



THE ROUGH GUIDE TO

# SHANGHAI



# INSIDE THIS BOOK

**INTRODUCTION** What to see, what not to miss, itineraries and more – everything you need to get started

**BASICS** Pre-departure tips and practical information

**THE CITY** Comprehensive, neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood guide to the city, with full-colour maps featuring all the listings

**OUT OF THE CITY** The best towns and tourist sights within easy reach of Shanghai

**LISTINGS** Where to stay, eat, drink and shop, plus the best galleries, theatres and clubs

**CONTEXTS** Shanghai's history, recommended books and a useful section on the Chinese language

**MAP SECTION** Detailed city plans for easy navigation, plus a handy metro map

We've flagged up our favourite places – a perfectly sited hotel, an atmospheric café, a special restaurant – throughout the Guide with the ★ symbol

## Shanghai chapters



1 The Bund and Nanjing Dong Lu

2 People's Square

3 The Old City and around

4 The Old French Concession

5 Jing'an

6 Pudong

7 Hongkou

8 Xujiahui and beyond

9 Around Shanghai

Make the Most of Your Time on Earth at [roughguides.com](http://roughguides.com)

This fourth edition published July 2017



THE ROUGH GUIDE TO  
**SHANGHAI**

This fourth edition updated by  
**Simon Lewis**





# Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>		<b>4</b>
What to see	6	Things not to miss 10
When to go	8	Itineraries 16
<b>BASICS</b>		<b>18</b>
Getting there	19	Festivals and public holidays 26
Arrival	20	Sport and activities 27
City transport	22	Culture and etiquette 29
The media	24	Travel essentials 29
<b>THE CITY</b>		<b>38</b>
<b>1</b> The Bund and Nanjing Dong Lu	38	<b>6</b> Pudong 75
<b>2</b> People's Square	48	<b>7</b> Hongkou 82
<b>3</b> The Old City and around	53	<b>8</b> Xujiahui and beyond 86
<b>4</b> The Old French Concession	58	<b>9</b> Around Shanghai 91
<b>5</b> Jing'an	68	
<b>LISTINGS</b>		<b>114</b>
<b>10</b> Accommodation	114	<b>13</b> Entertainment and art 149
<b>11</b> Eating	125	<b>14</b> Shopping 155
<b>12</b> Drinking and nightlife	142	
<b>CONTEXTS</b>		<b>164</b>
History	165	Chinese 175
Books	173	Glossary 186
<b>SMALL PRINT &amp; INDEX</b>		<b>187</b>
<b>CITY PLAN</b>		<b>196</b>



