

Shànghǎi 上海



Whore of the Orient, Paris of the East; city of quick riches, ill-gotten gains and fortunes lost on the tumble of dice; the domain of adventurers, swindlers, gamblers, drugrunners, tycoons, missionaries, gangsters and backstreet pimps; the city that plots insurrection and dances as the revolution shoots its way into town – Shànghǎi was a dark memory during the long years of forgetting that the Communists visited upon their new China.

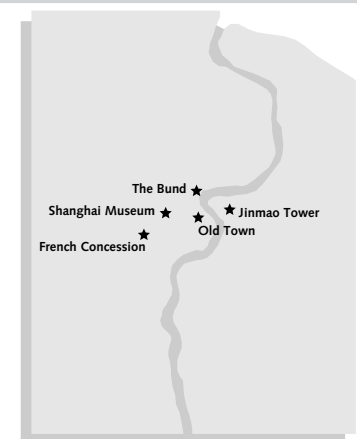
After decades going to seed, Shànghǎi's spectacular reversal and alchemic transformation has made it the talk of the town. No other city in China has reversed its decline with such acumen. Somehow managing to typify modern China while being quite unlike anywhere else in the country, Shànghǎi has in the process become an oft-quipped byword for excess, style and full-on construction.

A largely modern upstart, Shànghǎi today compensates for its youthful pedigree with a new-found panache and sense of certainty. As such, Shànghǎi is – like Hong Kong – a city best seen as a prologue or epilogue to your China experience. Shànghǎi is real China, but perhaps just not *the* real China you were after.

For visitors, the city can hardly match the epic history of Běijīng or Xī'ān. Yet Shànghǎi has a unique story to tell and no other Chinese city does foreign concession streetscapes in quite the same way. The Bund, French Concession and the Shanghai Museum are incomparable top sights that cannot be missed. And you can at least warm to the growing acres of neon across the Huangpu River in Lùjiāzǔi, even if setting foot in Pǔdōng can leave you cold.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Feast on Shànghǎi's tastiest views from the **Bund** (p251), the city's most historic chunk of real estate
- Wine and dine your way through the leafy backstreets of the historic former **French Concession** (p253)
- Open the lid to four millennia of Chinese history at the **Shanghai Museum** (p252)
- Reach new altitudes in the **Jinmao Tower** (p256), Pǔdōng's most iconic building and China's tallest skyscraper
- Marvel at the Yuyuan Gardens and other sights of the **Old Town** (p254)



■ AREA CODE: ☎ 021

■ POPULATION: 15 MILLION

■ www.cityweekend.com.cn

HISTORY

As anyone who wanders along the Bund or through the backstreets of the former French Concession can see, Shànghǎi (the name means 'by the sea') is a Western invention. As the gateway to the Yangzi River (Cháng Jiāng), it was an ideal trading port. When the British opened their first concession in 1842, after the first Opium War, it was little more than a small town supported by fishing and weaving. The British changed all that.

The French followed in 1847, an International Settlement was established in 1863 and the Japanese arrived in 1895 – the city was parcelled up into autonomous settlements, immune from Chinese law. By 1853 Shànghǎi had overtaken all other Chinese ports. By the 1930s the city had 60,000 foreign residents and was the busiest international port in Asia.

Built on the trade of opium, silk and tea, the city also lured the world's great houses of finance, which erected grand palaces of plenty. One of the most famous traders was Jardine Matheson & Company. In 1848 Jardine's purchased the first land offered for sale to foreigners in Shànghǎi and grew into one of the great *hongs* (literally a business firm).

Shànghǎi also became a byword for exploitation and vice; its countless opium dens, gambling joints and brothels managed by gangs were at the heart of Shànghǎi life. Guarding it all were the American, French and Italian marines, British Tommies and Japanese bluejackets.

After Chiang Kaishek's coup against the Communists in 1927, the Kuomintang co-operated with the foreign police and the Shànghǎi gangs, and with Chinese and foreign factory owners, to suppress labour unrest. Exploited in workhouse conditions, crippled by hunger and poverty, sold into slavery, excluded from the high life and the parks created by the foreigners, the poor of Shànghǎi had a voracious appetite for radical opinion. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was formed here in 1921 and, after numerous setbacks, 'liberated' the city in 1949.

The communists eradicated the slums, rehabilitated the city's hundreds of thousands of opium addicts, and eliminated child and slave labour. These were staggering achievements. Later, during the Cultural Revolution, the city was the power base of the so-called Gang of Four (see p52).

Shànghǎi's long malaise came to an abrupt end in 1990, with the announcement of plans to develop Pǔdōng, on the eastern side of the Huangpu River. Shànghǎi's ambition is to become a major financial centre along with its emerging economic strength. Lǜjiǎzǐ, the area that faces off the Bund on the Pǔdōng side of the Huangpu, has blossomed as a modern high-rise counterpoint to the austere, old-world structures on the Bund.

Shànghǎi's burgeoning economy, its leadership and its intrinsic self-confidence have put it miles ahead of other cities in China. Nothing would satisfy the central government more than for Shànghǎi to replace Hong Kong as China's frontier on the future, swinging the spotlight of attention from the ex-colony onto a home-grown success story.

Shànghǎi remains shackled to a past it is both suspicious and proud of, and nobody can predict what the city will look like two decades from now. But as the Chinese saying goes, *jiùde bùqù, xīnde bùlái* (if the old doesn't go, the new won't come).

But despite the fanfare, Shànghǎi is hardly an international city (anyone who has been to Kuala Lumpur will immediately spot the difference) and a curious absence of creative energy can make this fast-changing city seem oddly parochial and inward-looking.

CLIMATE

Shànghǎi starts the year shivering in mid-winter, when temperatures can drop below freezing, vistas are grey and misty and the damp chill soaks into the bones. April to mid-May is probably one of the best times to visit weatherwise, along with autumn (late September to mid-November). Summer is the peak travel season but the hot and humid weather makes conditions outside uncomfortable, with temperatures sometimes as high as 40°C (104°F) in July and August. Watch out for sudden stingingly hot days at the tail end of summer, affectionately known as the Autumnal Tiger (Qiūlǎohǔ). In short, you'll need silk long johns and down jackets for winter, an ice block for each armpit in summer, and an umbrella wouldn't go astray in either of these seasons.

LANGUAGE

Spoken by 13 million people, the Shanghai dialect belongs to the Wu dialect, named after the kingdom of Wu in present-

day Jiāngsū province. To Mandarin or Cantonese speakers, Shanghai sounds odd, perhaps because it is a more archaic branch of Chinese. Furthermore, the tonal system of Shànghǎihuà differs considerably from Mandarin and Cantonese, displaying closer similarities to African tonal languages. A marked Japanese sound to the Shànghǎi dialect can also be heard. Due to the increasing prevalence of Mandarin and the absence of a standard form of Shanghai, the dialect is constantly changing and is quite different to how it was spoken a few generations ago.

ORIENTATION

Shànghǎi municipality covers a huge area, but the city proper is more modest. Broadly, central Shànghǎi is divided into two areas: Pǔdōng (east of the Huangpu River) and Pǔxī (west of the Huangpu River). The First Ring Rd does a long elliptical loop around the city centre proper.

The historical attractions belong to Pǔxī, where Shànghǎi's personality is also found: the Bund, major sights, the principal shopping streets, the former foreign concessions, and Shànghǎi's trendiest clusters of bars, restaurants and nightclubs are all in Pǔxī.

Unlike Běijīng, Shànghǎi is not a city of predictable design, so navigation can be exhausting. The area around the Bund is the historical heart of the former International Settlement. From here East Nanjing Rd, China's busiest shopping street, runs west to Renmin (People's) Sq, a centre of gravity of sorts overlooked by the dazzling form of Shànghǎi's third tallest building, Tomorrow Square, and home to the Shanghai Museum, Grand Theatre and the frantic Metro Line 1 and Line 2 interchange. West Nanjing Rd continues west from here in a glitzy blur of malls, hotels and well-heeled shoppers.

South of the Bund, the Old Town is a ragged maze of narrow lanes pinched between closely packed houses, laundry hung from overhead windows, and smoky temples. The location of the original town of Shànghǎi, this is the oldest part of the city.

South of Yan'an Rd, and west of the Old Town, the former French Concession is a large and leafy quarter of shops, bars and restaurants, popular with expats and white-collar Chinese.

Rearing up east of the Huangpu is the kit-city of Pǔdōng, a special economic zone of maglev trains, mega-malls, banks, glisten-

ing skyscrapers, building sites and residential complexes, eventually petering out into farmland. Swish in parts, Pǔdōng has a manufactured feel that can be alienating.

In the central district (around Nanjing Rd) the provincial names run north-south, and city names run east-west. Some roads use compass points, such as South Sichuan Rd and North Sichuan Rd. Encircling Shànghǎi proper, Zhongshan Rd is split by sectors, such as East Zhongshan No 2 Rd and East Zhongshan No 1 Rd.

Maps

English maps of Shànghǎi are available at the Foreign Languages Bookstore (below), major hotel bookshops and occasionally from street hawkers (most of the latter are Chinese-only).

The bilingual *Shanghai Tourist Map*, produced by the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration, is free at hotels and Tourist Information Centres (p241).

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Most hotels, including the Peace Hotel (p262), sell English-language books on Shànghǎi. Fuzhou Rd has traditionally been the bookshop street of Shànghǎi.

Chaterhouse Booktrader (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6391 8237; Shop B1-E, Shanghai Times Square, 93 Central Huaihai Rd) A great hit with literature-starved expats for its selection of books and mags, but prices can make your head spin.

Foreign Languages Bookstore (Wàiyǔ Shūdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6322 3200; 390 Fuzhou Rd; ☎ 9.30am-6pm, to 7pm Fri & Sat; metro Middle Henan Rd) The 1st floor has a good range of postcards, maps and English-language books on Shànghǎi. The 4th floor (Shanghai Book Traders) has a wide range of imported books and novels, including a strong children's section.

Garden Books (Tāofēn Xīwén Shūjú; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5404 8729; 325 Changle Rd; ☎ 10am-10pm) More style than substance, but loads of literature in French upstairs.

Old China Hand Reading Room (Hànuyán Shūwū; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6473 2526; 27 Shaoying Rd) Restful bookshop-cum-café with an absorbing range of books on art, architecture and culture.

Shanghai Museum (Shànghǎi Bówùguǎn; Map pp244-5; 201 Renmin Ave; metro Renmin Sq) There is an excellent range of books on Chinese art, architecture, ceramics and calligraphy, as well as a wide selection of cards and slides.

Cultural Centres

Alliance Française (Fāyǔ Pèixùn Zhōngxīn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6357 5388; www.alliancefrancaise.org.cn; 5th & 6th fl, 297 Wusong Rd) French films every week, musical events, a large French library and the occasional exhibition.

British Council (Yīngguó Wénhuà Jiāoyùchù; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6391 2626; www.britishcouncil.org.cn; Piedemco Tower, 318 Fuzhou Rd; ☎ 8.30am-noon & 1.30-5pm Mon-Fri; metro Middle Henan Rd) Recent British newspapers and music magazines like *Q* and *NME*.

Internet Access 网吧

Internet cafés are all over town, but there's a frequent turnover of locales. You'll need your passport for ID in most places.

China Telecom (Zhōngguó Diànxìn; Map pp244-5; 30 East Nanjing Rd; per min/hr ¥0.30/10; ☎ 7am-10.30pm)

Eastday B@r (Dōngfāng Wǎngdiǎn; Map pp248-9; 24 Ruijin No 2 Rd; per hr ¥3; ☎ 8am-2am)

Highland Internet Café (Gāozhīdiǎn Wǎngbā; Map pp242-3; Dingxi Rd; per hr ¥3) Next to KFC.

Shanghai Library (Shànghǎi Túshūguǎn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6445 5555; 1555 Central Huaihai Rd; ground-fl terminals per hr ¥4; ☎ 9am-6pm) Bring your passport for ID; minimum one hour.

Internet Resources

City Weekend (www.cityweekend.com.cn) A good listings website that has a searchable database of articles.

SH (www.8days.sh) This is the latest player on the city scene, brought to you by veterans of *That's Shanghai*.

Shanghai-ed (www.shanghai-ed.com) Everything from what's on to historical essays, though parts are a bit outdated.

Shanghai Expat (www.shanghaiexpat.com) A must-see if you are thinking of relocating to Shànghǎi, though some links don't work.

Shanghai Guide (www.shanghaiguide.com) This is a good guide to living in Shànghǎi, with a strong focus on tourism.

SmartShanghai.com (www.smartshanghai.com) For fashion, food, fun and frolicking.

Tales of Old China (www.talesofoldchina.com) Lots of reading on Old Shànghǎi, with the text of hard-to-find books online.

That's Shanghai (www.thatssh.com) Always on top of what's happening in Shànghǎi entertainment.

www.shanghaiist.com Aimed at expats; ask an expert if you have a specific query.

Media

The first thing to do is to grab a free copy of the monthly *That's Shanghai* from a top-end hotel, followed swiftly by issues of *City Weekend*, *Shanghai Talk* or the weekly *SH (8 Days)*. These offer an instant plug into what's on in town, from art exhibitions and club nights to restaurant openings.

Foreign newspapers and magazines are available from the larger tourist hotels and some foreign language bookstores (see p239).

The two local government-produced English newspapers are the **Shanghai Daily** (www.shanghaidaily.com; ¥2), published Monday to Saturday – not quite a daily – which is OK for international news, and the weekly **Shanghai Star** (www.shanghai-star.com.cn; ¥2).

Medical Services

Huashan Hospital (Huáshān Yīyuàn; Map pp248-9;

☎ 6248 9999, ext 2351; 12 Central Wulumuqi Rd) Hospital treatment and out-patient consultations are available at the 15th-floor foreigners' clinic, which has a Hong Kong joint-venture section.

International Medical Care Centre (IMCC)/

Shanghai First People's Hospital (Shànghǎi Shì Dìyī Rénmín Yīyuàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6306 9480, 6324 0090, ext 2101; 585 Jiulong Rd, northeast Shanghai)

Shanghai United Family Hospital (Shànghǎi Héimùjiā Yīyuàn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5133 1900, 24hr emergency 5133 1999; www.unitedfamilyhospitals.com; 1139 Xianxia Rd, Changning District) Complete private hospital, staffed by doctors trained in the West. Medical facilities run to inpatient rooms, operating rooms, an intensive care unit and birthing suites.

World Link (Ruixìn Guójī Yīliáo Zhōngxīn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6279 7688; www.worldlink-shanghai.com; Suite 203, Shanghai Centre, 1376 West Nanjing Rd; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat, to 3pm Sun) Private medical care by expat doctors, dentists and specialists. For nonmembers, expect a doctor's consultation fee of US\$70 and an ambulance charge of US\$100.

World Link Hongqiao Clinic (Ruixìn Guójī Yīliáo Zhōngxīn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6405 5788; fax 6405 3587; Unit 30, Mandarin City, 788 Hongxu Rd; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat, to 3pm Sun)

Money

Almost every hotel has money-changing counters. Most tourist hotels, restaurants, banks and Friendship Stores accept major credit cards. ATMs at various branches of the Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) accept most major cards.

Bank of China (Zhōngguó Yínháng; Map pp244-5; The Bund; ☎ 9am-noon & 1.30-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat) Right next to the Peace Hotel. Tends to get crowded, but is better organised than Chinese banks elsewhere around the country (it's worth a peek for its grand interior). Take a ticket and wait for your number. For credit card advances head to the furthest hall (counter No 2).

Citibank (Huáqí Yínháng; Map pp244-5; The Bund) Useful ATM open 24 hours.

Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (HSBC; Huifēng Yínháng) Has ATMs in the Shanghai Centre on West Nanjing Rd (Map pp244-5), at Pudong Airport arrivals hall and at 15 East Zhongshan No 1 Rd on the Bund (Map pp244-5).

Post

Larger tourist hotels have post offices where you can mail letters and small packages, and this is by far the most convenient option.

DHL (☎ 6536 2900, 800-810 8000; www.dhl.com) Kirin Plaza (Map pp242-3; 5th fl, 666 Gubei Rd; Shanghai Centre (Map pp244-5; 1376 West Nanjing Rd)

FedEx (☎ 6275 0808; www.fedex.com; 10th fl, Aetna Building, 107 Zunyi Rd)

International Post Office (Guójī Yóujú; Map pp244-5; 2nd fl, cnr North Sichuan Rd & North Suzhou Rd; ☎ 8.30-11am & 1-4.30pm) The section for international parcels is in the same building around the corner; poste restante is at counter No 7.

UPS (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6391 5555; www.ups.com; room 1318-38, Shanghai Central Plaza, 381 Central Huaihai Rd)

Public Security Bureau

PSB (Gōngānjū; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6854 1199; 1500 Minsheng Rd; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat) Handles visas and registrations; 30-day visa extensions cost around ¥160. Near Jinxiu Rd.

Telephone

IP cards are the cheapest way to call internationally (¥1.80 per minute to the US) but may not work with hotel phones.

China Mobile (Zhōngguó Yí dòng Tōngxīn; Map pp244-5; 21 Yuanmingyuan Rd) Head here for queries about cell-phones.

China Telecom (Zhōngguó Diànxìn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 7am-10.30pm) Branch office next to the Peace Hotel on East Nanjing Rd.

Tourist Information

Tourist Information and Service Centres are located near several major tourist sights. The standard of English varies from good to non-existent and the centres primarily function to

SHÀNGHĀI IN...

Two Days

Give yourself a couple of hours to stroll the **Bund** (p251), preferably at night or early morning. For a different perspective, enjoy sweeping views of the Bund from the Pūdōng side (take the tourist tunnel or the metro) and then visit the **Jinmao Tower** (p256). To fully savour the occasion, dine at one of the **restaurants** (p265) on the Bund or at the Grand Hyatt if in Pūdōng (reservations advised in both instances).

To fill out the first day take the metro to the **Shanghai Museum** (p252), one of China's finest, which deserves the best part of half a day.

The other great attraction of Shànghǎi is the Old Town, incorporating **Yuyuan Gardens** (p254) and the surrounding teahouses and bazaar, so take a taxi here for your second day. If you don't like crowds then give this a miss at the weekends. After a visit to Yuyuan Gardens add on a walk to **Dongtai Rd Antique Market** (p272) for some shopping and then take lunch (or dinner) at one of **Xintiāndì's** (p253) trendy restaurants.

