SHANGHAI, THE STUNNING SPACE-AGE SUPER-CITY HOME TO MORE THAN 20 MILLION PEOPLE, IS BURSTING WITH LIFE AND QUITE LITERALLY BREATHTAKING.

In this city divided by the Huangpu River, the futuristic Pudong skyline is juxtaposed with the historic Bund on the riverbank opposite, and together they paint a picture-perfect portrayal of this busy metropolis, a financial and cultural force to be reckoned with. Add world-renowned chefs, a thriving nightlife, plus a burgeoning art and design scene, and that's all you really need... Anchored by its past, but with zero constraints, ever-changing and forward-looking, Shanghai is a model for the city of tomorrow.

The cult pocket city guides and mobile apps for the busy, sophisticated traveler

www.luxecityguides.com
Blah blah

• Pudong airport to town: 50 mins RMB160-170 by cab, at least RMB230 after 11pm; or take the super-fast Maglev (RMB50 one-way) to the end and change onto metro or cab (RMB60 into town).

• The metro is easy but taxis are easier, cheap and plentiful, though disappear in peak hour or rain.

• Drivers don’t speak English and don’t need tipping.

• Lu is the generic term meaning road, though some roads now have commonly used English names.

• In Shanghai stores the G/F is the 1/F.

• Many smaller businesses do not take credit cards.

• Tipping is not expected, though some places add a service charge, or allow it on your charge docket.

• You will be pushed, shoved and elbowed out of the way, simply take a deep breath and smile politely.

• Try to take a tour of the atmospheric but fast-diminishing old areas before it’s all too late.

• The Huangpu River carves the city in two: On the East bank is the Sci-fi Pudong financial district, bursting with steel monoliths, on the west bank is the famous Bund and further south-west is Xintiandi and the enormous former French Concession, and that’s really all you need...
Alison is the founder and designer of Mary Ching, China’s first ever luxury shoe and accessories brand. A Central Saint Martin’s graduate, Alison has been mixing Asian inspiration with European sensibilities, using the heritage of both to deliver footwear that has been hailed as “La Louboutin Shanghainenne” by ELLE France.

www.marychingshanghai.com
1) WHERE CAN YOU BE FOUND ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY MORNING?

I love a lazy morning spent enjoying dim sum at Crystal Jade in Xintiandi, followed by a stroll in the antique market on Dong Tai Lu, with objects like hand painted Chinese kama sutra, bronze dragons or jade calligraphy brushes to fall in love with.

Crystal Jade / 2/F / South Block Plaza
124 Xingye Lu / +86 21 6385 8752

2) WHERE WOULD YOU GO FOR A COCKTAIL?

Without a doubt, Glamour Bar is my favorite. It oozes glamour, opulence, comfort, and the best cocktails in town. I would recommend trying the new Champagne Bar there, which also offers delicious finger food.

www.m-restaurantgroup.com

3) WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL DESIGNERS IN SHANGHAI?

I am the co-creator of the Fashion Detour Map, available at all 5-star hotels, leading restaurants and bars, which lists 42 local designers in Shanghai for footwear, clothing, children and accessories.

www.shanghai-detour.org

4) WHAT’S THE BEST DAY TRIP TO TAKE?

The team at Luxury Concierge China prepares the best programs and always surprises even the most travelled guests to the city. Tours can be tailored to your interests, whether it is silk, tea plantations, a relaxing day by the lakes or a day spent buying leather and mink jackets.

www.luxuryconciergechina.com

5) WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD OR GALLERY MUST AN ART-LOVER GO TO?

Pearl Lam Galleries is a must-see destination – the owner Pearl Lam has exceptional and eccentric taste, evident in how each exhibit is portrayed.

www.contrastsgallery.com
LUXE Loves

WATERHOUSE AT SOUTH BUND Hotel

Transformed from a warehouse in the 1930s into an industrial chic boutique hotel, the 19 design-conscious rooms come equipped with complimentary WiFi, TV, iPod dock, espresso machine, plus fabulous contemporary Table No. 1 restaurant and terrace lounge The Roof.

13 Maojiayuan Lu / Lane 479 Zhongshan Nan Lu / +86 21 6080 2988

www.waterhouseshanghai.com

YE SHANGHAI Dining

An old-meets-new vibe at this chic Shanghai teahouse, housed in a traditional slate-roofed shikumen, with delightful dumplings aplenty and signature thin bread pockets. There is also an extremely popular weekend dim sum buffet, book ahead.

House 6 / Nth Block Xintiandi / 338 Huangpi Nan Lu / +86 21 6311 2323 / lunch & dinner daily

CHUN Dining

This four-table foodie favorite offers no menu, no English, and has no atmosphere to speak of. Yet locals craving the authentic home-style Shanghai flavors pack the 18-seat diner full every night, ready to eat whatever the chef serves. Bookings are essential, so plan ahead.

