful of many recommended places to eat.

The Bund

For restaurants with a view, go to the Bund. Shanghai's means by which to measure all else when it comes to continental fare is M on the Bund. Justifiably expensive, the flawless presentation and service, not to mention the best views of the Bund and Pu Dong Shanghai has to offer, are worth every bit of the cost.

Shanghai Snapshot continued

Nan Jing Road

A number of recommended eateries can be found around the Shanghai Center. For American food, Tony Roma's serves up barbecued ribs; the Hard Rock Cafe and Malone's offer typical American fare spiced with live music, and bars that keep you entertained when the kitchens close. Or go local. Bi Feng Tang offers Cantonese dim sum favorites to regular local and expat clientele and Gongdelin Vegetarian Restaurant serves veggies only, Chinese style.

Old French Concession Area

A dense concentration of restaurants, pubs, bars and cafes are found in this area. For those who want to try the local cuisine, Shanghainese food can be had in a contemporary setting at Henry, a favorite among Shanghai's expatriate crowd. Sasha's, set in a restored colonial mansion, offers continental food amidst beautiful wood furnishings. Afterwards, get pleasantly shaken and stirred at Shanghai's chic Martini bar, Goya. Or, in a different category altogether, there is the friendly and casual O'Malley's Irish Pub where you can sip on a pint on the outdoor patio. Cap off the night by going to 1931 Cafe Pub, an intimate bar that resembles 1930s Shanghai.

Pu Dong

Pu Dong affords more than just high-rise office buildings. O'Malley's Irish Pub found its way over the Huang Pu River in the form of the Dublin Exchange, an Irish pub where you can down a Kilkeny over live music. A number of hotel restaurants offer fine dining, such as the Grand Cafe, On-56 in the Grand Hyatt Shanghai and the Garden Cafe in the Shangri-La Hotel.
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Things to Do Insights

Most of Shanghai's city center can be explored on foot. This small, intimate city makes it relatively easy to find your way around, but those who come to Shanghai looking for traditional China encounter considerable disappointment. Beijing proves a better city for exploring ancient Chinese buildings and artifacts, but Shanghai's charm comes from its unique colonial past. A sense of nostalgic romanticism and faded glamour lingers

in the city, especially in the Old French Concession area where remnants of European architecture face the tree-lined streets. To get a sense of Shanghai, old and new, try the following walking tours.

Tour One: Nan Jing Road and Jing An District

Most of Nan Jing Road stretching east to west offers worthy prospects for exploration. Just walk along this commercial stretch and witness the daily hustle of Shanghai life. A portion of the road on the east side has been transformed into a pedestrian-only street. Flanked by shop fronts, a trolley car and vendors, the pedestrian-only street presents a festive air and attracts many people. Also within walking distance from Nan Jing West Road lies People's Square (Ren Min Guang Chang) and the Shanghai Museum. People's Square, a popular public square, resides in the center of downtown Shanghai. Often full of people and vendors, People's Square provides an ideal place for people watching. Underground, a shopping mall sells mostly fashion and cosmetics for the young and trendy crowd. At night, when Nan Jing East Road lights up in full neon glory, it very much resembles Hong Kong. Visitors searching for quiet and more spiritual attractions should check a few active Buddhist temples in Shanghai. Two are situated in the area. Located on Jiang Ning Road, the Jade Buddha Temple (Yi Fo Si) gained fame for its large jade Buddha brought from Myanmar (Burma) by a disciple. This temple attracts a fair share of tourists and locals who come for worship. The other Buddhist temple, Jing'An, lies on Nan Jing West Road. Open to visitors, this traditional temple poses a stark contrast to the modern buildings on Nan Jing Road.

Tour Two: Old French Concession

For shopping, you cannot beat Huai Hai Middle Road for selection. Various shopping centers, including the Japanese MZL Isetan Department Store, and stylish boutiques, such as La Maison Mode, line this prosperous and very busy street. The always-bustling, open-air market on Xiang Yang Road is a great place to get that fake Rolex watch for only CNY50. Farther west along Huai Hai lies the impressive and modern Shanghai Library. Other sights to see include Fu Xing Park, a lovely European park, Long Hua Temple and the beautifully restored home of Dr. Sun Yat-

sen, known as the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Former Residence & Memorial Hall.

Tour Three: Yu Yuan

Known as the Old City or the Chinese section, Yu Yuan offers a more traditional area of Shanghai with its rock gardens, walkways and Chinese teahouses. Yu Yuan's traditional Chinese garden, Yu Gardens, is certainly worth visiting. Visitors shopping at the rather touristy shopping bazaar often buy everything from aqi pao (traditional Chinese dress) to traditional Chinese medicine.

Tour Four: Pu Dong

In terms of scenic attractions, Pu Dong offers little as it is known mostly as Shanghai's financial district and for its modern high-rise office buildings. But viewing Pu Xi (old town) and the Bund from the perspective of Pu Dong often fascinates visitors. You can also ascend the supposedly tallest structure in Asia, the imposing Oriental Pearl TV Tower, for an aerial view of Shanghai. Travelers should also consider visiting the architecturally striking, 88-floor Jin Mao Building. Recently constructed, this building exhibits a modern showcase of Shanghai's sleek new urban style and prosperity. The Jin Mao also holds the Grand Hyatt Shanghai, as well as offices, businesses and restaurants. For an overall view of the city, the Huang Pu River Tour comes highly recommended.

Tour Five: The Bund

Probably one of the most photographed areas in Shanghai, the Bund gives visitors a sense of grandeur and space. Overlooking the Huang Pu River and the neighboring Pu Dong area, this waterfront area is perfect for strolling. It also provides a stark contrast between Shanghai, old (Pu Xi) and new (Pu Dong).
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Fun Facts

1. Fun fact: Shanghai was originally a small fishing village with little hope of advancing past its swampy origins.
2. Interesting fact: Shanghai is now the largest city in China and the eighth largest in the world.
3. Weird fact: the Huangpu River that divides Shanghai in half never freezes and is ice free.

Shanghai Snapshot continued

4. Fact: Shanghai is also known as the Pearl of the Orient and Paris of the East.

5. Progress fact: the majority of buildings going up in Shanghai are high-rise apartments.

6. Random fact: Shanghai cooking is sweeter than other areas in China and they consume more sugar than any other part of China.

7. Fact: The Shanghai World Expo was the biggest in history of world fairs.

8. Political fact: The Shanghai city flower is the white magnolia.

9. Trivia fact: Shanghai means 'on top of the sea'

10. Transportation fact: Shanghai has the world's most extensive bus system, but with an extensive subway network as well, transportation networks are not overly congested.

11. Shopping fact: Shanghai has more commercial shopping than anywhere in mainland China, proving that people in the pearl enjoy their capitalism.

12. Fun fact: Shanghai is the world's busiest sea port, and is an up-and-coming cruise destination.

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