

Weekend

February 5, 2016

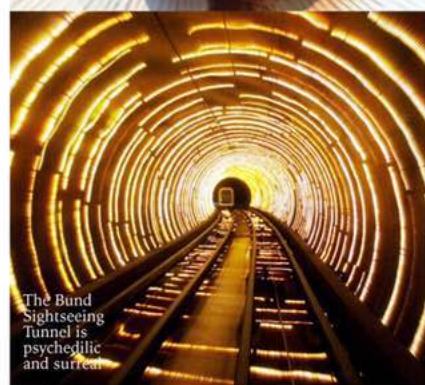
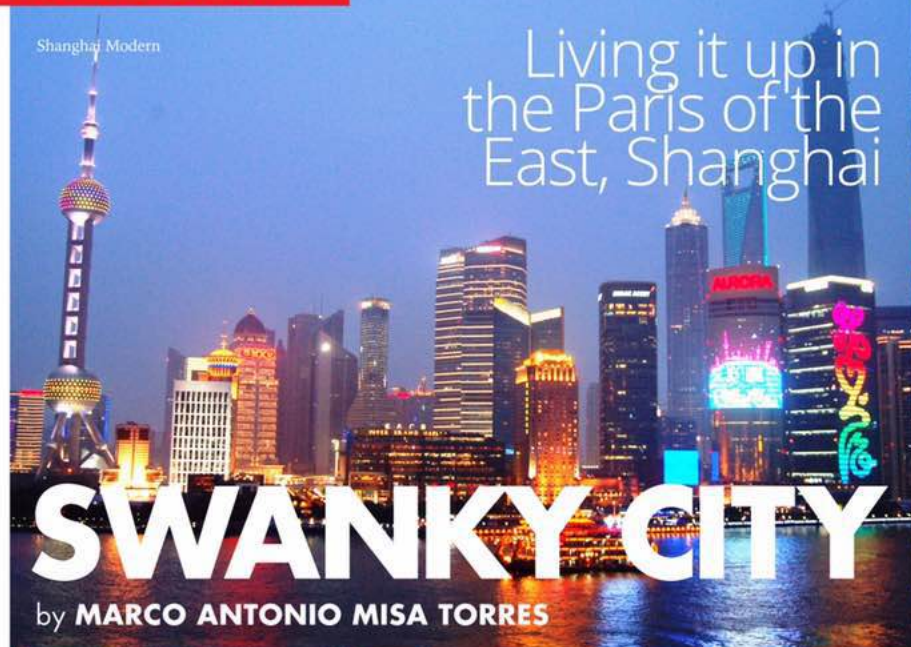
**It's the
Year of
the Fire
Monkey!**

- what lucky colors to wear
- where to get the best dim sum
- the swanky side of Shanghai

**SOFIA
ANDRES**

**Teen
queen
in the
making**

TOUR GUIDE



Glamorous and shabby, decadent and modern, old and new—a slew of contradictions that describe the magnificence that is Shanghai. Known as the Paris of the East, Shanghai has not lost any of its old-world charm. On the other hand, futuristic Shanghai is developing with abrupt speed.

Shanghai is the largest city proper in the world with a population of 24 million. As China's financial capital, many roads, railways, and metro rails lead to it. The city holds the record for having the longest subway system in the world spanning 538km consisting of 14 lines connecting 329 stations. This does not even count the 431kph-fast Maglev hi-speed bullet train which takes you from downtown to the airport in just seven minutes.

For those looking for epicurean pursuits, Shanghai is an unbeatable destination. Wolfgang Puck, Jean Georges Vongerichten, Jason Atherton, and Mauro Colagreco are just among a few of the culinary giants who've made their legendary dishes available in Shanghai.

WHAT TO SEE

Yu Garden. This Ming Dynasty garden built in 1577 is one of the most popular landmarks. Snap one selfie after another of its most iconic feature, the Nine-Zigzag Bridge, and then stroll at the Qing Dynasty Old Street in Fangbang Road for souvenir shopping.

Ancient water towns. Within Shanghai, there's a nifty of decadent water towns resembling period film sets like that of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. **Zhujiajiao** is a cab ride away while **Qibao** can be reached by subway. Aside from postcard-perfect images, there are plenty of Shanghai street delicacies to snack on.

Buddhist temples. **Jade Buddha Temple** and **JingAn Temple** are active monasteries teeming with trigger-happy tourists. **Zhenru Temple** in Putuo District is stunning and serene—a well-kept secret even to the locals.

