

# SHANGHAI

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO DISCOVER A DESTINATION.  
BY JENNIFER BUEGE



**SHANGHAI IS RACING INTO THE FUTURE.** Hop on the world's only operating high-speed maglev (magnetic levitation) train and you'll be whisked from the airport to the city—19 miles—in just eight minutes. Once there, marvel at the glittering skyscrapers vying for dominance in Pudong, an area that was mostly farmland just a few decades ago. You'll see global shops lining buzzy Nanjing Road, chefs pushing the gastronomic envelope and the latest mobile phones everywhere. But despite all that's new, there's plenty of Old Shanghai left to discover, souvenirs of a past that paved the way for the modern mecca that thrives today.

# SHANGHAI

## SERENITY SEEKER



### ◀ WHERE TO STAY Capella

Nestled in your peaceful four-level traditional townhouse—with rooftop deck—you'll be hard-pressed to remember that there's a bustling city outside. Bonus: A personal assistant is on hand to arrange for anything from a birthday cake to a private dinner. [capellahotels.com](http://capellahotels.com)

### BREAKFAST ▶ Café on Air

Settle in with a book (or your computer—the café boasts free Wi-Fi), a single-origin coffee and a slice of Dutch apple tart or cheesecake at this calm, hidden spot in Jing'an.



### MORNING ▶

#### Fuxing Park

For a peek at local life, head to this park (15 minutes from Café on Air), where you'll find people doing tai chi, playing mah-jong, drinking tea, dancing, practicing calligraphy on the paths and enjoying the flower gardens.



### ◀ AFTERNOON Banyan Tree Shanghai on the Bund Spa

Give yourself over to a massage, a lime-infused body scrub or a facial rooted in the Chinese concept of the five elements of the natural world—wood, fire, earth, metal and water—at this off-the-beaten-Bund spot. [banyantreespa.com](http://banyantreespa.com)

### DINNER Fu 1088

Built in a 1920s lane house (and furnished accordingly), this restaurant is divided into 17 private dining rooms where you'll feast on modern versions of Shanghaiese favorites—such as braised pork and tea-smoked eggs with caviar.

## FOODIE

### WHERE TO STAY ▶

#### The Peninsula Shanghai

Impeccable service, quiet rooms and dazzling Bund views make this elegant hotel a perennial top pick. But for food lovers, the real draws are its two Michelin restaurants and the rooftop bar. [peninsula.com](http://peninsula.com)



### BREAKFAST ▶

#### Lost Plate Old Shanghai Breakfast Food Tour

Sample some of the city's most popular delicacies, such as crepes and dumplings, on this two-hour exploration that stops at street food stands, small eateries and a wet market. Along the way, your guide will share insider tidbits. [lostplate.com](http://lostplate.com)



### LUNCH

#### Réel Kitchen

In the basement of the Réel Mall hides a killer food hall, where more than 50 stands will take your taste buds on a trip from Taipei to Tokyo to Texas. Be sure to brave the lines at Da Fu Dong for BBQ rice bowls and Lelecha for colorful breads and cheese tea. [reelshanghai.com](http://reelshanghai.com)



### ◀ AFTERNOON

#### Tianshan Tea City

Don't miss out on China's tea culture. This three-story mall devoted to the drink has you covered, whether you're looking for a new variety to bring home or a souvenir tea set.

### DINNER ▶

#### Ultraviolet

Competition is fierce for the 10 seats at chef Paul Pairet's three-Michelin-star restaurant where, as the 20-course meal unfolds, guests are moved through a one-of-a-kind multisensory journey. [uvbypp.cc](http://uvbypp.cc)



## FIRST-TIMER



### ◀ WHERE TO STAY

#### Fairmont Peace Hotel

Be part of history at this art deco landmark that's watched over the Bund since 1929. After years of decline, it was returned to its former glory and now welcomes guests to its 270 rooms and famed Jazz Club. [fairmont.com](http://fairmont.com)



### ◀ MORNING

#### Shanghai Museum

This museum offers a voyage through Chinese culture via iconic elements such as traditional dress, currency, painting, calligraphy, sculpture and furniture—more than 140,000 relics in all. [www.shanghaimuseum.net](http://www.shanghaimuseum.net)



### NOON Yu Garden & Yuyuan Bazaar

Sure, there's a temple and tranquil garden dating back to the Ming dynasty at its core. But many people come to the area for the surrounding market, filled with souvenir shops, handicrafts, food stalls, boutiques and a teahouse.

### ◀ DINNER Lost Heaven

A generous menu (84 dishes at last count) anchors this must-reserve Yunnan restaurant, with locations on the Bund and in the French Concession. Try the fried pork ribs, vegetable cakes or anything with truffles. [lostheaven.com.cn](http://lostheaven.com.cn)



### ◀ EVENING

#### Huangpu River Cruise

The best time to sail the river that runs through Shanghai is at night, when the city's bright, multicolored lights illuminate the skyline. Many companies offer cruises that pass by Oriental Pearl TV Tower and other iconic sites.

## CULTURALIST

### WHERE TO STAY ▶

#### Amanyangyun

A bit outside the city lies this resort hearkening back to the Ming and Qing eras. The antique buildings were transported from 400 miles away and then renovated, resulting in a modern stay with an ancient aesthetic. [aman.com](http://aman.com)



### MORNING

#### Tank Shanghai

Five giant, former oil tanks have morphed into Shanghai's latest art and culture hub. The just-opened attraction kicks off with interactive sound and light exhibitions—waterfalls, the life of flowers—in tank 5.



### ◀ LUNCH

#### Huanghe Road

Superlative examples of Chinese dumplings can be found at two tiny eateries across from each other. Jia Jia Tang Bao has mastered the art of soup dumplings, while Yang's Fried-Dumpling makes flavor-packed pan-fried versions.



### ◀ AFTERNOON

#### Shanghai Propaganda Poster Art Centre

Finding this place, located in an apartment complex, is half the fun. Once there, lose yourself in the artful 20th-century propaganda posters, many rare. [shanghai-propagandaart.com](http://shanghai-propagandaart.com)



### ◀ DINNER

#### Yi Long Court

Modern and antique art decorates this swish restaurant in The Peninsula hotel, reflecting its blend of classic and inventive Cantonese fare. Dine on sweet corn soup with crab, wok-fried beef cubes and more. [peninsula.com](http://peninsula.com)

## HIP EXPLORER



### ◀ WHERE TO STAY The PuLi Hotel and Spa

Known to have one of the best spas in the city, the PuLi offers a chic stay right near Jing'an Temple. Rooms come with Bose sound systems, Nespresso machines and a no-charge minibar, plus a comfy tub with a view. [thepuli.com](http://thepuli.com)

### MORNING ▶ M50

A frequently updated array of graffiti marks the walls and buildings of this area along Moganshan Road, which is packed with contemporary art studios open to the public. Grab a map at any of the galleries to guide you.



### ◀ AFTERNOON

#### Tianzifang

Old Shanghai lives on in this area via its historic *shikumen* buildings, with shops on the ground floors and residents above. Stop at Café Dan for a coffee tasting flight. [idandcoffee.com](http://idandcoffee.com)



### ◀ DINNER Old Jesse

Come hungry to this tried-and-true Shanghaiese spot. It's tiny, and the legit food draws crowds, so be prepared to wait. Top picks include the rice-stuffed dates, stir-fried pea tips, braised pork belly and salted chicken.

### EVENING Liquid Laundry

This gastropub is run by the people behind Boxing Cat Brewery—so it's no surprise to find its brews among the dozens available. It also offers several Chinese craft bottles. [theliquidlaundry.com](http://theliquidlaundry.com)