



Shanghai

China's famous port city of Shanghai brims with shimmering skyscrapers, but classical gardens and Buddhist treasures are close by at the cities of Hangzhou and Suzhou

Shanghai stands proudly as China's largest economic metropolis, and in 2010 it will parade its visions of urban life as host of the next World Expo.

Unlike Beijing, the city has little in the way of pre-20th century historical sites (no grand palaces or must-see temples), but there are plenty of attractions from the city's recent history.

GETTING THERE

There are two international airports at Shanghai – Pudong and Hongqiao.

The following airlines offer direct flights to Pudong airport from London Heathrow:

- **British Airways** (www.ba.com)
- **China Eastern Airlines** (www.chinaeastern.co.uk) – summer only
- **Virgin Atlantic** (www.virgin-atlantic.com)

We booked our trip with Travel Indochina (Tel 01865 268958, www.travelindochina.co.uk). Other tour operators featuring our recommended hotels include:

- **Kuoni** (Tel 01306 747002, www.kuoni.co.uk)
- **Saga Holidays** (Tel 0800 096 0078, www.saga.co.uk)

See our China factfile for more tour ops offering Chinese packages.

From the airport

A taxi to the city centre takes 45 minutes and costs around Y150. Shuttle bus No. 5 leaves for stops such as People's Square every 20 minutes, and costs around Y20.

The most interesting option, though, is the Maglev train which operates 7am-9pm. A one-way ticket from Pudong airport to Longyang Road Metro station in Pudong, 19 miles away, costs Y40 if you show your

same-day airline ticket, otherwise it costs Y50. Trains depart every 15-20 minutes from around 7am to 9.30pm. There are plans for the Maglev line to be extended to Hangzhou. For more details, visit www.smtdc.com.

GETTING AROUND

By bus, train and boat

People's Square is a major hub for buses and the subway. The subway has signs and ticket machines with English translations, so is easy to negotiate. Trains stop by around 10pm. Tickets usually cost Y3 for the short, central-zone trips tourists would need. Shanghai bus tickets cost between Y1.5-Y3.

You can take a train ride crossing under the Huangpu river along the Bund Sightseeing Tunnel, which resembles a strange theme park ride (open 8am-10.30pm, 11pm at weekends, one way Y35, return Y45).

Hangzhou has its own airport with flights to most major Chinese cities. There are five daily trains from Shanghai, taking just under two hours, while shuttle buses from Pudong airport take three-and-a-half hours (Y100).

High-speed buses go daily to Suzhou from Shanghai (one hour); there are also direct trains. It is also possible to take an overnight passenger boat from Hangzhou to Suzhou on the Grand Canal (Y70-Y150 per person).

By taxi

Taxis are cheap and plentiful. They charge a minimum of Y11 plus Y3 or so per kilometre (km) after three km (30% pricier if 11pm-5am).

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Shanghai

Shikumen Open House Museum
Xintiandi

Admission Y20

Shanghai Museum

201 People's Avenue

www.shanghaimuseum.net

Open 9am-5pm (last entry 4pm);

Saturdays open to 8pm

Admission free; Y20 for certain exhibitions; audio guide Y40 (with a deposit of Y400 or your passport)

Urban Planning Exhibition Centre

100 People's Avenue, People's Square

Open 9am-5pm (last admission 4pm)

Admission Y30

See a huge scale model of the city.

Yuyuan Gardens

132 Anren Road

Open 8.30am-5.30pm

Admission Y40

Shanghai Art Museum

456 Nanjing Road

Open 9am-5pm

Admission Y20

Oriental Pearl TV Tower

1 Century Avenue, Pudong

Open 8.30am-10.30pm

Admission Y30-135

At 468m high, this is the tallest TV tower in Asia. Although the highlight of the visit is the far-reaching view over the river, the Urban History and Development Museum is excellent and shouldn't be missed. Prepare for a lengthy queue for the lift.

Hangzhou

Liuhe Ta (Six Harmonies Pagoda)

Open 6.30am-5.30pm

**For the full magazine report on Shanghai,
see p36 of the Sept 2008 issue of Which? Holiday**

Admission Y20; Y10 more to climb the pagoda
Lingyin Temple
Open 7am-5pm
Admission Y30

Fei Lai Feng
Open 5.30am-6pm
Admission Y35

Longjing (Dragon Well) Plantation
125g of 'A' grade tea bought here costs Y200.

West Lake National Park
A 40-minute cruise on the lake costs Y45 per person (every 30 minutes 8am-5pm).

China National Tea Museum
www.teamuseum.cn
Admission free
Open daily 8.30am-4.30pm

Suzhou
Humble Administrator's Garden
Open 7.30am-5.30pm
Admission March-October Y70, winter Y50

Master of the Nets Garden
Open 7.30am-5.30pm
Admission Summer Y30, winter Y20

No 1 Silk Factory
www.1st-silk.com

Pan Men Scenic Area
Open 7.30am-6pm Admission Y25

GOOD PLACES TO STAY
Prices are for a double (room only, including taxes, unless stated) in October 2008.

