

Shanghai Travel Guide

Shanghai: The Pearl of the Orient

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Things to do in Shanghai

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures that define Shanghai's skyline and cultural heritage, from colonial-era buildings to futuristic skyscrapers.

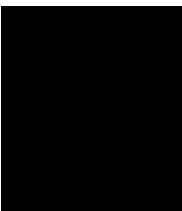


Must See
Oriental Pearl Tower
2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shanghai's most recognizable landmark standing at **468 meters**, featuring multiple observation decks, a rotating restaurant, and panoramic views of the entire city and Yangtze River estuary. The tower showcases the city's transition into modernity.



Must See
The Bund
2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shanghai's most famous waterfront promenade featuring **28 architectural masterpieces** spanning from 1846 onwards. The Bund combines historic colonial buildings with the futuristic Pudong skyline across the Huangpu River, offering restaurants, shops, and spectacular photography opportunities.



上海中心
Shanghai Tower

Top Pick Book Ahead
Shanghai Tower
2 hours Book Ahead



Map

The **second-tallest building in the world** at 632 meters, featuring the J Hotel, sky lobbies with observation decks on the 118th floor, and breathtaking views of Shanghai and beyond. Known for its spiraling design and vertical gardens.





Top Pick Book Ahead

Jinmao Tower

1-2 hours Book Ahead



Map

An iconic 88-story skyscraper completed in 1998, combining traditional Chinese architecture with modern design. The **Cloud 9** observation deck on the 87th floor offers 360-degree views, while the Grand Hyatt occupies the upper floors.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit The Bund at sunset for spectacular lighting and photography
- Purchase a combined ticket for Oriental Pearl and other observatories to save money
- Avoid weekends and holidays for shorter queues at observation decks
- Bring comfortable walking shoes for exploring the Bund's entire length



Museums & Galleries

World-class institutions showcasing Chinese art, history, contemporary works, and international collections housed in stunning modern architecture.



Must See

Shanghai Museum

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of China's most important museums featuring **11 permanent galleries** including Chinese bronzes, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, calligraphy, seals, jade, and furniture spanning from 10,000 BCE to the 20th century. The building itself is an architectural treasure shaped like an ancient Chinese bronze vessel.



Top Pick

Power Station of Art

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A former 1960s power plant transformed into a **40,000 square meter contemporary art space**, featuring experimental exhibitions, multimedia installations, and international contemporary artwork in an industrial setting. A symbol of Shanghai's creative renaissance.



Top Pick

China Art Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Located in the former **China Pavilion from Expo 2010**, this museum houses extensive collections of modern and contemporary Chinese art, including paintings, sculptures, and installations. The building itself is an architectural marvel inspired by traditional Chinese design.



Notable

M50 Creative Park

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An **art district housed in renovated factories** featuring artist studios, independent galleries, fashion boutiques, and trendy cafes. This vibrant community showcases Shanghai's thriving contemporary art scene with regular exhibitions and cultural events.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Most museums offer free or discounted admission on certain days—check websites in advance
- Audio guides are available in multiple languages at major museums
- Shanghai Museum requires online reservation during peak seasons
- Many galleries in M50 are closed on Mondays—visit Tuesday to Sunday
- Combine museum visits with nearby dining and shopping for a full cultural day



Religious Sites

Sacred spaces representing Shanghai's diverse spiritual heritage including Buddhist temples, Taoist shrines, churches, and other houses of worship reflecting China's religious traditions.



Must See

Jade Buddha Temple

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of Shanghai's most important Buddhist temples, famous for its **two rare jade Buddha sculptures** brought from Burma in 1882. The serene temple features multiple halls, monks in residence, and beautiful traditional architecture surrounded by gardens within the bustling city.



Top Pick

City God Temple

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A stunning **Ming Dynasty Taoist temple** dedicated to the local deity protecting Shanghai. Features intricate wooden carvings, traditional architecture, and a bustling marketplace atmosphere. The adjacent food court offers traditional Shanghai snacks and local delicacies.



Top Pick

Longhua Ancient Temple

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shanghai's **oldest temple dating back to 242 CE**, featuring a 40-meter tall pagoda with seven levels. The peaceful grounds contain prayer halls, gardens, and a vegetarian restaurant, offering respite from the urban environment.