## Introduction to **Shanghai**

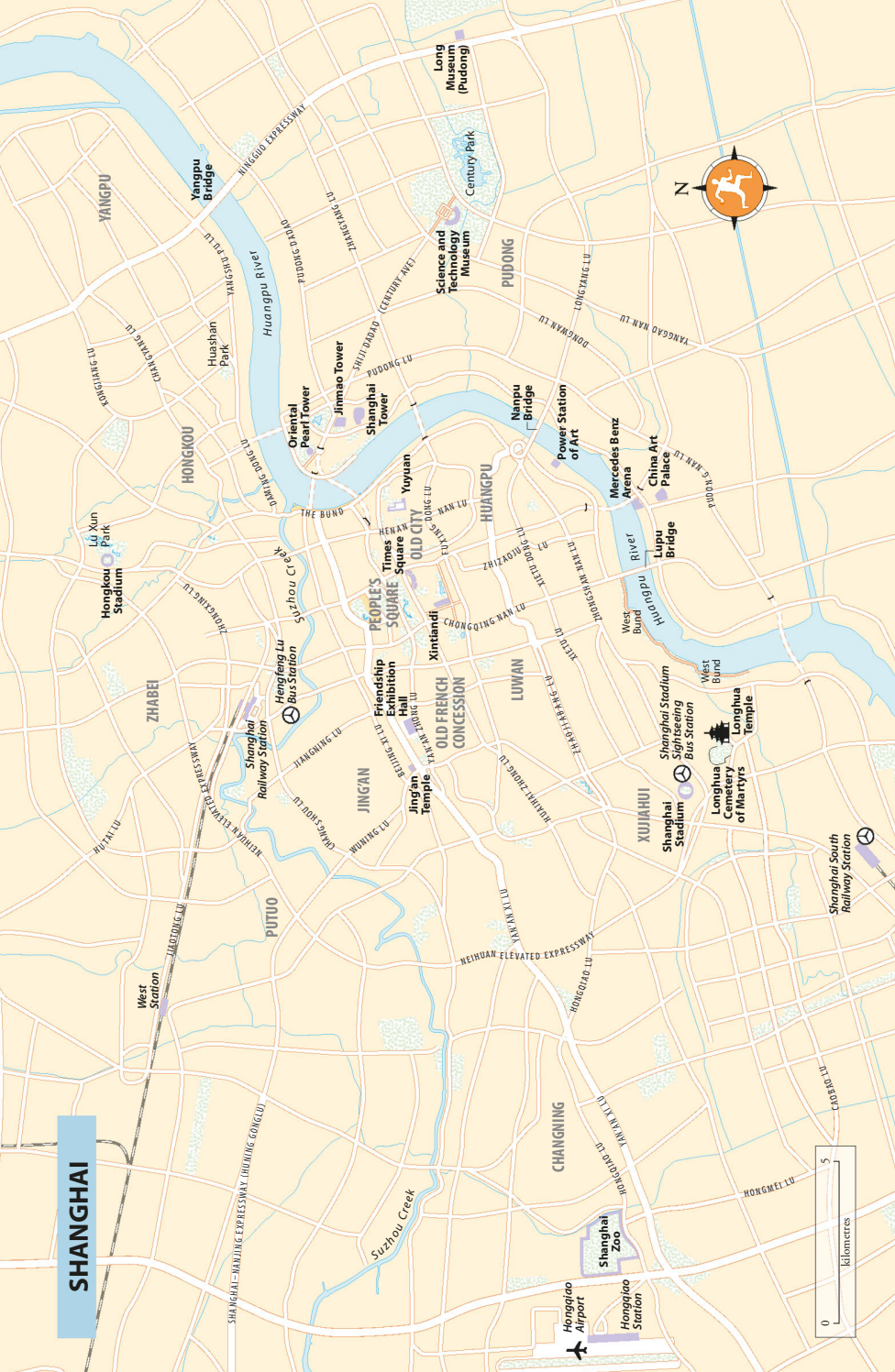
In the Roaring Twenties, Shanghai was a place of opportunity, notorious for its cool style, risqué modernity and savvy business panache. Decades of war and neglect followed, until, in the 1990s, the city shook off its mothballs and set off on one of the fastest economic and urban expansions the world has ever seen. Today's Shanghai has certainly retaken its spot in the limelight – this dizzying metropolis has China's largest stock exchange, the world's longest metro network and over a thousand skyscrapers, more than any other Asian city. By 2020, it is expected to be the richest economic region in the world. While Shanghai may not brim with big-name tourist attractions, it is a fascinating, thrilling place to visit – fast, ever-changing and utterly unique.

Faced with all those ads, neon signs, showcase buildings and vast shopping plazas, it's hard to imagine that you are in a Communist country. Indeed, though dissent is quashed, outside the political arena anything goes, and frantic consumerism and the pursuit of novelty, gratification and wealth are the order of the day. Witness all the gleaming new restaurants and malls, the enthusiastic embrace of fashion and high culture, clubbing and fine cuisine.

Yet despite the rampant modernity, evidence of Shanghai's short and inglorious **history**, when it was carved up by foreign powers into autonomous concessions, is everywhere, and parts of the city appear distinctly European. Looking like a 1920s vision of the future, prewar Art Deco buildings dot the streets: once considered relics of foreign imperialism, these are now protected as city monuments and often sympathetically converted into fashionable shopping and dining venues; they stand in the shadows of brazen skyscrapers that, although built decades later, seem to share the same utopian aesthetic.

