

**Apps to install:**

PLECO: An English-Chinese dictionary app that allows you to write the Chinese in characters or pinyin (Chinese words with Latin characters), and will pronounce the Chinese for you. Shanghai is surprisingly easy to get around with English only, but Pleco might come in handy, particularly at small restaurants.

Explore Shanghai: Metro map of Shanghai

**Packing:**

Prepare for cool and wet (a lot like a Pacific northwest winter).

**Electronics:**

Check any electric/electronic stuff to see if you need an adapter. China is on 220 volts, 50 Hz. You can bring an adapter with you or purchase one here for cheap.

**VPN:**

If you want access to Google and/or Facebook, buy a VPN service. One subscription will cover up to three devices.

**[ExpressVPN:](#)**

\$12.95 per month

**[MoleVPN:](#)**

\$3.00 per week

\$5.00 per month

Not as reliable as ExpressVPN, but probably fine short term.

**Transportation:**

Taxi: readily available all over the city. Green light on top: ready for Customers. Red light or no light on top: currently busy or not in service. Starting fee is 16 RMB for the first 3km. Give the following directions to your driver to return to campus (the faculty club is the red star on the map below).

出租车司机，您好！请送这位外籍客人至：上海交通大学 徐汇校区 教师活动中心 地址：上海市华山路1954号

Metro: Most cost efficient way to get around in Shanghai. A short trip is 3 RMB, and a long one is 6 RMB.

Directions to campus from the Metro: Disembark at either the Jiao Tong University station on lines 10 and 11 or at the Xu Jia Hui station on lines 1, 9, and 11. From the Jiao Tong University station, take exit 2 (the point labeled 1 on the map below); you will be on Hua Shan Rd. From the exit, turn right (south) on Hua Shan Rd. The main gate of the university (point 4) will be on your right after a short walk. From the Xu Jia Hui station, take exit 16 or 18 (points 2 and 3, respectively, on the map). Exit 16 will put you on Hua Shan Rd. Turn left (north) and the university gate will be on your left after crossing two streets. Exit 18 will put you near Gongcheng Rd. Go north on Gongcheng Rd. Cross Guangyuan W Rd. and enter campus through the gate there (just go straight, point 5).

### Currency:

Cash is king. Visa and other western credit cards are only useful in big department stores. You might also want to check the foreign transaction fee on your credit card (typically ~3% of purchase).

If you would like to have a little bit of cash on hand before you arrive (wise), do not ask for small bills. The biggest bill is 100 RMB, and they are commonly used. If you get small bills, you will have a LOT of them! Below are the different chinese bills.



### **Touristy things to be aware of:**

Theft: Theft isn't really a problem here, but in tourist areas, pickpockets can be an issue.

Scams: Tea ceremonies, massages, invitations for coffee, etc. If someone invites you to a tea ceremony, don't take them up on it! Here's a list of common scams in Shanghai:

<https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g308272-c108782/Shanghai:China:Scams.html>

Water: You shouldn't drink the tap water directly, but it's generally considered safe to brush your teeth with. Bottled water is cheap and easy to find.

Fruit: Eat fruit! It's really good! It is advisable to wash or peel it first. There are many fruit shops around, including on Fahuazhen Rd. west of Panyu Rd.

### **Local places to eat and drink:**

Below are some suggestions from a few locals of nearby establishments. This list is NOT exhaustive, and there are many places to try, so please explore! The numbers correspond to points on the map.

#### Coffee

- Haoran Coffee (second floor of the meeting building)
- Simple Dream [6]
- M2F [7]

#### Restaurants

- Hai Di Lao (海底捞 in Chinese, hot pot) [8]
- Lost Heaven (Yunnan cuisine) [9]
- Lotus Eatery (Yunnan cuisine) [10]
- Din Tai Feng (steamed dumplings and small dishes) [11, inside the mall]
- Wagas (Western style pasta) [12]
- Small restaurants on Panyu Rd., Guangyuan Rd., etc. [13, 14]
- Street vendors along Fahuazhen Rd. (on the corner of Panyu Rd and near the Beer Lady listed below, after 9 pm) [15]

#### Bars

- Koala Bar [16]
- Green Dragon, Topsy Fiddler, The Office [17]
- Beer Lady (shop with many imported beers and liquors, seating on the sidewalk or upstairs) [18, turn north from Fahuazhen Rd. (right if walking from campus) and go ~100 m]

