

TimeOut

Shanghai

新旅行

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LAUNCH ISSUE!
If it goes on, it goes in



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27 REASONS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SHANGHAI

Including the very best... Secret gardens Hidden bars Cosy cafes
Roller discos Gourmet bathhouses Chic boutiques Midnight feasts
Classic theatres Colonial cocktails 1930s dens... and much more

INSIDE The best spicy dishes + *Avatar* special + Sexy winter boots

21 The games people play



From cards to *mahjong*, we love the culture of sitting in the street and playing a game as a small crowd grunts approval/disapproval. For an unusual street game, head to **Zhoushan Lu**, just around the corner from the Jewish Refugees Museum in Hongkou district, which is one of the only places in town to see carrom (or *kangle qiu*). The old Shanghai game, which is also popular in India, involves using a cue-like stick to fire small pucks into the corner of a sawdust-covered table which comes close to shoulder height. The game pictured involves Mr Sun, Mr Wei and Mr Yang, all of whom are 58 years old and have been playing carrom around these streets since they were kids.

22 Midnight munchies

Shanghai is a city where chefs never sleep, which is good news for the rest of us. For gourmet midnight repasts head to **Mr and Mrs Bund** (Sixth Floor, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu, 6323 9898. Late opening 10.30pm-4am Tue-Sat) for the late night menu costing 200-300RMB for 1-3 courses plus a glass of wine. You can swan in after hitting the clubs and feast on duck foie gras with hazelnut crumble, a luscious beef bourguignon or scallops with Asiate dressing. For late nights in the French Concession, we love the authentic thin-crust brick-oven pizzas at **Velvet Lounge** (913 Julu Lu, near Changshu Lu, 5403 2976. Open 6pm-3am Mon-Thu; 6pm-

5am Fri-Sat), available until closing time with prices ranging from 88RMB for the Margherita to 128RMB for the Salsiccia with Italian sausage and truffle pate. For Cantonese shrimp wonton soup or roast goose at 3am, our top choices are the consistently excellent **Hengshan Café** (308 Hengshan Lu, near Wanping Lu, 6471 7127. Open 10.30-4am daily), which serves the whole menu until 4am, and **Xin Wang** (175 Changle Lu, near Maoming Lu, 6415 5056. Open 7-5am daily), which is packed to the rafters with Chinese club kids on weekends. Or for a steamy late night, we go for hot pot at **Three Travellers** (758 Julu Lu, near Fumin Lu, 6289 3369. Open 11-4am daily), which serves a giant savoury pot packed with meaty pork bones and bamboo shoots.

Shopping

23 50 euro trainers for 27RMB

It was undeniably a clever move by a couple of French trainer enthusiasts to buy the international rights to the classic Feiyue trainer brand and then flog them for 50 Euros in Parisian boutiques. Just be glad that you can basically get the same thing here for 30RMB, or three euros. Just head to the **Feiyue factory shop** (585 Zunyi Lu, near Tianshan Lu, close to the Longshanguan subway stop, 6273 8847. Open 9am-8pm daily), which stocks black pairs as well as the classic whites.

24 Funky local boutiques

Shanghai may have a glut of big designer stores, but it's by far the best city in China for local boutiques with individual designs. For a brief introduction, try **Nest** (Building 3, Lane 210, Taikang Lu, near Sinan Lu, 6466 9524. Open 10am-7pm daily), an airy loft space showcasing seven eco-conscious local designers, with fashion, kitchenware and furniture; **Eno** (139-23 Changle Lu, near Chengdu Nan Lu, 5306 6433. Open 9.30am-10pm daily), a streetwear brand where local artists and customers collaborate to create edgy fashion; and **Cha Gang** (70 Yongfu Lu, near Xingguo Lu, 6473 3104. Open 11am-7pm Tue-Sun), which sells the off-kilter conceptual work of homegrown talent Wang Yiyang.

