

Shanghai At A Glance



I. Brief introduction

Shanghai, an open city on the coast and a famous historical and cultural city, is a gate to the Yangtze River delta. It is a municipality under the direct jurisdiction of the Central Government, the largest economic and trade center, a comprehensive industrial base and the leading port in China.

Shanghai is well known in the world not only for its prosperous cosmopolitan feature but also for its rich humanistic resources. In recent years, a number of modern buildings have been added to the city, such as the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Shanghai Museum, Shanghai Library, Shanghai Stadium, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Shanghai Circus City, Shanghai City-Planning Exhibition Hall and Jin Mao Tower, Shanghai Science & Technology Museum. They have become new scenic sights in Shanghai. Colorful festivities, like Shanghai Tourism Festival and Shanghai China International Art Festival, have attracted an increasing number of tourists from home and overseas.

II. Geographical Area of Shanghai

Shanghai is the largest city of China and covers an area of 5,800 square kilometers. Shanghai, which means "above the sea", faces the East China Sea (part of the Pacific Ocean), and is bisected by the Huangpu River. Puxi contains the city proper on the western side of Huangpu River, while an entirely new financial district has been erected on the eastern bank of the Huangpu in Pudong.

III. Facts about Shanghai

• Language

The official language in China is Mandarin but distinct dialects are spoken throughout the country. English is not normally used except in major cities. Most of the young people in Shanghai can speak English well and most people in business can speak English as well.

• People

Shanghai has a population of 18.7 million people, including 2 million floating population.

- **Public transport**

Shanghai has more than one thousand bus lines and the Shanghai Metro (subway) has 11 subway lines at present. In Shanghai, there are two airports: Hong Qiao Airport (SHA) and Pudong International Airport (PVG).

IV. Attractions

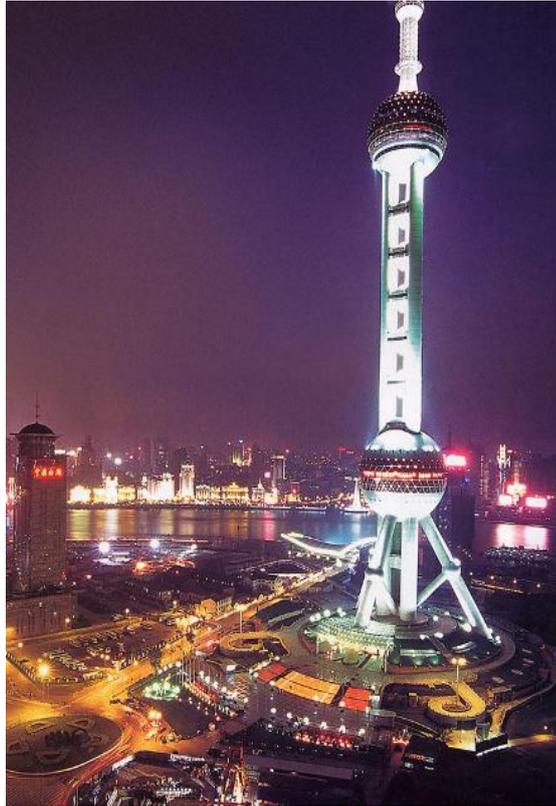
- **Tours During Conference**

Given Shanghai's easy access to many parts of China, the local organizing committee may organize tourist trips within the city as well as to neighboring water towns and historic cities such as Hangzhou and Suzhou. The committee may also provide trip information and arrangements to other major tourist attractions within China such as Beijing, Xian, and Hong Kong, which are also within a quick, 2-hour flight away.

- **Oriental Pearl Radio and Television Tower**

The design for the Tower incorporates eleven spheres (or "pearls") and three gigantic columns linking the green grass below to the blue sky above. There are six high speed passenger elevators (although there are usually queues) inside the column taking visitors up to the viewing platform which affords great views over the city. One of the most impressive aspects of the building is the lighting. A computer-controlled system alternates the light on the tower dependent on the weather conditions.

Although the Tower has now been surpassed in terms of height and design, many Chinese still see it as a fantastic symbol of the new Shanghai. Photographs and Postcards of the Building when it was first completed illustrate the gargantuan changes that have taken place in a short space of time here.



- **Yu Garden**

Yu Garden is situated not far from the Bund in the southwestern side of the city. It is certainly tacky-a kind of China meets Disney with an added twist-but nevertheless well worth a visit.

The Garden itself is completed in 1577 by the Pan family in Shanghai. The original garden was destroyed twice in the 1800s and has now been restored. It is usually pretty busy but, worth looking at if you can either come during the week or are prepared to face the mass. It covers a significant space and includes a few halls, springs and other buildings of interest.

The area surrounding the Garden makes up the Old City God's Temple and was known in colonial times as the 'Chinese City'. Today, the area directly around Yu Garden has been renovated somewhat freely and is a mass of tourist shops and delicate decorations. The Queen of England visited here recently and took tea in the famous Huxinting Tea House. The tea house is something of an institution around these parts and while quaint and interesting, is extortionately over-priced.

What is nice about this area are the numerous antique markets and the small side streets which have yet to be renovated by the authorities. There is a great antique market just off Shanghai "Old street" and another on a small alley called Dongtai Road. Be prepared to bargain hard in these places

though. Some of the stuff is genuine but other 'antiques' are less authentic and its slightly worrying that the most popular English word in these places seems to be “very old, very cheap”!