124 Jinxian Lu / +86 21 6256 0301 / lunch & dinner Mon-Sat
LUXE Loves

XIAO YANG SHENG JIAN
Dining

Insanely, but rightly, popular, this local staple chain for delectable fried pork dumplings and beef soup has over 30 branches in Shanghai. Look for the pink ‘Yang’s Fried Dumpling’ sign, or the telltale queue out front.

2/F / 56 Maoming Nan Lu / +86 21 6136 1391 / 7am-9pm daily / + 30 branches
www.xysjg.com

TAIPAN
Activities

Pick a DVD, drape yourself on a recliner, position your LCD, and let the masseuses work their magic on tired feet and shopper’s shoulders. Bonus: You get free flow food and drink during your treatment. Heaven, but hugely popular, so book ahead.

370 Dagu Lu / By Chengdu Bei Lu / +86 21 6340 0366
Noon-midnight daily

EL COCTEL
Bar

Pay tribute to the cocktail as art at this dark and intimate lounge offering a sophisticated package: precision blends from the Japanese bartender, bar bites from a nearby Spanish tapas restaurant, and an alluring, laid-back buzz.

2/F / 47 Yongfu Lu / By Fuxing Xi Lu / +86 21 6433 6511 / 5pm-3am Mon-Sat
www.el-coctel.com

FLAIR
Bar

Outdoor rooftop playground in the clouds of Pudong for Shanghai's movers and shakers, with raw seafood bar and tapas, and spectacular bird's eye views for the lovers.

58/F / The Ritz-Carlton / Shanghai IFC / 8 Century Ave / Pudong / +86 21 2020 1778

ARCHITECTURE TOURS
Activities

The best way to learn about old Shanghai is to totter along the Bund and backstreets, into old areas and industrial buildings. Spencer Dodington of Luxury Concierge China brings the Bund and former French Concession to life; historian Peter Hibbard is equally well versed on the Bund and its historical development.

LCC / +86 1350 166 2908
www.luxuryconciergechina.com
Peter Hibbard
+86 1367 151 5636
hibbard@gingergriffin.com

PEOPLE’S SQUARE
Activities

A one-stop cultural park: Stunning collection of ancient ceramics and calligraphy at The Shanghai Museum, the Shanghai Art Museum plays host to the Shanghai biennale and has a neat stash of modern and classic Chinese art, while MoCA Shanghai is a few doors down. Don’t miss French Architect Charpentier’s futuristic centerpiece Grand Theatre for regular world-class performances.

Shanghai Museum / 201 Renmin Dadoao / +86 21 6372 3500
Shanghai Art Museum / 325 Nanjing Xi Lu / +86 21 6327 2829
MoCA Shanghai / 231 Nanjing Xi Lu / +86 21 6327 9900
Grand Theatre / 300 Renmin Dadoao / +86 21 6386 8686
LUXE Loves

SHANG XIA
Shopping

'Made in China' now made covetable with Hermes-backed designer Qiong Er’s exquisite, heritage furniture and fashion, all made from precious Chinese materials like Zitan wood, bamboo, jade and porcelain.

1/F / Hong Kong Plaza / 283 Huaihai Zhong Lu / +86 21 6390 8899
www.shang-xia.com

MARY CHING
Shopping

Worth navigating the city’s nooks and crannies to discover this tiny shop stocked full of luscious local designer stilettos, slippers and clutches to make even the most jaded fashionistas smitten.

Ferguson Lane / 376 Wukang Lu / By Hunan Lu / +86 21 5465 2335
www.marychingshanghai.com

BA YAN KA LA
Shopping

Named after the mountain range on the Tibetan plateau from where it sources pure glacial water, this skincare label uses all-natural ingredients and draws inspiration from ancient Chinese medicines. The result? Tibetan roseroot for stress, Coix seed for wrinkles, plus a handy-dandy list of skin rituals to keep the doctor away.

1221 Changle Lu / near Huahhan Lu / +86 21 5403 6131
www.bayankala.com

THE PENINSULA
Hotel

This glamorous Shanghai dame brings the 1920s back to life with classic art deco furnishings and marble bathrooms, but doesn't skimp on modern touches like free WiFi and Nespresso machines. Dine at modern European restaurant Sir Elly’s or Chinese fine diner Yi Long Court, imbibe at sultry Salon de Ning or rooftop bar, and relax at the spa, gym and beautiful skylit pool.

32 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu / +86 21 2327 2888
www.peninsula.com

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32 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu / +86 21 2327 2888
www.peninsula.com
LUXE Loathes

POLLUTION
Hello? Anyone got any sky? Consider yourself lucky if you can even glimpse the sun.

STREET GUYS SOLICITING ON THE BUND
No, sir, I have no interest in a shoe shine.

