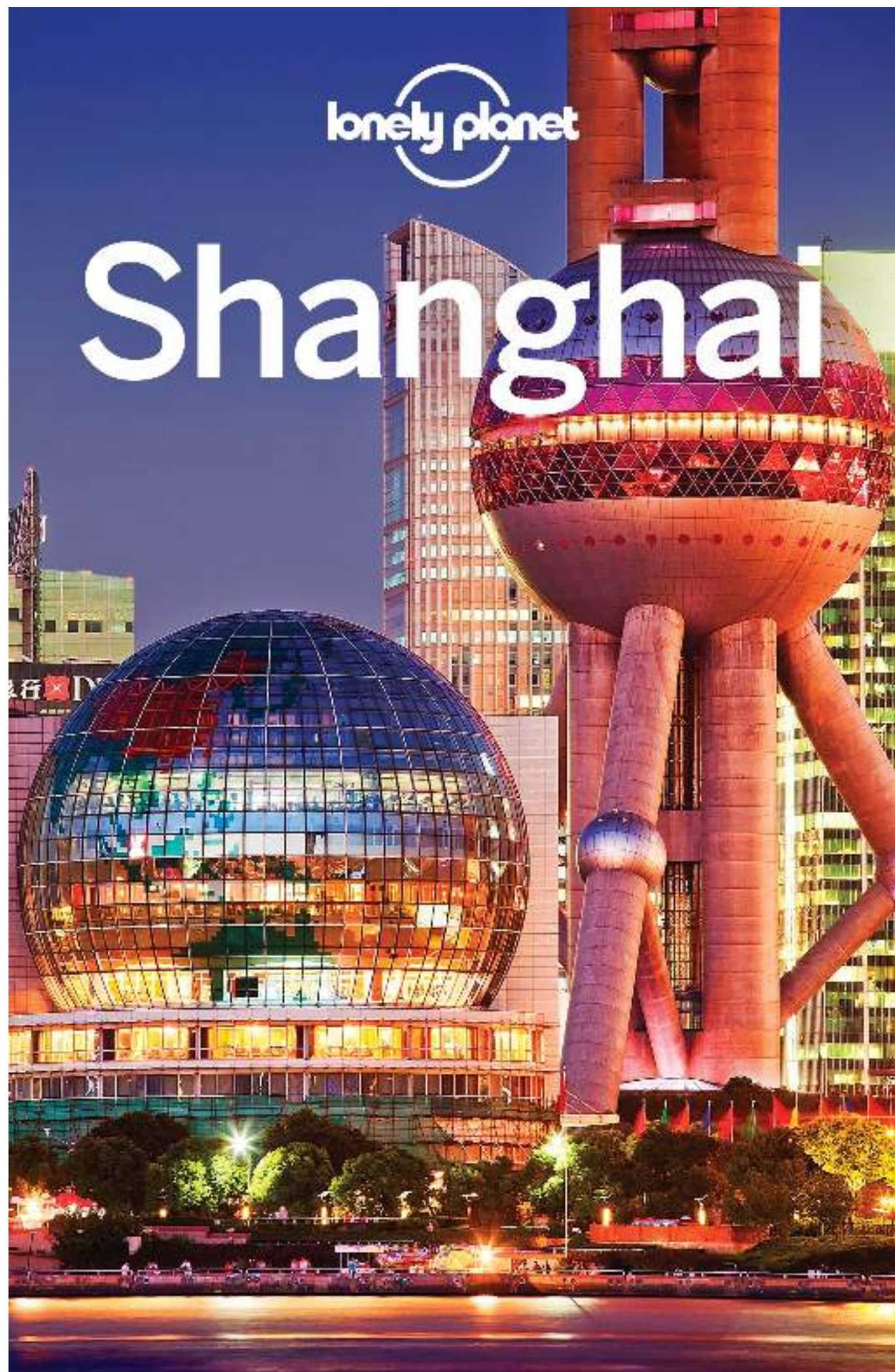


lonely planet

Shanghai



Shanghai



How to Use This eBook

4 easy-to-use sections

1

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Your planning tool kit

Photos, lists and suggestions to help you create your perfect trip.

2

EXPLORE

Your complete city guide

Top Sights features, in-depth reviews and local tips.

3

UNDERSTAND

Get more from your trip

Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of the city.

4

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your at-a-glance guide

Vital practical information to help you have a smooth trip.

Top Sights features provide in-depth coverage of the city's very best sights.