Notable

St. Ignatius Cathedral

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A **stunning neo-Gothic cathedral** built in 1910 featuring twin spires reaching 60 meters high. One of Shanghai's most beautiful Western religious structures, the cathedral showcases intricate stained glass, detailed architecture, and hosts regular services and cultural events.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Remove shoes when entering Buddhist temples as a sign of respect
- Photography may be restricted in certain areas—always ask permission
- Visit Jade Buddha Temple early morning before crowds arrive
- Lunar New Year celebrations at temples attract thousands of visitors
- Modest clothing is recommended when visiting religious sites



Parks & Gardens

Lush green spaces and meticulously designed gardens offering peaceful retreats, traditional Chinese landscape design, and recreational activities throughout Shanghai.



Must See
Yu Garden
2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **Ming Dynasty masterpiece** spanning 20,000 square meters, featuring intricate landscaping, traditional pavilions, bridges, and ponds. Every element symbolizes harmony and prosperity. The garden is a perfect example of classical Chinese garden design with winding pathways and surprise vistas around each corner.



Top Pick
People's Park
1-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **72-hectare urban oasis** in Huangpu District featuring landscaped gardens, scenic lakes, walking paths, and recreational facilities. Popular for tai chi practitioners in the mornings and offers a peaceful escape with modern amenities including cafes and cultural venues.



Top Pick
Longhua Lake Park
2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **scenic 1,056-hectare park** featuring a large lake, gardens, walking trails, and the historic Longhua Pagoda. It's perfect for cycling, jogging, or relaxing by the water. The park offers beautiful views throughout the year and hosts cultural events and festivals.



Notable
Jing An Park
1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A **charming 2.86-hectare urban park** featuring traditional Chinese landscaping with pavilions, bridges, ponds, and botanical gardens. Located in the vibrant Jing An District, it's surrounded by shopping and dining options, making it ideal for a quick cultural and nature break.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Rent a bicycle to explore larger parks like Longhua Lake Park efficiently
- Visit Yu Garden early morning or late afternoon to avoid peak crowds
- Bring comfortable walking shoes and sun protection for outdoor park exploration
- Many parks have free entry—check official websites for any seasonal fees
- Tai chi and morning exercise groups in parks offer authentic cultural experiences



Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinct areas of Shanghai, each with unique character, architecture, and atmosphere ranging from historic quarters to trendy cultural districts and colonial-era neighborhoods.



Must See

Old City

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shanghai's **historic walled quarter** featuring traditional Ming and Qing dynasty architecture, narrow alleyways, and the famous City God Temple. The maze-like streets are filled with antique shops, traditional restaurants, and small vendors, offering an authentic glimpse into Shanghai's pre-modern heritage.



Must See

French Concession

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A charming **historic neighborhood preserving colonial-era architecture** with tree-lined streets, villas, cafes, and boutiques. Once Shanghai's most glamorous quarter, it retains European charm with Art Deco buildings, independent galleries, and some of the city's best restaurants and nightlife.



Top Pick

Jing An District

3-5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shanghai's **vibrant shopping and entertainment hub** featuring luxury shopping malls, modern skyscrapers, restaurants, and cultural venues. Home to famous landmarks like Jing An Temple and Jing An Park, it's a perfect blend of traditional culture and contemporary commerce.



Top Pick

Huangpu River East Bank

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The **modern Pudong waterfront** offering futuristic architecture, parks, luxury hotels, fine dining, and shopping. The glittering skyline views, particularly at night, showcase Shanghai's transformation into a global financial center with spectacular photo opportunities.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Wander through Old City's narrow streets to discover hidden teahouses and antique shops



- French Concession is perfect for day exploring—combine with evening dining and nightlife
- Rent a bicycle to explore neighborhoods efficiently like locals do
- Jing An offers premium shopping experiences with international and local brands
- Visit Huangpu River parks at sunset for the best photography light



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences, outdoor activities, and specialized tours offering deeper insights into Shanghai's culture, history, food, and contemporary attractions.