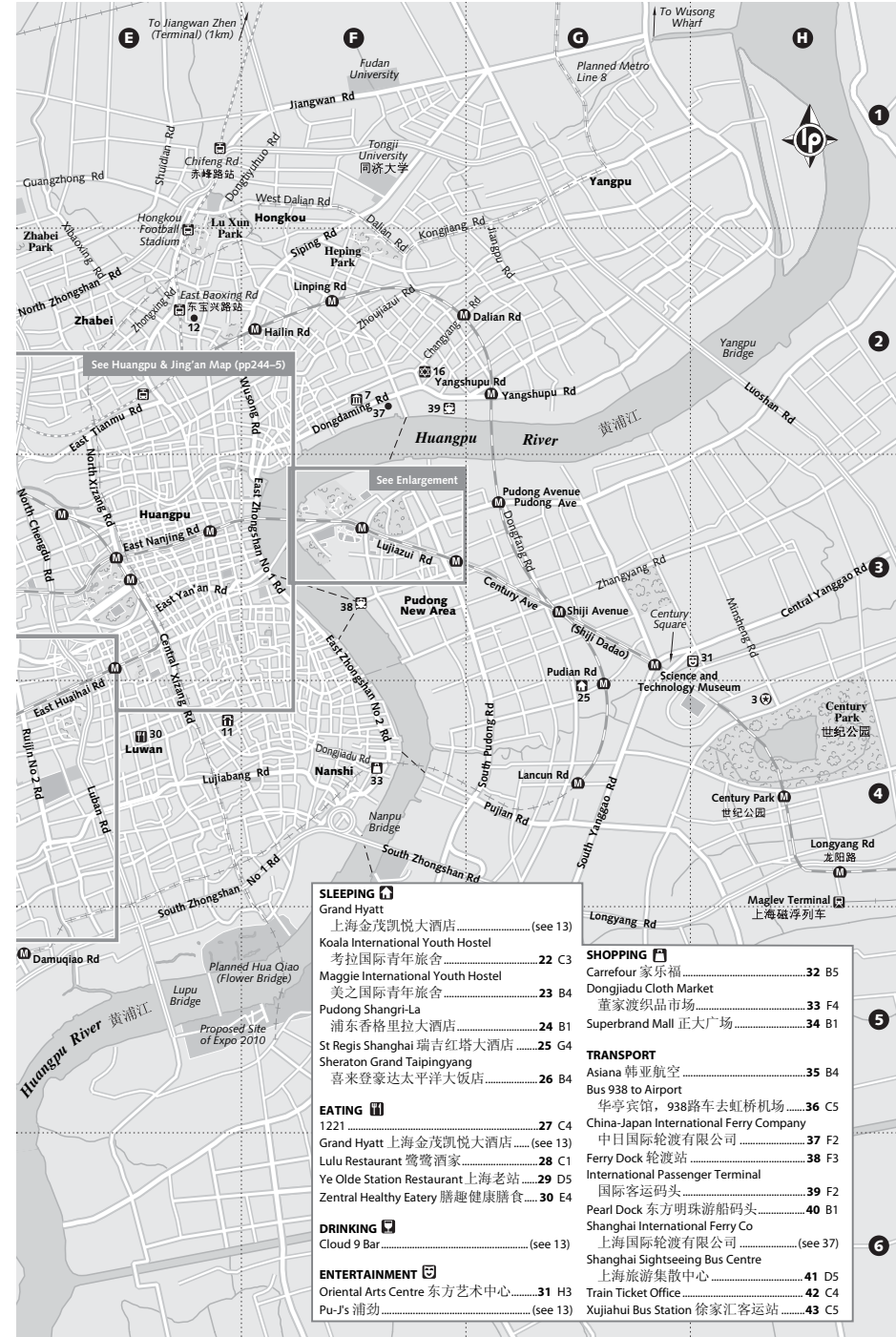
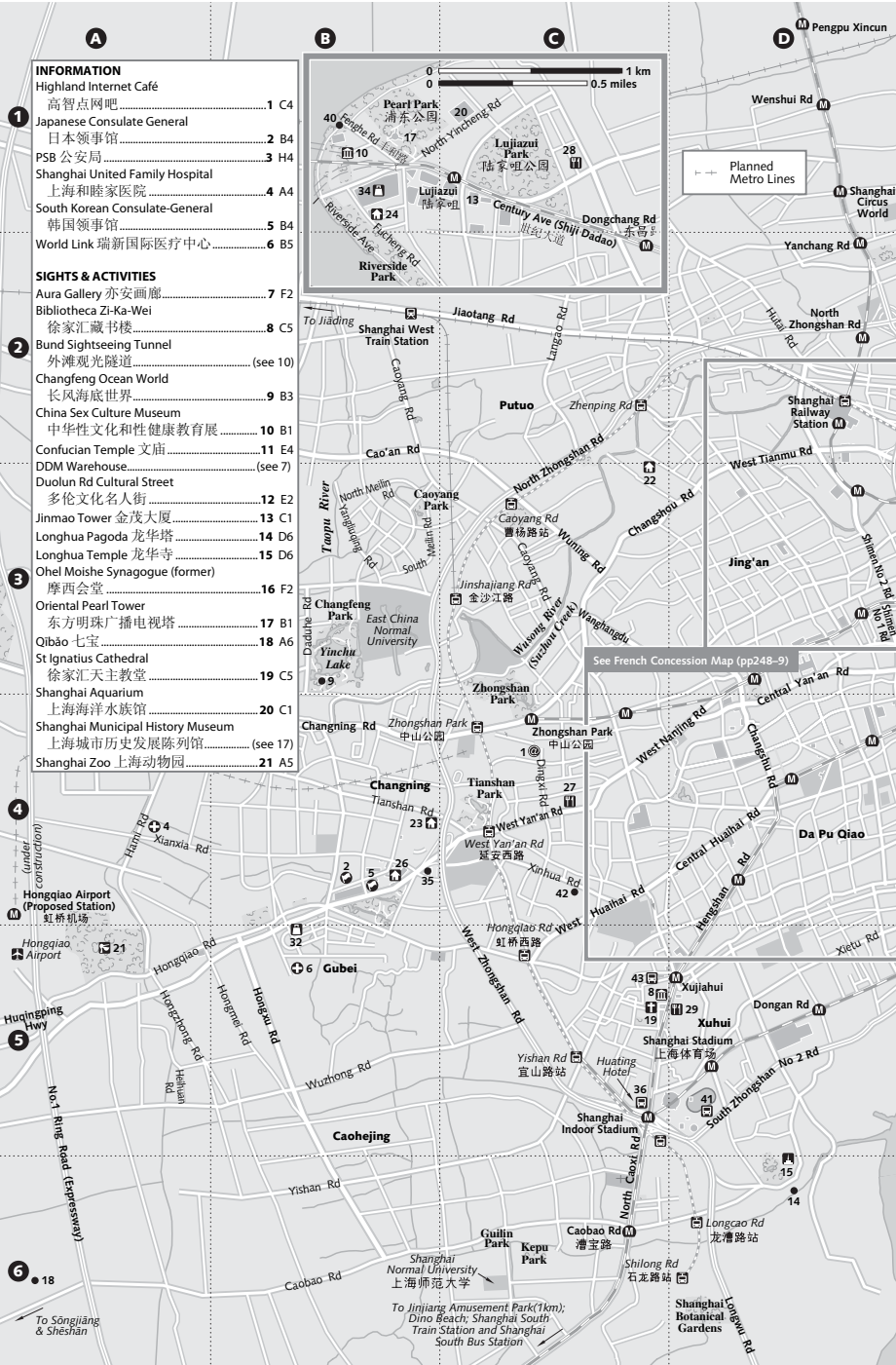
Try to save time for one big night out in Shànghǎi to experience the modern side of the city. Take in the **acrobats** (p271) or a performance at the **Grand Theatre** (p270), try one of the excellent restaurants and then take your pick of the **bars** (p268) and **clubs** (p270).

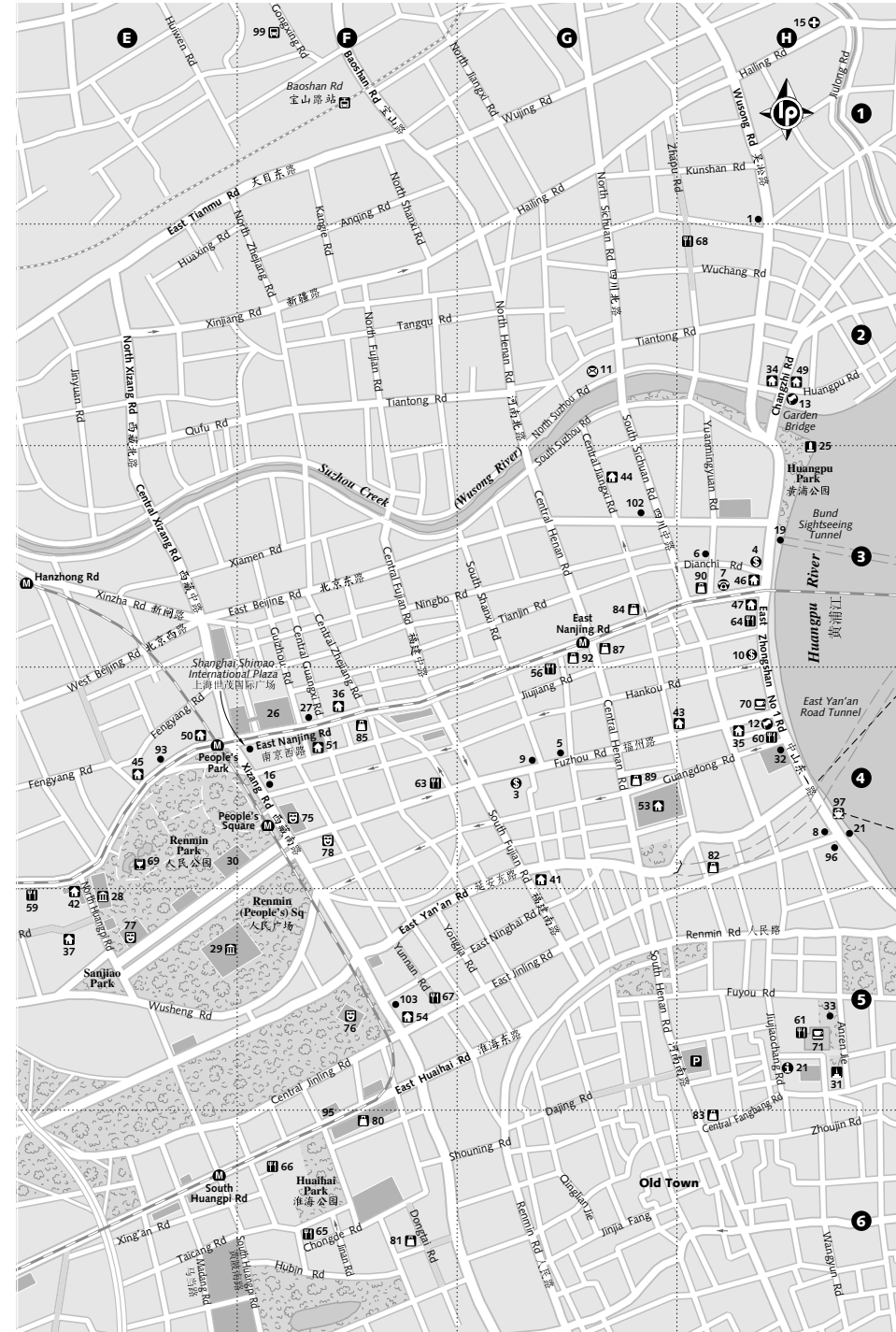
Four Days

With more time, savour a slower-paced Shànghǎi and fit in a walk through the faded 1930s architecture of the French Concession backstreets, where Shànghǎi still shows its old magic.

You'll also have time to hop aboard a **boat cruise** (p258) for views of the Bund. From the Bund, stroll along China's most famous shopping street, **East Nanjing Rd** (p251), which links the Bund with the Shanghai Museum.

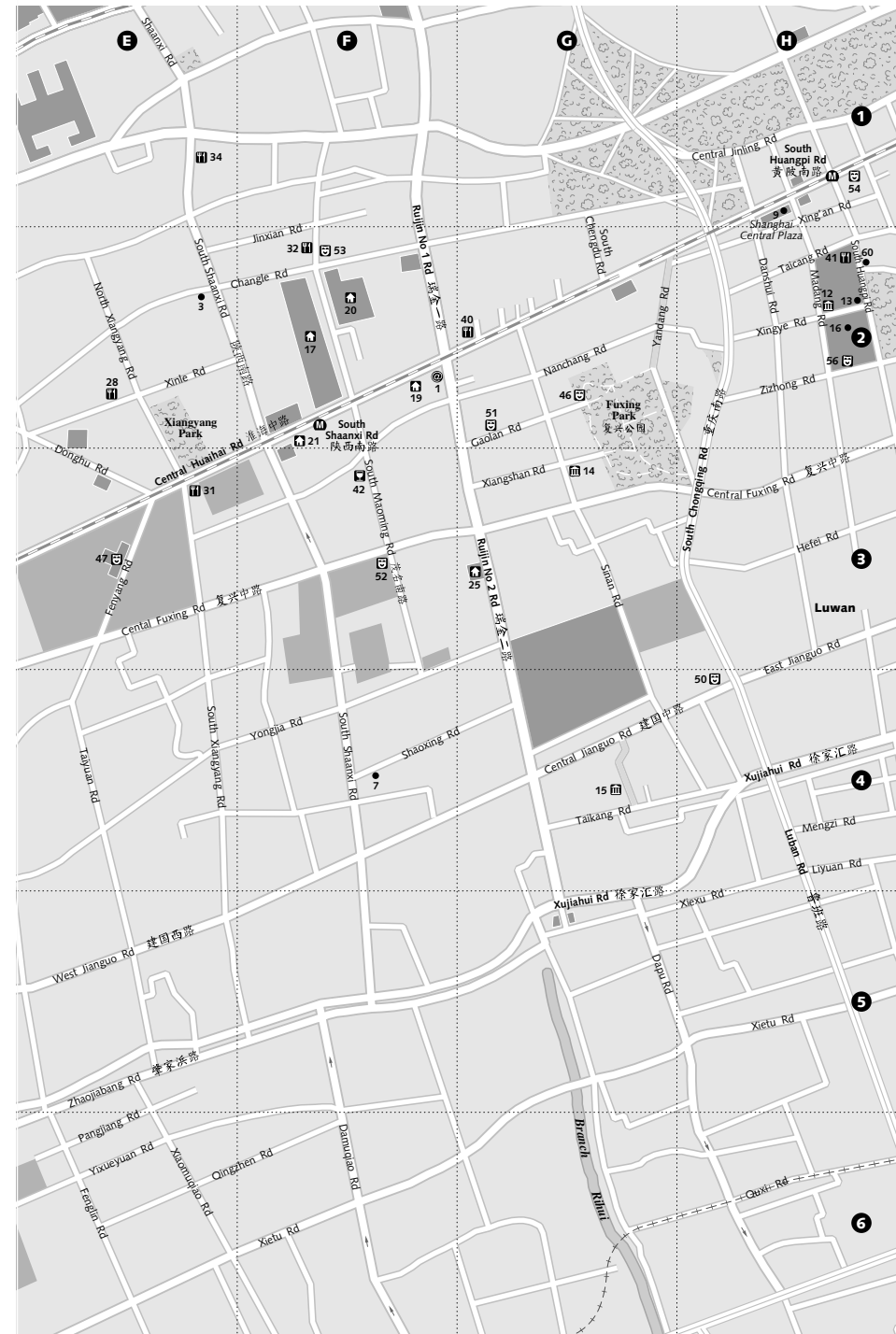
Finally, if you have time after all the shopping, take a half-day trip out to **Qibǎo** (p257) for its old canal-town flavours, or a day trip to **Mùdú** (p312) or **Tónglǐ** (p310) in neighbouring Jiāngsū province.





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book hotel rooms, put you on a tour and sell you souvenirs, but free maps and some information are available. Useful branches include those at Century Square, 561 East Nanjing Rd (Map pp244-5; ☎ 5353 1117); near the Temple of the Town Gods (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6355 5032; 149 Jiujiaochang Rd); and across the road from Jing'an Temple (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6248 3259; 1699 West Nanjing Rd).

The international arrivals hall of Hongqiao Airport has a tourist information booth with staff who give out maps and are helpful. There was no comprehensive tourist information booth at Pudong International Airport at the time of writing but plans were afoot to install one. The useful **Shanghai Information Centre for International Visitors** (☎ 6384 9366; No 2, Alley 123, Xingye Rd, Xintiandi) is at Xintiandi (p253). **Tourist Hotline** (☎ 6252 0000; ☎ 9am-9pm) Has a limited English-language service.

Travel Agencies

See p273 for details on train and ferry ticket agencies and airline offices.

China International Travel Service (CITS; Zhōngguó Guójiā Lǚxíngshè; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6323 8770; 5th fl, Guangming Bldg, 2 East Jilong Rd) Can book air and train tickets. The head office is at 1277 West Beijing Rd (☎ 6289 4510/8899).

Shanghai Spring International Travel Service (Chūnqū Guójiā Lǚxíngshè; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6351 6666; www.china-sss.com; 347 Central Xizang (Tibet) Rd) Centrally located, IATA-bonded and good for air tickets.

STA Travel (☎ 6353 2683; www.statravel.com.cn; Suite 305, 158 Hanzhong Rd; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-3.30pm Sat) Sells train and air tickets, and can issue International Student Identity Cards.

SIGHTS

The Bund & East Nanjing Rd

The area around the Bund is the tourist centre of Shanghai and the city's most famous mile.

THE BUND 外滩

The Bund (Wàitān) is an Anglo-Indian term for the embankment of a muddy waterfront. The Bund was once situated only a few feet from the Huangpu River (黄浦江; Huángpǔ Jiāng) but in the mid-1990s the road was widened and a 771m-long flood barrier was built (the river now lies above the level of Nanjing Rd due to subsidence).

The Bund is symbolic of Shanghai and provided – and still provides – a grand façade for those arriving in Shanghai by river. To Europeans, it was Shanghai's Wall St, a place of feverish trading, of fortunes made and lost. Constant throngs of Chinese and foreign tourists pad past the porticoes of the Bund's grand edifices with maps in hand and gaze at Pùdōng from the promenade. The buildings themselves – many in need of a good scrubbing – loom serenely; a vagabond assortment of neoclassical 1930s downtown New York styles and monumental antiquity, some have been converted to accommodate bars, restaurants, galleries and fashion boutiques.

Particularly beautiful at night, the optimum activity on the Bund is to simply stroll, comparing the bones of the past with the geometry of the future in Pùdōng's skyline. See the walking tour (p258) for a rundown of the buildings on the Bund.

Amble along the elevated riverside promenade beside the Huangpu River for visions of China's tireless tourist boom: vocal hawkers, toy sellers, the endless squawk of 'Huānyíng Guānglín' ('Welcome'), coin-operated telescopes and gaggles of wide-eyed out-of-towners. Take a **boat trip** on the Huangpu River (see p258) or relax at some fabulous restaurants and bars. Trips to Pùdōng via the mind-warping Bund Sightseeing Tunnel (p256) or by metro from Middle Henan Rd station are further options.

The Bund is undergoing further transformations as the ambitious North Bund Development project revamps the area north of Dianchi Rd to Suzhou Creek (Wusong River).

On the south end of the Bund, **Three on the Bund** (Wàitān Sānhào; Map pp244-5; www.threeonthebund.com) combines Armani and Evian with the Shanghai Gallery of Art (admission free), several top-end bars and restaurants (see the boxed text, p268). In a similar vein is **No 18 the Bund** to the north – the former headquarters of the Chartered Bank of Australia, India and China – where fabulous shopping and dining options and a creative centre attract a stylish clientele.

EAST NANJING RD 南京东路

East Nanjing Rd, from the Peace to the Park Hotels, has long been China's golden mile. Pleasantly pedestrianised from Xizang (Tibet) Rd to Henan Rd, the frantic commercial strip

TOP FIVE BOOKS ON SHANGHAI

- *Shanghai* by Harriet Sergeant. A recommended reconstruction of Shànghǎi's swinging history.
- *Shanghai: The Rise and Fall of a Decadent City* by Stella Dong. Another well-researched history of the good-old bad-old days.
- *In Search of Old Shanghai* by Pan Ling. An easy read into the characters of Shànghǎi's murky past.
- *New Shanghai: The Rocky Rebirth of China's Legendary City* by Pamela Yatsko. Bring yourself up to date with this portrait of the new Shànghǎi.
- *Candy* by Mian Mian. Hip modern novel from a darling of the city's social set, proving that sex, suicide and drug addiction aren't just limited to Shànghǎi's past.

affords excellent nocturnal views and has several historic buildings, including the **No 1 Provisions Store** (Dìyī Shípín Shāngdiàn; Map pp244-5; 720 East Nanjing Rd), built as the Sun Sun store in 1926, and **No 1 Department Store** (Dìyī Bǎihuò Shāngdiàn; Map pp244-5; 800 East Nanjing Rd), which opened in 1936 as the Sun Company and was for decades China's largest and most famous department store.