And Shanghai maintains its **international character**. The Shanghainese have always felt apart from the rest of the country and look abroad for inspiration as well as business; now, you'll find more English spoken here than in any other mainland city, see foreign mannerisms such as handshaking and air-kissing, and observe the obsession with

# SHANGHAI



## FACT FILE

- **Shanghai Municipality** encompasses 6300 square kilometres, which includes Shanghai city, eight surrounding districts and thirty islands.
- The city is **governed** by the Communist Party of China but enjoys a surprising degree of autonomy, to an extent which has begun to worry the central government in Beijing.
- The official **language** is Mandarin, but locals also speak a dialect called Shanghainese.
- The **population** of Greater Shanghai is 24 million, which includes five million migrant workers.
- Shanghai is the busiest **port** in the world, by cargo tonnage. The Shanghai region, including the adjoining provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, accounts for almost a third of China's foreign **exports**, and a fifth of its **manufacturing output** is produced here. Each year, the city attracts a quarter of all China's foreign **investment**, more than any single developing country.
- The weight of its **skyscrapers** has caused Shanghai to sink 1.5m in twenty years, and the city continues sinking at the rate of 1.5cm a year.
- Shanghai's residents have the highest **life expectancy** of anywhere in China, at 82 years.

international luxury brands. But look closely and you'll also find a distinctly **Chinese identity** asserting itself, whether in the renewal of interest in traditional entertainments such as teahouses and acrobatics or in the revival of old architectural forms.

Unlike most Chinese cities, Shanghai is actually a rewarding place to **wander** aimlessly: it's fascinating to stroll the elegant Bund, explore the pockets of colonial architecture in the Old French Concession or get lost in the choked alleyways of the Old City, where traditional life continues much as it always has. The **art scene** is world-class, and you can visit a host of flashy galleries, from gleaming new structures designed to display billionaire collections to bohemian concerns housed in ramshackle old factories. But perhaps the city's greatest draw is its emphasis on indulgence – it's hard to resist its many temptations. There's a superb **restaurant** scene, with every Chinese and most world cuisines represented; whether you treat yourself to the latest outrageous concoction at a celebrity restaurant or slurp noodles in a neighbourhood canteen, you may well find that eating out is the highlight of your

trip. There are many great places to go for **nightlife**, too, from dive bars to slick clubs featuring international DJs, and the **shopping** possibilities, at shiny malls, trendy boutiques and dusty markets, are endless.

## What to see

The first stop on every visitor's itinerary is the famous **Bund**, an impressive strip of colonial edifices lining the west bank of the Huangpu River. As well as giving you an insight into the city's past, a wander along the riverside affords a glimpse into its future – the awesome, skyscraper-spiked skyline on the other side. Taking a river cruise from here will offer you a sense of the city's scale. Heading west from the Bund down the old consumer cornucopia of **Nanjing Dong Lu** will bring you to **People's Square**, the modern heart of the city. Here you'll find a cluster of world-class museums, all worth a few hours of your time, and the leafy and

attractive Renmin Park. Not far away is the superb new Natural History Museum, set in an attractive sculpture park. Continuing west onto Nanjing Xi Lu brings you to the modern commercial district of **Jing'an**, where a couple of worthwhile temples and the shabby-chic Moganshan Arts District provide welcome respite from the relentless materialism.

Heading south from People's Square brings you to delightful **Xintiandi**, an upscale dining district housed in renovated traditional buildings, and a good introduction to the civilized pleasures of the **Old French Concession**, which stretches west. As well as the best (and most exclusive) shopping, hotels and dining, on these incongruously European-looking streets you'll find a host of former residences of Shanghai's original movers and shakers.

But Shanghai's history was not all about the foreigners, as you'll find if you explore the **Old City**, south of the Bund, where most of the Chinese lived during the Concession era. The old alleys are being torn down at speed, but you'll still find plenty of evidence of a distinctly Chinese way of life in the elegant old Yu Gardens, the bustling shopping bazaar that's grown up around them and a clutch of backstreet temples. By way of contrast, across the river in **Pudong** you'll see very little that's more than twenty years old; come here for the staggering views from the elegant Jinmao Tower or the colossal new Shanghai Tower.