Must See Book Ahead

Shanghai River Cruise

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

A **peaceful journey along the Huangpu River** offering stunning views of the Bund's historic buildings and Pudong's modern skyline. Available during day and evening (when buildings are beautifully illuminated), with guided commentary explaining Shanghai's development and significant landmarks.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Traditional Tea Ceremony

1-2 hours Book Ahead

An authentic **experience in Chinese tea culture** featuring expert preparation methods, tea tasting, and insights into tea history and traditions. Sessions typically occur in traditional teahouses or cultural centers where you'll learn about different tea types and proper brewing techniques.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Street Food Tour

3-4 hours Book Ahead

A **culinary exploration of Shanghai's most delicious street food** and traditional snacks led by expert guides. Visit local markets, street vendors, and traditional restaurants sampling xiaolongbao, shengjian, and other iconic Shanghai dishes while learning about local food culture.



Notable

Chinese Calligraphy Class

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Learn the **ancient art of Chinese calligraphy** from master artists in hands-on workshops. Students receive instruction on brush techniques, ink preparation, and character writing while understanding the philosophy and history behind this revered traditional art form.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book river cruises in advance, especially for evening departures during peak seasons
- Street food tours operate year-round but are most enjoyable in mild weather
- Tea ceremonies should be booked at least one day in advance
- Calligraphy classes require no prior experience—beginners are welcome
- Many tour operators offer English-speaking guides—confirm when booking



Shopping & Markets

From traditional markets and silk shops to ultramodern shopping malls, Shanghai offers world-class shopping experiences spanning luxury brands, local crafts, and authentic Chinese products.



Must See

Nanjing Road Pedestrian Street

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The **world's busiest pedestrian shopping street** stretching 1.6 kilometers with thousands of shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues. Features everything from luxury international brands to local boutiques, serving millions of visitors annually in an electric atmosphere.



Top Pick

Longhua Pearl Market

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shanghai's largest **pearl and jewelry market** offering genuine freshwater and seawater pearls at wholesale prices. Thousands of vendors sell pearls in all forms—loose, jewelry sets, and custom designs. Expert bargaining is expected and encouraged with price negotiations of 30-50% common.



Top Pick

Silk Museum Shop

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Purchase authentic Shanghai **silk products including fabrics, scarves, and garments** at the official museum shop. Products range from affordable scarves to high-end tailored silk clothing, with certificates of authenticity guaranteeing quality and genuine silk content.



Top Pick

South Bund Soft-Spun Fabric Market

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The largest **fabric market in Asia** offering bolts of silk, cotton, linen, and designer fabrics at wholesale prices. Tailor shops within the market create custom garments rapidly. Popular for both local tailors and visitors seeking high-quality fabrics and custom clothing at unbeatable prices.

Tips for Shopping & Markets

- Bargaining is expected at markets—initial asking prices are often inflated
- Visit Nanjing Road early morning to avoid peak crowds
- At Pearl Market, bring a jeweler's loupe or UV light to verify authenticity
- South Bund market hours: 9am-6pm. Many vendors close between 1-2pm for lunch
- Carry cash for better bargaining leverage at traditional markets



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Shanghai, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Ministry of Crab★★★★★ 4.8 (23)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ministry of Crab is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.8★ from 23 reviews. Located at China, Shang Hai Shi, Huang Pu Qu, People's Square, 2310 : 200003.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Must See

Cejerdary★★★★★ 4.8 (170)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Cejerdary is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.8★ from 170 reviews. Located at 59 Guang Dong Lu, Waitan, Huang Pu Qu, China, 200002.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Must See

Qingmeiju Muslim Restaurant★★★★ 4.8 (149)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Qingmeiju Muslim Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.8★ from 149 reviews. Located at 313 Feng Yang Lu, People's Square, Huang Pu Qu, Shang Hai Shi, China, 200003.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Must See

Fu He Hui★★★★ 4.8 (80)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Fu He Hui is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.8★ from 80 reviews. Located at 1037 Yu Yuan Lu, Chang Ning Qu, Shang Hai Shi, China, 200085.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM

Must See

Efes Restaurant★★★★ 4.7 (489)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Efes Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.7★ from 489 reviews. Located at China, Shang Hai Shi, Pu Dong Xin Qu, Yaohan, Shang Cheng Lu, 665 1885 B : 200120.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM



Must See

Mercato★★★★★ 4.6 (99)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mercato is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.6★ from 99 reviews. Located at China, Shang Hai Shi, Huang Pu Qu, Waitan, 3路路路 6路 CN 路路 路路 路路路 3 路路路 : 200002.