At the east end of Renmin Park, the Park Hotel (Map pp244-5) is notable for its brooding Art Deco design. Built as a bank in 1934, it was the tallest building in the Far East at the time (and Shànghǎi's tallest until the 1980s).

Renmin Square 人民广场

East Nanjing Rd and West Nanjing Rd divide at **Renmin Park** (Rénmín Gōngyuán; Map pp244-5; admission Y2; ☎ 6am-6pm). Containing the recently opened, new-fangled and private Museum of Contemporary Art, the park and the adjacent Renmin (People's) Sq were once the site of the Shanghai Racecourse.

Overshadowed by the dramatic, new-fangled form of JW Marriott Tomorrow Square, Renmin Sq today is occupied by the Shanghai Museum, the Shanghai Grand Theatre and the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall.

SHANGHAI MUSEUM 上海博物馆

The must-see **Shanghai Museum** (Shànghǎi Bówùguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6372 3500; 2 Renmin Ave; adult/child or student Y20/5; ☎ 9am-5pm Sun-Fri with last entry 4pm, to 7pm Sat) has none of the dry exhibits and yawning security guards that plague China's provincial museums. While guiding you through the craft of millennia, the museum simultaneously takes you through the pages of Chinese history. Expect to spend half, if not most of, a day here.

Designed to recall the shape of an ancient Chinese *dìng* vessel, the architectural landmark is home to one of the most impressive collections in China. Take your pick from the archaic green patinas of the Ancient Chinese Bronze Gallery through to the silent solemnity of the Chinese Sculpture Gallery; from the exquisite beauty of the ceramics in the Zande Lou Gallery to the measured and timeless flourishes captured in the Chinese Calligraphy Gallery. Chinese painting, seals, jade, Ming and Qing furniture, coins and ethnic costumes are also on offer, intelligently displayed in well-lit galleries. Seats are provided outside galleries on each floor when lethargy strikes.

Photos are allowed in some galleries. The audio guide (available in eight languages) is well worth the extra Y40, and don't overlook the excellent museum shop on the ground floor – but be warned of high prices in the tearoom.

The Shanghai Museum, the Shanghai Art Museum and the Grand Theatre (p270) can be visited on a combined ticket (Y50).

SHANGHAI ART MUSEUM 上海美术馆

This **museum** (Shànghǎi Měishùguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6327 2829; 325 West Nanjing Rd; adult/student Y20/10; ☎ 9am-5pm, last entry 4pm) is the city's premier art gallery. Refreshingly cool in summer, the interior galleries – arranged over three floors – are perfectly suited to exhibiting art, with well-illuminated alcoves and a voluminous sense of space. Some of the art is hit and miss, but the building (the former Shanghai Racecourse Club) is gorgeous, and delicious meals and views await on the roof at Kathleen's 5 (p265).

SHANGHAI URBAN PLANNING EXHIBITION HALL 上海城市规划展示馆

This **exhibition hall** (Chéngshì Guìhuà Zhǎnshìguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6372 2077; 100 Renmin Ave; adult Y30; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri-Sun, last ticket sold 1hr

before closing) paints a bold picture of the future evolution of Shànghǎi. The highlight is the scale plan of future Shànghǎi, but photographs of old Shànghǎi generate the right balance.

French Concession 法国租界

Shànghǎi *sans* the French Concession would be like London minus Kensington and Chelsea. A residential, retail, restaurant and bar district with atmospheric tree-lined streets, the French Concession is a name you won't find appearing on any Chinese maps, but it ranges elegantly from Huangpu District, through the districts of Luwan and Xuhui and slices of Changning and Jingan Districts. The cream of Shànghǎi's old residential buildings and Art Deco apartment blocks, hotels and edifices are preserved here, while commercial Huaihai Rd teems with shoppers. The district naturally tends towards gentrification (eg along Xinhua Rd), but it's also a trendy and happening enclave, excellent for random exploration, on foot or bike, in a slow progression from café to café or by full immersion in Xintiandi, a hip and stylish quadrant of restored *shikūmén* (literally 'stone-framed doorway') houses, signature restaurants and bars.

SITE OF THE 1ST NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE CCP 中共一大会址

The CCP was founded in July 1921 in this French Concession building, now a **museum** (Zhōnggōng Yìdàhuìzhǐ; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5383 2171; 76 Xingye Rd; admission Y3; ☎ 9am-5pm) with photographs and reconstructions of the historic meeting, with English captions. Whether or not you sympathise with *mǎlìzhǔyì* (Marxist-Leninism), the certainties of that era manage to exude a particular nostalgic appeal in today's China. South across the way is the small and quaint Postal Museum.

NO DOGS OR CHINESE

Famously, a sign at the entrance to Huangpu Park announced 'No Dogs or Chinese Allowed'. Or that's how posterity remembers it. In actual fact the restrictions on Chinese and dogs were listed in separate clauses of a whole bevy of restrictions. The regulation was finally rescinded in 1928 but has since become a powerful symbol of Shànghǎi's semicolonial rule.

XINTIANDI 新天地

The ambitious business, entertainment and cultural complex of **Xintiandi** (Map pp248-9; www.xintiandi.com; Taicang Rd & Madang Rd) has quickly become the city's most stylish domain of restaurants, bars and designer shops. The heart of the complex, just off South Huangpi Rd, consists of several blocks of renovated (largely rebuilt) traditional *shikūmén* houses, low-rise tenement buildings built in the early 1900s, brought bang up to date with a stylish modern twist. A small museum, the **Shikumen Open House Museum** (Map pp248-9; admission Y20; ☎ 10am-10pm) depicts traditional life in a 10-room Shànghǎi *shikūmén*.

SUN YATSEN'S FORMER RESIDENCE

孙中山故居

China brims with Sun Yatsen memorabilia, and this **former residence** (Sūn Zhōngshān Gūjū; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6437 2954; 7 Xiangshan Rd; admission Y8; ☎ 9am-4.30pm), on the former rue Molière, is where the founder of modern China (Guófū) lived for six years. After Sun's death, his wife, Song Qingling (1893-1981) remained here until 1937, watched by plain-clothes Kuomintang and French police. The two-storey house is decorated with period furnishings, despite looting by the Japanese.

TAIKANG ROAD ART CENTRE

泰康路艺术中心

Shànghǎi is light on artistic focus, which makes this **art centre** (Tàikāng Lù Yìshù Zhōngxīn; Map pp248-9; Lane 210, Taikang Rd) welcome. It's a community of art galleries, cafés and shops hidden down an alley, while an adjacent multistorey warehouse hides a handful of design studios, media companies and home-décor boutiques, many of which front the small alley on the east side of the building.

Highlights here include the **Pottery Workshop** (Lètiān Tǎoshè; ☎ 6445 0902; www.ceramics.com.hk; 220 Taikang Rd), which exhibits and sells design pottery and, further down the alley, the **Deke Erh Art Centre** (Érdōngqiáng Yìshù Zhōngxīn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6415 0675; www.han-yuan.com; No 2, Lane 210, Taikang Rd), an impressive warehouse space with ground-floor exhibits and 1st-floor photos. Further along, you can find cafés, trendy handbag and clothes shops and more.

PROPAGANDA POSTER ART CENTRE

宣传画年画艺术中心

If phalanxes of red tractors, bumper harvests, muscled peasants and lantern-jawed

proletariat get you going, this small **gallery** (Xuānchuānhuà Niánhuà Yìshù Zhōngxīn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6211 1845, 139 018 412 46; Room B-0C, President Mansion, 868 Huashan Rd; admission Y20; 🕒 9.30am-4.30pm) in the bowels of a residential block will truly fire you up. With a collection of 3000 original posters from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s – the golden age of Maoist poster production – here you can go weak-kneed at the cartoon-world of anti-US defiance. Once you find the main entrance, a guard will point you the way.

Old Town 老城市

YUYUAN GARDENS & BAZAAR 豫园

With its shaded alcoves, glittering pools churning with carp, pavilions, pines sprouting wistfully from rockeries, whispering bamboo, jasmine clumps, stony recesses and roving packs of Japanese tourists, these **gardens** (Yúyuàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6326 0830; 218 Anren Street; adult/child Y30/10; 🕒 8.30am-5.30pm) are one of Shànghǎi's premier sights, but weekends can be overpowering.

The Pan family, rich Ming dynasty officials, founded the gardens, which took 18 years (1559–77) to be nurtured into existence before bombardment during the Opium War in 1842. The gardens took another trashing during French reprisals for attacks on their nearby concession by Taiping rebels. Restored, they are a fine example of Ming garden design.

Next to the entrance to the Yuyuan Gardens is the Huxinting Teahouse (p269), once part of the gardens and now one of the most famous teahouses in China.

Enveloping the gardens is a glorified shopping centre, jammed with **antique** and **souvenir shops**, which spills into Central Fangbang Rd. See p266 for details on the surrounding bazaar's justifiably famous and delicious snacks. The nearby **Temple of the Town Gods** (Chéngguāng Miào; Map pp244-5; admission Y5) is also worth investigating.

CONFUCIAN TEMPLE 文庙

This pretty and well-tended **temple** (Wén Miào; Map pp242-3; 215 Wenmiao Rd; admission Y10; 🕒 9am-5pm) to the dictum-coining sage-cum-social theorist is a cultivated acreage of acers, pines, magnolias and birdsong. Originally dating from 1294, the temple was moved to its current site in 1855, at a time when Christian Taiping rebels were sending much of China

skywards in huge sheets of flame. The main hall for worshipping Confucius is the twin-eaved Dacheng Hall (Dàchéng Diàn), complete with a statue of the sage outside, the Magnolia grandiflora on either side of its main door garlanded with ribbons left by the devout.

West Nanjing Rd & Jing'an 南京西路、静安

Lined with sharp top-end shopping malls, clusters of foreign offices and a dense crop of embassies and consulates, West Nanjing Rd is where Shànghǎi's streets are paved with gold, or at least Prada and Gucci.

For views into Shànghǎi's past, gaze at the Shanghai Exhibition Centre, where architectural buffs will appreciate its monumentality and unsubtle communist strokes – there was a time when Pūdōng was set to look like this.

JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE 玉佛寺

One of Shànghǎi's few active Buddhist monasteries, this **temple** (Yùfó Sì; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6266 2668; 170 Anyuan Rd; admission Y10; 🕒 8.30am-4.30pm) was built between 1911 and 1918.

The **Hall of Heavenly Kings** (Tiānwáng Diàn) houses a splendid statue of the Laughing Buddha back to back with a fabulous effigy of Weituo, the guardian of Buddhism. Festooned with red lanterns, the first courtyard leads to the twin-eaved **Great Treasure Hall** (Dàxióngbào Diàn), where worshippers pray to the past, present and future Buddhas, seated on splendidly carved thrones.

But the centrepiece is the 1.9m-high pale green **Jade Buddha** (Yùfó), seated upstairs in his own hall. It is said that Hui Gen (Wei Ken), a Pūtuóshān monk, travelled to Myanmar (Burma) via Tibet, lugged five jade Buddhas back to China and then sought alms to build a temple for them. The beautiful effigy of Sakyamuni, clearly Southeast Asian in style, gazes ethereally from a cabinet. An additional charge of Y10 is levied to see the statue (no photographs).

An equally elegant reclining Buddha is downstairs, opposite a much more substantial copy in stone. A large **vegetarian restaurant** (☎ 6266 5596) attaches to the temple at 999 Jiangning Rd.

In February the temple is very busy during the Lunar New Year, when some 20,000 Chinese Buddhists throng to pray for prosperity.

JING'AN TEMPLE 静安寺

This **temple** (Jìng'ān Sì; Map pp244-5; 1686-1688 West Nanjing Rd; admission Y5; 🕒 7.30am-5pm) was originally built in AD 247 but was largely destroyed in 1851 and suffered further trauma during the Cultural Revolution.

The temple remains in a state of incomplete renovation. The temple's drum and bell towers have been well restored, but anyone familiar with the layout of Buddhist temples may be shocked at the flight of steel steps in the main courtyard leading to what resembles a WWII German bunker. Further halls have yet to fully mature; for now they sport concrete pillars, modern statues and carvings.

50 MOGANSHAN ROAD ART CENTRE

莫干山路50号

Put aside a morning or afternoon exploring this **complex** (Mògānshānlù Wúshí Hào; Map pp244-5; 50 Moganshan Rd; admission free) of industrial buildings hedging up against Suzhou Creek in the north of town. Poke around its warren of galleries – hung with challenging and provocative art – and look out over the vessels ploughing along Suzhou Creek.

Paint-speckled artists lounge around smoking while their creations dry and families still resident here are getting used to Western art

hunters stumbling through their courtyards. **ShangArt** (Xiānggèná Huàláng; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6359 3923; www.shanghgartgallery.com; Bldg 16 & 18) has a vast exhibition space with invigorating displays of artworks. A cavernous warehouse space, **East-link Gallery** (Dōngláng; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6276 9932; 5th fl, Bldg 6) has a mixed bag of antiques, artworks and Cultural Revolution-era posters. When your legs finally sag, take a seat at **Bandu Cabin** (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6276 8267; www.bandumusic.com; Bldg 11), a small café that sells its own Chinese music and stages traditional Chinese music performances.

Northeast Shànghǎi

The gritty northeast districts of Zhabei and Hongkou are little visited but offer some interesting backstreets and a handful of minor sights.

DUOLUN ROAD CULTURAL STREET

多伦文化名人街

This restored and rather grubby **street** (Duólún Wénhuà Míngrén Jiē; Map pp242-3) of fine old houses was once home to several of China's most famous writers (as well as Kuomintang generals). Today it is lined with art supply stores, curio shops, galleries, teahouses and cafés, as well as statues of the writers Lu Xun and Guo Moruo.

TOP FIVE SHANGHAI ART GALLERIES

- Located within the 50 Moganshan Road Art Centre (above), **ShangArt** (Xiānggèná Huàláng; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6359 3923; www.shanghgartgallery.com; Bldg 16 & 18, 50 Moganshan Rd; 🕒 Bldg 16 10am-6pm, Bldg 18 noon-6pm) showcases compelling works from path-breaking Chinese artists.
- With contemporary Chinese art from pop to modern in a lovely restored 1930s villa, **Art Scene China** (Yìshùjīng Huàláng; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6437 0631; www.artscenechina.com; No 8, Lane 37, West Fuxing Rd) has a gallery, **Art Scene Warehouse** (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6277 2499; www.artscenewarehouse.com; 2nd fl, Bldg 4, 50 Moganshan Rd; 🕒 10.30am-8pm Tue-Sun), at 50 Moganshan Road Art Centre.
- The old warehouse space of **Aura Gallery** (Yān Huàláng; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6595 0901; www.aura-art.com; 5th fl, 713 Dongdaming Rd; 🕒 noon-8pm Tue-Sun) houses changing exhibits by young contemporary Chinese artists. While here, check to see what's exhibiting at the 3rd-floor **DDM Warehouse** (☎ 3501 3212; www.ddmwarehouse.cn; 🕒 closed Sun).
- **Creek Art Centre** (Sūhé Xiāndài Yìshùguān; Map pp244-5; www.creekart.cn; 🕒 11am-7pm Tue-Sun) is a converted old creekside flourmill finding a new lease of life as a gallery promoting emerging talents from Shànghǎi's garret community, with a popular restaurant, café and bar on floors above.
- In keeping with its companion sophisticates at this exclusive Bund address, the spacious **Shanghai Gallery of Art** (Hùshēn Huàláng; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6323 4549; www.threonthebund.com; 3rd fl, Three on the Bund, 3 East Zhongshan No 1 Rd) regularly stages fresh exhibitions in a challenging array of creative media, from experimental music to sculpture and contemporary art.

Resembling a polytechnic physics block, the **Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art** (☎ 6587 6902; www.duolunart.com; 27 Duolun Rd; admission Y10; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) has a focus on experimental contemporary art. Further along the street, the standout brick **Hongde Temple** (☎ 5696 1196; 59 Duolun Rd) was built in 1928 in a Chinese style as the Great Virtue Church.

Pick through the galleries and antique shops, including Wang Zaoshi's fabulous collection of 10,000 Mao badges (No 183; Y2) and **Dashanghai** (181 Duolun Rd), a deluge of Mao-era badges and posters, old records, photos, books, typewriters and assorted Shanghai bric-a-brac from the decadent days.

If you need a break, join film buffs at the **Old Film Café** (☎ 5696 4763; 123 Duolun Rd; Brazilian coffee Y2; 🕒 10am-midnight), next to the 18.15m-high Xishi Bell Tower at the bend in the road. The street ends in the north at the third Kuomintang residence, the Moorish-looking **Kong Residence** (250 Duolun Rd), built in 1924, with its Middle Eastern tiles and windows.

OHEL MOISHE SYNAGOGUE 摩西会堂

This **synagogue** (Móxi Huitáng; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6541 5008; 62 Changyang Rd; admission Y50; 🕒 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri) was built by the Russian Ashkenazi Jewish community in 1927. The synagogue lies in the heart of the Jewish ghetto, created in the 1940s when most of Shanghai's 30,000 Jews were forced into the area by the Japanese after fleeing Nazi Germany.

Pūdōng New Area 浦东新区

Prior to 1990, the colossal **Pudong New Area** (Pūdōng Xīnqū; Map pp242-3), stretching off to the East China Sea east of the Huangpu River, constituted 350 sq km of boggy farmland. Since then Pūdōng has become China's financial heartbeat and the skyscraper-fragmented skyline of Lǜjiǎzū one of Shanghai's most photographed panoramas.

Pūdōng's wide roads, hit-and-miss architecture, inanimate layout and dreary bar scene hardly make it a place for lingering in unless you are packing a briefcase. For the visitor, its main attractions include some fine museums, the highlight Jinmao Tower, the views back to the Bund and some of Shanghai's best hotels.

There are many ways to get across the river to Pūdōng but the weirdest has to be the **Bund Sightseeing Tunnel** (Wàitān Guāngguāng Suidào; Map pp242-3 & Map pp244-5; ☎ 5888 6000; 300 East Zhongshan

No 1 Rd; admission one way/return Y30/50; 🕒 8am-10.30pm Mon-Thu, to 11pm Fri-Sun), where train modules convey speechless passengers through a tunnel of garish lights between the Bund and the opposite shore.

Riverside Park (Binjiāng Gōngyuán; Map pp242-3; admission free) offers good river-level views of the Bund, along with several coffee bars and a rare opportunity to sit and rest.

ORIENTAL PEARL TOWER 东方明珠电视塔 Best viewed when illuminated at night, this poured-concrete shocker of a tripod **TW Tower** (Dōngfāng Míngzhū Diànshì Tǎ; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5879 8888; 1 Century Ave; tickets Y50-180; 🕒 8am-9.30pm) has become a symbol of Pūdōng and of Shanghai's surging renaissance.

It's worth exploring, if only for the Shanghai Municipal History Museum and because it's one part of town where you can't see the tower itself, although its vulgar form is matched by an excruciatingly Byzantine ticket system. You can go to the second bauble and outdoor viewing platform (Y50); the second bauble and the Municipal Historical Museum (Y70); or the lower two baubles and the museum (Y85). It's Y100 to visit all three baubles, while Y150 throws in lunch as well.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL HISTORY MUSEUM

上海市历史发展陈列馆

This modern **museum** (Shànghǎi Chéngshì Lìshǐ Fāzhǎn Chénlǚguǎn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5879 8888; admission Y35, audio tour Y30; 🕒 8am-9.30pm) in the base of the Oriental Pearl Tower has fun multimedia presentations and imaginative displays that re-create the history of Shanghai with an emphasis on the pre-1949 era. Find out how the city prospered on the back of the cotton trade and junk transportation, when it was known as 'Little Sūzhōu'. Life-size models of traditional shops are manned by lifelike waxworks and there's a wealth of historical detail, including a boundary stone from the International Settlement and one of the pair of bronze lions that originally guarded the entrance to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank on the Bund.