A clutch of sights on the city's **outskirts** are also worthy of exploration, among them Duolun Culture Street in the far north, Century Park and the Long Museum in the east and Longhua Temple in the southwest. Not far from the last you'll find the West Bund, a riverside promenade that hosts some fantastic contemporary art venues. Meanwhile, Shanghai's extensive new metro network has bought some intriguing suburban sights within easy reach of the centre: foremost among them are the heritage town of **Qibao** and the lovely **Guyi Garden** in Nanxiang.

The city's hinterland, meanwhile, offers countryside, historic buildings and a chance to slow down. The cities of **Suzhou**, most famous for gardens and silk, and **Hangzhou**, with its gorgeous lake, are well worth an overnight stop, while for a day-trip you shouldn't miss the sleepy **water towns**, such as Zhouzhuang or Wuzhen.



## ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS OF SHANGHAI

**China Art Palace (2010)** This extraordinary red, boxy crown was the grand Chinese showpiece of the 2010 Expo. It's now an art museum. See p.81.

**Customs House (1927)** Huge Doric columns accentuate this imposing Neoclassical building's height, and lead the eye towards the massive clocktower. See p.44.

**Fairmont Peace Hotel (1926)** Designed by Palmer & Turner as Sassoon House, this is the city's most glorious Art Deco masterpiece, with a magnificent interior. See p.42.

**Jinmao Tower (1998)** Beautiful tapering tower that uses the formal language of Chinese pagodas; the enormous barrel-vaulted atrium, lined with staircases arrayed in a spiral, is the city's most spectacular interior. See p.78.

**Long Museum (West Bund) (2014)** This new contemporary art museum, built around an old coal hopper, is a triumph of post-industrial chic. See p.88.

**1933 Millfun (1933)** An astonishing concrete slaughterhouse in Hongkou, reminiscent of an Escher drawing. See p.85.

**Oriental Arts Centre (2004)** French architect Paul Andreu designed this building to look like a butterfly orchid, with the petals being the exhibition halls. Lights on the roof change colour to match the cadences of the music played inside. See p.81.

**Shanghai Tower (2015)** At a whopping 632m, this is the world's second-tallest building; the observation deck is a must-see. See p.78.

**Shanghai World Financial Centre (2007)** This 492m-high edifice is a broad-shouldered wedge with very clean lines and a hole in the top – like God's own tent peg. See p.79.

**Tomorrow Square (2002)** One of the city's most distinctive landmarks, thanks to the pincers on the roof. See p.52.

## When to go

The best times to visit Shanghai are in **spring** and early summer (late March till the end of May) and **autumn** (mid-September till the end of October). During these times, you can expect warm temperatures, blue skies and infrequent rain. **Summer** (June to mid-September) is very hot and humid – but bring an extra layer to combat the fierce air conditioning. During the “Plum Flower Rain” season from mid-June to early July you should expect frequent showers, and up till September a number of heavy storms – you'll need an umbrella. **Winters** are chilly and windy, though the temperature rarely drops below freezing and snow is uncommon. January and February are the coldest months.

Try to avoid visiting during the two “Golden Week” **holidays** – the first weeks of May and October – when pretty much the whole country is on holiday and tourist attractions are crowded. The city is lively during the run-up to **Chinese New Year** (between mid-Jan and mid-Feb) but travel during this time is tricky and expensive as most Chinese people head home for the holiday. New Year itself is best avoided as just about everyone stays at home with their family and most businesses are closed.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max/min °C	8/1	8/1	13/4	19/10	25/15	28/19	32/23	32/23	28/19	23/14	17/7	12/2
Max/min °F	46/34	46/34	55/39	66/50	77/59	82/66	90/74	90/74	82/66	74/57	63/45	54/36
Rainfall (mm)	48	58	84	94	94	180	147	142	130	71	51	36

# Author picks

Our author has been to all the trendy bars, backstreet eating holes and destination restaurants; and he's cycled the city's length and breadth via busy thoroughfares and narrow *longtangs*. Here is a list of his personal highlights.

**Sip with the fast set** Shanghai does after-dark glamour very well, and boasts some of the world's loudest cocktail bars. Head to a speakeasy such as *Senator* (p.145) and ask their expert mixologists to fix you up something to fit your mood.

**Look up** Shanghai is a treasure trove of fantastic Art Deco architecture, much of which, delightfully, has been spruced up after decades of neglect. Check out the *Fairmont Peace Hotel* – inside and out – to bask in this most refined design aesthetic (p.42).

