



Shanghai

Travel Guide



Introduction

Shanghai, an eastern metropolis on China's coast, sits at the Yangtze River's mouth. With over 27 million residents, it's China's most populous city. It's a bustling commercial and industrial hub boasting one of the world's largest seaports, handling a staggering five hundred million tons of cargo annually. As a cosmopolitan and vibrant city, Shanghai is a top choice for business travellers, particularly in shipping, trade, and finance.

Known as the "Pearl of the Orient", Shanghai's citizens take pride in their sophisticated city and business prowess. They'll tell you to leave politics and ancient history to Beijing and come here to experience a modern, international, and fashion-forward atmosphere.



For a taste of Shanghai's youthful history, don't miss a stroll along The Bund, a riverside promenade. On one side, you'll find elegant Art Deco buildings, while on the other, towering skyscrapers, including the world's second-tallest building, the Shanghai Tower.

This blend of European influence and rapid development is evident throughout the city. The charming French Concession seamlessly merges with downtown's bustling malls and towering office buildings.

Shanghai hosts numerous business events, conferences, and trade shows throughout the year. These provide excellent networking opportunities and a chance to explore industry trends.

Despite its vast 27 million population, Shanghai is a well-maintained and safe city, with clean streets and minimal violent crime. Ensure you have proper health insurance and any necessary vaccinations before your trip.



International Airports

Shanghai boasts two international airports: Shanghai Pudong and Shanghai Hongqiao. Upon landing, reaching Shanghai's city centre is a breeze, with multiple options like the metro, train, shuttle bus, or private transfer, all taking less than an hour. Efficiency is the name of the game for transportation in Shanghai.

Shanghai is also renowned for its cutting-edge transportation systems, including the remarkable Shanghai Maglev. This incredible train links Shanghai Pudong International Airport with Longyang Road Station, covering the 30 km journey in a mere seven minutes and 20 seconds. Furthermore, high-speed bullet trains seamlessly connect Shanghai to other major Chinese cities like Hangzhou, Beijing, and Hong Kong, providing travellers with exceptional connectivity and convenience.



Getting into Shanghai

Choose your preferred mode of transportation based on your budget, luggage, and time constraints. Shanghai's well-connected transportation network ensures you can reach the city centre swiftly and comfortably from either airport, allowing you to start your Shanghai adventure without any hassles.



From Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)

1. Metro: The quickest and cost-effective option is taking Metro Line 2. It connects PVG directly to the city centre. The journey takes approximately 60 -70 minutes.
2. Maglev Train: Experience the world's fastest commercial train, the Shanghai Maglev. It travels from PVG to Longyang Road Station in just 7 minutes and 20 seconds. From there, you can transfer to the Metro for the city centre.
3. Taxi: Taxis are readily available at PVG. The ride to the city centre takes around 45-60 minutes, depending on traffic. Ensure the driver uses the meter.
4. Shuttle Bus: Airport shuttle buses operate to major city destinations. They are a convenient choice if you have luggage. The journey duration varies depending on the route, but typically takes about 60 minutes.

From Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA)

1. Metro: Metro Line 10 connects SHA to the city centre. It's a convenient and cost-effective option, taking about 30-40 minutes.
2. Taxi: Taxis are readily available at SHA as well. The ride to the city centre takes approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on traffic.
3. Train: The airport boasts a high-speed train station, Hongqiao Railway Station. You can catch high-speed trains to various Chinese cities from here, including the city centre.
4. Shuttle Bus: Like Pudong, Hongqiao Airport offers shuttle buses to key city locations, taking about 30-45 minutes.

Transport Options

Shanghai offers an extensive range of transportation options to help you navigate this bustling metropolis.

Travelling by metro

Metro Cards: The most popular way to use the Shanghai Metro is by purchasing a Shanghai Public Transportation Card (SPTC). These cards can be loaded with credit and are swiped at the turnstiles for seamless access. Alternatively, you can buy single-ride tickets at station ticket counters or automated machines. SPTCs are available at metro station customer service counters, convenience stores, and major transportation hubs.