Must See

The Fellas★★★★★ 4.6 (232)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Fellas is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.6★ from 232 reviews. Located at China, Shang Hai Shi, Huang Pu Qu, Waitan, Yan An Dong Lu, 7路 7路 Qian Chen Da Sha CN 路路 路路路 : 200002.

Must See

Da Vittorio Shanghai★★★★★ 4.6 (27)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Da Vittorio Shanghai is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.6★ from 27 reviews. Located at China, Shang Hai Shi, Huang Pu Qu, CN 路路 路路 路路路 600 600路路路路路 N3路 3路 路路路 : 200120.

Top Pick

Mr&Mrs Bund★★★★★ 4.5 (153)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mr&Mrs Bund is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.5★ from 153 reviews. Located at Wai Tan 18 Hao, 6路 18 Zhong Shan Dong Yi Lu, 18, Huang Pu Qu, Shang Hai Shi, China, 200002.

Top Pick

Goodfellas★★★★★ 4.5 (138)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Goodfellas is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.5★ from 138 reviews. Located at China, Shang Hai Shi, Huang Pu Qu, Waitan, Yan An Dong Lu, 7路 CN 路路 路路路 : 200120.



Top Pick

The Commune Social★★★★ 4.5 (59)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Commune Social is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.5★ from 59 reviews. Located at 511 Jiang Ning Lu, Jing An Qu, Shang Hai Shi, China, 200041.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM

Top Pick

Lost Heaven★★★★☆ 4.4 (235)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lost Heaven is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.4★ from 235 reviews. Located at 38 Gao You Lu, Xu Hui Qu, Shang Hai Shi, China, 200031.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

Di Shui Dong★★★★☆ 4.4 (192)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Di Shui Dong is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.4★ from 192 reviews. Located at 56 Mao Ming Nan Lu, [] Shang Hai Shi, China, 200041.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

Lailai Snack Dumpling★★★★☆ 4.4 (461)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lailai Snack Dumpling is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.4★ from 461 reviews. Located at 504 Tian Jin Lu, Huang Pu Qu, Shang Hai Shi, China, 200001.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM

Top Pick

Bella Napoli★★★★☆ 4.4 (217)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Bella Napoli is a highly-rated restaurant in Shanghai, rated 4.4★ from 217 reviews. Located at 73 Nan Hui Lu, Jing An Qu, Shang Hai Shi, China, 200041.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Practical Information

Best Seasons: Spring (March-May) and Autumn (September-November) offer **ideal weather** with temperatures between 15-25°C, low humidity, and clear skies—perfect for sightseeing.

Summer (June-August): Hot, humid, and rainy with temperatures exceeding 30°C. Indoor attractions and water-based activities become popular. Typhoon season (July-September) can disrupt travel plans.

Winter (December-February): Cool and dry (5-10°C) with occasional rain. Festival season including Lunar New Year makes January-February crowded. Fewer tourists make it an excellent value period.

Avoid: Lunar New Year holidays and National Day Golden Week (late September-early October) when domestic tourism peaks and prices surge dramatically.

Metro System: Shanghai's **comprehensive subway network** (16 lines, 430+ stations) is the most efficient way to navigate the city. Fares cost 3-9 RMB depending on distance. Purchase a rechargeable metro card at any station for convenience.



Buses: Extensive bus network covers the entire city with fares around 1-3 RMB. Routes are posted at stops but signage is primarily in Chinese—use mobile apps for navigation.

Taxis: Yellow taxis are abundant, metered, and affordable. Uber/Didi (Chinese rideshare app) offer convenient app-based booking. Download the Didi app as Uber service is limited.

Bikes: Bike-sharing services (Mobike, Ofo) allow affordable short-distance travel. Register with mobile app and deposit required. Perfect for exploring neighborhoods.

Airport Transfer: Maglev train connects Pudong Airport to city center in 8 minutes. Regular shuttle buses and taxis available at all terminals. Download taxi apps or arrange pickup in advance.

