

# Showpiece

The vibrant port of Shanghai has forever been a trade hub for China; at the heart of the nation's rapid growth over the last 40 years – and it keeps getting bigger and better

**S**hanghai has driven the nation's exponential growth over the last four decades – and the nation's heartbeat remains a spot well worth visiting.

China's extended boom may be showing signs of slowing down, but Shanghai continues to thrive. The 'Paris of the East', as it is often fondly known, is not only a global finance, technology and transport hub, but retains its intriguing character: a melting pot of Jiangsu, Whyue and now Hapai (East meets West) cultures.

Home to 26.3 million people, the central coast metropolis is China's most populous urban area and remains the world's busiest

container port – a title that provides a little insight into its enchanting energy.

Located to the east of the Huangpu River, the Pudong District is home to the Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone and the Shanghai Stock Exchange and many of Shanghai's best-known buildings, such as the Oriental Pearl Tower, the Jin Mao Tower, the Shanghai World Financial Center, and the Shanghai Tower.

## STAY

Located on the tree-lined Heng Shan Road, Ascott Heng Shan Shanghai's service apartments are in the heart of an exclusive historical neighbourhood, close

to the Huaihai Road shopping area, Xujiahui Commercial Centre, and foreign consulates. With easy access to Xuhui's business and commercial districts, this picturesque stretch of buildings offers a variety of architectural styles. Each apartment comes with spacious living and dining areas and a state-of-the-art family entertainment system, complete with access to an on-site business centre, a swimming pool, fully equipped gym and yoga room.

## EAT AND DRINK

M on The Bund offers the postcard Shanghai vista but this cosmopolitan city offers more than just views for food lovers.

The two-Michelin-starred T'ang Court at The Langham Hotel showcases Cantonese cuisine at its best with individual plates of local specialities such as roasted pig and sautéed prawn and crab roe.

Shanghai's only three-Michelin-starred haunt is Ultraviolet, but those who desire a seat at the table here need to brace themselves – for the reservation list and the

skyline. Sophisticated Mandarin designs meet contemporary twists, with cocktail bars and a playful WET Deck facing the iconic city.

## Ascott Heng Shan

[the-ascott.com/en/china/shanghai](http://the-ascott.com/en/china/shanghai)  
+86 021 3339 5588

## The Peninsula

[peninsula.com/en/shanghai](http://peninsula.com/en/shanghai)  
+86 21 2327 2888

## W Hotel

[mariott.com.au/hotels/travel/shawh-w-shanghai-the-bund](http://mariott.com.au/hotels/travel/shawh-w-shanghai-the-bund)  
+86 21 2286 9999



other-worldly immersive sensory experience. Guests are collected from a meeting point and taken to a secret location – a windowless room with nothing but a long table set for 10. Twenty courses ensue, taking a deep alchemical journey through Paul Pairet's avant-garde 'psycho tastes' that include Pop Rock Oyster and Truffle Burnt Soup Bread.

Joel Robuchon's L'Atelier boasts the largest open kitchen in Asia, immersing guests in an interactive experience while waiting

**Pictured:** The streets are full of colour – regardless of where you are in the metropolis – and they bustling around the clock

to eat. Japan meets Spain on the plate with a very open and friendly atmosphere. For those wanting a little more privacy, there are three eight-person rooms available.

## T'ang Court

[langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/shanghai/dining/tang-court/](http://langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/shanghai/dining/tang-court/)  
+86 21 2330 2430

## Ultraviolet

[ubbypp.cc](http://ubbypp.cc)  
**L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon**  
[joelrobuchon-china.com](http://joelrobuchon-china.com)  
+86 21 6071 8888

## WHAT TO DO

The towering skyscrapers of Shanghai's business centre

directly face the city's historic centre Puxi and the Bund, a famed waterfront promenade lined with colonial-era buildings. And there is a lot to explore, from propaganda museums to karaoke bars, Shanghai is a city of startling contrasts, with a vibrant music and arts scene, high-end shopping and art deco heritage buildings.

The City Temple of Shanghai, built in the Yongle Reign of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), commemorates the elevation of Shanghai to municipal status and is the site of the veneration of three Chinese figures honoured as the city gods of the town.

The Oriental Pearl TV Tower may pale in comparison to the

Shanghai Tower, but it remains one of the world's most iconic buildings with its distinctive pink spheres. Complete with observatory decks, sightseeing floors, a restaurant, the Shanghai history museum, river cruises and a rollercoaster, it's the ideal spot to start a stay in the city.

And the ultimate spot to finish? Draw breath in the sprawling Yu Garden with its traditional pavilions, towers and ponds.

## City God Temple

[shchm.org](http://shchm.org)  
**Oriental Pearl Tower**  
[orientalpearltower.com](http://orientalpearltower.com)  
**Yu Garden**  
[yugarden.com.cn](http://yugarden.com.cn)

