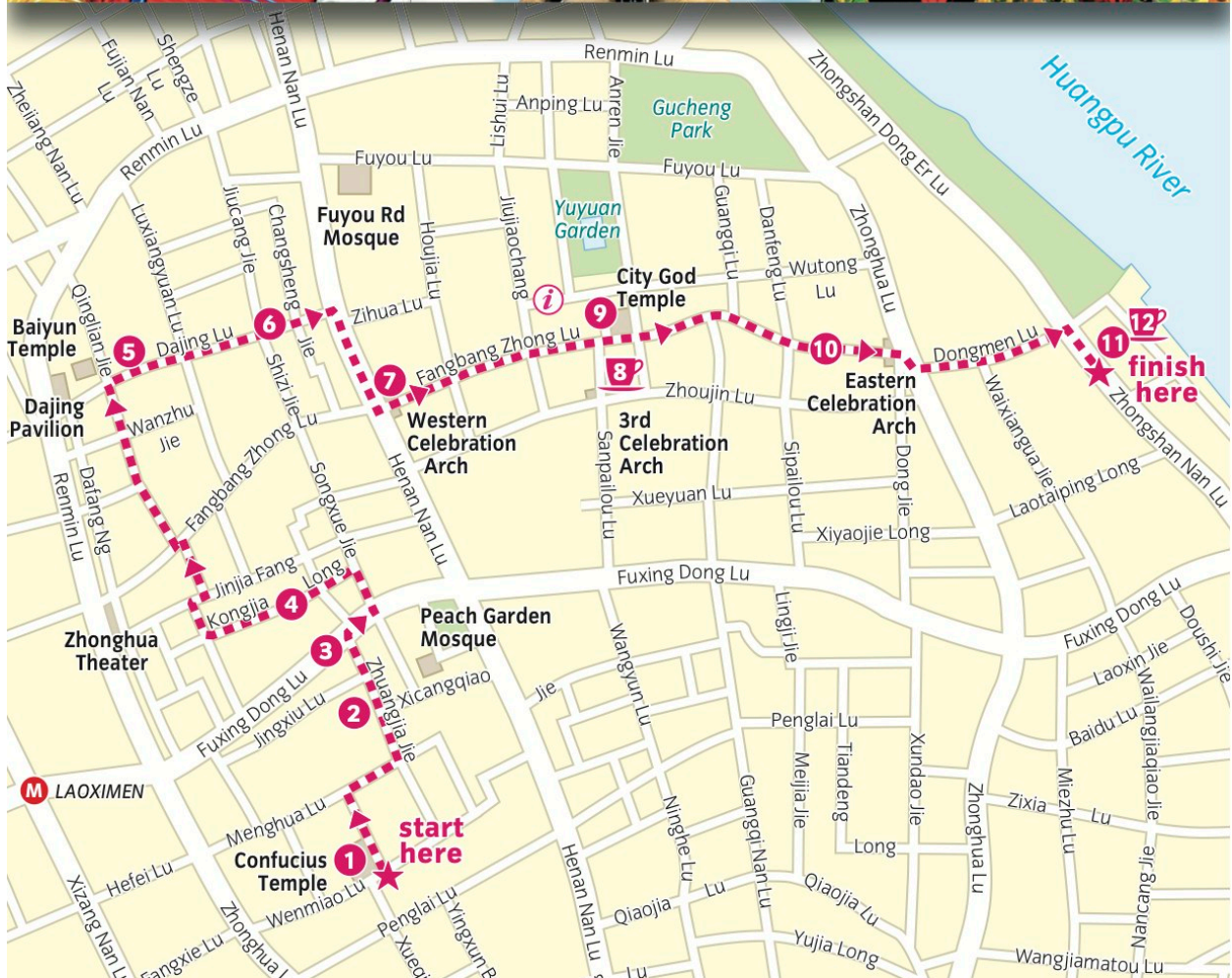
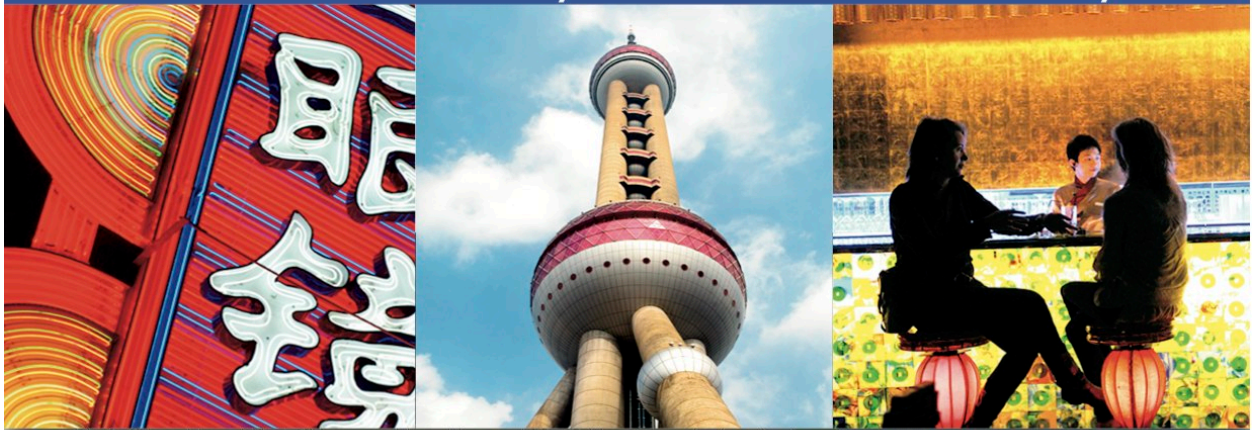


