

TRAVEL + LIFESTYLE SEPTEMBER 2014

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SPLURGE VS. SAVE
IN SHANGHAI

48 HOURS
IN GUANGZHOU

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CITY GUIDE

Splurge Versus Save in Shanghai

How to get the best of both worlds in
China's financial capital. By **Marco Torres**

There's a slew of contradictions that describe the magnificence that is Shanghai. One minute, you're enjoying afternoon tea in colonial 1920s China; the very next, you're sipping a cocktail gazing at the skyline of the future. So whatever your taste, Shanghai's got something for you.



Dinner with a view at New Heights

CITY GUIDE



FROM TOP: Bric-a-bracs at Dongtai Lu Street (photo by Justin Ventura); al fresco dining at Mr. & Mrs. Bund



WHERE TO EAT SHANGHAI'S MOST FAMOUS DELICACY, THE XIAO LONG BAO

DinTaiFung prides itself in creating soupy dumplings with the thinnest wrap (about RMB50 or \$8 for 10 pieces).

Nanxiang Xiaolong at the Yu Garden has all the locals queuing. RMB20 (\$3.25) for 8 pieces.

Hole-in-the-wall restaurants all over the city, like the Shanghai institution, **Jiajia Tang**, are just as good and sell them unbelievably cheap.



WHERE TO BRUNCH

The Westin, Le Royal Meridien, and the **Shangri-la Hotels** offer indulgent champagne brunches for RMB600 (\$97) and up.

Ferguson Lane seems to exist for brunch, and has different establishments offering set menus. From RMB138 (\$22.30).

Kommune at Tianzifang is artsy and great for café au lait or a bloody mary. From RMB100 (\$16.25).

Lynn Modern Shanghai Cuisine in Xikang Lu is Shanghai contemporary chic and has an unbeatable eat-all-you-can weekend dumplings deal for RMB88 (\$14.25).

WHERE TO DINE AT THE BUND

Mr. & Mrs. Bund of Paul Pairet, the only restaurant in Shanghai to break into Pellegrino's World's 50 Best Restaurants 2013 list, serves fine French food, family-style.

M on the Bund, the pioneer of restaurants on The Bund, is still going strong and should be ticked off from every luxe visitor's checklist.

Mr. and Mrs. Bund is easier on the wallet after a night of partying. From 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday to Saturday, set meals start at RMB250 (\$40.50)—for a Paul Pairet, that's a steal.

New Heights at Three on the Bund serves contemporary cuisine with an Asian touch and is slightly more affordable than its neighbors. From RMB200 (\$32.35).

WHERE TO EAT SHANGHAISE

1221 is the choice of expats for its lighter local cuisine. From RMB150 (\$24.25).

Jesse (Xinjishi) offers Shanghainese food so good that it spawned several branches in Shanghai. From RMB150 (\$24.25).

Ruifuyuan in Maoming Nan Lu has home-style classics like *hongshao rou*

(red braised pork) that the locals will attest to. From RMB80 (\$13).

Shanghai Uncle has several branches and is perfect for lively, big groups. Try their pork spare ribs. From RMB100 (\$16.25).

WHERE TO HAVE A DRINK

Vue Bar at Hyatt on the Bund has jacuzzis, potent martinis, and the best terrace views.

El Coctel is an intimate, dark, cozy lounge that takes its old-fashioned, high-quality drinks seriously.

Le Café des Stagiaires in Yongkang Lu or anywhere in Yongkang Lu for that matter.

Dive bars like **I Love Shanghai Windows**, and **C's** abound in Shanghai. These are cheap places to load up on booze (starting at RMB20 or \$3.25) though it's best to stick to the beers.

WHERE TO PARTY

Bar Rouge on the Bund is a mainstay in "The World's Best Bars" List year in and year out.

MINT is strictly "Member's Only" but if you have RMB3,000 (\$485.50) to book a table, its doors will open wide for you.



El Coctel



Yu Garden (Photo by Justin Ventura)

SHANGHAI 101

Regardless of your budget, begin with the mandates for every Shanghai visitor:

Visit the **Yuyuan Garden**, Shanghai's most popular cultural landmark followed by souvenir shopping at **Qing Dynasty Old Street** in Fangbang Road.

Gaze into the future from **The Bund**. Stroll at the new Bund promenade, take the evening cruise, or party late at night and enjoy the free light show from the towers.

Cross from Puxi to Pudong, in a weirdly, amusing psychedelic time machine, **The Bund Sightseeing Tunnel** (RMB70 or \$11.50 round trip). Then scale either the Pearl TV Tower, Jin Mao, or Shanghai World Financial Center.

Explore the **Jade Buddha Temple** or **JingAn Temple**, two of Shanghai's active monasteries.

Be enthralled by some of the world's best acrobats at the **Era Acrobat Show**.

Kommune in Tianzifang





Upside down world at Salon de Ning, Peninsula Shanghai

7 Outrageous Shanghai Experiences

Spend \$400 for dinner followed by a cocktail with sharks. It may be over-the-top, but that's why we love Shanghai.

By **Marco Torres**

1 **Have an avant-garde dinner at Paul Pairet's Ultraviolet.** At RMB3,000 (\$485.75) per person, this 20-course multi-sensory dinner for 10 could be your finest meal ever. Each course is enhanced with taste-tailored lights, sounds, music, scents, projections, images... and food.

2 **See the peepholes in Waterhouse at South Bund.** Call it creepy or curious. Each of the 19 rooms in this warehouse-turned-hotel has peepholes to the corridors inspired by the residential alleyways of olden days where neighbors would peep into each other's houses.

3 **Visit the world's longest laundry chute at the Grand Hyatt Shanghai.** Dirty laundry drops down 85 floors (400 meters) daily to the basement at the Jin Mao Tower. Get a partial feel of this by heading to the 56th floor and counting the floors above the world's second largest atrium.

4 **Read at the world's highest library at JW Marriott Hotel Shanghai.** The 60-story

skyscraper contains a library on the top floor. There's also a certain bookshelf that leads to a secret room—the kind you find in mystery novels.

5 **Crane your neck at Salon de Ning's upside-down room.** Hidden in the basement of the Peninsula Shanghai is a decadent 1930s Shanghai bar with a perplexing room that has a fireplace, bookcases, and other décor anchored on the ceiling.

6 **Party with Jaws at MINT.** A long, large tank with eerie-looking sharks in the entryway makes for an interesting table topic at this members-only club.

7 **Dine while being suspended mid-air.** Can you stomach dinner at 50 meters off the ground? Dinner in the Sky is a Belgian dining concept that was recently launched at Four Seasons Pudong. The 22-seater dining table is probably the city's most coveted. ■

BEST FOR RETAIL THERAPY



Shanghai has more commercial shopping than anywhere in mainland China; even more than Shenzhen and Guangzhou, where most of the world's goods are made.



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