**Get lost** Dense with incident and colour, central Shanghai's streets reward the urban flaneur – they're architecturally diverse, busy with stylish (or at least noteworthy) people and have plenty of shade thanks to all those plane trees. Start in the Old French Concession (pp.58–67) and see how far east you can get. Jump in a cab when you've had enough.

**Hang out with the art crowd** Don a black polo neck and statement glasses and see if you can schmooze your way into the smart art set – chat up the interns at the Moganshan galleries (p.73) and you might get yourself invited to some private views.

**Dine in style** Some of the world's greatest chefs work in Shanghai. Try to fit in at least one proper fine-dining experience: it'll be a lot cheaper than in the West and as good or better. We especially recommend *Table Number One* (p.132), *eLefante* (p.134) and *Mr and Mrs Bund* (p.130).

**Get high** At some point in your stay, try rising into the clouds. Pick a fine day or a dark evening, and head up a skyscraper to a viewing platform or pricey hotel bar. The absolute best views, for the moment, are from the Shanghai Tower observation deck (p.78).

Our author recommendations don't end here. We've flagged up our favourite places – a perfectly sited hotel, an atmospheric café, a special restaurant – throughout the guide, highlighted with the ★ symbol.



# 18

## things not to miss

It's not possible to see everything that Shanghai has to offer on a short trip – and we don't suggest you try. What follows is a selective taste of the city's highlights: fascinating museums, spectacular buildings and a few ways just to indulge yourself. All highlights have a page reference to take you straight into the Guide, where you can find out more. Coloured numbers refer to chapters in The City section.





## 1 THE BUND

Page 39

This iconic riverside stretch of grand colonial mansions is the first stop on any itinerary.

## 2 YU GARDENS

Page 55

A classical garden of pavilions, ponds and rockeries – a calm oasis at the heart of an old-world Chinatown-style shopping centre.

## 3 SHANGHAI MUSEUM

Page 49

Fabulous collection of paintings, jade, bronzes and other antiques, housed in one of Shanghai's most stylish buildings.

## 4 XIAOLONGBAO

Page 128

These delicious dumplings are available from street vendors and fancy restaurants both.

## 5 TAILORING

Page 160

Clothes tailored to any design you can think of, for a tiny fraction of the price you'd pay at home – Shanghai's best bargain.



**6 SHANGHAI TOWER**

Page 78

Views from the world's highest observation deck are genuinely spectacular.

**7 WEST BUND**

Page 87

This new riverside promenade holds two world-class art museums, with more in the pipeline.

**8 FINE DINING**

Page 125

Indulge in a sumptuous feast in refined surroundings; Shanghai boasts some truly standout restaurants.

**9 1933 MILLFUN**

Page 85

A crazy old building – a converted slaughterhouse – that now houses a clutch of quirky businesses. Go for the sheer oddity, and a taste of local hipster life.

**10 THE BAR SCENE**

Page 142

Join the cool set at one of the city's fabulous cocktail bars.

**11 XINTIANDI**

Page 59

Upscale dining in a lively rebuilt neighbourhood of traditional *shikumen* (stone-gate) houses.







16

**12 PROPAGANDA POSTER CENTRE**

Page 66

An evocative museum showcasing the aesthetics of collective farms, five-year plans and pigtails.

**13 MOGANSHAN ARTS DISTRICT**

Page 73

This old factory, a hive of studios and galleries, is a great place to sample the city's vibrant art scene.

**14 ACROBATICS**

Page 150

Good old-fashioned entertainment, with performers in sparkly costumes and lots of oohs and aahs.

**15 TIANZIFANG**

Page 64

This charming network of historic alleyways hosts dozens of artsy shops, designer boutiques and cosy cafés.

**16 RENMIN PARK**

Page 52

A bucolic beauty spot at the heart of the city, with a lovely lotus pond and bamboo groves.