JINMAO TOWER 金茂大厦

The crystalline **Jinmao Tower** (Jīnmào Dàshà; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5047 5101; 88 Shiji Dadao; adult/child Y50/25, audio tour Y15; 🕒 8.30am-10pm) is Pūdōng's most arresting modern spire. China's tallest building (420.5m), the 53rd to the 87th floors are

rented out to the Grand Hyatt. An observation deck on the 88th floor puts you virtually among the cirrus but consider sinking a drink in the Cloud 9 Bar (p269) on the 87th floor instead and time your visit at dusk for both day and night views. The 'No Climbing' signs at the foot of the building recall the French 'Spiderman' Alain Robert's attempt at scaling the tower in 2001. He failed to get authorisation, but glance up the side of the building and you're spoiled for choice for handholds (a shoe salesman from Anhui province climbed it on impulse in 2001). Next to the Jinmao is the site of the Shanghai World Finance Building, on the drawing board since the mid-1990s; when finished it will total 90 storeys and 460m.

CHINA SEX CULTURE MUSEUM

中华性文化和性健康教育展

Travellers should find time for this intriguing **exhibition** (Zhōnghuá Xìng Wénhuà hé Xìng Jiànkāng Jiàoyùzhǎn; Map pp242-3; 2789 Riverside Ave; admission Y20; 🕒 8am-10.30pm Mon-Thu, to 10pm Fri-Sun), a fascinating foray into Chinese sexuality and erotica. Among the mating tortoises, copulating beasts and jade phalluses, search out the knife that raised eunuch's voices to the correct register and the special coins once used as quid pro quo in China's brothels of yore.

Southern Shanghai

The Xújiāhuì area, known to 1930s expat residents as Zicawei or Sicawei, once had a sizeable Jesuit settlement. **St Ignatius Cathedral** (Tiānzhūjiào Táng; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6253 0959; 158 Puxi Rd; 🕒 1-4.30pm Sat-Sun) is a notable survivor, but try to make it to the **Bibliotheca Zi-Ka-Wei** (Map pp242-3; ☎ 6487 4095, ext 208; 80 North Caoxi Rd; admission free; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, library tours 2-4pm Sat), the former Jesuit library; the free tour of the main library of antiquarian tomes on Saturdays is a must. English guides are on hand to take you through a truly magnificent collection of antiquarian tomes, arranged in a beautiful historic library laid out on one floor with a gallery above. One of Shanghai's top sights, the 15-minute tours are limited to 10 people, so phone ahead.

Southwest of here, **Longhua Temple** (Lónghuá Tǎ; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6457 6327; 2853 Longhua Rd; admission Y10; 🕒 7am-5pm) is across the way from its namesake pagoda and is the oldest and largest monastery in Shanghai, said to date from the 10th century.

Take the light rail to Longcao Rd station and head east along North Longshui Rd for about 1km. Bus 44 goes there from Xújiāhuì.

Further south, the **Shanghai Botanical Gardens** (Shànghǎi Zhīwúyuán; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6451 3369; 997 Longwu Rd; admission Y15; 🕒 6am-6pm) are a refreshing escape from Shanghai's synthetic cityscape. The exhibition greenhouse offers a chance to get close to tropical flora (admission Y40) and there's an adventure playground, dodgems, bike hire and a bouncing castle for the kids. Electric buggies tour visitors around the grounds.

Hongqiao 虹桥

The western area of Hongqiao is mainly a centre for international commerce and trade exhibitions. Apart from office blocks, there are a few foreign restaurants, hotels, shopping malls and Hongqiao Airport.

SHANGHAI ZOO 上海动物园

This fun **zoo** (Shànghǎi Dōngwúyuán; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6268 7775; 2381 Hongqiao Rd, cnr Hami Rd; admission Y30, elephant show Y20; 🕒 6am-6pm, later in summer) is perfect for a day out. The beasts – from woolly twin-humped Bactrian camels to spindly-legged giraffes and giant pandas – are definite crowd-pleasers, but Shanghai folk are also here for one of the city's most picturesque and well-tended acreages of green grass. Children flock to the Children's Zoo, where they can shower chubby piglets and billy goats with handfuls of grain, prance about on the bouncing castle (Y10), fish for goldfish (Y2 per minute) or ride ponies (Y5).

QIBǎO 七宝

This **ancient town** (Map pp242-3; Minhang district; through ticket to numerous sights Y30) dates back to the Northern Song dynasty (AD 960–1127). Easily reached, the ancient settlement prospered during the Ming and Qing dynasties and is littered with traditional, historic architecture, threaded by small, busy alleyways and cut by a picturesque canal. If you can blot out the crowds, Qibao brings you some of the flavours of old China.

Worth ferreting out is the Catholic Church, adjacent to a convent off Qibao Nanjie, south of the canal. The single-spire **edifice** (☎ 6479 9317; 50 Nanjie; 🕒 dawn to dusk) dates back to 1867; pop inside and admire the bright, whitewashed interior, cooled by overhead fans. Half-hour **boat rides** (per person Y10; 🕒 8.30am-4.30pm) along

the picturesque canal slowly ferry passengers from Number One Bridge to Dōngtángtān and back.

Souvenir hunters and diners will be agog at the choice of shops and eateries simply stuffed along the narrow streets. Wander along Bei Dajie north of the canal for a plethora of small shops selling fans, dolls, tea and wooden handicrafts from traditional two-storey dwellings.

Bus 92 (B line) departs for Qibǎo from Shanghai Stadium, otherwise a taxi from the centre of town will cost around Y55.

ACTIVITIES

Huangpu River Trip 黄浦江游览船

The Huangpu River offers some stirring views of the Bund and the riverfront activity (Shànghǎi is one of the world's largest ports). Most **tour boats** (huángpǔ jiāng yóulǎnchúán; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6374 4461; 219-239 East Second Zhongshan Rd) depart from the dock (Map pp244-5) on the Bund, near East Jinling Rd; popular 30-minute **crises** (tickets Y40-70; ☎ 10am-8pm) also depart hourly from the Pearl Dock in Lǚjiāzǔi in Pǔdōng.

The tour boat passes an enormous variety of craft – freighters, bulk carriers, roll-on roll-off ships, sculling sampans, giant cranes and the occasional junk.

The river trip is big business. Eleven different companies and 28 boats offer tours along the Huangpu River – including improvised, creaking old ferries – with new vessels constantly coming on stream. The one-hour cruise (Y25 to Y35) takes in the Yangpu Bridge. There are also 3½-hour cruises (Y70/90 lower/upper deck, other boats Y50 to Y100), a 60km return trip northwards up Huangpu River to Wusongkou, the junction with the Yangzi. More expensive tickets often include refreshments.

Departure times vary, but there are afternoon and evening departures for all three categories during weekdays, with the addition of morning cruises on weekends. For an idea of boats and prices see www.pjrivercruise.com.

WALKING TOUR

This comprehensive, easy-to-manage walk guides you along the Bund, Shànghǎi's most memorable mile. The walk can be done either by day or by night; during the evening the buildings are closed but the Bund is spectacularly illuminated and the nocturnal views to Pǔdōng are delicious. The walk can be done

from either the west side of East Zhongshan No 1 Rd (the Bund) or along the elevated promenade on the other side of the road overlooking the river.

At the northern end of the Bund, on the north bank of Suzhou Creek, rises the brick pile of **Broadway Mansions** (1; p261), built in 1934 as an exclusive apartment block. The Foreign Correspondents' Club occupied the 9th floor in the 1930s and used its fine views to report the Japanese bombing of the city in 1937. The building became the headquarters of the Japanese army during WWII.

Just across Huangpu Rd from the **Russian consulate** (2) is the distinguished **Pujiang Hotel** (3; p261). First opened as the Astor House Hotel (a name it is reassuming) in 1846, this was Shànghǎi's first hotel, later becoming the Richard Hotel.

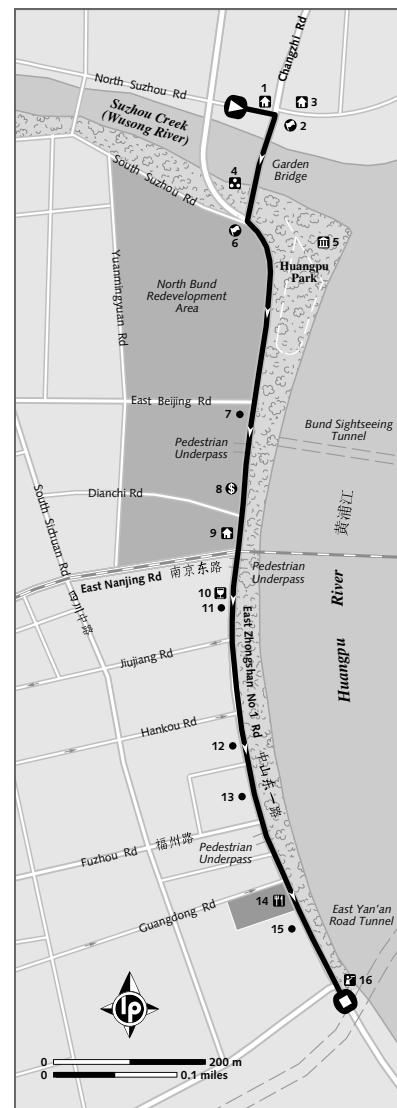
Head south over Waibaidu Bridge (also called Garden Bridge), which dates from 1907; before 1856 all crossings had to be made by ferry. The first bridge here was the wooden Wills Bridge where a charge was levied on users. Walk down the west side of the steel bridge and look carefully at the south wall of Suzhou Creek; the row of large Chinese characters that has been partially obliterated is a **political slogan** (4) from the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) era.

Huangpu Park (Huángpǔ Gōngyuán) – Shànghǎi's first park – serves as a receptacle for the numbing Monument to the People's Heroes, beneath which is **Bund Historical Museum** (5; Wàitān Lìshǐ Jìniànguǎn; admission free; ☎ 9am-4.15pm), worth a stop for its great old photos of the Bund. Huangpu Park was the site of the infamous (and legendary) sign that forbade entry to 'dogs or Chinese' (see the boxed text on p253). In fact there never was such a sign, though the spirit of the law certainly existed.

On the other side of the road, pass the 1873 **former British consulate** (6; No 33), the Bund's first building. Further down, at No 27, is the former headquarters of early opium traders **Jardine Matheson** (7), which became one of Shànghǎi's great *hongs*.

The imposing **Bank of China** (8; p241) building, at No 23, was built in 1937 with specific instructions to surpass the adjacent Cathay (Peace) Hotel in height. The building is a perhaps curious architectural mishmash, designed in a New York/Chicago style and later topped with a blue Chinese roof.

The landmark 1926 to 1929 **Peace Hotel** (9; p262) was once the most luxurious hotel



WALK FACTS

Start Broadway Mansions
Finish Meteorological Signal Tower
Distance 1.3km
Duration One hour

Originally the Chartered Bank of Australia, India and China, **Bund 18 (10)** is the embankment's latest high-profile commercial conversion and place to be seen in. Pop up to Bar Rouge on the 7th floor for sumptuous views.

Next door at No 17 is the former home of the **North China Daily News** (11). Known as the 'Old Lady of the Bund' the *News* ran from 1864 to 1951 as the main English-language newspaper in China and the mouthpiece of the foreign-run municipality commission. Look above the central windows for the paper's motto. Huge Atlas figures support the roof.

Three buildings down, at No 13, the **Customs House** (12) was built in 1925. The original customs jetties stood across from the building, on the Huangpu River. The building is topped by a clock face and 'Big Ching', a bell that was modelled on Big Ben, replaced during the Cultural Revolution by loudspeakers from which issued revolutionary slogans and songs. The clockworks were restored in 1986 for the visit of Queen Elizabeth II.

Next door to Customs House at No 12 is the grandest building on the Bund, the former **Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank** (13; HSBC). The bank was established in Hong Kong in 1864 and in Shànghǎi in 1865 to finance trade, soon becoming one of the richest banks in Shànghǎi, arranging the indemnity paid after the Boxer Rebellion. When the current building was constructed in 1923 it was the second-largest bank in the world and reportedly 'the finest building east of Suez'. Today the building is occupied by the Pudong Development Bank. Enter the building and marvel at the beautiful mosaic ceiling (no photographs allowed), featuring the 12 zodiac signs and the world's eight great banking centres.

At No 3 is the impressive restaurant and retail development of **Three on the Bund** (14; p251).

The 1911 **Shanghai Club** (15), the city's best-known bastion of British snobbery, stood at No 2 on the Bund. The plutocratic club had 20 rooms for residents, but its most famous

in the Far East, when it was known as the Cathay. It remains an Art Deco masterpiece (see the boxed text, p262) with a wonderful lobby (only half its original size), and if you're lucky visit the famous ballroom with its sprung floor. The Gang of Four used the hotel as an operations base during the Cultural Revolution.

accoutrement was the bar, which at 110ft (about 33.6m) was said to be the world's longest. Businessmen would sit here according to rank (no Chinese or women were allowed in the club), with the *taipans* (company bosses) closest to the view of the Bund, sipping chilled champagne and comparing fortunes.

Just across from the overpass you can see the 49m-tall **Meteorological Signal Tower (16)**, originally built in 1908 opposite the French consulate and, in 1993, moved 22m north as part of the revamping of the Bund. Today there is a small collection of old prints of the Bund and a replica 1855 map of the Bund. Admission is free.

By the overpass is East Yan'an Rd, once a canal and later filled in to become Ave Edward VII, the dividing line between the International Settlement and the French Concession.

SHANGHAI FOR CHILDREN

Shanghai's parks can be tame for kids, though amusement and water parks are favourites and a blessing in summer when temperatures soar. The zoo and circus are other favourite stand-bys. There are several kids' stores around town, particularly along East Nanjing Rd.

In general 1.4m is the cut-off height for children's cheaper fares or entry tickets. Children under 0.8m normally get in free.

Shanghai Zoo (p257) has acres of green space and is ideal for family outings.

Changfeng Ocean World (Changfeng Hǎidì Shìjiè; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5281 8888; Gate No 4, 451 Daduhe Rd, Changfeng Park; adult/child over 1m Y110/80) Adults may

find this subterranean aquarium dank, dark, dingy and dear, but the little people will adore the clown fish and shark tunnel. Attention parents with strollers – the lift bypassing the slog down the stairs may or may not work.

Dino Beach (热带风暴; Redāi Fēngbào; ☎ 6478 3333; 78 Xinzhen Rd; adult Tue Y30, Mon & Wed-Fri Y60, Sat & Sun Y80, child half price; ☎ 9am-9pm Jun-Sep) Way down south in Minhang District is a popular summer place with a beach, a wave pool, water slides and tube hire to beat the summer heat, but it can be heaving at the weekends.

Jinjiang Amusement Park (锦江乐园; Jinjiāng Lèyuán; ☎ 6468 0844; 201 Hongmei Rd; admission Y60) Has roller coasters, rides and a huge Ferris wheel in the southern suburbs, with its own metro stop.

Shanghai Aquarium (Hǎiyáng Shuǐzúguǎn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5877 9988; 158 North Yincheng Rd; adult/senior/child Y110/65/70; ☎ 9am-9pm) Education meets entertainment at this slick, impressive Singaporean joint venture. The 155m-long underwater viewing tunnel is

awesome. Try to time your visit with one of the fish feedings (currently 10.30am and 3.30pm).

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

January & February

New Year Longhua Temple (p257) has large New Year celebrations, with dragon and lion dances. At New Year the abbot strikes the bell 108 times while the monks beat on gongs and offer prayers for the forthcoming year.

Lantern Festival A colourful time to visit Yuyuan Gardens (p254). People take the time to walk the streets at night carrying coloured paper lanterns and make *yuánxiao* or *tángyuán* (sweet dumplings of glutinous rice with sweet fillings). The festival falls on the 15th day of the first lunar month.

April

Longhua Temple Fair This fair at Longhua Temple (p257), held during April or May, is eastern China's largest and oldest folk gathering, with all kinds of snacks, stalls, jugglers and stilt walkers.

May

Shanghai International Music Festival Week-long programme of concerts and musical events.

September & October

Shanghai Tourism Festival Kicks off in mid-September with a parade down Central Huaihai Rd or East Nanjing Rd and then offers a wide variety of cultural programmes.

Formula One (☎ 6956 6999; www.icsh.sh.cn; 2000 Yining Rd, Jiading) The slick new Shanghai International Circuit hosts several high-profile motor-racing competitions, including the hotly contested F1 in September, the China Circuit Championship and Moto GP.

November & December

Shanghai International Arts Festival A month-long programme of cultural events in late November and early December and highlight of the arts year. Events include an art fair, exhibitions of the Shanghai Biennale (2008), and a varied programme of international music, dance, opera and acrobatics.

SLEEPING

From a foreign traveller perspective, Shanghai has traditionally been well-covered in the midrange bracket (Y400 to Y1000 for a double room) and visitors are dazzled by the choice in the top-end range (Y1000 to Y3000), but the budget market is catching up with a growing band of youth hostels.

Top-end hotels fall into two categories: the fuddy-duddy historic hotels of old Shanghai where guests can wrap themselves in nost-

algia, and the stylish new breed of modern hotel, bursting with the latest amenities and sparkling with highly polished service.

Rack rates are listed here, but discounts (20% to 30% at least) are standard (outside of holiday periods) in all hotels apart from hostels and the very cheapest. Four- and five-star hotels add on a 10% or 15% service charge but this is again often negotiable. Note that most hotels listed here have air-conditioning and broadband internet access (the latter often overpriced).

The Bund & East Nanjing Rd

BUDGET

Ming Town Hiker Youth Hostel (Míngtáng Shànghǎi Lúxíngzhè Qīngnián Lǚguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6329 7889; 450 Central Jiangxi Rd; 江西中路450号; dm from Y50, d Y288; ☎) A short hike from the Bund, this is a welcome arrival. Rooms include tidy four- and six-bed dorms with pine bunk beds and three good-value luxury doubles, decorated in a Chinese style with huge beds and shower room. There's a bar, free movies, bike rental and internet access (free for guests). IYH members qualify for a Y5 discount.

Captain Hostel (Chuánzhǎng Qīngnián Jiǔdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6325 5053; www.captainhostel.com.cn; 37 Fuzhou Rd; 福州路37号; dm Y60, d Y400-1200; ☎) All's shipshape at the able-bodied Captain, where discerning landlubbers stow themselves away in this old turn-of-the-century building off the Bund. There are clean dorms with bunk beds, OK double rooms and a top-floor bar (reached via a crummy lift) for tots of rum, drunken sailors and long views over the Huangpu River. Facilities include a handy notice board, internet access (pricey), free use of a microwave, washing machine, bike hire and lobby café. A YHI card garners a Y5 discount.

Pujiang Hotel/Astor House Hotel (Pújiāng Fāndiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6324 6388; www.pujianghotel.com; 15 Huangpu Rd; 黄浦路15号; dm Y70, d from Y580-1280) Built on the site of the Richards Hotel, the Pujiang was originally called the Astor House Hotel, a name it has nostalgically readopted. For those counting their shekels, it's central, has loads of style and rooms are vast. Management trumpets that Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell and Charlie Chaplin all stayed here (though presumably not in the dorm rooms and not together). The galleries upstairs look like they belong in a Victorian asylum, there's a nobility about the place and the address is choice.

YMCA Hotel (Qīngniánhuì Bīnguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6326 1040; www.ymcahotel.com; 123 South Xizang (Tibet) Rd; 西藏南路123号; dm/d Y100/460) Built in 1929, the three-star YMCA's tired four-bed dorms and doubles may not hit the sweet spot, but the location – on the borders of the Old City and just southeast of Renmin Sq – hits the mark.

