

Shanghai



Located at the center of the mainland's coastline, Shanghai has long been a major hub of communications, transportation, and international exchange. The municipality covers an area of 6,341 square kilometers and has a population of more than 13.5 million. Shanghai is China's largest economic comprehensive industrial base, and a famous historical and cultural city.

The city consistently attracts investment and is seen as an ideal venue for business gatherings. It is also a must on any agenda during a tour of China. Shanghai has fostered a comprehensive transportation network that incorporates land, sea, and air travel, as well as a convenient urban transportation system.

Special tourist trains running between Shanghai and the neighboring provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, as well as tourist bus routes along newly-constructed expressways, offer great convenience for regional travel.

Shanghai is an ideal "shopping paradise." Nanjing Road, known as "China's No.1 Street", the reconstructed Huaihai Road, Jinling Road, East and North Sichuan Road, the Yuyuan Garden shopping and tourist area, the Ever Bright City Commercial Center, Xujiahui Commercial Center, and Zhangyang Road Commercial Center in Pudong are all packed with rows of shops.

Shanghai is also a paradise for gourmets. There are over a thousand restaurants serving the famous 16 styles of Chinese food, such as Beijing, Sichuan, Guangdong, Yangzhou, Fujian. There is also French, Russian, Italian, English, German, Japanese, Indian and many other tantalizing types of foreign cuisine, genuine Muslim food and vegetarian food.

Visitors to Shanghai are not only dazzled by the modern metropolis and gateway to a developing China, but are also able to immerse themselves in the unique Shanghai culture, a combination of Chinese and Western elements. Colorful festivals and celebrations dot the yearly Shanghai activities calendar, such as the Shanghai Nanhui Peach Blossoms Festival, Shanghai International Tea Culture Festival and Shanghai China International Art Festival.

The Bund

Along Zhongshan Dongyi Road

Illuminated Hours: 19:00-21:00 in winter, 19:00-22:00 in summer

The well-known Bund is a must for visitors to Shanghai. Fifty-two buildings lining the narrow shoreline of the Huangpu River offer a living exhibition of Gothic, Baroque, Roman, Classic Revival and Renaissance architectural styles, as well as combinations of Chinese and Western styles. They are also a condensation of the recent history of the city. The wide embankment offers ample room for strolling and is used by locals for morning exercises and evening gatherings. In the evening, colorful lights illuminate the area and create a shimmering image deserving of the name Pearl of the Orient.



Yu Yuan (Yu Gardens)

32 Anren Street, Shanghai

Tel: 63260830

Hours: 08:30-17:00

The Yu Gardens are a classical landscape in the Southern Chinese style with a history of more than 400 years. Pavilions, halls, rockeries and ponds display the finest in landscaping from the Southern style as seen in the Ming and Qing dynasties. More than 40 landscapes were ingeniously separated by latticed walls, winding corridors, and lattice windows.



People's Square

People's Avenue, Shanghai

People's Square has become the political and cultural center in Shanghai since 1994, when it was rebuilt. In and around the square are a massive fountain named the Light of Huangpu River, 10,000 square meters of lawns, six groups of relief carvings that depict the history of Shanghai, the New Shanghai Museum, the offices of the municipal government, an underground shopping plaza, the Shanghai Grand Theater and the Shanghai Exhibition Center.

Jade Buddha Temple

170 Anyuan Road, Shanghai

Tel: 62580098

Hours: 08:00-12:00 13:00-17:00

In 1882, the Buddhist Monk Hui Gen greeted two jade Buddhas from Myanmar and built the temple, hence, its name. The sitting jade image is 1.9 meters tall and carved from a single piece of jade. The sleeping Buddha is 0.96 meters long. Numerous devotees make annual pilgrimages to the temple and foster its fame in China and around the world.



Longhua Temple and Longhua Pagoda

2853 Longhua Road, Shanghai

Tel: 64387104

Hours: 07:00-16:00

The Longhua Temple is the oldest and largest temple in Shanghai. It has preserved its original appearance, which is that of a Buddhist temple from the Song Dynasty. The temple houses Buddhist scriptures, inscriptions on ancient bronze works or in stone and Buddhist statues dating to the Tang, Five Dynasties, Ming and Qing periods. On New Year's Eve, the temple bell is traditionally rung to welcome the New Year.

Longhua Tower is one of the best-preserved ancient pagodas in Shanghai. The seven-story, wooden, octagonal structure rises 40.4 meters into the Shanghai sky. The Longhua Pagoda is the only remaining pre-modern pagoda in Shanghai city. It has an octagonal floor layout. The pagoda consists of a hollow, tube-like brick core surrounded by a wooden staircase. On the outside, it is decorated with balconies, banisters, and upturned eaves. These outer decorations have been reconstructed in keeping with the original style.

Although previous pagodas existed on the same site, the current brick base and body of the pagoda was built in 977 during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), with continuous renovations of its more fragile wooden components on the exterior. Because of its age, the pagoda is fragile and is not open to the public.

Temple fair

The Longhua Temple Fair has been held since the Ming Dynasty period on the third day of the third month of the Lunar Calendar, on which - according to the local legend - the dragons visit the temple to help grant the people's wishes. It coincides with the blossoming of the peach trees in Longhua Park.

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