25 Tailor-made by designers

The chance to buy bespoke designer outfits from the city's top designers is something that only the mega-rich can dream of in New York or London – but in Shanghai, you can do it without breaking the bank. Lu Min of Shanghai-based label **Studio PI** (347 Zizhong Lu, near Madang Lu, Luwan district, 5382 2893. Open 11am-11.30pm daily) has worked with the likes of Oscar de la Renta and Givenchy, and offers a sort of sartorial recycling service. She takes your old clothes, rips them up and reconstructs a bespoke outfit that is both on-trend and cheap (380RMB for a single piece, up to 1,380RMB for a consultation, reconstruction and added materials). If you've got a little extra cash floating around your Chanel clutch, then head to **Lu Kun's** studio (Room 257, 29 Huangjia Que Lu, near Zhonghua Lu, 6345 1120. Open 11am-7pm Mon-Sat). Lu's provocative collections have attracted the likes of Paris Hilton, but don't let that put you off. 'China's own Galliano' will design for the individual using fine tailoring and his couture expertise. All of which does come at a price: 10,000RMB upwards for consultation, sketches, fittings and, of course, the *piece de resistance*.

My favourite Shanghai spot *Director Huang Kai*

Huang Kai Kevin, 26, is one of Shanghai's hottest young independent filmmakers. His debut feature, *Park Shanghai*, received good reviews and was included in the Shanghai International Film Festival earlier this year. He is currently working on his second film.

I have one particular place that I feel very close to – the house where I grew up. Ten years ago it was pulled down and rebuilt into a big city garden [Yanzhong Park]. Every time I'm walking nearby I'll always go and have a look, and imagine the house that was there.

Maybe it's not so different for other people, but for me the house was special. We just had two rooms, and the house was always full of relatives. The whole building had four floors, and 18 people lived there, so it was always full.

Memory is stored in constructions and buildings – when you see them they trigger a memory. But in China and Shanghai it is changing too fast. So the memories fade away with the buildings, and the energy of the city goes; it's both liberating and sad.

I think I say something about this in my movie, *Park Shanghai*. When the girl sees that a Ferris wheel is still there years after she first visits it, she feels connected. I'm actually thinking about making a movie about my old house.



Clockwise from top: short ribs at Mr and Mrs Bund; Jade on 36's Cosmo ice; Liu Min's bespoke designs

26 Wacky buys at the Fabric Market

Getting weird and wonderful clothes tailor-made at the **South Bund Fabric Market** (399 Lujiabang Lu, near Zhongshan Nan Lu, 6377 7288. Open 9am-6.30pm daily) is one of Shanghai's great pleasures. But it's hard to know where to look. Heather Kaye, a fabric expert who has visited the market every month for four years, recommends: no. 195 (first floor) for Chanel-esque tweed jackets (250RMB) in bouclé fabric; no. 165 (first floor) for leather biker jackets in black, tan and died bright colours (around 900RMB); no. 217 (second floor) for vintage floral print summer dresses (around 200RMB); and no. 145 (first floor) for coats with modern twists such as asymmetric lines and funky hoods (around 600RMB).

27 Brilliant DVD shops

Shanghai's DVD shops are by far the best in China, with staples such as **Movie World** (378 Dagui Lu, near Chengdu Bei Lu), **Even Better Than Movie World** (407 Dagui Lu, near Chengdu Bei Lu) and **Broadway DVD** (714 Weihai Lu, near Shaanxi Bei Lu, 6267 8666) better than just about any DVD shop in Beijing. We also love the **DVD Alley** (880 Pudong Nan Lu, near Dongchang Lu), where four stores give you all the selection you want – Xiao Wang at number 3 specialises in music videos (159 0040 9907, with the cheapest prices in town (4RMB for D5 and 9RMB for D9). A great option for hard-to-find indie films is **Disc King** (358 Shimen Er Lu, near Xinzha Lu, 136 2187 7225), a tiny hole-in-the-wall run by film buff Xiao Zhang, which has become the unofficial supplier for Dada's SubCinema film nights.