➔ Airport Transfer

Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) to city center:

- **Maglev Train:** World's fastest commercial train reaches 300-431 km/h, covering the 30km to Longyang Road Station in 8 minutes for CNY 50 one-way
- **Metro Line 2:** Direct to People's Square in about 65 minutes, fare around CNY 8
- **Airport Bus Line 1:** Runs to Hongqiao Airport and central stops in roughly 60-90 minutes, CNY 20-30 depending on route
- **Taxi:** Metered fare to downtown Shanghai typically costs CNY 170-220 and takes 45-60 minutes depending on traffic

What to Buy:

- **Silk Products:** Scarves, fabrics, and garments at significantly lower prices than Western countries
- **Pearls:** Freshwater pearls at wholesale prices, particularly at Longhua Pearl Market
- **Tea:** Premium Chinese teas including pu-erh, oolong, and jasmine varieties
- **Porcelain:** Blue and white ceramics, fine china, and Ming dynasty reproductions
- **Traditional Crafts:** Painting, calligraphy, jade carvings, and embroidery
- **Herbal Medicine:** Ginseng, dried herbs, and traditional remedies

Where to Shop: Nanjing Road for department stores and luxury brands. Old City and antique markets for authentic goods. Traditional markets for souvenirs and local products at best prices.

Bargaining Tips: Expected at markets and street vendors. Start negotiations at 40-50% of asking price and work toward middle ground. Cash offers better leverage than cards. Never bargain at department stores, malls, or upscale retailers.

Chinese New Year/Spring Festival (January-February): The most important Chinese holiday celebrated with temple fairs, traditional activities, decorations, and family gatherings. City decorations are spectacular, but expect crowds and closed shops.

Tomb Sweeping Festival (April): Traditional occasion for honoring ancestors with temple visits and family gatherings increasing tourism to heritage sites.

Dragon Boat Festival (May/June): Celebrated with dragon boat races on rivers and lakes. Traditional foods like zongzi (sticky rice) are sold everywhere. Parks host cultural performances and festivities.

Mid-Autumn Festival (September/October): Celebrates the harvest moon with lantern displays, mooncakes, and family reunions. Cultural activities, light shows, and traditional celebrations throughout the city.

Shanghai International Film Festival (October): Major international film festival showcasing global cinema with premiere events, exhibitions, and celebrations of filmmaking.

National Day Golden Week (October 1-7): National holiday with one-week vacation causing massive domestic tourism. Prices surge, attractions become crowded, but special cultural events and festive atmosphere prevail.



Day 1 - Classic Shanghai: Start at The Bund early morning for fresh perspectives and photos. Visit Oriental Pearl Tower observation decks (book combined ticket). Take Huangpu River cruise afternoon. Explore French Concession for dinner and evening strolls through tree-lined streets with boutique cafes.

Day 2 - Cultural Shanghai: Morning meditation at Jade Buddha Temple followed by breakfast. Shanghai Museum for 2-3 hours exploring bronze, ceramic, and calligraphy galleries. Lunch at traditional restaurant. Afternoon exploring Yu Garden's Ming dynasty landscaping. Evening at City God Temple marketplace for dinner and street food sampling.

Day 3 - Modern Shanghai: Breakfast at a local noodle shop. Shanghai Tower sky lobby observation deck with 360-degree views. Pudong financial district walking tour. Lunch in Lujiazui. Afternoon shopping at Nanjing Road Pedestrian Street's international brands and local boutiques. Evening in Jing An District for dining and nightlife.

Day 4 - Hidden Gems: Explore M50 Creative Park artist studios and independent galleries. Visit Power Station of Art for contemporary installations. Longhua Lake Park for cycling, nature, and the ancient pagoda. Late afternoon at Longhua Pearl Market for souvenir shopping with local market experience. Dinner at a traditional neighborhood restaurant.

Day 5 - Neighborhood Deep Dives: Morning in Old City's winding streets discovering teahouses and antique shops. Take calligraphy class or tea ceremony. Afternoon at People's Park with locals enjoying tai chi. Street food tour sampling xiaolongbao, shengian, and soy-braised chicken. Evening exploring independent galleries and boutiques in French Concession neighborhoods.

The Bund (Waitan) - Best Time: Sunset 30 minutes before dusk: The iconic riverside promenade offers stunning views of colonial architecture with Pudong's futuristic skyline reflected in the Huangpu River. The east side of Bund provides unobstructed westward views perfect for sunset photography with warm golden light illuminating historic buildings.