TOP SIGHTS
Statue of Liberty

Look for these symbols to quickly identify listings:



SIGHTS



ENTERTAINMENT



EATING



SHOPPING



DRINKING &
NIGHTLIFE



SPORTS &
ACTIVITIES

All reviews are ordered in our authors' preference, starting with their most preferred option. Additionally:

Sights are arranged in the geographic order that we suggest you visit them and, within this order, by author preference.

Eating and Sleeping reviews are ordered by price range (budget, midrange, top end) and within these ranges, by author preference.

These symbols give vital information for each listing:



Must-visit recommendation



Sustainable or green recommendation

FREE No payment required



Telephone number



Vegetarian selection



Opening hours



Family-friendly



Parking



Pet-friendly



Nonsmoking



Bus



Air-conditioning



Ferry



Internet access



Subway



Wi-fi access



Train



Swimming pool

For symbols used on maps, see the Map Legend at the end of this eBook.

The key to the perfect trip

Lonely Planet eBooks make trip planning and on-the-road travelling easier than ever

1. Discover amazing experiences

Gorgeous photos of top sights with links to author recommendations help you plan where to go.

Montenegro's Top 16

Sveti Stefan



1 The gorgeous island of Sveti Stefan is a unique sight in Montenegro. It's a small island in the Adriatic Sea, just off the coast of the town of Budva. The island is a natural rock formation that has been built upon to create a unique island resort. The island is a beautiful sight, with its white stone buildings and red-tiled roofs. The island is a popular destination for tourists, and it's a great place to visit if you're looking for a unique experience in Montenegro.

Sveti Stefan

Sights

Sveti Stefan Beach

The main point of coming time horizontal as possible

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Search for destinations, bookmark favourites and add notes to customise your guide.



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Welcome to Shanghai

Shanghai: few world cities evoke so much history, excess, glamour, mystique and exotic promise by name alone

Architecture

Shanghai pulls a rabbit or two from its top hat. This is home to the world's second-tallest tower and a host of other neck-craning colossi. But it's not all sky-scraping razzmatazz. Beyond the crisply cool veneer of the modern city typified by Pudong, you can lift the lid to a treasure chest of architectural styles. The city's period of greatest cosmopolitan excess – the 1920s and 1930s – left the city with pristine examples of art deco buildings, most of which survived the 20th-century vicissitudes that assailed Shanghai. And there's more: from Jesuit cathedrals, Jewish synagogues and Buddhist temples to home-grown *longtang* laneway and *shikumen* housing, Shanghai's architectural heritage is like nowhere else.

Cuisine

Thirty years ago, Shanghai's dour restaurant scene was all tin trays and scowling waiting staff, with international food confined to the dining rooms of 'exclusive' hotels. Chinese cooking was everywhere, of course, but it was pedestrian stuff. Today, you simply don't know where to start – the mouth-watering restaurant scene is varied, exciting and up-to-the-minute. Food is the hub of Chinese social life. It's over a meal that people catch up with friends, celebrate and clinch business deals, and spend hard-earned cash. Some of your best memories of town could be culinary, so do as the Shanghainese do and make a meal of it.

Shopping

Bearing in mind that Chinese shoppers constitute up to 47% of the global luxury-goods market, shopping is rarely done in half-measures in Shanghai. Retail therapy is one way of spending new money and the Shanghainese aren't called (*xiaozi* – 'little capitalists') by the rest of China for nothing, especially at the luxury end of things. But it's not all Prada, Gucci and Burberry. There are pop-up boutiques, bustling markets, funky vintage shops and young designer outlets. Beyond clothing you're also spoiled for choice, whether you're in the market for antiques, ceramics, art, Tibetan jewellery...whatever is on your shopping list.

Entertainment & the Arts

Beijing often hogs the limelight as China's cultural nexus, but for what is essentially a town of wheelers and dealers, Shanghai is surprisingly creative. Many art galleries are exciting, offering a window onto contemporary Chinese concerns, while nightlife options have exploded. Acrobatics shows are always a favourite and you might grab the chance to catch some Chinese opera. Shanghai's

music and club scene is a vibrant place: from unpretentious jazz and indie venues to all-night hip-hop and electro dance parties, the city swings with the best of them.

Why I Love Shanghai



A shop owner at Dongtai Road Antique Market
GREG ELMS / GETTY IMAGES ©

By Damian Harper, Author

I first visited Shanghai in 1993, when the Oriental Pearl TV Tower was going up, the Peace Hotel Jazz Band was already *old* and Xintiandi wasn't even on the back of an envelope. I sat on the Bund by the Huangpu River, opposite the flatland of Pudong, and felt a buzz in the air: this city was going places. Why do I love Shanghai? It's the food, the people, the European streets and art deco buildings, the narrow alleys and the sense of purpose. And don't get me started on the language!