- **The Bund**

The symbol of old and new Shanghai, the Bund (officially known as Zhongshan Road) is Shanghai's most famous landmark. The 'Bund' is from an Anglo Indian term meaning the muddy embankment on the waterfront, and it is the Huangpu River which helps create the uniquely colonial feel here and provides a feeling of space and openness which is lacking elsewhere in the city. Four kilometers long, the Bund has long been one of the most important areas in Shanghai. In the 1930s, the row of buildings was host to the city's financial and commercial centers and the world's greatest banks and trading empires established a base here.

At the North end of the Bund and just over the Garden Bridge and Suzhou Creek is what was formerly the British embassy. Also here is a large and atmospheric blue painted building which is the Russian Embassy, sitting precariously on the bank of the river. In colonial times, the Bridge was guarded by Japanese and British sentries marking the boundaries of territory.

On the west side of the Bund tower various buildings of different architectural styles including Gothic, baroque, and Romanesque. The combination of these creates a unique boulevard, which resembles the Liverpool Docks and 1920s New York.

Today, the Bund is still home to many of the city's hotels, bars and banks. The nature of the area has not changed so dramatically either. Huge western banks and office buildings dominate the horizon of the Bund, emphasizing the role the city plays as a commercial and financial base.

The pleasure of the Bund, is that it is not simply a tourist strip but a place that everyone enjoys. At sunrise, the boulevard fills up with people of all ages practicing Tai Chi or dancing. In the day, while visitors file up and down the long strip, its business as usual in many of these magnificent buildings. And, in the evenings, couples wander along the river front, holding hands and enjoying the spectacular city lights, buildings and atmosphere of the area which provide a continual reminder that Shanghai was, and in many ways still is, a foreign invention.



- **People's Square**

People's Square is a spectacular space in the heart of the city. Formerly the city's race-course, a sports arena and a gambler paradise, the area west of Nanjing Road was converted after the war to become the People's Square. Unlike many other Chinese city squares, People's Square is not a concrete mass but a vast green area including plants and trees and surrounded by spectacular buildings on all sides.

The Square has been renovated again recently and opened up further and many of the old buildings around here are in the process of being ripped

down.

Today, the Square covers 140,000 square meters. In the north lies the Municipal Government Mansion, an impressive and serious building which is not open to the public. In the northwest sits the Shanghai Grand Theatre , a colossal construction made almost entirely from glass which is balanced by the brand new Exhibition Hall for City Planning in the east. The most impressive building in the square however, is the Shanghai Museum. Perfectly smooth and symmetrical, the building was designed to resemble a Chinese cooking pot. The Square is particularly spectacular at night, when steam appears to seep out of the roof of the museum and the light bounces off the glass walls of the Grand Theatre.

The Square offers unusual and impressive views of the city. Surrounded on all sides by mammoth and overpowering constructions, new buildings attack you from all sides. The panorama of the city from the Square, while not the picture postcard image of Shanghai's Bund, is arguably, the most accurate image which reflects the changing nature of this sophisticated and modern city.



- **Xin Tian Di**

Before the development of Shanghai Xin Tian Di, the area had been a spread of aged lanes crowded with mid-19th century Shikumen buildings which had witnessed the changes of time. The Shikumen style was a combination of influences from home and abroad, showing Shanghai's culture of that era.

Xin Tian Di Plaza is divided into the North and South Blocks. In the South Block, modern architecture is the motif while Shikumen is an accompaniment. In the north, preserved Shikumen set a nostalgic tone, forming a splendid contrast with the modernity to the south. A shopping, entertainment and leisure complex of 25,000 square meters in the South Block opened in mid 2002. Aside from a series of international restaurants representing the flavours of the world, there are classy boutiques, accessory shops, a food court, a movie cinema and a great one-stop fitness centre. In the North Block, antique buildings with their modern interior design, decorations and equipment play host to a dazzling array of restaurants specializing in French, American, German, British, Brazilian, Italian, Japanese, Taiwanese and Hong Kong cuisine, putting on display the full international dimension of Shanghai Xin Tian Di. The dividing line between the two blocks, Xingye Road, is the site of the First Congress Hall of the Chinese Communist Party.

There are also Taipingqiao Lake and Park in central Xin Tian Di, which cover 44,000 square meters. Inside the park are tall trees and low-lying greenery, affording visitors a serene resting place. The lake is the largest man-made lake in downtown Shanghai, covering 12,000 square meters. At the centre of the lake are a set of impressive fountains and two little islets dotting the surface. The islets are named Magnolia and Unison.



- **Jade Buddha Temple**

The Jade Buddha Temple (*Yufu Si*) was built during the Guangxu period of the Qing Dynasty (A.D. 1875-1909) and burned down in the early 20th century. In 1918, Jade Buddha Temple was rebuilt on Anyuan Road. The construction of the temple is in the magnificent architectural style of the Song Dynasty. The temple is composed of several compounds such as the Halls of Heavenly Kings, the Main Hall, the Hall of the Sleeping Buddha and the Hall of the Jade Buddha. There are monks currently living in the Temple and the Temple houses the Shanghai Buddhist Institute. Here many ancient statues, paintings, a complete set of Buddhist scriptures (printed in the Qing Dynasty), and over 7000 other rare scriptures are kept.