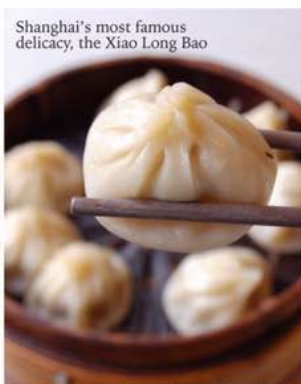
The Pudong skyline. Meander at the new Bund promenade, take the evening cruise or party late at night at Bar Rouge and enjoy the free light show from the towers.

The Era Acrobatic Show. A visit to China is never complete without seeing this dazzling spectacle that will leave you enthralled. era-shanghai.com

WHAT TO DO

Xintiandi, an upscale entertainment complex on traditional alleyway homes (*lòngtáng*) is a perfect spot for a cup of coffee. It's also lined with a wide array of dining choices.

Shanghai Museum. Immerse yourself in Chinese history and creativity at this free museum. www.shanghaimuseum.net



Shanghai's most famous delicacy, the Xiao Long Bao



The Bund Colonial



Yu Garden



Buddhist worshippers



The interior of one of the World's Best Restaurants, Mr & Mrs Bund

The French Concession area. Relive colonial 1920s Shanghai as you stroll along its many chic cafés, restaurants, and shops.

The Bund Sightseeing Tunnel. Cross from the past to the future, from Puxi to Pudong, in a surreal, psychedelic time machine. RMB70 roundtrip

WHERE TO EAT

Nanxiang Xiaolongbao. Have your fill of Xiaolongbao in this local favorite at the Yu Garden. RMB20 for eight pieces.

Ultraviolet. It costs an arm and a leg (RMB 4,000; that's about P30,000!) to have the 20-course dinner in the world's 24th best restaurant. Paul Pairet took 15 years to conceptualize the dining experience that unites food with multi-sensorial technologies. uvbypp.cc

Mr. & Mrs. Bund, also of Paul Pairet, serves French and global dishes using avant-garde methods, family-style. Insider tip: There's late-night dinner (11pm onwards Thursday-Saturday) that's easier on the wallet. mmbund.com

Fu He Hui and Fu 1015. Chef Tony Lu is the only local who has successfully taken on the global gustatory giants in the Shanghai culinary scene by landing two of his restaurants in the 100 World's Best Restaurants List.

Jade On 36. Currently helmed by chef Jeremy Biasiol, Shangri-La Pudong's fine-dining establishment allows you entry into the kitchen where you can chat with the Michelin-starred chef over which dishes to order. jadeon36.com

1921 Gucci. Nothing can be as novel as dining in this establishment since you won't find any other Gucci restaurant in the world other than Shanghai. IAPM Mall

Xixi Bistro. Italy meets China in this intimate, cozy eatery which serves local favorites modernized with western herbs and spices.

L'Atelier Joël Robuchon. You might want to hold your visit till March when the man with more Michelin stars (25 starred restos) than anyone in the world finally opens his first Shanghai project.

WHERE TO HANG OUT

Le Baron. This discotheque, that's got the French queuing in Paris, has a nice decadence to it that will inspire you to party like Mick Jagger. lebaronshanghai.com

The Nest. Chic cocktails are the perfect accessories as you tête-à-tête with friends in this uber-chill setting. THENESTshanghai on Facebook

Unico. This cocktail and tapas lounge by Michelin-starred chef Mauro Colagreco comes to life just before midnight. unico.cn.com

Bar Rouge. find out why this glamorous bar on the Bund is a mainstay in World's Best Bars Lists. bar-rouge-shanghai.com

The Apartment (theapartment-shanghai.com), **Kartel** (kartel.com.cn), and **Craft** (craftshanghai on Facebook) are great options to chill if you long for something happening yet a little bit more casual.

WHERE TO SHOP

Nanjing Road is part of the world's busiest shopping street. You can start on the East side for cheap bric-a-bracs then head on to the West side where you'll find colossal flagship stores of the world's most luxurious brands. **Tianzifang** at Taikang Road, in the French Concession area, is a stylish shopping enclave with craft stores, coffee shops, and art studios for the chic and the trendy.

WHERE TO STAY

The Waldorf Astoria Shanghai (waldorfasteriaoshanghai.com) on The Bund. This elegant, historic hotel that restored the heritage of the Shanghai gentleman's club to its former glory. Part boutique-hotel part spa, **The PuLi Hotel and Spa** (thepuli.com) is Shanghai's first and finest urban retreat. **The Park Hyatt** (shanghai.park.hyatt.com) is the world's second highest hotel in the iconic SWFC. **Shangri-La Hotel** and **Kerry Hotel** are great options in the Pudong area. **SW**