Shanghai's Top 13

The Bund

1 The Bund is mainland China's most iconic concession-era backdrop, and a source of intense local pride. A gorgeous curve of larger-than-life heritage architecture, the buildings here may be dwarfed by the city's modern high-rises, but they carry in their stones an old-fashioned gravity that simply can't be matched. As a monument to the unbridled pursuit of wealth, it's no surprise that the Bund was left to languish during the communist years, but China's economic renaissance has restored its standing among the city's most stylish panoramas.

📍 *The Bund & People's Square*



PETER STUCKINGS / GETTY IMAGES ©

Shanghai Museum

2 Shanghai has never been a city to bother with the rear-view mirror, and this obvious disregard for tradition is what most distinguishes it from the rest of the country. The one glaring exception, however, is the outstanding Shanghai Museum, an inspiring tribute to the path of beauty throughout the millennia, from ancient bronzes to gorgeous ceramic masterpieces from the Qing dynasty. Come here for Chinese landscape paintings, sea-green celadon jars, Buddhist statuary and a taste of a world that has since disappeared.

👁 *The Bund & People's Square*



French Concession Fashion

3 In the early 20th century, Shanghai single-handedly shaped the image of the modern Chinese woman through calendar posters, which were printed in the millions and distributed throughout the rural hinterland and beyond. Ever since, it has worn the crown of China's most fashionable city, and there's no better place to get a feel for the latest trends than the French Concession. Browse boutiques for sequin-covered shoes, Tibetan-inspired jewellery, silky summer dresses and the hip new styles of a growing crop of local and international designers.

French Concession



Hangzhou's West Lake

4 Whizz down to Hangzhou on the high-speed train in a shot, but whatever you do, take your time dawdling around willow-fringed West Lake, one of the nation's top sights. The most famous city lake in China, it's vast, placid and beautiful in equal measure, and best savoured in a very low gear. With its undulating range of pagoda-capped hills to the north, picturesque causeways and lakeside gardens and parks, West Lake is even more spellbinding come nightfall, when couples come out to walk languorously along its shores. Aim for sundown for spectacular photographs across the water to the setting sun.

🕒 Day Trips



Yuyuan Gardens & Bazaar

5 Yuyuan Gardens – in Shanghai's Old Town – is one of the nation's best examples of traditional Chinese gardens. With its ponds, trees, flowers, bridges, pavilions and harmonic compositions, Yuyuan Gardens encourages contemplation and reflection – elusive moods in today's frantic Shanghai. The gardens are popular though, so get here early in the day while it's still quiet. After exploring, join the hectic throb of shoppers in the attached bazaar, an excellent place to pick up skilfully made handicrafts and keepsakes.

📍 *Old Town*



WIBOWO RUSLI / GETTY IMAGES ©

Dining in the French Concession

6 An incomparable melange of regional Chinese restaurants, stylish Shanghainese eateries, international dining and no-frills street food, the French Concession is the epicentre of the city's culinary revolution. On a single strip you might find explosively hot Sichuanese, a Hong Kong-style diner, Shanghainese seafood and MSG-free noodles – venture just a little bit further and you can travel to the end of the Middle Kingdom and back.

✂ French Concession



CAFE IN THE XINTIANDI AREA
ROBIN SMITH / GETTY IMAGES ©

Markets

7 Shanghai's air-conditioned malls can be a haven on a hot day, but if you want to see locals in their true shopping element, drop by a market. Get your haggling hat on and your elbows out, and join the push and shove – among all the jostling and banter, endless fakes and tricks of the trade, you might just find exactly what you're looking for. Don't forget: prices aren't fixed. For starters, roll up your sleeves in the Shiliupu Fabric Market or cast a shrewd eye over the goods at the Dongtai Road Antique Market in the Old Town.

Old Town



SOUVENIR SHOP IN OLD STREET
LONELY PLANET / GETTY IMAGES ©

Jade Buddha Temple

8 While Shanghai and materialism fit together like hand and glove, the city's connection to spiritual matters can seem more tenuous, to say the least. Despite first impressions, however, the city harbours a strong affection for religious tradition, best observed in the main courtyard of this century-old Buddhist temple, which witnesses a continual stream of worshippers throughout the day. Housed on the top floor of a rear building is the temple's centrepiece and crowd-puller, a 1.9m-high statue of Sakyamuni crafted from pure Burmese jade.

📍 *Jing'an*

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