Jin Jiang Hotel
59 Mao Ming Road
Tel 021 3218 9888
www.jinjianghotels.com
This hotel complex in peaceful grounds has some 1920s colonial style decor, plus 520 smart, anonymous rooms. £93

Old House Inn
No.16, Lane 351
Hua Shan Road
Tel 021 6248 6118
www.oldhouse.cn
Plenty of character, a funky cafe and 12 rooms with appealing shower rooms but not suited to wheelchair users. £77 with breakfast

Panorama Century Court Hotel
53 Huang Pu Road
Tel 021 5393 0008
www.accorhotels.com/asia
This towering city centre hotel is a five-minute walk to the Bund. Most of the corporate rooms have river views. £57

Rendezvous Merry Hotel
396 Yan An Xi (West) Road
Tel 021 6249 5588
www.rendezvoushotels.com
Expect well appointed rooms, efficient staff (and a turn-down service), plus a great breakfast buffet choice. It is three miles from the Bund but a 10-minute walk to the subway. £51

GOOD PLACES TO EAT
Many Shanghai restaurants stop serving dinner at 9.30pm. Local specialities include hairy crab and sea cucumber in shrimp sauce. Popular snacks include meat dumplings, and there's often a long queue for them outside the Nanxiang shop in Yuyuan Bazaar.

Bi Feng Tang
Nanjing Road West
Fast-food, waiter-service, restaurant chain catering for Chinese patrons. No English was spoken in the branch we visited, but they had a menu in English with pictures so it was easy for us to order samples such as stir-fried scallops, radish cake cubes and mango rice dumplings. Dishes are mostly Y8-Y35.

Face
No 4 Building, Ruijin Hotel,
118 Rui Jin 2 Road
Tel 021 6466 4328
www.facebars.com
Downstairs, quirky artworks add character to the lively, low-lit bar (frequented by Westerners), which then leads to a lovely patio with Asian sculptures overlooking an arboreal garden. Upstairs, the Lan Na Thai restaurant is especially popular, but we ate at the Hazara Indian restaurant in the tiny annexe. Tandoori specialities there include beef shashlik or squid stuffed with minced chicken and marinated with ginger garlic, but vegetarians are also well catered for. Reserve at weekends. Most mains Y65-Y145.

M on the Bund
7th floor, 5 The Bund
Tel 021 6350 9988
www.m-onthebund.com
Shanghai's prosperity has attracted swarms of expats, many of whom fill this upmarket restaurant overlooking the river. The most-wanted tables are on the sky-high terrace for top-notch views of Pudong and the Bund buildings. Diners feast on delicious (but only European) cuisine before perhaps adjourning to the Glamour Bar one floor down, which provides 300 varieties of wine. A typical meal could start with crepe parmentier with gravelax salmon and vodka marscapone, followed by suckling pig with peaches and almonds, and trifle or pavlova for dessert. Most starters are Y82-Y128, mains Y188-Y308.

Yè Shanghai
338 Huang Pi Nan Road
Xintiandi
Tel 021 6311 2323
www.elite-concepts.com
We found efficient service from uniformed staff at this refined restaurant. We liked the noodles dish and deep-fried turnip cake, while their lotus root slices with sticky rice rounded off the evening superbly. The varied English menu helpfully shows photos of some dishes; most main courses cost Y40-Y380.

SHOPPING
Some shops (and most banks) open only Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, but department stores and supermarkets open 10am-10pm daily. Post offices open daily 9am-6pm.

The main shopping area in the city's 'old town' is the Yuyuan Bazaar – good for handicrafts, Chinese medicines and jewels – while Dongtai Road is known for antiques. **TIP** Some shops use a coloured price tag system: a blue tag means the price is fixed, a red tag means the price is negotiable, and a yellow one means it's on offer.

Hangzhou is known for renowned Longjing tea, but the goods on offer at its city night market are more typically touristy. Suzhou is famous for its silk production and embroidery.

USEFUL INFORMATION
Time difference GMT+8

International dialling code 0086. When dialling any of the numbers shown in this factfile from outside China, delete the initial 0.

When to go Shanghai is sub-tropical. It can be hot and humid in July and August, while June and September are the rainiest months (with the possibility of typhoons). October, November and March to May should be the most pleasant months to visit.

Visas See our China factfile.

Safety Visit www.fco.gov.uk for the latest advice on travelling to China.

Language English is usually spoken in hotels and Western-friendly restaurants. Street signs have English translations.

Money matters The currency is the Renminbi, also known as the Yuan (Y) and the exchange rate we have used in this factfile is £1 = Y13.5.

GUIDEBOOKS & WEBSITES



■ **Lonely Planet Shanghai,**
£12.99 (ISBN 9781740599092)

■ **Time Out Shanghai,** £12.99
(ISBN 978-1-904978-67-1)

■ **Shanghai Tourist Commission,**

www.meet-in-shanghai.net

■ **Hangzhou Tourism Commission,**
www.gotohz.com

■ **Suzhou Tourism Bureau,**
www.visitsz.com