

# Asian Star China



welcomes you to Shanghai. Here are some facts and information that might makes your stay in here more enjoyable. Friday, December 15, 2006

## **CHINA FACT SHEET**

<b>Country Name:</b>	People's Republic of China.		
<b>Capital:</b>	Beijing.		
<b>Population:</b>	Estimated 1.3 billion.		
<b>Official Language:</b>	Mandarin (Putong hua).		
<b>Administrative Division:</b>	23 provinces (counting Taiwan), 5 autonomous regions, 4 municipalities, and 2 special administrative regions.		
<b>Agriculture products:</b>	Rice, wheat, potatoes, sorghum, peanuts, tea, millet, barley, cotton, oilseed; pork and fish		
<b>Exchange rate:</b>	USD\$1.00 ~ RMB\$7.80 (est.)		

## **THE CITY OF SHANGHAI**

### **History:**

- After the first Opium War, Shanghai became a treaty port in 1842.
- Autonomous British, French and American concessions were established.
- Different cultures, architecture and societies intermingled.
- Became known as place of vice and indulgence: Pearl of the Orient.
- After the Communist Party took over in 1949, it closed China from foreign influence for almost three decades.
- In 1972, US President Nixon's visit to Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai initiated a gradual warming towards the West.
- By 1980, Deng Xiaoping implemented China's new "Open Door Policy" which sparked another influx of foreigners.

### **Facts:**

- Shanghai is China's economic powerhouse, center of trade, finance, shipping and industry.
- Accounts for 1/6 of the nation's GNP.
- Population of over 16 million.
- Official dialect is Mandarin; local dialect is Shanghainese.



### **Major Gateway:**

- Two international airports (Pudong and Hongqiao).
- Direct flights to Shanghai from major European and US cities:
  - Singapore Airlines, China Eastern, Garuda Airlines, Thai Airways, Philippines Airline, Lufthansa; United Airlines; Virgin; Northwest; KLM; Air China and etc.

### **Yu Bazaar & Old City:**

Yuyan, the touristic area in Shanghai, is a bustling vision of "Old China". Within the area lies a vibrant market packed with souvenir shops, old traditional Chinese architecture, and a winding maze of streets and alleyways where you can truly get a glimpse into days and lives past.

### **Xin Tian Di (The New Heaven & Earth):**

Xin Tian Di is the newest development in Shanghai. A conversion of an old Shanghai neighborhood into a modern and trendy combination of shops and restaurants, it is the place to go to enjoy some dining, dancing and café atmosphere. Home to Soho, T8, KABB, Luna, La Maison, Latina, Va Benne and other western style restaurants, it is a favourite hangout for many westerners and local Shanghainese.

### **The Bund:**

The most noticeable legacy of Old Shanghai is the Bund, complete with riverside promenade and early 20th century European architecture. Probably the most common city image used to depict old Shanghai. Just off the Bund, you can visit the Peace Hotel where the famous jazz bar still draws in a crowd seeking nostalgic old time classics, performed by an ancient band.

### People's Square & Park:

The geographic and political center of the Shanghai Municipality, People's Square is home to a number of impressive monuments, including the Shanghai Museum, the Art Museum, Grand Theaters and the Urban Planning and Exhibition Hall. For the most part, however, People's Square is a place where people come to relax. If you make it early in the mornings, you will catch a glimpse of the Chinese Taichi and a variety of Chinese exercise routines. Shanghai- Once a swampy expanse, now home to the business and financial capital with towering high-rises.

### Pudong (new Shanghai):

Across the Huangpu River from the Bund is the modern face of Shanghai. Once a swampy expanse, now home to the business and financial capital with towering high-rises. Worth visiting is the Jinmao Building, standing at 420 meters (88 floors) and the Oriental Pearl Television Tower, the world's tallest TV Tower. Both are impressive structures towering above the city of Shanghai.

### SHANGHAI ONE-DAY TOURS:

**Nanjing** (2.5 hours by bus): Require 2day 1 night.

- Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum.
- Nanning.
- Purple Mountain.
- Former Office of Sun Yat-sen.

**Zhouzhuang:** "China's Venice" (45 mins by bus).

**Suzhou:** famous for its silk, embroidery and gardens (1.5 hrs by bus).

**Hangzhou:** known for scenery, pearl and West Lake (3 hrs bus).



### General Details:

- Climate: Winter: Dec-Feb: 3c to 7c.  
Spring: March-June: 15c-25c.  
Summer: July -Sept: 30c to 36c.  
Autumn: Oct-Nov: 10c-18c.
- Get a tourist visa from your local Chinese embassy.
- Electricity: 220 V.
- USD1\$ = RMB\$8 (Yuan), 1 EURO = RMB\$10 (Yuan).
- Although Shanghai is a major international cosmopolitan city. Most Chinese do not speak or understand English, especially in places that don't cater to foreigners. On the next few pages you will find some survival phrases for you to get by.



### Basic Greetings

Hello!	--	Ni hao
How are you?	--	Ni hao ma?
I am very well	--	Wo hen hao
Thank You!	--	Xie Xie Ni
You are welcome!	--	Bie ke qi

### Directions for Taxi

To	--	Dao ...
Go straight	--	Yi zhi zou
Turn right	--	You guai
Turn left	--	Zuo guai
Turn around (U-turn)	--	Diao tou

### Bargaining

How much?	--	Duo shao qian?
Too expensive	--	Tai guai le
Cheaper	--	Pian yi dian
Larger	--	Da yi dian
Smaller	--	Xiao yi dian
Longer	--	Chang yi dian
Shorter	--	Duan yi dian

Faster	--	Kuai yi dian
Slower	--	Man yi dian
Wait a moment	--	Deng yi xia
Drive in	--	Kai jin qu
You can't go here	--	Bu neng zou
Use the expressway	--	Shang gao jia
Dun take long way	--	Pu yeo cho chang
You took the long way	--	Ni rao lu le
Stop here	--	Ting zai zhe li



## CULTURAL DOS AND DON'TS:

### Do's:

1. When presenting and receiving gifts or business card, use both hands.
2. Do attempt to use chopsticks even though you don't know how. It is much appreciated.
3. Be very specific when asking questions. It's best to ask yes/no questions.
4. Always eat what's in front of you. It's considered impolite to reach for food that's on the other side of the plate.
5. Always address someone you do not know with his/her title (Ms.,Mrs.,Mr....) and family name.
6. If you are a guest at a lunch/dinner function, wait to be seated.
7. Eat first and ask later. It's considered impolite not to try the food.
8. Negotiate for everything with street vendors. Start with 10-20% of the price.
9. Be patient and flexible.
10. Expect the unexpected.

### Dont's:

1. Do not place a business card in your wallet and then the back pocket of your trousers.
2. Avoid physical contact (touching on shoulders, arms or back) when dealing with people. Chinese do not like to be touched by people they do not know.
3. Try not to drop your chopsticks. It's considered bad luck.
4. At a banquet function, don't begin your meal or drink until your host does. Your host may want to begin with a toast.
5. Do not finish the last bit of food on the dish. It gives your host the impression that you are still hungry.
6. Do not give watches or clocks as gifts. It represents "running out of time."
7. Do not give pears to couples. It denotes separation.
8. Do not wait in line in most public places. Every man is for himself.
9. Do not stand your chopsticks in the rice bowl. It's believed to bring bad luck to the family.
10. Do not place chopsticks parallel to your bowl or plate. Place them on the table or chopsticks' stand.

Please kindly forward all enquiries and bookings to:

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