Jinjiang Inn (Jīnjiāng Zhìxíng Lǚguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6326 0505; www.jj-inn.com; 33 South Fujian Rd; 福建南路33号; s/d Y198/238) This central branch of this hotel chain has bright, airy doubles with shower rooms, some with pleasant views over parkland on the noisier Fujian Rd side. Rooms facing inwards are smaller, cheaper and quieter; the higher-floor rooms are generally best.

MIDRANGE

East Asia Hotel (Dōngyà Fāndiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6322 3233; fax 6322 4598; 680 East Nanjing Rd; 南京东路680号; d from Y420) Renovated in 2005, the two-star East Asia Hotel is a popular old-timer and long-standing fixture on the cheap Shanghai room circuit. It's very central but some of the rooms don't have windows. Reception is on the 2nd floor through a clothing shop.

Metropole Hotel (Xīnchéng Fāndiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6321 3030; fax 6321 7365; 180 Central Jiangxi Rd; 江西中路180号; d/ste Y650/1200) The gaunt-looking Metropole was one of Shanghai's most glamorous hotels in the 1930s. Some Art Deco flourishes suggest the glamour of yore but the interior does little to shake the mood of a standard smoky Chinese hotel.

Park Hotel (Guóji Fāndiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6327 5225; fax 6327 6958; 170 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路170号; s Y650-810, d Y1215; metro Renmin Park) Erected in 1934, this hotel was the tallest of its day. The Shanghai Chinese said that if you looked all the way to the top of the Park, your hat would fall off. The lobby is an extravagant slice of old Art Deco styling and rooms are comfortable, but book ahead for fine views of Nanjing Rd and Renmin Park.

Broadway Mansions (Shànghǎi Dàshè; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6324 6260; www.broadwaymansions.com; 20 North Suzhou Rd; 苏州北路20号; s/d Y780/1070) Looming over Suzhou Creek is this classic 1934 monument, which boasts superb views over the north Bund, the Huangpu River and Púdong. Aim for the pricier Bund-facing doubles (with the best views) on higher floors or one of the tastefully furnished executive guest rooms.

TOP END

Peace Hotel (Héping Fāndiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6321 6888; www.shanghaipeacehotel.com; 20 East Nanjing Rd; 南京东路20号; d/ste Y1300/3060) Exploiting a much-coveted market niche as the most definitive chunk of surviving Art Deco in town, the Peace has quality-control issues (so-so rooms, indifferent staff, mustiness) that leave a whopping dent in its crown. The national deluxe suites are elegantly laid out in different national styles: English, American, French, Chinese, Indian and others. Discounts, of up to 40%, are welcome.

Peace Palace Hotel (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6329 1888; peacehtl@public.sta.net.cn; 23 East Nanjing Rd; 南京东路23号) Across East Nanjing Rd and part of the Peace Hotel, this is an older annexe with similar rates that dip quite low in winter.

Radisson Hotel Shanghai New World (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6359 9999; www.radisson.com/shanghai_cn_newworld; 88 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路88号; d Y1460) The UFO atop this Radisson tower is typically derivative noughties Shanghai. In this case, the spaceship's B-movie sci-fi lines echo the clock tower of the Pacific Hotel below and the cupolas of the adjacent New World. The eclectic interior design is showy and devoid of panache, although standard rooms (with free broadband) in this new hotel are excellent and views are great.

Other top-end chain hotels near East Nanjing Rd:

Ramada Plaza (Nán Xīnyà Huáměidà Dǎjiūdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6350 0000; www.ramadainternationalhotel.com; 700 Jiujiang Rd; 九江路700号; d from Y1460)

Westin Shanghai (Wěisītīng Dàfāndiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6335 1888; www.westin.com; 88 Central Henan Rd; 河南中路88号; d from Y2915; ☎) Luxurious and stylish.

Pǔdōng

TOP END

Grand Hyatt (Jīnmào Kāiyuè Dǎjiūdiàn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5049 1234; www.hyatt.com; 88 Century Ave; 世纪大道88号; d from Y2590; ☎) One of the brightest stars in the Shanghai hotel firmament, the Grand Hyatt is no place for those with vertigo. Commencing on the 54th floor of the Jinmao Building in Pūdōng, it shoots up another 33 stylish storeys; check out the atrium. Rooms are packed with gadgets (TV internet access, fog-free mirrors, three-jet showers and sensor reading lamps) but keeping the glass basins clean must keep chambermaids cursing. Good discounts are available, but the hotel is often full, so book well ahead.

Pudong Shangri-La (Pūdōng Xiānggélǐlā Dǎjiūdiàn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6882 6888; www.shangri-la.com; 33 Fucheng Rd; 富城路33号; s/d Y2590/2753; ☎) With its muted Chinese motifs and fine views of the Bund, the 28-floor Shangri-La is a solid luxury choice in the heart of Lǔjiāzū, backed up by a towering V-topped annexe, completed in 2005.

St Regis Shanghai (Ruíjī Hóngtǎ Dǎjiūdiàn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5050 4567; www.stregis.com/shanghai; 889 Dongfang Rd; 东方路889号; s/d Y2915/2996; ☎) The luxurious St Regis mixes hi tech (Bose radios, broadband internet) with old-style service. The 24-hour

personal butlers will record your pillow preference for your next visit just before bringing you a coffee and fixing your laptop. Women can check into the ladies-only floors if they want and all guests are welcome in the executive club facilities.

French Concession

BUDGET

Motel 168 (Mòtài Liánsuǒ Lǔdiàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5117 7777; www.motel168.com; 1119 West Yan'an Rd; 延安西路1119号; tw Y198-228) The Motel 168 formula is clean and smooth with traces of modern flair, but the presentation is bland and the finish cheap. Standard twins are well designed, with clean and compact shower rooms. Useful branches near both airports include 29 Huaxiang Rd (☎ 5119 6888) and 1148 Wuzhong Rd (☎ 6401 9188) for Hongqiao Airport and 2255 East Huaxia Rd (☎ 5117 2000) for Pudong airport.

MIDRANGE

Jinchen Hotel (Jīnchén Dǎjiūdiàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6471 7000; www.jinchenhotel.com; 795-809 Central Huaihai Rd; 淮海中路795-809号; s/d from Y780) Arranged over seven floors, the small, brick Jinchen is excellently located on Central Huaihai Rd, offering clean, tastefully furnished rooms equipped with broadband, although carpets are a bit tatty.

Ruijin Guesthouse (Ruíjīn Bīnguǎn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6472 5222; www.shedi.net.cn/outedi/ruijin; 118 Ruijin No 2 Rd; 瑞金二路118号; s/d Y800/1200) The Ruijin has elegant grounds and a series of old mansions converted into rooms. Building No 1 was the former Morris (founder of the *North China Daily News*) estate while some of the city's most romantic and stylish restaurants and bars charmingly nestle in the gardens.

Mason Hotel (Měichén Dǎjiūdiàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6466 2020; www.masonhotel.com; 935 Central Huaihai Rd; 淮海中路935号; s/d Y900/1080) From its discreet outward appearance to the hotel's small and well-proportioned lobby (with Art Deco-style motifs and casual black leather furniture), this boutique-style hotel is both relaxed and intimate. Reasonably recently restored double rooms (all with broadband) face either onto Huaihai Rd (a bit noisy) or overlook a splendid backdrop of redbrick *longtang* (alleyway) housing to the rear. There's also a rooftop beer garden and a Starbucks on the ground floor.

Hengshan Hotel (Héngshān Bīnguǎn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6437 7050; fax 6433 5732; 534 Hengshan Rd; 衡山路

534号; d from Y1000) The former 1930s Picardie Apartments still hold a few hints of their original interior Art Deco charm. The quality of hotel has been elevated over recent years, with renovations and investment restoring some crispness and gloss to both the service and presentation, and the location is good.

TOP END

Regent Shanghai (Lǐjīng Dǎjiūdiàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6115 9988; www.regenthotels.com; 1116 West Yan'an Rd; 延安西路1116号; d Y1550; ☎) The latest star in Shanghai's glittering galaxy of luxury hotels, the 53-storey Regent has gorgeous rooms, equipped with 42-inch plasma TV screens and spacious, deep baths and rainforest showers. Further soak away the stress in the 30m infinity-edged swimming pool.

Radisson Plaza Xingguo Hotel (Xīngguó Bīnguǎn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6212 9998, toll free reservation in China 800-3333 3333; www.radissonasiapacific.com; 78 Xingguo Rd; 兴国路78号; city view s/d Y1830/1990, garden view s/d Y1990/2160; ☎) The hotel is luxurious enough, but it is the gorgeous garden setting – ornamented with villas, pines, palms and magnolias – that steals the show. If staying in the main hotel, it's worth paying extra for the garden view. The full range of fitness and exercise facilities is offered, managed by Clark Hatch Gymnasium. The villas are largely rented out to long-term residents although Villa No 1 is open to guests.

Garden Hotel (Huāyuán Fāndiàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6415 1111; www.gardenhotelshanghai.com; 58 South Maoming Rd; 茂名南路58号; s/d Y2025/2185; ☎) The elegant Japanese-run five-star Okura Garden boasts lovely grounds on the site of the old French Club (the Cercle Sportif Français). Rooms in the huge modern tower are a bit tired but refurbishments are underway, while bathrooms are on the smallish side.

Jinjiang Hotel (Jīnjiāng Fāndiàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6258 2582; 59 South Maoming Rd; 茂名南路59号; Cathay Bldg d Y2900, Jin Nan Bldg d Y3300, Grosvenor Villa ste Y8000; ☎) Stylish and well-located at the swish hub of the elegant French Concession, the Jinjiang consists of the main Georgian-style Cathay Building, the refurbished Jin Nan Building (south building) and the lavish five-star Grosvenor Villa.

West Nanjing Rd

BUDGET

Easy Tour Youth Hostel (Shànghǎi Yítǔ Qīngnián Jiūdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6327 7766; 57 Jiangyin Rd; 江阴路57号;

THE CATHAY HOTEL

The Peace Hotel is a ghostly reminder of the immense wealth of Victor Sassoon. From a Baghdad Jewish family, Sassoon made millions out of the opium trade and then ploughed it back into Shanghai real estate and horses.

Sassoon's quote of the day was 'There is only one race greater than the Jews, and that's the Derby'. His office-cum-hotel was completed in 1930 and was known as Sassoon House, incorporating the Cathay Hotel from the 4th to 7th floors. From the top floors Sassoon commanded his real estate – he is estimated to have owned 1900 buildings in Shanghai.

Like the Taj in Bombay, the Stanley Raffles in Singapore and the Peninsula in Hong Kong, the Cathay was the place to stay in Shanghai. The guest list included Charlie Chaplin, George Bernard Shaw and Noel Coward, who wrote *Private Lives* here in four days in 1930 when he had the flu. Sassoon himself resided in a suite on the top floor, with its unsurpassed 360-degree views, just below the green pyramidal tower. He also maintained Sassoon Villa, a Tudor-style villa out near Hongqiao Airport.

After the communists took over the city, the troops were billeted in places like the Cathay and Picardie (now Héngshān Bīnguǎn on the outskirts of the city), where they spent hours experimenting with the elevators, used bidets as face-showers and washed rice in the toilets – which was all very well until someone pulled the chain.

In 1953 foreign owners tried to give the Cathay to the Chinese Communist Party in return for exit visas. The government refused at first, but finally accepted after the payment of 'back taxes'.

dm/s/d Y60/270/330) The setting and location – just west off Renmin Sq in a building with a bit of history overlooked by the rocketing form of JW Marriott Tomorrow Square – are up there with the best, but this place is a bit drab and scuffed and some rooms are damp. The hostel can be tricky to find – it's tucked away in the first corner as you head west along Jiangyin Rd next to a narrow alleyway. Look for the signs.

Home Inn (Rújiā; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6255 3970; www.homeinns.com; Lane 421, Changping Rd; 昌平路421弄; s/d Y199/239) With 14 branches in Púxí and Púdong (see website), the Home Inn chain is scattered fitfully about town, this being one of the more central locations. The formula dishes up clean, modern and small rooms largely aimed at lower-rung business travellers; the effect is reliably fresh, if a bit cheap. At the time of writing a handy branch of Home Inn was due to open in the vicinity of Shànghǎi train station.

MIDRANGE

Shanghai Haigang Hotel (Hǎigāng Bīnguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6255 3553; 89 Taixing Rd; 泰兴路89号; d incl breakfast Y398) This clean and pleasant hotel has some stylish touches and a great location by the metro line and a street of restaurants. The cheapest rooms here have interior facing windows.

TOP END

JW Marriott Tomorrow Square (Míngtiān Guǎngchǎng JW Wǎnyí Jiùdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 5359 4969; www.marriott.com/shajw; 399 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路399号; d Y2590; 🚗) Housed across the upper 24 floors of one of Shànghǎi's most dramatic towers, the JW Marriott boasts marvellously appointed rooms with spectacular views and showers with hydraulic massage functions to soak away the stress. Taking a leaf from the Grand Hyatt book, the JW Marriott Tomorrow Square has the highest library in the world above ground level.

Portman Ritz-Carlton (Bótèmàn Lǐjī Jiùdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6279 8888; www.ritzcarlton.com; 1376 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路1376号; s/d Y2905/3075; 🚗) The Ritz-Carlton remains one of the very best hotels in town, partly due to the attached Shanghai Centre, with its assorted bevy of expat facilities, ranging from a medical clinic to a Starbucks, a popular supermarket, the Long Bar and more. Guest rooms are stylishly designed, with both bathrooms and ward-

robes equipped with swish sliding rosewood doors. Service throughout is excellent.

Other five-star hotels in the neighbourhood include the **Four Seasons** (Sìjī Jiùdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6256 8888; www.fourseasons.com; 500 Weihai Rd; 威海路500号; d from Y3300; 🚗).

Northern Shànghǎi

Koala International Youth Hostel (Kǎolá Guójī Qīngnián Lǚshè; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6277 1370; 1447 Xikang Rd; 西康路1447号; s/tw/family ste Y220/240/380) Don't come here expecting to find dorm beds (there aren't any), but the modern and attractive rooms here are sound, with cable TV, fridge and oven. There's no common area to get on line but a handy internet café next door comes to the rescue.

Zhongya Hotel (Zhōngyà Fāndiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6317 2317; www.zhongyao.com; 330 Meiyuan Rd; 梅园路330号; d from Y380) Externally a drab and featureless 25-storey tower, this well-placed value-for-money three-star hotel is handy for rail travellers. Altogether, the Zhongya has more style and character than other midrange (many overpriced) alternatives in the area, but this is a far-from-classy district. Pricier rooms are often a good deal as they are discounted by 50% – but push for discounts on all rooms.

Holiday Inn Downtown (Shànghǎi Guǎngchǎng Chángchéng Jiàn Jiùdiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6353 8008; www.holiday-inn.com; 285 West Tianmu Rd & 585 Hengfeng Rd; 天目西路285号与恒丰路585号; d incl breakfast Y1328) Near the train station, this bizarrely structured hotel consists of two wings in separate buildings. Room rates are the same in both wings and include service charge. The Great Wall wing has the larger fitness centre and the deluxe rooms. Rooms are double-glazed but the area can still be noisy. There's one room adapted for people with disabilities. Discounts of up to 50% available.

Hongqiao

Maggie International Youth Hostel (Měizhī Guójī Qīngnián Lǚshè; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6273 6183; 1825 Tianshan Rd; 天山路1825号; member/nonmember dm Y70/80, d Y180/200) Off in the far west, this place can be useful if arriving at Hongqiao Airport, but it's far from the main sights. Four-bed dorm rooms are clean and come with shower.

Sheraton Grand Taipingyang (Map pp242-3; ☎ 6275 8888; www.sheratongrand-shanghai.com; 5 South Zunyi Rd; 遵义路5号; s/d Y2430/2590) From the fastidiously attired and ever helpful staff (especially the attentive guest relations managers) to the

Chinese ceramics and furniture throughout, this is one of Shànghǎi's most elegant and professional hotels. Recently refurbished rooms come with thoughtful touches: teddy bears on the bed at nightly turndown and rubber ducks perched on bathtubs.

EATING

Shànghǎi's faddish restaurant scene continues to move up the gears with a determination to impress foodies from all shades of the culinary spectrum. Fashions sweep through the city's kitchens, rewriting cookbooks and consigning yesterday's flavours to the pedal bin. Restaurants open and close with almost seasonal regularity, so expect many more trendy places to have found champions among Shànghǎi's diners by the time you read this. Plug into the current trends by reading *That's Shanghai* and its annual *Shanghai Restaurant Guide* (Y50).

While travellers budgeting for extravagant dining will be mesmerised by the sheer variety, those on a tight budget should keep to side streets where small restaurants serve cheap, local food. Other inexpensive food options include the Chinese fast-food chains and food courts in the basement or top floor of almost every department store in town. In pricier restaurants the set lunches offer the best value; dinners are often double the price.

Sample Shànghǎi's favourite dumpling, *xiǎolóngbāo* (小笼包), copied everywhere else in China, but only true to form here. For Y5, you can get a steamer with four of these.

The Bund & East Nanjing Rd

A lot's cooking near the Bund: Chinese fast food, bars, coffee shops and a growing troupe of elegant Western and Chinese restaurants, staking out territory along the famous skyline.

For all kinds of cheap eats try the **Zhapu Rd food street** (Map pp244-5) near the Pujiang Hotel or the **Yunnan Rd food street** (Map pp244-5), not far from Renmin Sq.

Megabite (Dàshídài; Map pp244-5; 6th fl, Raffles City; meals Y25) King of the food courts, Megabite offers Chinese and Asian food in abundance for poorly financed and busy diners, with handy branches around town. Prepay, grab a card and head to the stall of your choice for on-the-spot service. Chefs cook it all up in front of you, dispensing with menus. There's also a branch at Carrefour in Gubei.

Ajisen (Wèiqiān Lāmìàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6360 7194; 327 East Nanjing Rd; meals Y30) Simply hopping come meal time, this Japanese noodle chain escorts diners to the noodle dish of their choice via easy-to-use photo menus and diligent squads of staff in regulation black T-shirt and jeans. Go for the Kimuchi Dumpling in Hot Pot (Y23) – a steaming, chilli-infused blast of chunky dumplings, spicy cabbage and *jinzhen* mushrooms – guaranteed to bring out a sweat. Oodles of branches in town, including Grand Gateway (Xujiahui).

Number 5 (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6329 4558; www.numberfive.cn; No 5 The Bund, East Zhongshan No 1 Rd; meals Y50) Excellent-value scrummy set lunches (11am to 2pm), comfy furniture and a stylish Bund basement setting make this restaurant-bar ideal for casual and relaxed dining. Come evening, neck a brain haemorrhage, sip a slippery nipple (both Y30), seize a pool cue and tune into late night live jazz sounds. There's also wireless internet access.

Ruzzi (Rúzi; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6360 9031; 528 Fuzhou Rd; meals Y60) With pizzas as crisp and fresh as the layout, this wi-fi-equipped chain is a slick presentation. Park yourself on one of the easy sofas, navigate the user-friendly menu and go for the Huff and Puff Chowder Soup (Y22), the excellent Barbeque Chicken pizza (Y43) and the Classic Banana Split (Y19).

Kathleen's 5 (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6327 2221; www.kathleens5.com.cn; 325 East Nanjing Rd; meal Y250, set lunch Y80-100; ☎ lunch & dinner) The spectacular glassed rooftop of the Shanghai Art Museum (p252) hosts this bright and buzzy restaurant, the Mediterranean menu of which is supplemented by an outside terrace with fine views over Renmin Park.

M on the Bund (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6350 9988; www.m-onthebund.com; 7th fl, 5 The Bund, cnr Guangdong Rd; mains Y100-200, set lunches Y118-138; ☎ closed Mon lunch) Table linen flapping in the breeze alongside exclusive rooftop views to Púdong: the grand dame of the Bund's elegant formula still elicits applause from Shànghǎi's gastronomes. Park yourself in a wicker chair, reach for the mismatched bone-handled cutlery and treat yourself to two-/three-course (Y118/138) set lunches or go the whole hog on the crispy suckling pig (Y198). Reservations a must.

