

TRAVEL + LIFESTYLE SEPTEMBER 2014

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## BACOLOD'S MASSEKARA FESTIVAL

LOS ANGELES  
INSIDER

SPLURGE VS. SAVE  
IN SHANGHAI

48 HOURS  
IN GUANGZHOU

ILOILO + GUIMARAS

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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