SPITTING
This is still a keen hobby here, both indoors and out, so watch your step.
Fab vs. Drab

DUMPLING TIME
Shanghai is full of dumpling houses, but don't follow the tourist masses, eat like a local at the city's original Xiao Yang Sheng Jian, the best go-to spot for unique “sheng jian” dumplings, which are pan fried crispy on the bottom and deliciously soupy inside.

www.xysjg.com

SMART SIGHTSEEING
Avoid wasting precious hours stuck in traffic while trying to visit Shanghai’s plethora of museums and cultural sights. Instead, plan to spend a full morning or afternoon at the cultural park that is People’s Square, and hit the Shanghai Museum, The Shanghai Art Museum, MOCA Shanghai, and Grand Theatre all at once - Shanghai smart!

STEP BACK IN TIME
It's easy to focus on the here and now in this C. 21st super-city, but you'd be doing yourself and the city an injustice if you ignored the fascinating but fast disappearing Old Shanghai. Take a tour of the stylish Bund and former French Concession with Luxury Concierge China and see it for yourself before it’s gone forever.

www.luxuryconciergechina.com

COOKING CLASS
Rather than bringing some ubiquitous trinket home to your friends and family, give them a truly authentic souvenir - a Chinese meal, home-cooked using all the impressive skills you picked up at a Chinese Cooking Workshop.

www.chinesecookingworkshop.com

SENSIBLE SHOPPING
Fighting the heaving crowds to partake in some retail therapy in Xintiandi or on Taikang Lu on the weekends is an exhausting exercise. Try visiting the aforementioned neighborhoods on less-crowded weekdays, and save the weekends for standout stores like Hong Merchant, an exclusive enclave full of antiques and art for insiders.

3 Lane 372 Xingguo Lu / Call Anne-Cecile Noique on +86 1360 162 2322 or Jean-Philippe Weber on +86 1380 191 4440
Welcome to Shanghai, the Paris of the East. With long strolls against the glimmering lights of the riverbanks, and some of the finest wine and dining in the world to enjoy, Shanghai is a lover’s paradise. Rise and shine early, and just over an hour’s drive brings you to Zhu Jia Jiao, one among the frozen-in-time necklace of water towns outside Shanghai, all with old stone homes and quiet canals. Picture-perfect and picnic-perfect, a few morning hours will do it, then head back into Shanghai for lunch at The Chinoise Story, a little-known jewel with creamy booths and mouth-watering fare to share. In the afternoon, head arm-in-arm down the Bund with its dazzling Huangpu river views, and treat each other at Annabel Lee’s flagship full of silk, linen and cashmere, one of the many lovely shops lining the Bund’s banks. With retail therapy over, perhaps it’s time for a couple’s pamper at The Peninsula Spa by ESPA, with its blissful holistic therapies and Shanghai signature massages, guaranteed to leave you rejuvenated and revving for an evening of romance. For the be-all-and-end-all-of dreamy dinners try Cupola at Three, a tiny romantic rooftop dining room just big enough for two, with skyline panorama, butler and the sommeliers and chefs of Jean Georges. Keep the rooftop theme going in the clouds at Flair (see LUXE Loves), where you’ll canoodle on the 58-storey-high terrace of the Ritz-Carlton, share snacks from the raw seafood bar, and enjoy spectacular bird’s eye views from a Pudong scraper. Sooner or later you’ll have to descend to the world below, but hop aboard a Shanghai ferry and float on across the river to the Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund, where a good night and many sweet dreams await.
LUXE ITINERARY

Style

The Pearl of the Orient, Shanghai solidified its status as a glamour capital in the 1920s. Today it remains a siren stomping ground, home to fashionable gals and gents, and is considered a major style hub in Asia. To get a style and culture fix, start your day with a morning visit to People's Square (see LUXE Loves), a one-stop sightseeing spot filled with attractions like the Shanghai Museum, the Shanghai Art Museum, MoCA Shanghai, and the Grand Theatre. After this maximum culture dosage has left you Shanghai inspired, enjoy lunch at Fu 1088, which offers delectable local fare in private rooms at this refurbished 1930s mansion. The sleek surrounds may bring to mind the olden days of Shanghai, so head for an afternoon shopping spree, starting with the former French Concession, and navigate the winding streets to discover heaven for the shoe-obsessed at Mary Ching (see LUXE Loves), before moving onward to AEGIS for hip but hard-to-find brands, MRKT for designer accessories, and qipaos at Qiong Zi. To unwind after your marathon spending session, book in at the deliciously elegant, neo-classical Peninsula Spa by ESPA where you can choose from treats that last from an hour anything up to a full day! Now you’re primed and preened just in time for sunset hour, so slip into the stilettos for drinks at El Coctel (see LUXE Loves), Shanghai’s chicest cocktail bar, complete with tapas-style nibbles. You may need the buzz to calm your nerves, as dinner will be served at 100 Century Ave, on the 91st floor of the Shanghai World Financial Center - a feast for the eyes as well as the palate, with live show kitchens, huge cellar and pilot’s seat vistas. Post-panoramic views, cross back to bed down and beauty-snooze at industrial-chic Waterhouse at South Bund (see LUXE Loves), a former warehouse turned minimal stylish hotel, complete with rooftop terrace.
Gourmet