Oriental Pearl Tower Observation Deck - Best Time: Sunset transitioning to night: Elevated 360-degree views capture Shanghai's entire skyline transformation from day to night. The city lights create magical photography opportunities as dusk falls and neon signs illuminate. Arrive 1.5 hours before sunset for best light conditions.

Yu Garden Classical Landscape - Best Time: Early morning light: Soft morning light filtering through traditional pavilions and reflecting in mirror-like ponds creates ethereal photography. Fewer visitors allow undisturbed compositions of iconic bridges, rocks, and architectural details. Golden hour light enhances traditional stonework and wooden structures.

French Concession Tree-Lined Streets - Best Time: Late afternoon golden hour: Tree branches create natural frames for colonial villas and Art Deco buildings bathed in warm golden light. The longer shadows and warm tones emphasize architectural details. Cycle slowly photographing quiet streets with dappled light patterns.

Huangpu River at Night - Best Time: 8-10 PM: Both riverbanks fully illuminate with spectacular building lighting and neon signs reflected in water. Day-to-night contrast showcases modern Shanghai's energy and scale. River cruises provide mobile photography platforms for dynamic compositions.

Voltage & Frequency: China operates on **220 volts, 50 Hz** alternating current, different from North America (110V) and some other regions.

Plug Types: Chinese electrical outlets primarily use **Type A (2 flat pins)** and **Type C (2 round pins)** designs. Some hotels feature multiple outlet types accommodating international travelers. The standard Chinese outlet (Type I, 3 flat pins in V-configuration) is also common.

Travel Adapters: Universal multi-adapter converters are recommended covering Type A, C, and I. Available at airports, hotels, convenience stores, and online retailers. Purchasing adapters in China is cheaper than bringing them from overseas. Many modern devices (phones, laptops) automatically handle 110-240V with appropriate adapter.

Voltage Converters: For devices not dual-voltage, step-down converters (220V to 110V) are necessary. Heavy devices like hair dryers may require professional-grade converters. Check device labels before connecting to unfamiliar voltage sources.



Must-Try Shanghai Dishes:

- **Xiaolongbao (Soup Dumplings):** Steamed pork-filled dumplings with soup inside—order at dim sum restaurants or Jia Jia Tang Bao.
- **Shengian (Pan-Fried Dumplings):** Crispy-bottomed dumplings with soup filling, a Shanghai breakfast favorite.
- **Soy-Braised Chicken (Hong You Chicken):** Tender chicken braised in rich soy sauce—available at local street stalls.
- **Shanghai Noodles:** Thick chewy egg noodles stir-fried with vegetables and protein, served at local noodle shops.
- **Eel Dishes:** Stir-fried eel or rice with eel—popular specialty items showing Shanghai's regional cuisine.
- **River Snails in Chili Broth:** Seasonal specialty combining local snails in spicy aromatic sauce—try at night markets.

Dining Customs: Tipping is not expected in Shanghai. Restaurants add a 10% service charge to bills. Eating quickly is normal—lingering is discouraged at casual eateries. Sharing dishes family-style is customary at group meals.

Where to Eat: Street vendors and small local shops offer authentic Shanghai flavor at lowest prices. Hotel restaurants provide international options and hygiene assurance. The Bund's waterfront restaurants offer scenic dining with premium pricing. Old City marketplace provides traditional atmospheres with reasonable costs.

Tourist Passes

Shanghai Tourist Information and Service Centers

Free assistance, maps, recommendations, and information about attractions, events, and services throughout Shanghai at multiple locations including The Bund, Jing An, and major transportation hubs.



www.shanghaitourism.net

Shanghai Metro Card

Rechargeable transit card offering unlimited metro and bus travel with no per-trip discounts but superior convenience compared to individual tickets. Refundable upon exit with remaining balance.



www.shmetro.com

Shanghai Welcome Card

Discounts at 200+ partner merchants including restaurants, shops, attractions, and hotels throughout Shanghai. Free distribution at hotels and tourism centers offering savings on dining and entertainment.



www.shanghaicard.net

Shanghai Museum Special Exhibitions Pass

Combination ticket for Shanghai Museum and other major cultural institutions offering savings for multi-site visitors. Valid for designated periods with museum collections and special exhibitions included.



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