Sens & Bund (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6323 9898; 6th fl, Bund 18, 18 East Zhongshan No 1 Rd; meals Y500; ☎ lunch & dinner) The opening of this fine French dining creation from Jacques and Laurent Pourcel – situated deliciously on the Bund – was greeted

with euphoria by Shanghai's food-lovers, but reserve way ahead if you want a table overlooking the river.

Pūdōng

Grand Hyatt (Jinmào Kaiyuè Dàjiùdiàn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 5830 3338; Jinmao Tower, 88 Century Ave) If it's a special night out with a view you're after, the steakhouse Grill, Japanese Kobachi, Italian Cucina and Cantonese-style Canton restaurants at the Grand Hyatt really can't be beaten. The breathtaking atrium is a great place to meet. The Grand Café offers stunning views through its glass walls, and a good-value buffet (Y198 to Y228).

Yuyuan Bazaar Area

Nanxiang Steamed Bun Restaurant (Nánxiáng Mántòudiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6355 4206; 85 Yuyuan Rd; meals Y10-20; ☎ 7am-10pm) Take your place in the queue of regulars trailing from this place opposite the Huxinting teahouse and fill yourself up with more than a dozen *xiǎolóngbāo* for a mere Y8. Upstairs offers seating to the scrums.

French Concession

BUDGET

Pamir Restaurant (Pàmīěr Cāntīng; Map pp248-9; 166 Fumin Rd; kebabs Y2, mains Y15) Excellent lamb kebabs, nan bread and Central Asian noodles (try the *suoman* – fried noodle squares with tomatoes and green peppers) offer a refreshing change of tastes at this no-frills Uighur restaurant. Wash it down with a bottle of Xinjiang Black Beer or a pot of *kok chai* (green tea).

Zentral Healthy Eatery (Shànqū Jiànkāng Shànshí; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6374 5815; www.zentral.com.cn; 567 South Huangpi Rd; set meals Y15-18) Clamber out of the MSG sea for affordable lunch sets, crispy and tasty healthy salads, brown rice, sugar-free desserts and sandwiches. Low on oil but high on taste and appeal.

☎ **Dōngběirén** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 5228 8288; 2nd fl, 3 South Shaanxi Rd; dishes Y15-50) The *jiǎozi* (饺子; dumplings) at this sprightly outfit are as true to the Chinese northeast as the gaggle of rouge-cheeked, pigtailed Dongbei waiters. Besides tummy-filling lamb, pork and beef dumplings (Y10 to Y16), aim for the tender Sun Island Flaming Dragon Fish (Y48) or the hefty Boneless Pork Knuckle (Y48), but pass on the dry lamb kebabs. Further branch at 46 Panyu Rd (☎ 5230 2230).

☎ **Wúyuè Rénjiā** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 5306 5410; No 10, Alley 706, Central Huaihai Rd; meals Y20; ☎ lunch & dinner) Stuffed away down an alley off Huaihai Rd, and at a handful of other locations, this pocket-sized noodle house is the best thing since sliced bread. The calming traditional Chinese décor is perfectly complemented by steaming bowls of wholesome noodles. You may have to share your table with a stranger or two, and decoding the cryptic Chinese menu can require patience, but our advice is to go for the *yúxiāng ròusìmiàn* (鱼香肉丝面; fish-flavour pork strips with noodles; Y13) and the fine bite-sized chunks of *cōngyóutāng hùntun* (葱油汤馄饨; wonton soup with onion; Y6). The excellent *xiábào shànbēi miàn* comes with shrimp and fried eels in an oniony fish soup (Y16).

☎ **Bǎoluó Jiùlǒu** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 5403 7239; 271 Fumin Rd; mains Y20-50) Gather up a boisterous bunch of friends and join Shanghainese night owls queuing down the street all through the night to get into this amazingly busy place. Open till 6am, it's a great place to get a feel for Shanghai's famous buzz. Try the excellent *ruìshì niúpái* (瑞士牛排; Swiss steak) or the *bǎoluó kǎomàn* (保罗烤鳗; baked eel; Y55).

☎ **Bóduō Xīnji** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 5404 9878; 9 Xie Rd; meals Y30) Glance through the window of this cramped outpost of Cantonese/Chaozhou cuisine and note the ease with which it takes Shanghai's notoriously fickle diners hostage with a much loved, spot-on menu. Three branches in town.

MIDRANGE

Vegetarian Life Style (Zāozhī Shù; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6384 8000; 77 Songshan Rd; mains Y20-38) For light and healthy Chinese organic vegetarian food, with zero and precious little oil, this bright place has excellent dishes, including sweet Wuxi spare ribs (Y30) – stuffed with lotus root. No alcohol and no smoking, but there's an English menu.

☎ **1221** (Map pp242-3; ☎ 6213 2441; 1221 West Yan'an Rd; meat dishes Y28-38, seafood Y56-76) No-one has a bad thing to say about this stylish expat favourite. The crispy duck (Y48) is excellent, as are the drunken chicken and *yóutiáo niúròu* (油条牛肉; beef with dough strips). The pan-fried sticky rice and sweet bean paste (from the dim sum menu) makes a good dessert. It's also worth ordering the eight-fragrance tea just to watch it served spectacularly out of 60cm-long spouts. The service is excellent.

☎ **Dishuidòng** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6253 2689; 2nd fl, 56 South Maoming Rd; mains Y28-45; metro South Shaanxi Rd) Shanghai's favourite Hunanese restaurant is surprisingly downhome (with waiters decked out in Hunanese blue cloth) but serves up killer cuisine. Try the *làzi jīdīng* (辣子鸡丁; fried chicken with chilli) or settle for one of the excellent claypot dishes and brace for a chilli onslaught. There's an English menu, though, as ever, the Chinese version offers more range. Booking is advised.

☎ **Xinjishi Restaurant** (Xinjishi Cāntīng; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6336 4746; No 9 Xintiandi, Lane 181, Taicang Rd; mains Y30-40; ☎ lunch & dinner) The city is full of excellent Shanghai restaurants and this Xintiandi choice is among the most popular, and crowded.

☎ **Simply Thai** (Tiāntài Cāntīng; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6445 9551; 5-C Dongping Rd; mains Y30-60) Everyone raves about this place for its delicious, reasonable dishes and comfortable décor. There's nice outdoor seating and the lunch specials are particularly good value.

☎ **Kaveen's Kitchen** (Zhēnzōng Yīndùcài; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6248 8292; 2nd fl, 231 Huashan Rd; meals Y40; ☎ lunch & dinner) Above the Old Manhattan Bar, Kaveen's – official caterer for Air India flights out of town – is a well-liked Indian hot spot on Shanghai's food map. It's a bit cramped (the owner moved here from Kowloon, so perhaps he doesn't notice) but the menu has room for most tastes, including meat-free. Try the excellent *aloo palak* (spinach and potato) and fill the meal out with a naan.

☎ **Azul** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6433 1172; 18 Dongping Rd; tapas Y38-98, set lunch Y48-58, mains Y88-148) This Latin place is popular for its fresh New World cuisine and hip décor. Downstairs is the cool tapas bar and lounging area, while upstairs is Viva, a more formal space with a creative menu.

☎ **Kabb** (Kǎibó Xīcāntīng; Map pp248-9; ☎ 3307 0798; 5 North Block, Lane 181, Xintiandi, 181 Taicang Rd; mains Y65-85) The outside seating and Xintiandi location (plus winning bar) bring an extra dimension to the filling menu of whole-hearted American/Mexican and Italian hits: burgers, Tex-Mex, club sandwiches and pasta.

☎ **Café Montmartre** (Mèngmǎnté Xīcānguǎn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5404 7658; 55 South Xiangyang Rd, set lunch Y55, mains Y65-88) Bumping into this crafty imitation of a Latin Quarter brasserie in the French Concession is like running into an old Parisian friend, wreathed in the aroma of Ricard and Gauloise fumes. Enter to a round bar and simple café tables below and upstairs seating plus outside

terrace, with French goodies like *croque monsieur* (hot ham and cheese grilled sandwich), crêpes and quiches (Y30 to Y45), as well as the occasional *magret de canard* (duck breast), roasted chicken and set lunches.

☎ **Spice Market** (Dōngnǎnyà Cāntīng; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6384 6838; 8 Jinan Rd; set lunch/dinner Y68/150) The menu at this attractive restaurant is a Who's Who of Asian dishes, from *pad thai* to *nasi goreng*, along with more interesting fare like the pomelo, chicken and chilli salad (Y35), and grilled whole fish with chilli, dry shrimps and coconut stuffing (Y62).

☎ **Brasil Steak House** (Bāxī Shāokǎowū; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6437 7288; 1582 Central Huaihai Rd; lunch & dinner Y79; ☎ 11am-11pm) For an artery-clogging carriage feast, carnavims will be doing cartwheels here. Servers rotate with skewered hunks of roasted meat, slicing chunks onto your plate. There's also a buffet salad and dessert bar. It's opposite the Shanghai Library, and there's another branch (Map pp248-9; 1649 West Nanjing Rd; ☎ 6255 9898) next to Jing'an Park.

☎ **Mesa** (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6289 9108; 748 Julu Rd; mains Y158-228) All space and light, Mesa's impressive Continental menu and weekend brunches work their magic best after aperitifs at its adjacent bar, Manifesto. In warm weather, the voluminous interior further spills out onto the terrace decking above Julu Rd and the play area for kids is a source of joy for overstressed parents.

TOP END

Xintiandi has one of the densest concentrations of top-end restaurants, all within a self-contained, smart locale.

☎ **Shintori Null II** (Xīdùlǐ; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5404 5252; 803 Julu Rd; mains Y60-100; ☎ dinner only) The bamboo-lined approach to No 803 Julu Rd does little to prepare diners for the setting of this Japanese restaurant, trendily poised somewhere between a Wehrmacht bunker and a brutalist penal institution. Straight edges, sharp lines, cold concrete, open kitchen: read cerebral dining. The Japanese menu is equally novel; the cold soba noodles arrive in a bowl made of ice.

West Nanjing Rd

☎ **Bi Fēng Táng** (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6279 0738; 1333 West Nanjing Rd; dishes Y8-25) This is an incredibly popular Cantonese place (five branches around town) dishing up dim sum snacks (shrimp dumplings, honeyed pork, egg tarts et al),

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Both of the following restaurants require reservations, preferably several days in advance if you want a plum table with a view.

T8 (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6355 8999; 8 North Block, Xintiandi, 181 Taicang Rd; mains Y200, set lunch Mon & Wed-Fri 2/3 courses Y158/198; 🍴 dinner to 11.30pm, closed Tue lunch) T8's fame is seemingly unstoppable. Dishes are best described as modern Mediterranean fusion with Asian influences, while the luxurious, seductively dark interior combines with subtle flavours and choice presentation to craft a culinary phenomenon. Dress to impress.

Jean Georges (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6321 7733; jgreservation@on-the-bund.com; 4th fl, Three on the Bund; mains from Y250; 🍴 lunch & dinner) The *enfant terrible* of French cooking continues to stake his claim to Shanghai's top dining experience with this elegant Bund creation. The dark, lush interior was designed by architect Michael Graves and the delectable dishes – the lamb loin with black trumpet mushrooms is outstanding – are matched by attentive, courteous staff. There's a large wine selection, starting at US\$50 a bottle.

as well as coffee and cheap Budweiser. This branch has an English menu on request and plenty of fine outdoor seating when the weather is good.

Gongdelin Vegetarian Restaurant (Gōngdélín Sūshíhú; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6327 0218; 445 West Nanjing Rd; mains Y15-25) The podgy effigy of Milefo (the laughing Buddha) and the faint aroma of temple incense hint at the Buddhist creed of this elegantly refitted vegetarian restaurant, housed in a red-brick building dating from 1922. The fleshless food – served in a graceful environment of stone flagging and water features – delivers shots of good karma and energizing meat-free calories. The sign says 'Godly Restaurant'.

Lulu Restaurant (Lūlū Jiǔjiā; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6288 1179; 5th fl, Plaza 66, 1266 West Nanjing Rd; dishes Y18-32, seafood Y32-188) The Pūdōng branch (Map pp242-3) established Lulu's reputation as one of the best bets for decent Shanghaiese cuisine but this branch is the epitome of stylish, modern Shanghai, perfect for a trendy group meal blowout. All your Shanghaiese favourites are there, including *xièfěn shīzi tóu* (蟹粉狮子头; crab and pork meatballs; Y15 each).

Rendezvous Café (Lǎngdímù; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6247 2307; 1486 West Nanjing Rd; meals Y40-50) Far cheaper and better than TGIF's patties, the burgers at no-nonsense Rendezvous put the squeeze on overpriced burger bars citywide. Break your overnight fast with the full-on Y28 American Breakfast – or angle later in the day for the fish and chips (Y48) or seafood spaghetti (Y48). Other branches around town.

Element Fresh (Xīnyuánsù; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6279 8682; Shanghai Centre, 1376 West Nanjing Rd; sandwiches Y35-75, lunch mains Y60-90, dinner Y85-128) The focus at this

bright and stylish spot is on fresh, healthy sandwiches and salads; vegetarians can swoon at the roasted eggplant on walnut bread with mozzarella and olives, and revive themselves on fresh juices, imaginative smoothies and excellent coffee. There's an express branch at 279 Wuxing Rd (☎ 5116 9897).

Southern Shanghai

Ye Olde Station Restaurant (Shànghǎi Lǎozhàn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6427 2233; 201 North Caoxi Rd; meals Y40; 🍴 lunch & dinner) With dark green shutters and a cream exterior, this is actually the former St Ignatius Convent (1931), facing the Bibliotheca Zi-Ka-Wei (p257). The Shanghai cuisine is unsurprising, but the setting and period features, from the original tiled floors and upstairs chapel, are unique. Book a table in one of the old train carriages (former passengers include Manchu Empress Cixi and Song Qingling) in the rear garden.

DRINKING Bars

Shanghai has several bar strips and no shortage of watering holes, their fortunes cresting and falling with the vagaries of the latest vogue. Drinks are generally expensive, retailing for around Y40 at most popular bars, so squeeze the most out of happy hour. Streets thick with bars include South Maoming Rd, Tongren Rd and Hengshan Rd.

Time Passage (Zuótiān Jìntiān Míngtiān; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6240 2588; 183 Huashan Rd; 🍴 5pm-2am) If you like cheap beer (Y25 a pint) and an undemanding, lived-in ambience, this student-set bar has been charting its chronological passage since 1994. Despite the address, the

bar is actually on Caojiayan Rd, smacked by balls from the adjacent tennis court. Live music – often impromptu – takes to the air every Friday and Saturday after 10.30pm, while Tuesday evenings are cut price pints nights.

Barbarossa (Bābālūshā Huisuò; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6318 0220; Renmin Park, 231 West Nanjing Rd; drinks Y40, sheesha Y100; 🍴 10am-2am) Bringing a whiff of Middle Eastern promise to the Pearl of the Orient, this Moroccan-styled theme bar-restaurant sits pondsides in Renmin Park like something from a mirage. More than a mere novelty, there's excellent music, fabulous outside seating and remarkable evening views.

O'Malley's Bar (Ōumǎlì Cǎntīng; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6474 4533; 42 Taojiang Rd; 🍴 11am-2am) The Irish pub theme straddles China from Qīngdǎo to Chéngdū like a gigantic, synthetic Celtic harp, but few come with such enticing lawns or the classy French Concession perch. The fantastic kids' club goes down a real treat with expat families, but the hefty meat breakfast could be a challenge for all but the most unrepentant carnivore.

Malone's American Café (Mǎlóng Měishì Jiǔlòu; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6247 2400; 257 Tongren Rd; 🍴 11am-2am) Love it or hate it, this brisk sports bar has been fruitfully ploughing its own furrow for over a decade. Sitting under the glow of sports TV is a cross-section of expat society, hunched over beers and fish and chips (set lunches Y50), and serenaded by Filipino bands at weekends.

Cloud 9 Bar (Map pp242-3; minimum charge Y100; 🍴 from 6pm Mon-Fri, from 11am Sat & Sun) Need a lift at the end of the day? Tired of the low life? Want to reach an absolute high? Viewing the nocturnal lights of town from the 87th floor of the Grand Hyatt through the carbonated fizz of a gin and tonic may hoist you to just the right elevation, although the weary '90s décor needs a shot of adrenaline.

Face Bar (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6466 4328; Bldg 1, Ruijin Guesthouse, 18 Ruijin No 2 Rd; beer Y40-65, cocktails Y50-95) Wonderfully installed on the ground floor of a 1936 mansion, Face exudes a languorous sophistication and a soothing colonial charm. It's elegant, soothing, decorated with chinoiserie and manned by polite waiting staff. Prices aren't cheap but there's nowhere better to take a date or laze in front of the manicured lawn on a summer's afternoon. The excellent but pricey Thai-style Lan Na Thai and Indian-style Hazara restaurants offer top cuisine in the same building.

Tea & Coffee Houses

Boonna Café (Būnà Kǎfēiguǎn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5404 6676; www.boonnacafe.com; 88 Xinle Rd) The quietly trendy Boonna is set back from the action on leafy Xinle Rd. Shell out a mere Y10 for the house coffee, and leaf through the appetizing menu, which runs to banana pancakes (Y20). Patrons get a free 30-minute chunk of internet use.

Coffeelox (Nuòkǎ Kǎfēi; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6438 7238; 1988 Huashan Rd) There's no such thing as a free lunch, but the regularly cut-price dishes at this Italian café are the next best thing. Menus rotate, but there's usually a list of cheap offerings, from scrummy pasta bakes (Y18) to tuna spaghetti (Y12), seafood soup (Y6) and pea soup (Y6). With several branches in town, this is one of Shanghai's best-value meals, if you forgo the coffee beans.

Kommune (Gōngshè Jiǔbā; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6466 2416; No 7, Lane 210, Taikang Rd) This trendy spot is ideal for a coffee or fruit juice in the Taikang Road Arts Centre (p253), with aluminium furniture as well as full-on Y48 Sunday big breakfasts.

1931 (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6472 5264; 112 South Maoming Rd; dishes Y20-60; 🍴 11am-2am) One of the nicest places is this intimate café-bar outfitted with a 1930s theme and serving coffee, tea, drinks and meals.

Huxinting Tea House (Húxīntīng Cháguǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6373 6950; Yuyuan Bazaar; pot of tea ground fl Y20-25, upstairs Y40-Y55; 🍴 6am-9.30pm) Next to the Yuyuan Gardens, this ornate spot is one of the best places to sit and look over the mob below and pretend you're part of the scene on a blue willow teacup. Make sure you stay a while, however, as the price is steep for a quick pot of tea, and get here early for one of the prime window seats. Classical Chinese music (no charge) is performed upstairs Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6.30pm and Monday from 2pm to 5pm.

Bonomi Café (Bōnuòmi Kǎfēidiàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6329 7506; room 226, 12 East Zhongshan No 1 Rd; coffee Y25-32) This is a lovely little space, hidden away along the prestigious corridors of the landmark HSBC building on the Bund.

ENTERTAINMENT

There's something for most moods in Shanghai: opera, rock, hip-hop, techno, salsa and early morning waltzes in Renmin Sq. None of it comes cheap, however (except for the waltzing, which is free). A night on the town in Shanghai

is comparable to a night out in Hong Kong or Taipei and it's not getting any cheaper.

Venues open and close all the time. Check out the Shanghai entertainment magazines (see p241) for guidance.

Cinemas

As with the rest of China, only a limited (and generally late) selection of English-language films make it to cinemas and when they do, they are often dubbed in Chinese, so ensure your film is the English version (英文版; *yīngwénbǎn*). Tickets cost ¥40 to ¥60, often half price on Tuesdays.