Shanghai: home to the world-renowned xiaolongbao (soup dumpling). This classic dish may be reason enough to visit, but serious food-lovers flock to Shanghai for its many tantalizing tastes. If you’ve arrived ready to eat your weight’s worth, begin with a tour of the historic Bund and former French Concession, led by the fabulous Spencer Dodington of Luxury Concierge China (see LUXE Loves), making sure you stop for a street food fix at Gao’An Lu Baozi, with its steamers stacked full of fluffy buns. Later, zip up the lift in the old wing of the Waldorf Astoria to Wei Jing Ge for regional fare from Shanghai, Canton and Huaiyang, served in a wood beamed atmospheric attic. Following that, a short stroll away is Xiao Yang Sheng Jian (see LUXE Loves), a local staple for ‘sheng jian’, pan-fried dumplings with a soupy interior. After a plate or three, it’s time for class at the Chinese Cooking Workshop (see Drab vs Fab) for the ultimate Shanghai souvenir – a home-cooked Chinese meal – your family and friends will forever kowtow to your chopsticks. To relax after your hard work, a quick foot rub at Taipan will do the trick, just pick your movie, position your LCD and lie back. With your appetite renewed, arrive at Chun (see LUXE Loves), a Shanghainese foodie destination not for the picky or the paranoid. There’s no menu and no English – you eat what the chef serves. The real deal and very popular, and bookings are essential, so plan ahead. Next stop is Globus Wines, the go-to for Shanghai’s oenophiles, where you can sample by the glass before you buy, or pull up a chair and order a cheese and charcuterie plate to make it a night of tasting. Finally, a bed at elegant Bund-side The Peninsula (see LUXE Loves) awaits, so off you go!
LUXE ITINERARY

The Essentials

ROMANTIC ITINERARY

• Zhu Jia Jiao
  70 mins away / call Asia Limo
  +86 21 5358 0168
  www.asialimo.com

• The Chinoise Story
  Jinjiang Hotel Shanghai / 59 Maoming
  Nan Lu / +86 21 6445 1717
  www.jinlu-china.com

• Annabel Lee Shanghai
  Lane 8 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu / The
  Bund / +86 21 6445 8218
  www.annabel-lee.com

• The Peninsula Spa by ESPA
  The Peninsula / 32 Zhongshan
  Dong Yi Lu / The Bund / +86 21 2327 6599

• Cupola at Three
  7/F / Three on the Bund / 3
  Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu / The Bund / +86 21 6321 0909

• Flair
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the
  Bund 2 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu / The Bund +86 21 6322 9988
  www.waldorfastoriashanghai.com

STYLISH ITINERARY

• People’s Square
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Fu 1088
  375 Zhenning Lu / by Yuyuan Lu /
  +86 21 5239 7878

• Mary Ching
  (see LUXE Loves)

• AEGIS
  777 Julu Lu / +86 21 5403 9869
  www.projectaegis.com

• MRKT
  741 Julu Lu / +86 21 5403 0691
  www.mrktstore.com

• Qiong Zi
  620 Julu Lu / +86 21 6289 2372

• The Peninsula Spa be ESPA
  32 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu /
  +86 21 2327 6599
  www.peninsula.com

• El Coctel
  (see LUXE Loves)

• 100 Century Ave
  91/F / Park Hyatt /
  100 Century Ave Pudong /
  +86 21 6888 1234

• Waterhouse at South Bund
  (see LUXE Loves)
LUXE ITINERARY

The Essentials

GOURMET ITINERARY

• Luxury Concierge China  
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Gao’An Lu Baozi  
  Gao’An Lu between Huaihai Lu and Kangping Lu

• Wei Jing Ge  
  Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund 2 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu / +86 21 6322 9988  
  www.waldorfastoriashanghai.com

• Xiao Yang Sheng Jian  
  (see LUXE Loves)

• The Peninsula  
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Chinese Cooking Workshop  
  Rm 108-109 / 2 Dongping Lu / +86 137 0176 3243  
  www.chinesecookingworkshop.com

• Chun  
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Globus Wines  
  Ferguson Lane / 376 Wukang Lu / +86 21 6466 8969  
  www.globus-wine.com

• Taipan  
  370 Daqu Lu / +86 21 6340 0366
Your LUXE notes