### Some things to do:

- The Bund (nearest metro is East Nanjing Rd. on lines 2 and 10 )
- Yu Garden (Line 10)
- People's Square Park (Lines 1, 2, and 8)
- Go up the Shanghai World Financial Center (bottle opener), Shanghai Tower, and/or Oriental Pearl Tower (Lujiazui on line 2)
- Shanghai Museum (Admission is free! People's Square on lines 1, 2, and 8, take exit 1, bear right, and go through the park.)
- Aquarium (Lujiazui on line 2)
- Tea City (3 stories of tea and tea accessory shopping) [19]
- Shanghai Zoo (Line 10)
- [Qibao](#) (Ancient water town. There are more interesting water towns, but this is the most convenient. Line 9)

### Night Life:

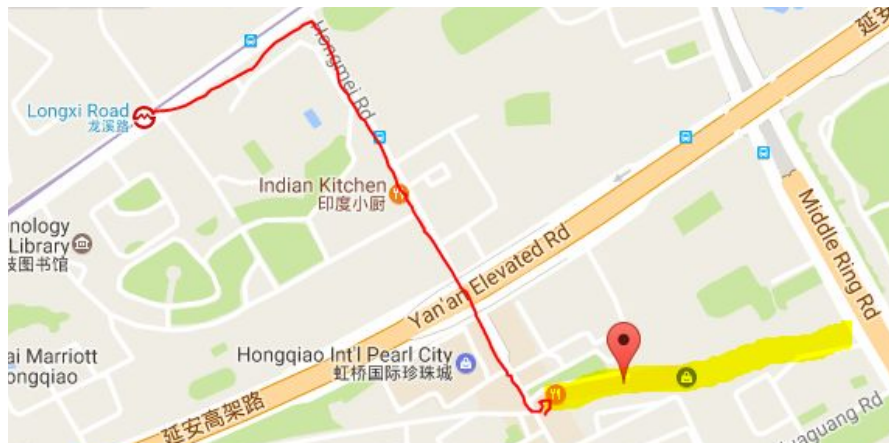
Bar and nightclubs; just as shops, streets and the bund; is one of the necessary parts of Shanghai nightlife. And bars and nightclubs is in some extend the representation of the night in Shanghai.

[Hengshan Road](#) [20] is a street in the former French Concession of Shanghai. It is one of Shanghai's more vibrant nightlife districts and popular particularly among expats. The street is named after Mount Heng, a sacred mountain in Hunan province. It was established in 1922 as a leisure street. As it was at that time part of the French Concession, many European-style buildings were built here in the 1920s and 1930s. The Hengshan Rd. nightlife district can be reached by taking Shanghai Metro Line 1 to Hengshan Rd. station.

[Xintiandi](#) is a car-free shopping, eating, and entertainment area of Shanghai. It is composed of an area of restored traditional shikumen ("stone gate") houses on narrow alleys, a modern shopping mall with a cinema complex, and some adjoining houses which now serve as book stores, cafes and restaurants. Most of the cafes and restaurants feature both indoor and outdoor seatings. Xintiandi has an active nightlife on weekdays as well as weekends, though romantic settings are more common than loud music and dance places. Xintiandi means "New Heaven and Earth", and is considered one of the first lifestyle centers in China. The closest metro station is Xintiandi on Line 10. Can also be reached from South Huangpi Rd., on Metro Line No.1, then walking down Huangpi Rd.(S) or Madang Rd. for about 5 minutes.

[The Hongmei pedestrian street](#) is probably one the best places to go in the city. The Hongmei pedestrian street (although sometimes referred to as the Hong Mei Entertainment Street) is a place dedicated to eating and drinking with a primary focus on Western workers and visitors. Recently been re-named as Laowaijie 101 or Foreigner's Street 101 (The word

“Foreigner” is pronounced as “Laowai” in Chinese). The 480-meter-long Laowai 101 boasts a number of reputable restaurants and bars from different countries. The closest metro station is Longxi Rd on line 10, walking down Hongmei Street for about 10 min.



One can easily get there by taxi by just asking “Hongmei Lu, Yan’an Xi Lu ” which basically means the crossroads between these two roads. Then look for the Pearl City shopping centre and the Hong Mei Lu pedestrian street is virtually directly opposite.

There are many other interesting places for hang-out during the night in Shanghai. More can be found on <http://www.smartshanghai.com/>