**17 YUFO TEMPLE**

Page 73

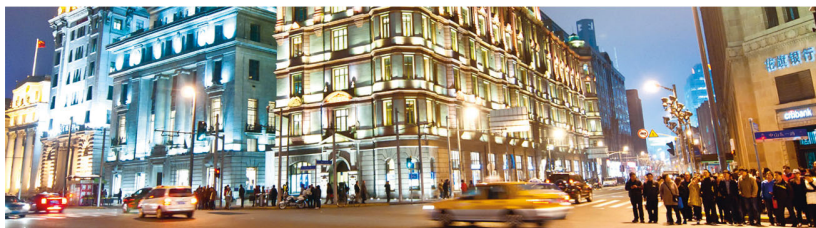
Bustling with worshippers, wreathed in incense smoke, Yufo is home to two very holy, and very beautiful, jade Buddha statues.

**18 XI HU**

Page 106

Hangzhou's lake, dotted with islands, crossed by causeways and lined with pavilions and pagodas, is one of China's most famous beauty spots.





# Itineraries

Shanghai has distinct districts, but the centre is pleasingly compact and easy to stroll around, if you don't mind crowds. Each of the following itineraries can be covered in a day, mostly by walking, with a few short hops by metro.

## THE BUND TO RENMIN PARK

This is the classic Shanghai walk: heading from the Neoclassical elegance of the Bund, along brash shopping streets, to a park fringed with standout sights, it offers a sample of all the city's flavours.

**1 Huangpu Park** This compact park alongside the Huangpu River is the perfect vantage point to take in Shanghai's two iconic skylines: the trim parade of the Bund's colonial edifices on this side and the dizzying modernity of Pudong's skyscrapers across the water. **See p.41**

**2 Afternoon tea at the Peninsula hotel** A great way to sample the luxuries of an iconic hotel without breaking the bank. Take in the sumptuous, marble-columned lobby in the company of the local smart set, over tea, pastries and a glass of champagne. **See p.132**

**3 Fairmont Peace Hotel** This historic hotel is once more the city's premier luxury destination. Don't miss the magnificent Art Deco lobby. **See p.42**

**4 Nanjing Dong Lu** This vivid pedestrianized street is jammed with stores: even if you don't buy, it's great for people-watching – and at night it's a river of neon. **See p.46**

**5 Renmin Park** A surprisingly quiet and civilized retreat bang in the middle of the city. Stop off for a coffee by the lotus pond at *Barbarossa* (see p.131) before checking out a show at the Museum of Contemporary Art (see p.000). **See p.000**

**6 Park hotel** Ladislav Hudec's slim, tapering Art Deco masterpiece might have long since lost its

crown as highest building in the city, but it's still one of the most striking – and clearly an inspiration for modern structures such as the Jinmao Tower. **See p.51**

**7 Shanghai Museum** Check out the Qing furniture and Tibetan masks at this stylish, modern museum. **See p.49**

**8 Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall** Raise an eyebrow at the scale and scope of the plans for Shanghai's future, dramatically presented with models; you can't fault the ambition. **See p.51**

## THE OLD FRENCH CONCESSION

These elegant streets and districts are great for strolling – you'll see why Shanghai got that "Paris of the East" moniker – and if you want to stop off for coffee or dinner, you'll be spoilt for choice.

**1 Xintiandi** This complex of upmarket restaurants, in a complex of pastiche traditional architecture, is very attractive – and wildly popular. Splash out at *Ye Shanghai* (see p.137) or *Crystal Jade* (see p.133), and make sure to check out the Shikumen Museum. **See p.49**

**2 Fuxing Park** One of the city's rare green spaces is a great place to unwind, and you'll probably see groups of elderly locals playing instruments or singing. **See p.63**

**3 Tianzifang** The narrow *longtang* alleys here are a warren of cute shops and cafés. Browse in Harvest Studio (see p.161) for homeware and Nuomi (see p.159) for womenswear, then hit *The Bell Bar* (see p.144) for a drink. **See p.64**

**4 Maoming Nan Lu** The Old French Concession is deservedly famous for its fashion stores; this street is dotted with proficient tailors who will knock up a *cheongsam* or a suit for a very reasonable price. **See p.65**

**5 Fuxing Xi Lu** This charming street has a winning mix of bars, boutiques and villas, many in prewar buildings. Browse around Urban Tribe (see p.162) for ethnic knick-knacks, then dine at *Hot Pot King* (see p.134).