Travelling by bus

Shanghai's buses typically accept cash payments, but it's recommended to use a Shanghai Public Transportation Card for convenience. Simply swipe your card upon boarding. You can buy and top up these cards at metro stations, designated kiosks, and convenience stores.

Travelling by train

High-Speed Trains: If you plan to explore other cities, Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station is a major hub for high-speed trains to destinations like Beijing, Hangzhou, and Suzhou.

Maglev Train: The Shanghai Maglev links Pudong International Airport to Longyang Road Station, offering a swift connection. You can purchase tickets at the airport or station.

Travelling by taxi

Taxis are abundant in Shanghai, and you can easily flag them down on the street. Look for the illuminated "空车" (kōngchē) sign, indicating an available taxi. They accept cash or mobile payment methods like WeChat Pay and Alipay. Make sure the driver uses the meter.

Ride Sharing

Didi Chuxing: China's leading ride-sharing service, Didi, operates in Shanghai. Download the app, set your pick-up and drop-off locations, and choose your preferred ride type. Link your preferred payment method, such as WeChat Pay or Alipay, to the Didi app for seamless cashless transactions.

Hotel Options

For business travellers seeking convenience, Pudong stands out as the ideal choice. It houses the financial district and industrial zones, making it the preferred location for many international companies' Shanghai offices. On the other hand, Puxi, the historical heart of Shanghai, offers a traveller-centric experience. Here, you'll find iconic areas like the Bund, Huangpu District, and the French Concession, providing easy access to a myriad of activities such as shopping and dining. Additionally, Puxi boasts a wealth of upscale hotels, ensuring you have plenty of choices for your stay.

At Selective Travel Management, we have a Hotel Process in place to ensure we fulfil our Duty of Care as a professional travel Booker and to make sure you receive the service you expect. We quality check all hotels and make recommendations based upon a benchmark of the review sites on the day that you confirm your hotel. The final choice of where you want to stay is yours, we will simply provide our recommendations.

For recommendations on hotel options in Shanghai, please get in touch with your Dedicated Team, who can advise on the best accommodation to suit your travel needs. Our team of experts will use their personal experience, expertise, and knowledge to advise on the best accommodation for your trip. We will take into consideration many factors including: the reason for travel, your travelling scenario (solo, female, group etc.), your personal preferences, and more.



Work Facilities

For those in search of co-working spaces, we've handpicked 5 exceptional options that cater to various needs and preferences.

- **Sandbox3:** Shanghai's only free co-working spot caters to college students and small start-ups, embracing a laid-back vibe. Sign up with an ID and the Sandbox3 app for 24/7 access, with additional charges for coffee, food, and private meeting rooms. It's a unique, casual choice with three locations across the city.
- **Regus Jinmao:** Part of the global Regus network, this Shanghai gem in Jin Mao Tower exudes a high-end business atmosphere. Open around the clock for offices, the business lounge operates on weekdays from 9 am to 6 pm, offering affordable monthly access.
- **Agora Space:** Repurposed apartments create an intimate co-working setting at Agora Space. While space is limited, the ambiance is friendly, and amenities include speedy Wi-Fi and helpful staff. They assist with services like printing, coffee, food orders, and deliveries, all at an economical rate.
- **People Squared:** As China's oldest co-working venue, People Squared embraces the innovative spirit, now backed by Google for Entrepreneurs.
- **BaseCo:** Positioned on Anfu Rd, BaseCo, a real estate firm, hosts a co-working hub with standout features. They offer a VPN through their Wi-Fi for unblocked web access and blazing 25Mbps Wi-Fi. Open daily from 9 am to 9 pm, it caters to diverse needs.



Business Environment

Shanghai boasts two key business districts: the expansive Shanghai Hongqiao Central Business District (CBD) to the west and the evolving Pudong district to the east of the Huangpu River.