Frommer's

Shanghai day_{BY}day™

15 Smart Ways to See the City



Chinese it may be, but Shanghai's story is pure Hollywood: A precipitous rise, a crashing fall, and a stirring comeback shot through with glory, glamour, and greed. Echoes of a rich and decadent past are again luring the masses toward the bright lights at the mouth of the Yangtze River. Shanghai is China's new frontier, and here are 15 of its most exciting outposts:

1 Riding the Maglev. With a thrilling top speed of 431kph (268mph), and a construction bill that ran over the \$1 billion mark, there's something peculiarly Shanghainese about what, in any other city, would have been a workaday airport commuter train. *See p 7, 1.*

2 Sipping cocktails at a sky-high hotel lounge. Shun the crowds and hassle of the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and soak up stunning 360-degree views of Shanghai with a cocktail glass in hand. The Grand Hyatt and the Le Royal Méridien are top choices. *See Chapter 7, (p 108).*

3 Dressing up for a Bund dinner date. Shanghai's posh riverside strip contains several standout addresses. Jean Georges at no. 3, M on the Bund at no. 5, and Sun with Aqua at no. 6 are all suitably showy, though **Mr. & Mrs. Bund, at no. 18, is my pick.** *See Chapter 6, (p 101).*

4 Shopping at the Super Brand Mall. High taxes, the strengthening RMB, and the rise of the super-rich combine to make brand-shopping expensive in Shanghai. Where other malls tend to favor the elite, the gargantuan Super Brand Mall is reasonably egalitarian. If nothing else, it's great for people watching. *See p 78.*

5 Streetwalking around Tianzifang. A series of interlinking alleys in a quiet corner of the French Concession has quietly morphed into the coolest neighborhood in town. It's a rawer, earthier, and—frankly—better version of the more famous Xintiandi. *See p 13, 1.*



Experience the Maglev.

6 Taking an after-dark drive along Yan'an Lu. What was once a burbling brook that divided colonial concessions is now an elevated sci-fi super highway offering luminescent views of the city's neon nightscape. Take a drive between 7 and 10pm when the city sparkles. *See p 25, 7.*

7 Searching for swinging Shanghai at a jazz bar. In the East's great sin city, jazz became the soundtrack to sleaze during the 1930s. JZ Club, the House of Blues and Jazz, and the Fairmont Peace Hotel's legendary Jazz Bar are all now family-friendly establishments, but the music retains that seductive edge. *See Chapter 8, (p 124).*

8 Taking VIP seats for ERA: Intersection of Time. Old-style acrobatics are blended with elegant modern choreography and terrifying stunts in this breathless and



A polychrome glazed pottery statue of a Heavenly Guardian on display at the Shanghai Museum.

gateways, and marble flooring lends the one-time Shanghai Race Club the feel of a European national gallery, and displays include both traditional and contemporary painting. Don't miss the period photographs and stunning colonial fittings in the stairwell (by the entrance to the restaurant, a worthwhile lunch stop). If alternative art is your thing, try the **Museum of Contemporary Arts (MOCA)** (see p 46, 8) located in the park's former greenhouse. Exhibits change regularly but the offerings are invariably fun, youthful, and exuberant. The third floor restaurant, **Moca on the Park**, is good for an afternoon coffee or cocktail and has great views across the tree line. 🕒 90 min. See *mini-tour* p 85, 4.

Tucked away within the greenery of People's Park, 5★ **Barbarossa** is three stories of maharajah chic filled with North African antiques and the latest trip hop beats. The seductively lit drinking dens upstairs make it one of the choice spots in Shanghai for a sunset drink and—with a half-price happy hour between 5.30

and 7.30pm—you can chill out here after a long afternoon in the nearby museums. **231 Nanjing Xi Lu (inside People's Park)**. ☎ 021/6318-0220. www.barbarossa.com.cn. \$\$\$\$.

