

DESTINATION SH

Sure, you could pick up a tourist guide and find some interesting things to do and see in Shanghai. But why not go straight to the source? Here we explore the city through the eyes of a local.

TEXT: WENDY SACK PHOTOS: ISTOCKPHOTO

The Shanghai cityscape is awash in color, people and the most modern of buildings. But arguably the most charming aspect of Shanghai is its streets.

Escape within the city

The best way to explore Shanghai is by walking. In contrast with the many crowded and overpopulated areas of Shanghai, the heart of the downtown is very quiet, with few pedestrians. The streets in the old French Concession are lined with Phoenix trees and villas. You can enjoy a quiet walk in the cave formed by the arching trees before getting back to the noisy parts of Shanghai. If it's raining, the sounds on the leaves make a pleasant orchestra.

For architecture buffs

Shikumen houses, built starting in the 1860s, are unique to Shanghai. They are a cultural blend of Western and Chinese architecture, with a two- or three-story structure and a

front yard protected by a high brick wall. The houses are connected by long, straight alleys known as longdang. Each longdang has a stylish stone arch.

The Xintiandi, an upscale shopping and eating district, is made up of renovated Shikumen houses that have been converted to bookstores, cafes, restaurants and shopping malls. "Xintiandi" means "new heaven and earth." This area is considered one of the first lifestyle centers in China.

More "touristy" attractions

To find a more touristy area of Shanghai, visit the Bund, in the Huangpu District. It is located on Zhongshan Road along the Huangpu River. There are many historical buildings here and a 770-meter-long retaining wall on top of which is a grand walkway for sightseeing. The Bund is one of the most recognizable sights in Shanghai.

Another must see is Yuyuan Garden, created 400 years ago by

Pan Yunduan for his father, Pan En, a high-ranking official in the Ming Dynasty. Situated a few blocks south of the Bund, it is in the center of Shanghai's Old City.

Hungry yet?

For food, visit Wujiang Road. It's a famous "snack street" where you can get food from all parts of China – from shengjian (fried steamed bread with stuffing) to guotie (pot stickers) and Hong Kong-style crystal cakes.

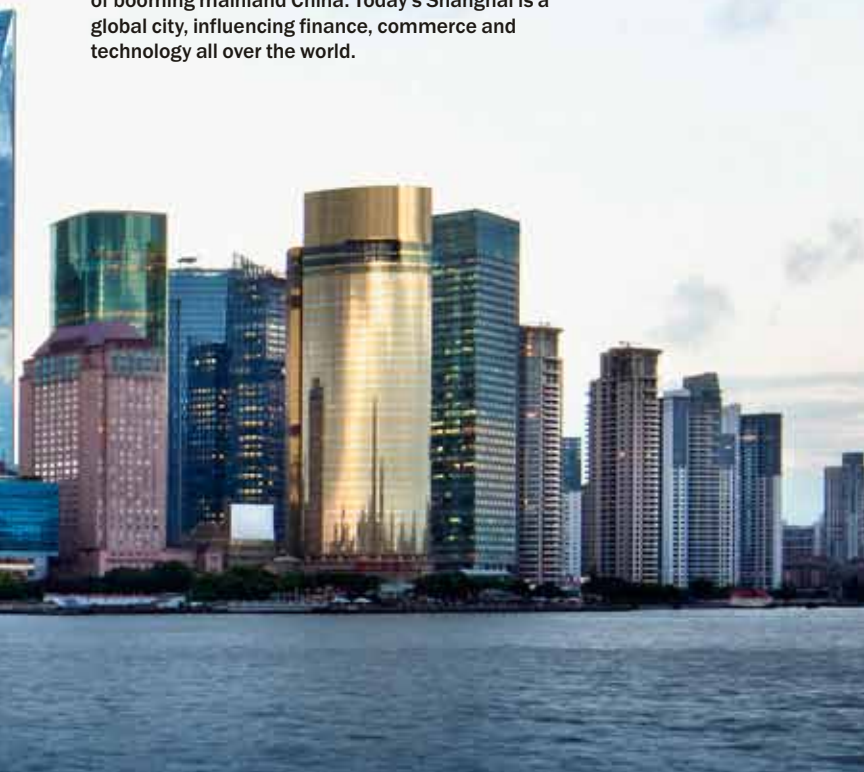
After that, make your way to Hengshan Road, where you'll find a variety of bars and discos. Colorful, with bright flashing lights, Hengshan Road is usually packed with people looking for a good time. ■



ANGHAI



With more than 23 million inhabitants, Shanghai is one of the most populous cities in the world. The city's rapid growth over the past decades has made it the centerpiece of booming mainland China. Today's Shanghai is a global city, influencing finance, commerce and technology all over the world.



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Catherine Cheng, Human Resources Manager for Trelleborg Sealing Solutions in China, is stationed in Shanghai, her native city and a place she loves. "I'm proud to be Shanghaiese," she says.

What is the best thing about Shanghai?

The best thing about Shanghai is the energy. Every day in this city there are many events happening, and if you participate in these events, you can experience the energy of the city.

I can also recommend a show at Shanghai Circus World called "ERA Intersection of Time." It is a brilliant performance that includes acrobats, martial arts and dance, along with lighting, special effects and a water screen. It tells the story of China's history. I have seen the show three times and have introduced it to both Chinese and foreign friends, and they all thought it was tremendous.

What is the biggest misconception about Shanghai?

Many people think that Shanghaiese people are arrogant, but they're not. Shanghai requires a fast pace and high efficiency, and its people have to be results oriented. Many Shanghaiese walk fast, speak fast and work fast. To get results, they have to push each other, which may lead people to feel that they are unkind and impatient.

How does Shanghai compare to other cities in China?

Compared with other big Chinese cities, Shanghai is more modern, with a high-tech foundation. It's a melting pot, with different cultures and people from different areas, but it is more energetic, more democratic and more transparent than other big cities.

TRELLEBORG IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai is an important hub for Trelleborg. In addition to market offices, the company has two production plants – Trelleborg Engineered Systems, which manufactures offset printing blankets for the graphic industry, and Trelleborg Sealing Solutions, which manufactures precision seals in such materials as elastomers, PTFE and polyurethane.

Trelleborg Automotive also has a presence in Shanghai in the form of a research and development center that offers state-of-the-art technology relating primarily to noise and vibration-damping brake solutions for passenger vehicles.

Trelleborg currently has five additional production plants in China: two in the Wuxi area, one in Qingdao, one in Guangdong and one in Xingtai. There are also development units and marketing offices to help support local markets.

Within China the Trelleborg Group has more than 1,700 employees. In 2010, the company's net sales in China totaled approximately SEK 1 billion.



The Trelleborg Sealing Solutions regional headquarters is located in Shanghai.