Peace Cinema (Héping Yǐngdiǎn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6361 2898; 290 Central Xizang (Tibet) Rd; Y50) A useful location at Raffles Plaza by Renmin Sq, with an IMAX cinema (¥70).

Studio City (Huányì Diànyǐngchéng; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6218 2173; 10th fl, Westgate Mall, 1038 West Nanjing Rd)

UME International Cineplex (UME; Map pp248-9;

☎ 6384 1122; www.ume.com.cn; 4th fl, No 6, Lane 123, Xingye Rd, Xintiandi)

Clubs & Discos

Shanghai pulls in some top-notch DJs from abroad to its crowd of snappy dance venues. There's a high turnover, so check listings magazines.

Mint (Map pp244-5; ☎ 6247 9666; 2nd fl, 333 Tongren Rd; tickets ¥100; ☎ 6pm-2am Mon-Thu, 9pm-7am Fri & Sat) Rattling the windows of the 2nd floor of Hudec's Green House (a pile of 1930s Bauhaus nostalgia in need of a lick of paint), Mint is a languid club for lounging to smooth chill-out sounds, Latin House and funk (happy hour 7pm to 9pm). The entrance price includes a shot of Glenfiddich.

Fabrique (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6415 1600; Bldg 8, 8-10 Central Jianguo Rd; ☎ 9pm-2am Mon-Thu, to 4am Fri-Sat) For the modern and sophisticated set, Fabrique fuses dining, clubbing (House, upbeat dance) and sleek design to bring a sharp, innovative edge to Shanghai's rapidly evolving and time-sensitive club scene.

Rojam Disco (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6390 7181; 4th fl, Hong Kong Plaza, 283 Central Huaihai Rd; admission ¥40-70; ☎ 8.30pm-2am) This is a popular place for techno on the weekends. The cover charge includes one drink.

California Club (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6318 0785; 2 Gaolan Rd; ☎ 6pm-late) Owned by the Lan Kwai Fong group and located in the Park 97 restaurant complex in Fuxing Park, this club is one of the places to be seen. Take a break from the bass in the upstairs Kasbah lounge.

Pu-J's (Map pp242-3; ☎ 5049 1234, ext 8732; Podium 3, Jinmao Tower, 88 Century Avenue; admission ¥65-100; ☎ 7pm-2am, closed Sun) The Grand Hyatt's extravagant entertainment multiplex brings you venues to suit your mood: jazz, live music, dance and karaoke.

Gay & Lesbian Venues

Shanghai has a few places catering to gay patrons, but the locales keep moving around, so check the listings. Men or women, gay or straight, are welcome at the places listed here. For the latest gay venues look for the cryptic comments in local listings magazines.

Eddy's Bar (Jiānóng Kāfēi; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6282 0521; www.eddys-bar.com; 1877 Central Huaihai Rd; ☎ 8pm-2am) A gay-friendly bar-café attracting a slightly more mature Chinese and international gay crowd with inexpensive drinks and neat décor.

Home & Bar (Báilǐng Jiǔbā; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5382 0373; 18 Gaolan Rd; ☎ 8pm-2am Wed-Sun) Newly arrived gays from other parts of China and abroad tend to make this their first port of call, Shanghai's premier and best-known gay bar (admission charge at weekends).

Live Music

Apart from the places listed here, other bars, cafés and restaurants, such as Number 5 (jazz; p265) and Bandu Cabin (traditional Chinese music; p255) stage music performances.

Cotton Club (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6437 7110; 8 West Fuxing Rd; admission free; ☎ 7.30pm-2am Tue-Sun) Decked out in wood and brass with black-and-white stills of jazz greats fixed to the walls, the old-timer Cotton Club snats its fingers nightly to soothing doses of live jazz and blues.

Ark House (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6326 8008; www.ark-lh.com; 15 North Block, Lane 181, Taicang Rd, Xintiandi; cover charge ¥30-50) This is a rare opportunity to catch underground Chinese bands with an alternative edge. Gigs get going Friday and Saturday from 9.30pm.

Shanghai Grand Theatre (Shànghǎi Dà Jùyuàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6372 8701; www.shgtheatre.com; 300 Renmin Ave; tickets ¥100-680) This state-of-the-art venue is in Renmin Sq and features both national and international opera, dance, music and theatre performances.

Shanghai Concert Hall (Shànghǎi Yīnyuè Tīng; Map pp244-5; ☎ 5386 6666; 523 East Yan'an Rd) Equipped with fine acoustics and relocated 66.46m southeast of its former location a few years ago, this 75-year-old building is the venue

for regular performances by orchestras including the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and the Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra.

Oriental Arts Centre (Dōngfāng Yìshù Zhōngxīn; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6854 7757; 425 Dingxing Rd; tickets ¥80-480) Shanghai's latest cultural centre, designed by Paul Andreu, features a 2000-seat philharmonic orchestra hall, a 300-seat chamber music hall and a 100-seat theatre.

Conservatory of Music (Yīnyuè Xuéyuàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6431 1792; 20 Fenyang Rd; tickets ¥80-380) Classical and traditional Chinese musical performances are held here at 7.15pm (typically on Saturdays and Sundays, but other days as well). Tickets are available from the ticket office just north of the conservatory, amid the musical instrument shops, at 8 Fenyang Rd.

Jinjiang Hotel (Jīnjiāng Fāndiàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6258 2582; 59 South Maoming Rd) This hotel hosts classical music concerts on the first Sunday of the month at 2pm. Tickets cost ¥50 and include refreshments.

House of Blues & Jazz (Bùlǔsī Yǔ Juéshì Zhì Wū; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6437 5280; 158 South Maoming Rd; ☎ Tue-Sun 4pm-2am) Serious jazz-lovers should make a beeline to this restaurant and bar where the in-house band (which changes every three months) whips up live music from 10pm to 1am. Sunday night is a free-for-all jam, and Mondays are quiet.

Theatre

Majestic Theatre (Měiqí Dàxiyùàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6217 3311/4409; 66 Jiangning Rd; tickets ¥20-300) All kinds of performances are held in this former cinema,

including ballet, local opera and the occasional revolutionary-style opera.

Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre (Shànghǎi Huàjù Zhōngxīn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6473 4567; 288 Anfu Rd; tickets ¥20-100) Modern plays in Chinese are staged here.

Traditional Performances

Yifu Theatre (Yīfú Wútái; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6351 4668; www.tianchan.com; 701 Fuzhou Rd; tickets ¥30-150) A block east of Renmin Sq, this is the main opera theatre in town, recognisable by the huge opera mask above the entrance. The theatre stages a variety of regional operatic styles, including Beijing opera (*jīngjù*), Kunqu opera (*kūnqū*) and Yue opera (*yuèjù*). A shop in the foyer sells CD recordings of operatic works.

Chinese acrobatic troupes are among the best in the world, and Shanghai is a good place to see a performance. If you've never seen a show, it's not to be missed.

Shanghai Centre Theatre (Shànghǎi Shāngchéng Jùyuàn; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6279 8948; 1376 Nanjing West Rd; admission ¥100-200) The Shanghai Acrobatics Troupe (Shànghǎi Zāji Tuán) has short but entertaining performances here most nights at 7.30pm.

Lyceum Theatre (Lánxīn Dàxiyùàn; Map pp248-9; ☎ 6256 4832; 57 South Maoming Rd; admission ¥30-60) The recently renovated brick Lyceum dates back to 1867, but the theatre moved to the current building – one of Shanghai's oldest and most architecturally interesting theatres – in 1931. The theatre stages a variety of performances, including acrobatics, magic shows, ballet and Chinese opera.

SHOPPING

Shanghai has long been the most famous shopping city in China and almost all Chinese products and souvenirs find their way here. The traditional shopping streets have always been Nanjing Rd and Huaihai Rd, but now it seems almost every side street is overflowing with boutiques and shops. The Shanghainese live to shop.

Clothing & Shoes

Tall and large people may have difficulty finding their size in Shanghai, but it's a shopping paradise for smaller folk.

Try South Maoming Rd (Map pp248-9) and South Shanxi Rd (Map pp244-5) for various boutiques, especially if you're shopping for a *qipao* (Chinese dress, also known as

cheongsam). Nanjing Rd (Map pp244–5) and Huaihai Rd (Map pp248–9) have the big-name brands. South Shanxi Rd is packed with small shoe shops with good prices. Xiangyang Market, Shanghai's ever popular knock-off clothing market, closed in June 2006.

If you want to make your own clothes or choose your own cloth for a tailor, you won't get stitched up at the **Dongjiadu Cloth Market** (Dongjiadu Zhipin Shichang; Map pp242–3; cnr Dongjiadu Rd & Zhongshan Dong Erlu), with the cheapest silk (from Y35 per metre), brocade cashmere and other cloth by the metre at a fraction of the cost in the West.

Buses run south from the Bund to the market, or take a taxi.

You can also get slightly pricier silk (Y80 to Y288 per metre) at more convenient locations near the Bund at **Silk King** (Zhensi Shangsha; Map pp244–5; 66 East Nanjing Rd) or **Laokafook Silk & Woolen Store** (Laojiefu Sichou Nirong Shangdian; Map pp244–5; 257 East Nanjing Rd).

Department Stores

Shanghai has some of the best department stores in China, including flashy Western- and Japanese-style outlets that are probably of more interest to residents than to visitors. On the other hand, if you can find your size, there are sometimes good fashion deals in some of the department stores. With competition so fierce, you can even bargain in some department stores, depending on the item.

Hualian Department Store (Hualian Shangsha; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6322 4466; 635 East Nanjing Rd; 🕒 9.30am–10pm) Formerly called No 10, and before that the famous Wing On, this place is best for mid- and low-range prices.

Friendship Store (Youyi Shangdian; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6337 3469; 68 East Jinling Rd; 🕒 9.30am–9.30pm) This is a good place to pick up last-minute souvenirs at fixed prices, and the lack of crowds makes it possible to browse at your leisure. There's an ATM and a money-changing facility here.

West Nanjing Rd has the most glam malls, including **Westgate Mall** (Meilongzhen Guangchang; Map pp244–5; 1038 West Nanjing Rd), with a branch of Isetan and basement supermarket, the exclusive **Plaza 66** (Map pp244–5; 1266 West Nanjing Rd) and **CITIC Square** (Zhongxin Taifu Guangchang; Map pp244–5; 1168 West Nanjing Rd).

Over in Pudong, across from the Oriental Pearl Tower, the Thai-financed **Superbrand Mall** (Zhengda Guangchang; Map pp242–3; metro Liujiuzi) is Shanghai's largest.

Photographic Supplies

Major hotels often stock basic photographic supplies. Passport photos are available in most metro stations (Y20).

Guánlóng (Map pp244–5; ☎ 6323 8681; 190 East Nanjing Rd; 🕒 9am–10pm) You can get slide film, memory sticks and all kinds of camera accessories here at Shanghai's foremost photographic supplies shop.

Porcelain

Shanghai Museum (Shanghai Bówuquán; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6372 3500; 201 Renmin Dadao; 🕒 9am–5pm) The best place to find decent porcelain is this shop (see p252), which sells imitations of the pieces displayed in the Zande Lou Gallery (within the museum). The imitations are fine specimens and far superior to the mediocre pieces you see in the tourist shops. However, be prepared to pay a hefty whack.

Jingdezhen Porcelain Artware (Jingdezhen Ciqi Dian; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6253 8865; 1185 West Nanjing Rd; 🕒 10am–9pm) There's a variety of more prosaic porcelain for sale here and pricey speciality items as well.

Souvenirs, Collectibles & Antiques

Yuyuan Bazaar (Map pp244–5), in the Old Town, is a souvenir-hunter's Mecca. Shops in the bazaar and along nearby Central Fangbang Rd flog calligraphy, pearls from nearby Tai Hú, old banknotes, woodcuts, artwork, blue cloth, teapots and pretty much everything else. Haggle hard as it's all overpriced.

Fuyou Antique Market (Fuyou Gongyipin Shichang; Map pp244–5; 459 Central Fangbang Rd) There's a permanent antique market here on the 1st and 2nd floors, near the Yuyuan Gardens in the Old Town, but the place really gets humming early on Sunday mornings when local dealers crowd all four floors with ceramics, 'antique' posters, pocket watches, paintings and a host of other collectibles.

Dongtai Rd Antique Market (Dongtai Lu Gùshāngpin Shichang; Map pp244–5; Dongtai Rd; 🕒 8.30am–6pm) A short shuffle east of the Old Town perimeter, the Dongtai Rd Antique Market is a magnificent sprawl of curios, knick-knacks and Mao-era nostalgia, though only a fraction of the items really qualify as antique. Haggle hard here. Larger antique shops hide behind the stalls.

Shanghai Antique & Curio Store (Shanghai Wénwù Shāngdiàn; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6321 5868; 192–246 Guangdong Rd; 🕒 9am–5pm) Designated tourist shops like

this long-established place are expensive alternatives to the markets. Their range is good, but again, there's a lot of rubbish so you need a shrewd eye.

Yunhong Chopsticks Shop (Yunhong Kuàizi Diàn; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6322 0207; 387 East Nanjing Rd) Ideal for souvenir shopping and last-minute panic present purchases, this slender shop on East Nanjing Rd is stuffed with Japanese and Chinese chopsticks of all decorative denominations, from bamboo, through wood to silver, and even gold-plated.

Duolun Rd (p255) is lined with antique shops, art galleries, bookshops and curio stores; dig around and you'll turn up all kinds of stuff, from revolutionary souvenirs to shadow puppets. Duolun Rd is within walking distance of the East Baoxing Rd light rail station.

Supermarkets & Pharmacies

Local supermarkets are in almost every residential area and often stock many Western food items, especially the local chains Hualian and Tops.

City Supermarket (Chéngshì Chāoshì; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6279 8081; Shanghai Centre, 1376 West Nanjing Rd; 🕒 8am–11.30pm) If you crave obscure foods from home or need Western pharmaceutical items in a hurry, this place in the Shanghai Centre is convenient but items are priced to the hilt. There is a free delivery service. Other branches include one in the basement of Times Square, 99 Central Huaihai Rd (Map pp244–5).

Carrefour (Jialéfú; Map pp242–3; ☎ 6209 8899; 268 South Shuicheng Rd; 🕒 8am–10pm) With eight branches in town, the French hypermarket giant has very reasonable prices for its excellent selection of food, clothes and household items.

Watson's (Qūchéngshì) Westgate Mall (Map pp244–5; 1038 West Nanjing Rd); Central Huaihai Rd (Map pp248–9; 787 Central Huaihai Rd) This pharmacy has Western cosmetics, over-the-counter medicines and health products, with many outlets around the city. Prices are similar to those you would pay in Hong Kong.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Shanghai has rail and air connections to places all over China, ferries travelling up the Yangzi River (Cháng Jiāng), boats along the coast and buses to destinations in adjoining provinces.

Air

Shanghai has international flight connections to most major cities, many operated by China Eastern, which has its base here.

Daily (usually several times) domestic flights connect Shanghai to major cities in China. Prices include Běijīng (Y1150, 1½ hours), Guǎngzhōu (Y1620, two hours), Chéngdū (Y1610, two hours and 20 minutes), Guilin (Y1310, two hours), Qīngdǎo (Y740, one hour) and Xī'ān (Y1280, two hours), but travel agencies normally offer discounts of up to 40%. Minor cities are less likely to have daily flights, but chances are there will be at least one flight a week, probably more, to Shanghai.

You can buy air tickets almost anywhere, including at major hotels and all travel agencies (see p251). The following airlines have offices in Shanghai.

Aeroflot Russian Airlines (Map pp244–5; ☎ 6279 8033; 203a, Shanghai Centre, 1376 West Nanjing Rd)

Air China (Zhōngguó Mínháng; Map pp248–9; ☎ 5239 7227; www.airchina.com.cn; 600 Huashan Rd)

Air France (Map pp244–5; ☎ 4008 808 808; www.airfrance.com.cn; Room 1301, Novel Plaza, 128 West Nanjing Rd)

Asiana (Hányà Hángkōng; Map pp242–3; ☎ 6219 4000; 2nd fl, Rainbow Hotel, 2000 West Yan'an Rd)

British Airways (Map pp244–5; ☎ 8008 108 012; Room 2609, Westgate Tower, 1038 West Nanjing Rd)

China Eastern Airlines (Zhōngguó Dōngfāng Mínháng; Map pp248–9; ☎ domestic & international 95108; www.ce-air.com; 200 West Yan'an Rd; 🕒 24hr)

Dragonair (Gānglóng Hángkōng; Map pp244–5; ☎ 6375 6375; Room 2103-04, Shanghai Plaza, 138 Central Huaihai Rd)

Japan Airlines (JAL; Map pp244–5; ☎ 4008 880 808; Room 435, Plaza 66, 1266 West Nanjing Rd)

KLM (Map pp244–5; ☎ 4008 808 222; www.klm.com; Room 3901b, Ciro Plaza, 388 West Nanjing Rd)

Korean Air (☎ 4006 588 888; www.koreanair.com; 1/F, Yangze New World Hotel, 2099 West Yan'an Rd)

Lufthansa (Map pp248–9; ☎ 5352 4999; www.luft.hansa.com.cn; 3rd fl, Bldg One, Corporate Avenue, 222 Hubin Rd)

Malaysia Airlines (Map pp244–5; ☎ 6279 8607; 209, Shanghai Centre, 1376 West Nanjing Rd)

Northwest Airlines (Map pp244–5; ☎ 4008 140 081; www.nwa.com; Suite 207, Shanghai Centre, 1376 West Nanjing Rd)

Qantas (Map pp244–5; ☎ 8008 190 089; Room 3202, Kwah Center, 1010 Middle Huaihai Rd)

Scandinavian Airlines (Map pp248–9; ☎ 5228 5001; www.flysas.com; Room 3901, Nan Zheng Building, 580 West Nanjing Rd)

Singapore Airlines (Map pp248-9; ☎ 6289 1000; www.singaporeair.com; Suite 606-608, Kerry Centre, 1515 West Nanjing Rd)

Thai Airways International (Tàiguó Hángkōng; Map pp248-9; ☎ 5298 5555; www.thaiairways.com; 105 Kerry Centre, 1515 West Nanjing Rd)

United Airlines (Map pp248-9; ☎ 3311 4567; www.cn.united.com; 3301-17 Shanghai Central Plaza, 381 Central Huaihai Rd)

Virgin Atlantic (Wéizhēn Hángkōng; Map pp244-5; ☎ 5353 4600; www.virgin.com; Room 221-23, 12 East Zhongshan First Rd, the Bund)

Boat

Boats are definitely one of the best ways to leave Shanghai and they're often also the cheapest, especially for destinations inland along the Yangzi River. Many coastal routes, however, have all but dried up.

Domestic boat tickets can be bought from China International Travel Service (p251) or from the **ferry booking office** (Shànghǎi Gǎng Chuān-piào Dìngshòuchù; Map pp244-5; 1 East Jinling Rd).

Overnight boats (Y99 to Y369, 11 hours) to Pùtuóshān depart every day at 8pm from the **Wusong Wharf** (吳淞碼頭; Wúsōng Mātou; ☎ 5657 5500; 251 Songbao Rd), almost at the mouth of the Yangzi River; to reach Wusong Wharf, take sightseeing bus 51 from Shanghai Stadium or bus 51.

A high-speed ferry service (Y225, 8am and 2pm) to Pùtuóshān departs twice daily from the port of Lúcháogǎng south of Shànghǎi. Buses (price included in ferry ticket, two hours) run to Lúcháogǎng from Longyang Rd metro station and Nanpu Bridge (by the bridge). Boats leave Pùtuóshān daily at 12.30pm and 1.30pm for the return trip to Shànghǎi.