6 Nanjing Dong Lu. Sliding by People's Park's northern edge is Shanghai's most famous street, formerly the central thoroughfare of the International Settlement. Nanjing Dong Lu, east of the park, is a visually stunning fusion of neon-washed advertising hoardings and elegant colonial architecture. It's an essential after-dark stroll, though be aware that this is a favorite spot for loitering scam artists. Ignore all approaches and continue all the way to the river. 🕒 1 hr. **Metro: People's Square (Lines 1, 2, and 8) and East Nanjing Rd. (Line 2).**

7★★★★ Mr. & Mrs. Bund. My favorite Bund restaurant should be a non-negotiable part of your itinerary. However, thanks to the extraordinary 4am closing time (Tues–Sat), your visit can be fitted around your

Pinyin & Navigation

Pinyin, literally “spell sound,” is the name of China’s official system of Romanizing Chinese characters. Having learnt a few basic rules, pinyin produces words that can be pronounced by English speakers pretty much as they appear. These familiar forms appear alongside more intimidating Chinese script on all road signs, and a grasp of the basics will prove invaluable in navigating the city. Note that many Shanghai thoroughfares are divided up in northern, southern, eastern, western, or central sections, and may be further subdivided by numbers. For more on pronunciation, see p 165.

Road	Lu	East	Dong
Avenue	Da Dao	West	Xi
Street	Jie	One	Yi
Lane	Long	Two	Er
North	Bei	Three	San
South	Nan	Four	Si

party plans. Certainly Paul Pairet’s eccentric dishes seem to make more sense in the twilight zone. Menu items marked ‘pp’ were personally crafted by the man himself; don’t leave without trying his most famous creation, the lemon and lemon tart. **6F, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu.** ☎ **021/6323-9898.** www.mmbund.com. \$\$\$\$\$.

8 ★ Bund Nightlife. Round off your day with drinks on Shanghai’s most upmarket bar strip. **Bar Rouge** (p. 108) is one floor up from **Mr. & Mrs. Bund** (p. 101), and **Lounge 18** (p. 110) two floors below. At some point, get some air, and take a riverside stroll to my personal pick of the bunch, **Glamour Bar** (p. 125), enjoying the Bund’s imposing after-dark visage as you go.

Throngs of shoppers on Nanjing Dong Lu, Shanghai.



Superstar Chefs

Shanghai has several restaurants with links to Michelin-winning chefs, **Jean Georges Vongerichten** (Jean Georges) and **Jason Atherton** (Table No.1) to name but two, but few superstars are actually based in the city (**Tang Chi Keung** of the Peninsula's Yi Long Court being a notable exception). Foremost among the scores of overseas chefs now based in Shanghai is young French master, **Paul Pairet**, who established a global reputation for the Shangri-la Pudong's **Jade on 36** restaurant before moving across the river to open **Mr. & Mrs. Bund** in 2008. His new concept restaurant, **Ultra-violet**, is due to open in late 2011.

flourishes are testament to the chef's love of Asia. **4F, Three on the Bund, 3 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu (nr. Guangdong Lu).** ☎ 021/ 6321-7733. www.threeonthebund.com. Set menus from RMB598. Lunch & dinner daily. Taxi. Map p 91.

M on the Bund THE BUND MEDITERRANEAN This is not necessarily the most flamboyant dining choice and the food—a combination of classic European, Moroccan, and Middle Eastern—is merely good without being exceptional, but thanks to the stellar service and superb views it retains a certain cachet. **7F, 5 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu (nr. Guangdong Lu).** ☎ 021/6350-9988. www.m-onthebund.com. Main course RMB118–248. Lunch & dinner daily. Taxi. Map p 91.

★★★ **Madison** FRENCH CONCESSION INTERNATIONAL My favorite spot in Shanghai for fine dining minus the fuss. The vast majority of menu ingredients are locally sourced before being cultured into exquisitely presented, sauce-flecked packages. **3F, 18 Dongping Lu.** ☎ 021/6437-0136. Main course RMB128–198. Dinner daily. Metro: Changshu Rd. (Line 1). Map p 92.

★★★ **Mr. & Mrs. Bund** THE BUND FRENCH The Bund's best restaurant, serving up legendary favorites like steamed lobster in a citrus jar, lemon and lemon tart, alongside home-style French dishes. It's chic without being overly stuffy and stays open till 4am, five nights a week. **6F, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu.** ☎ 021/6323-9898. www.mmbund.com. Main course RMB80–130. Taxi. Map p 91.

★ **Palladio** JING'AN ITALIAN An enduring star of the hotel-restaurant circuit, Palladio serves the best Italian food in the city. Pastas and risottos are simply prepared, while the meat and fish mains use premium ingredients. Degustation set menus help to offset high tariffs. **1F, Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 1376 Nanjing Xi Lu.** ☎ 021/6279-7188. Main course RMB125–350. Lunch & dinner Mon–Sat, dinner Sun. Metro: Jing'an Temple (Lines 2 and 7). Map p 92.

★★ **T8** XINTIANDI INTERNATIONAL Everything about T8 reeks of exclusivity—cuisine is modern international, with dining divided between a luxe Balinese upstairs room and a slick, contemporary alternative at ground level. It's my favorite up-scale spot in Xintiandi. **House 8,**