Hongqiao CBD covers 86 square kilometres, with 27 square kilometres dedicated to its core functions and 59 square kilometres earmarked for future expansion. Positioned as a top-tier global business district, it integrates high-end commerce, trade, conventions, and exhibitions, while also serving as a vital transportation hub, driving Shanghai's economic growth and urban development.

On the eastern front, Pudong, once a historical area, has transformed into the thriving Pudong New Area. Home to the Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone, it hosts the Shanghai Stock Exchange and iconic skyscrapers like the Oriental Pearl Tower, Jin Mao Tower, Shanghai World Financial Centre, and Shanghai Tower. These modern marvels contrast elegantly with Puxi's historic Bund, preserving a piece of China's foreign concession history. Together, these districts exemplify Shanghai's blend of tradition and modernity, commerce and culture.



Sightseeing

While business may be your primary focus, don't miss the opportunity to discover Shanghai's captivating attractions. Here are our top recommendations for business travellers seeking to explore the city:



The Bund

A historic district along the picturesque Huangpu River waterfront, featuring stunning colonial architecture that unfolds as you stroll along the promenade.



Yu Garden

The oldest green oasis in Shanghai, also known as the “Garden of Happiness”, adorned with elegant pagodas, ornate bridges, and serene water elements – a rare surviving Ming Dynasty Garden.



Shanghai Tower

Ascend China's tallest building and experience the world's swiftest elevator ride to the 119th floor for breathtaking panoramic views.



People's Square and Nanjing Road

Formerly a horse racing venue, People's Square now serves as a public space for gatherings, housing the Shanghai Museum and Grand Theatre. Adjacent to it is Nanjing Road, one of China's premier shopping districts.

Food and drinks

Shanghai offers a myriad of culinary experiences to satisfy your palate and impress your clients. From chic cafes to elegant dining establishments, Shanghai's gastronomic scene is a fusion of tradition and innovation. Here, we present our top recommendations, carefully curated to elevate your business meetings and client engagements.

Coffee Break: Brut Cake Café – A trendy café run by a creative couple. Enjoy artisanal coffee and fusion dishes like spicy prawn-topped waffles with a peanut butter and sea salt latte. Great views from open window tables.

Morning Meeting: O'Mills Bakery – Brunch hotspot with dishes like pesto zucchini noodles and sourdough pizzas. Go early for a quiet meeting; book ahead.

Solo Dining: Bird – Innovative eatery by Camden Hauge, offering solo-friendly bar seating and an upstairs terrace. Try sweet potato chips or Vietnamese pork ribs.

Business Dinner: Canton Table – Elegant restaurant with Cantonese classics and modern twists. Great for business with stunning Bund views.

Client Drinks: Sober Company – Top ranked cocktail bar that houses three concepts – a café, an Asian-fusion restaurant, and a cocktail bar with discreet service and exceptional mixologists.



Useful Apps

Before travelling to Shanghai, consider downloading handy mobile apps to enhance your travel experience. To navigate seamlessly throughout your stay, we suggest the following essential mobile apps:

Shanghai Metro Map and Route Planner: A user-friendly app for Shanghai's Metro system, providing easy access to the map and an efficient route planner.

SmartShanghai: This comprehensive city guide features offline access to over 16,000 restaurant, shop, and bar listings, along with insightful articles and an events calendar to keep you informed.

Shanghai Travel Guide & Offline Map: Explore the city's highlights with this handy app. Consider upgrading for additional language options.

VPN Proxy Master: Overcome China's internet restrictions with a VPN. VPN Proxy Master encrypts your traffic, allowing access to blocked Western websites with ease.

WeChat: Tencent's all-in-one messaging app, WeChat offers a wide range of services, from online shopping to gaming and financial services. WeChat Pay simplifies transactions, eliminating the need for cash, making your life more convenient during your stay in Shanghai.

Interested in other useful business travel apps? [View Top Business Travel Apps](#) 





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