**6 Yongkang Lu** A leafy residential strip that hosts some of the city's best expat bars and cafés, such as *Le Café des Stagiaires* (see p.137) and *Pain Chaud* (see p.138). It's appealingly boho and low key; in the evening everyone spills onto the street to mingle. **See p.143**

**7 Wukang Lu** Join the smartest of the smart set for a cappuccino at *Farine* (see p.137) before exploring the Ferguson Lane boutiques and Former Residences nearby. **See p.67.**

## PUDONG

It's hard to credit now, but forty years ago Pudong was mostly paddy fields. Today it's where the city is growing fastest, a forest of skyscrapers and new build.

**1 Jinmao Tower** It might have been literally overshadowed by its newer, taller neighbours, but this stylish take on Art Deco is still the most glamorous skyscraper on the Lujiazui block. Lovely interior too; check out the observation deck and the *Grand Hyatt* lobby. **See p.78**

**2 Shanghai History Museum** Down in the bowels of the Oriental Pearl Tower, this little museum does a great job of bringing to life the city's turbulent twentieth-century history. **See p.78**

**3 Shanghai Tower** This giant new skyscraper is the tallest of a clutch of jaw-dropping Pudong edifices. The observation deck offers amazing views. **See p.78.**

**4 Science and Technology Museum** A huge museum with an IMAX cinema and interactive and imaginative displays – the exhibit on China's space programme is fascinating. **See p.80**

**5 Fake market** You'll find plenty of choice at this busy market specializing in fake designer-label clothes, shoes and watches. Bargain assertively but politely and you'll end up with some real steals. **See p.158**

**6 Century Park** This well-maintained park is big enough to make for a proper escape from the teeming urban jungle. Rent a tandem and cycle sedately around the lake. **See p.80**

**7 Long Museum** A long way out, but worth the trip: this museum displays the choicest items from a billionaire's collection, ranging from historical objets d'art to modern Chinese paintings. **See p.81**

## MANSIONS AND VILLAS

Shanghai is blessed with some fantastic foreign-built mansions and villas from the Concession era. Many languished for decades and have only recently been renovated and repurposed, often as restaurants, bars and hotels.

**1 Mansion Hotel** It might look the height of respectability now, but this genteel five-storey mansion, now a hotel, was once the home of Shanghai's most famous gangster, Du Yuesheng. There's a terrace bar, too. **See p.120**

**2 Arts and Crafts Museum** This gracious white mansion, reminiscent of the White House, is one of Ladislav Hudec's masterpieces (see box, p.169). It's now a charming museum, exhibiting some great ivory carvings and snuff bottles. **See p.66**

**3 Normandie Apartments** Built in 1926, this striking landmark apartment block is another Hudec classic; its unusual wedge shape resembles the prow of a ship. **See p.67**

**4 Song Qingling's Former Residence** The private home of Song Qingling – a central figure in early twentieth-century Chinese politics – is now a museum of her life. After looking at the exhibits, check out the limos in the garage and the fine gardens. **See p.67**

**5 Former Residence of Sun Yatsen** A museum of the great man, in a handsome old mansion; you can safely whizz over the displays, but take in the refined atmosphere of the house itself. **See p.63**

**6 Ruijin Guesthouse** These urbane houses were built by a newspaper magnate; they then became a government guesthouse. Today the complex operates as a high-end hotel – the well-groomed grounds are perfect for a restful stroll. **See p.64**

**7 Fu 1039** Many of the smaller French Concession mansions have been converted into restaurants. This Shanghaiese place, housed in a gracious villa, is one of the most successful. **See p.134**



STREET SCENE IN THE OLD CITY

## Basics

- 19 Getting there
- 20 Arrival
- 22 City transport
- 24 The media
- 26 Festivals and public holidays
- 27 Sport and activities
- 29 Culture and etiquette
- 29 Travel essentials

# Getting there

**Shanghai has direct flights from many European capitals as well as a number of American and Australian cities. Fares vary with the season; prices are highest between Easter and October, around Christmas and New Year, and just before the Chinese New Year (which falls between mid-January and mid-February).**

You can often cut costs by going through a **specialist flight agent** – either a consolidator, who buys up blocks of tickets from the airlines and sells them at a discount, or a **discount agent**, who may also offer special student and youth fares plus travel insurance, rail passes, car rentals, tours and the like. Prices quoted here assume midweek travel – flying at weekends tends to be slightly more expensive.