Weekly ferries (every Tuesday) to Osaka and twice-monthly boats to Kōbe in Japan depart from the new **international passenger terminal** (Guóji Kèyùn Mātou; Map pp242-3; 100 Yangshupu Rd), by Lintong Rd. Tickets are sold by the two boat operators, **China-Japan International Ferry Co** (中日国际轮渡有限公司; ☎ 6595 7988/6888; 18th fl) and **Shanghai International Ferry Co** (上海国际轮渡有限公司; ☎ 6537 5111; www.shanghai-ferry.co.jp; 15th fl), both in the Jin'an Bldg, 908 Dongdaming Rd (Map pp242-3) in the northeast of town. Tickets to either destination (44 hours) range from Y1300 in an eight-bed dorm to Y6500 in a deluxe twin cabin. Reservations are recommended in July and August. Passengers must be at the harbour

three hours before departure to get through immigration. Note that Shanghai International Ferry Co only serves Osaka.

Bus

Shànghǎi has a few long-distance bus stations but the most useful for travellers is probably the **Hengfeng Rd bus station** (Héngfēng Lù Kéyùnzhan; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6353 7345), not far from Hanzhong Rd metro station. Deluxe buses leave for Běijīng (Y244, 5pm), Sūzhōu (Y30, every 20 minutes, 7.10am to 8pm), Nánjīng (Y88, every 40 minutes, 7.30am to 6.30pm) and Hángzhōu (Y55, every 35 minutes, 7am to 7.20pm).

Buses also leave from the **Xujiahui Bus Station** (Xújiāhuì Kéyùnzhan; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6469 7325; 211 Hongqiao Rd), departing for Hángzhōu (Y55, 6.30am to 7.20pm) and Níngbō (Y97, 6.40am to 5.40pm). Other destinations include Héféi (Y147), Yángzhōu (Y83), Nánjīng (Y88), Sūzhōu (Y30), Wúxī (Y43) and Wūhàn (Y307). Buses also depart for Hángzhōu and Sūzhōu from Hongqiao Airport.

The new **South Bus Station** (上海南站汽车站; Shànghǎi Nán Qìchēzhàn) that opened in December 2005 serves several routes to the south, with buses departing for Hángzhōu (Y59, every 20 minutes, 6.40am to 7.20pm), Níngbō (Y99, every 30 minutes, from 6.40am) and Sūzhōu (Y30, every 30 minutes, from 7.20am). Other destinations include Nánjīng (Y88), Héféi (Y149) and Túnxi (Y110).

Buses to Nánjīng (Y88) and Wúxī (Y39) depart daily from the Shanghai Sightseeing Bus Centre (Map pp242-3) at the Shanghai Stadium, where you can also join tours to Sūzhōu (Y148, Saturday and Sunday), Hángzhōu (Y208, Saturday and Sunday), Zhōuzhōu (Y110, daily), Wūzhèn (Y148, daily), Tónglǐ (Y120), Mùdú (Y110, daily) and other towns in the region. None of the tours have English-speaking guides, but prices include entrance to major attractions.

Train

Shànghǎi is at the junction of the Běijīng-Shànghǎi and Běijīng-Hángzhōu train lines and many parts of the country can be reached by direct train from here.

The easiest option for buying tickets is at the **Longmen Hotel ticket office** (Lóngmén Bīnguǎn huòchēpiào shòupìàochù; Map pp244-5; ☎ 6317 9325; ☎ 8am-9pm), a short walk west of Shanghai train station. You can book sleepers up to

nine days in advance here, with a Y5 service charge. You can also buy tickets at the much more chaotic ticket office to the southeast of the train station (no service charge). The main (24-hour) ticket office is on the other (east) side of the station; ticket office No 10 claims its staff are English-speakers. The main ticket office at Shanghai train station is not in the main train station building, but just to the southeast on the corner of Meiyuan Rd.

Hard-seat and hard-sleeper tickets can also be purchased from the **Train Ticket Office** (230 East Beijing Rd & 1738 West Beijing Rd; ☎ 8am-5pm); soft-seat or soft-sleeper tickets can be bought at another **Train Ticket Office** (Map pp244-5; 121 South Xizang (Tibet) Road; ☎ 8am-10pm) or one of the numerous other small train ticket offices through town, such as on Xinhua Rd (417 Xinhua Rd; open 8am to 8pm). The train ticket booking hotline is ☎ 800 820 7890.

Most trains depart from and arrive at the **Shanghai train station** (Shànghǎi zhàn; Map pp244-5). Replacing the old Meilongzhen Railway Station in the south, Shanghai South train station commenced operation on 1 July 2006, mainly serving destinations such as Chóngqīng, Chéngdū, Chángshā, Nánjīng and Hángzhōu.

Special double-decker 'tourist trains' operate between Shànghǎi and Hángzhōu, and Shànghǎi and Nánjīng (with stops at Wúxī, Sūzhōu, Chángzhōu and Zhènjīng). A seat to Nánjīng costs Y41 to Y72, depending on the train, and takes three hours.

New, plush overnight express 'Z' class (直特; zhítè) trains do the trip to Běijīng in 12 hours. Trains Z2 (7.19pm), Z6 (7.12pm), Z8 (7.26pm), Z14 (6.58pm) and Z22 (7.05pm) depart daily for Běijīng from Shanghai train station (soft sleeper lower/upper bunk Y499/478). Two different bureaus run the trains; the Shànghǎi and Běijīng. This may seem of little interest, but dinners are thrown in free on Shanghai Railway Bureau trains. Alternatively, fast (特快; tèkuài) train T110 departs Shànghǎi at 8.10pm, arriving in Běijīng at 9.43am the next morning. Fast train K104 departs Shànghǎi at 8.20pm, reaching Běijīng at 9.34am the following morning. Berths go quickly on this popular line so book at least a couple of days in advance.

Train K99 leaves for Hong Kong's Kowloon (Jiùlóng) district every other day and takes 24 hours. Hard sleepers are Y559 to Y583, though they're more like the soft sleepers on standard Chinese trains. Soft sleepers cost

Y910. You can get tickets at the Longmen Hotel ticket office.

Other trains departing from Shànghǎi are: Fúzhōu (Y249, 21 hours), Guǎngzhōu (Y379, 25 hours), Hángzhōu (Y33 hard seat, two hours), Huángshān (Y103, 11½ hours), Kūnmíng (Y519, 46 hours), Chéngdū (Y490, 40 hours), Nánjīng (hard/soft seat Y68/86, three hours), Xī'ān (Y333, 17 hours) and Ürümqi (Y675, 48 hours). All the above fares are hard sleeper unless otherwise noted.

Trains to Lhasa (Tibet) also leave from Shanghai train station; see p925 for details.

GETTING AROUND

Shànghǎi is not a walker's dream. There are some fascinating areas to stroll around, but new road developments, building sites and shocking traffic conditions conspire to make walking an exhausting and often stressful experience.

The buses, too, are hard work; they're not easy to figure out, are difficult to squeeze into and out of and it's hard to know where they are going to stop. The metro system, however, is a dream.

Shànghǎi taxis are reasonably cheap and easy to flag down. Despite the improvements in roadways, Shànghǎi's traffic is returning to gridlock. Whichever mode of transport you use try to avoid rush hours between 8am and 9am, and 4.30pm and 6pm.

To/From the Airport

Hongqiao Airport (Hóngqiào Fēijīchǎng; Map pp242-3; ☎ 6268 8918) is 18km from the Bund; getting there takes about 30 minutes if you're lucky, or over an hour if you're not. You can take bus 925 from Renmin Sq to the airport. Bus 806 goes from Xújiāhuì and Bus 938 stops in front of the Huating Hotel (Map pp242-3) on West Zhongshan Rd. A CAAC bus (Y5) goes from the northeast corner of Central Yan'an Rd and North Shanxi Rd. All these buses leave the airport from directly in front of the domestic departure hall. Taxis from the centre of town cost from Y50 to Y70, depending on the route taken, traffic conditions and the time of day. Hongqiao Airport is famous for its astonishing taxi queues, and sometimes it takes around an hour to get in a taxi; if you've only been flying for an hour, that's a major bummer. There's a pricier short-stop taxi queue worth contemplating for nearby destinations.

Pudong International Airport (Pūdōng Guóji Fēijīchǎng; ☎ 3848 4500) handles most international flights and some domestic flights. Always check your ticket to be sure which airport you're arriving at or departing from. **Airport bus 1** (☎ 3848 4500; Y30) runs between Hongqiao and Pudong airports, bus 2 (Y19) runs from Pudong International Airport to the Airport City Terminal (Jichǎng Chéngshì Hángzhānlóu; Map pp248–9), near Jìng'ān Temple on West Nanjing Rd, and bus 5 (Y18) goes from Pudong International Airport to Pūdōng and then the Shanghai train station. Buses run from 7am to 11pm. A taxi to Pudong International Airport from the city centre (one hour) costs around Y140.

The **Maglev train** (☎ 2890 7777; one way/return Y50/80) runs from Pudong airport to its terminal (Map pp242–3) in Pūdōng in just eight minutes, from where you can transfer to the metro (Longyang Rd station). Trains run every 20 minutes from 8.30am to 5.30pm and hit warp speed at 430km/h; taxis heading in the same direction on the parallel highway look like they are driving backwards. If you have a same-day air ticket, you get 20% off the one-way ticket price.

Major hotels run an airport shuttle to both airports (generally free to Hóngqiáo; Y30 to Pūdōng).

Bicycle

Captain Hostel (p261) is one of the few places in town offering bike hire (Y10 for four hours, then Y2 per hour).

Bus

Many routes now offer deluxe air-con vehicles (Y2). Some useful bus routes are listed here, though the metro lines may be more convenient. Once on board, keep your valuables tucked away since pickpocketing is easy under such conditions. A tourist bus (Y2) shuttles exhausted shoppers up and down the pedestrian zone of East Nanjing Rd.

11 Travels the Ring Rd around the old Chinese city.

19 Links the Bund area to the Jade Buddha Temple area. Catch it at the intersection of East Beijing Rd and Central Sichuan Rd.

20 Takes you to Renmin Sq from the Bund.

42 Goes from the Bund at Guangdong Rd, passes Renmin Rd close to the Yu Gardens, heads along Huaihai Rd, up Xiangyang Rd then on to Xújiāhuai, terminating at the Shanghai Stadium.

61 Starts from just north of the Broadway Mansions at the intersection of Wusong Rd and Tiantong Rd, and goes past

the PSB (Public Security Bureau) on its way along Siping Rd. Bus 55 from the Bund also goes by the PSB.

64 Gets you to Shanghai train station from near the Bund. Catch it on East Beijing Rd, close to the intersection with Central Sichuan Rd. The ride takes 20 to 30 minutes.

65 Runs from the northeast of Shanghai train station and goes near the long-distance bus station on Gongxing Rd. It passes the Broadway Mansions, crosses Garden Bridge, and then heads directly south along the Bund to the end of Zhongshan Rd.

71 Takes you to the CAAC airport bus stop on Central Yan'an Rd; catch it from East Yan'an Rd close to the Bund.

112 Zigzags north from the southern end of Renmin Sq to West Nanjing Rd, down Shimen No 2 Rd to West Beijing Rd then up Jiangning Rd to Jade Buddha Temple.

911 Leaves from Zhonghua Rd near the intersection with Central Fuxing Rd, close to the Yuyuan Bazaar, and goes up Huaihai Rd, continuing to the zoo and on to Qibao (p257).

Shanghai Sightseeing Buses (see opposite) mostly runs buses to sights outside Shànghǎi, as well as two city bus routes that link up some useful sights:

3 Travels via Renmin Sq to Pūdōng's Pearl Tower (Y4) and Jinmao Tower (Y4) every 30 minutes from 7am to 5.30pm; pick it up from the stop just south of the Shanghai Museum on East Yan'an Rd.

10 Goes to Central Huaihai Rd, East Nanjing Rd, North Sichuan Rd and Lu Xun Park (Y3) every 15 minutes from 6.30am to 7.30pm.

Ferry

Ferry boats shuttle across the Huangpu every 15 minutes between the southern Bund and the Lùjiāzūi district in Pūdōng (Y0.50, Y2 air-con).

Metro

The Shànghǎi metro system currently runs to five lines and is being ambitiously expanded. The No 1 Line and the No 2 Line are the principle lines that travellers will use; the No 1 Line runs from Xinzhuang station through Renmin Sq to Gong Fu Xin Cun. The No 2 Line runs from Zhongshan Park to Zhangjiang in Pūdōng, but eventually it will extend to Hongqiao airport and all the way to Pudong airport. The light rail (also called the No 3 Line, or the Pearl Line) runs on the western perimeter of the city from Shanghai South train station to Jiangwan Zhen station in the north of town. The No 4 Line forms an inverted C shape looping from Damu Qiao Rd Station in Pūxi (following a stretch of the No 3 Line and interconnecting with the No

I QUEUE

Unlike a mere 10 years ago, when the tills at McDonald's were besieged by battling scrums of diners, Shànghǎi has slowly learned how to queue. Nonetheless, waiting in line still requires a constant alertness. Drop your guard for a second and your hard-won place in the train station ticket queue instantly falls to a granny flapping a handful of cash. Getting a metro ticket remains a free-for-all of lunges, pointy elbows and deft footwork. Ascending the metro is even more extraordinary. No matter how agile you are, how waiflike your physique, a fast-moving blur always slips in ahead of you to fill the seat you had your eyes on. In a bid to educate the public, metro signs exhort passengers to do the decent thing and wait for others to disembark carriages first. In case expats are partly to blame, the exhortation translates as 'After first under on, do riding with civility'. Don't say you weren't warned.

1 and No 2 Lines) to Lancun Road station in Pūdōng. Eventually the No 4 Line will form an entire loop. The No 1 Line has been extended in an elevated section (the No 5 Line) south to the Minhang Development Zone.

Further lines either under construction or in the planning stages include extensions to the east and west of the No 2 Line, a further extension north of the No 3 Line to Jiangyang Rd station, construction of the No 6 Line that will connect north with south Pūdōng, Line No 8 that will connect northeast and south Shànghǎi, and Line No 9 that will eventually connect Sōngjiāng (right) with Chongming Island.

Tickets are between Y3 and Y7 depending on the distance. Stored value tickets are available for Y50 and Y100; they don't offer any savings, but can be used in taxis as well as buses.

Taxi

Flag price is Y11 (for the first 3km) and Y2.10 for each kilometre. From 11pm, there will be a 10% surcharge. Major taxi companies include the following.

Bashi (☎ 96840)

Dazhong (☎ 96822, 82222)

Qiansheng (☎ 6258 0000)

AROUND SHÀNGHĀI

Shànghǎi municipality includes the satellite towns of Sōngjiāng, Jiǎdìng, Jīnshān and Bǎoshān. The sights listed in this section can be done as day trips.

The most popular day trips from Shànghǎi are probably to Mùdù (p312), Tónglǐ (p310), Nánxún (p324) and Wūzhèn (p324), all outside the municipality.

The best way to get to most of the following sights is on one of the punctual and convenient **Shanghai Sightseeing Buses** (Shànghǎi Lǚyóu Jǐsǎn Zhōngxīn; Map pp242–3; ☎ 6426 5555, Chinese only), based at the eastern end of Shanghai Stadium.

SŌNGJIĀNG 松江

Sōngjiāng County, 30km southwest of Shànghǎi, was thriving when Shànghǎi was still a dream in an opium trader's eye, though you only get a sense of its antiquity in the timeless backstreets in the west and southwest of town.

The most famous monument is the **Square Pagoda** (方塔; Fāng Tǎ; admission Y12), located in a park in the southeast of the town. The 48.5m nine-storey tower was built between 1068 and 1077; during reconstruction in 1975 a brick vault containing a bronze Buddha and other relics was discovered under foundations.

Next to the park is the mildly interesting **Songjiang Museum** (松江博物馆; Sōngjiāng Bówùguǎn; admission Y8; ☎ 9-11am & 1-4pm Tue-Sun). Other attractions in town include the **Xilin Pagoda**, a 30-minute walk to the west of town, and the **Toroni Sutra Stela**, built in AD 859 and Shànghǎi's oldest Buddhist structure. The **Songjiang Mosque** (松江清真寺; Sōngjiāng Qīngzhēnsī; admission Y5), in the west of town, is worth a visit. Built between 1341 and 1367 in the Chinese style, it's one of China's oldest mosques.

Getting There & Away

The best way to get to Sōngjiāng is on sightseeing bus 1A (Y10, 1½ hours), which runs every 30 minutes from Shanghai Stadium. If you don't fancy the walk between sights, cycle rickshaws ferry people around town for a few kuài.

SHÈSHĀN 佘山

The resort area of Shēshān, 30km southwest of Shànghǎi, is the only part of Shànghǎi to have anything that even remotely resembles a hill.

Perched magnificently on the top of the West Hill, the Catholic **Sheshan Cathedral** (佘山圣母大殿; Shēshān Shèngmǔ Dàdiàn; admission to hill with/without cable car ¥40/30; ☎ 8am-4.30pm) is also called the Basilica of Notre Dame and was completed in 1935.

Next to the church is the **Jesuit observatory** (天文台; Tiānwéntái), built in 1900, with its modern counterpart standing to the west. On the east side of the hill is the 20m, seven-storey **Xiudaozhe Pagoda** (秀道者塔; Xiùdào zhě Tǎ), built between 976 and 984.

Visitors can also journey 8km southwest of Shēshān to Tiānmǎshān (天马山) and the **Huzhu Pagoda** (护珠塔; Hùzhū Tǎ), built in AD 1079 and known as the leaning tower of China. The 19m-high tower started tilting 200 years ago and now has an inclination exceeding the tower at Pisa by 1.5 degrees. There are no buses, so you will need to take a taxi there (¥10).

Getting There & Away

Sightseeing bus 1B (¥10, 1¼ hours) heads to Shēshān every 30 minutes from Shànghǎi, as do private minibuses (¥10). If you want to combine a visit to Shēshān with Sōngjiāng, head to Shēshān first as it's easier to catch a bus on to Sōngjiāng than vice versa. A taxi to/from Shànghǎi costs around ¥70 one way.

JIÀDÌNG 嘉定

Jiāding is a laid-back town surrounded by a canal, located about 20km northwest of

Shànghǎi. Together with Nánxiáng (南翔), the town makes for a pleasant day excursion, especially if you pack a picnic for one of the parks.

Sightseeing bus 6A drops passengers at the **Dragon Meeting Pond** (汇龙潭; Huìlóng Tán; admission ¥5), a peaceful garden built in 1588 and named after the five streams that feed into the central pool.

Exit out of the west gate to get to the **Confucius Temple** (文庙; Wén Miào; admission ¥10; ☎ 8am-4.30pm), built in 1219. On the way you'll pass 72 carved lions, representing the 72 outstanding disciples of Confucius. The temple houses the **Jiading County Museum**, which exhibits the history of the county as well as some local bamboo carving.

A five-minute walk north of the temple along Nan Dajie takes you to the seven-storey **Fahua Pagoda** (法华塔; Fǎhuá Tǎ) and the interesting cobbled and canalled heart of the town. There are several enticing shops and places to eat around the pagoda.

Five minutes' walk northeast along the canal on Dong Dajie takes you to the enchanting **Garden of Autumn Clouds** (秋霞圃; Qiūxiápǔ; admission ¥10), one of the finest gardens around Shànghǎi.

On the way back to Shànghǎi, sightseeing bus 6A passes through the town of Nánxiáng, where (if you are not gardened out) you can stop off at the large **Garden of Ancient Splendour** (古猗园; Gǔyì Yuán), which was built between 1522 and 1566, and then rebuilt in 1746.

Getting There & Away

Sightseeing bus 6A runs to Jiāding (¥10, one hour) every 20 minutes from Shanghai Stadium via Nánxiáng (¥6, 30 minutes).