## Flights from the UK and Ireland

Nonstop flights to Shanghai **from the UK** are offered by Virgin ([virgin-atlantic.com](http://virgin-atlantic.com)), British Airways ([ba.com](http://ba.com)), Air China ([airchina.co.uk](http://airchina.co.uk)) and China Eastern ([flychinaeastern.co.uk](http://flychinaeastern.co.uk)), leaving from London Heathrow (11hr). Direct Air China flights from Manchester are scheduled to start in 2017. Flying from other UK airports or **from the Republic of Ireland** you'll have to catch a connecting flight to London or your airline's hub city.

Return **fares** for direct flights from the UK start at around £450 in low season, rising to around £900 in high season. If you're flying from the Republic of Ireland, reckon on €1100 in low season, €1700 at peak times. Indirect flights can work out cheaper; Air China and Lufthansa ([lufthansa.com](http://lufthansa.com)), both of which stop in Frankfurt, are worth considering, as is Aeroflot ([aeroflot.co.uk](http://aeroflot.co.uk)), which stops over in Moscow, Emirates ([emirates.com](http://emirates.com)), which stops over in Dubai, and China Southern ([cs-air.com](http://cs-air.com)), which stops in Paris. Less-fancied airlines such as Qatar Airways ([qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)) offer the most competitive fares, though you may have a lengthy stopover.

## Flights from the US and Canada

**From the US and Canada**, Delta ([delta.com](http://delta.com)), American Airlines ([americanairlines.com](http://americanairlines.com)), United Airlines ([united.com](http://united.com)), Air Canada ([aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com)), Air China ([airchina.com](http://airchina.com)) and China Eastern ([flychinaeastern.com](http://flychinaeastern.com)) offer direct flights from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Vancouver and Toronto. It takes around thirteen hours to reach Shanghai from the west coast; add seven hours or more to this if you start from the east coast. In low season, expect to pay around US\$1000 from the west coast or US\$1400 from the east, less for an indirect flight. In high season if you book your ticket early you probably won't need to pay more than US\$300 above these low-season fares.

## Flights from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa

**From Australia**, you can pick up direct flights to Shanghai from Sydney and Melbourne (about 11hr) with China Eastern ([flychinaeastern.com](http://flychinaeastern.com)), Emirates ([emirates.com](http://emirates.com)) and Qantas ([qantas.com](http://qantas.com)) – reckon on a starting price of Aus\$1100. The cheapest flights (around Aus\$900 in low season) are with carriers such as Malaysia Airlines ([malaysia-airlines.com](http://malaysia-airlines.com)) and Royal Brunei ([bruneiair.com](http://bruneiair.com)), with a stopover in Hong Kong or Singapore. Flying from Perth to Shanghai with the major airlines can cost as little as Aus\$900 in high season. **From New Zealand**, Air New Zealand ([airnewzealand.com](http://airnewzealand.com)) flies direct from Auckland to Shanghai; flights cost around NZ\$2200 in high season.

Flying **from South Africa** requires a change of planes. A flight from Johannesburg with a stopover in Hong Kong will cost around ZAR10,000 in high season.

## AGENTS AND OPERATORS

**China Highlights China** ☎ +86 773 2831999, [chinahighlights.com](http://chinahighlights.com). Three- to five-day tours of Shanghai and the surrounding area.

**China Odyssey China** ☎ +86 773 5854000, [chinaodysseytours.com](http://chinaodysseytours.com). Short city and water town tours, plus longer trips taking in other destinations in China.

### A BETTER KIND OF TRAVEL

At Rough Guides we are passionately committed to travel. We believe it helps us understand the world we live in and the people we share it with – and of course tourism is vital to many developing economies. But the scale of modern tourism has also damaged some places irreparably, and climate change is accelerated by most forms of transport, especially flying. All Rough Guides' flights are carbon-offset, and every year we donate money to a variety of environmental charities.