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of
SHANGHAI

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策 划	吴 正	郭 敏	苏嫣娴	朱墨青		
摄 影	王溶江	张锁庆	董 俊	沈 凯		
撰 文	韩 静	蒋坤旻	钱舒欣	任玲玲	施 梵	
	陶 亮	禹 薇	陈美仪	钱艳文	董 菁	

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电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

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WELCOME TO SHANGHAI!!

Shanghai was once known as “Paris of the East”. But today, there’s no need to use analogy to explain what Shanghai is like. Joining the ranks of international metropolises, Shanghai has developed enough characters to make itself known at its own right. With a storied history since the mid 19th century and phenomenal changes in the past three decades, today’s Shanghai is old and new, reserved and modern, ordered and chaotic. It exhilarates and intimidates, stimulates and irritates. It is a city trying very hard to make itself a better place to live, work and enjoy.

To understand Shanghai is to understand its history. Beginning as a small fishing village about 700 years ago, Shanghai became the national center of textile and handicraft industry in the 16th century as people from the neighboring areas swarmed in. With constant inflow of people from other parts of the country and some earliest Western missionaries and traders, the city evolved into a major trading port and gateway to inland China by the early 20th century.

In the past 30 years of economic reform and development, the city opens its door wider for outsiders. Today Shanghai has a population

of 20 million, including a mobile population of over 6 million. Over 260,000 people from overseas have settled down here, bringing their cultures while taking on the Chinese way.

By taking outsiders, converging them and having them calling it their home, Shanghai has the buzzing dynamism that many people find riveting. Even for its own residents, it is hard to keep up with the changes. Over the next few years, Shanghai will have the world's biggest subway system, running 10 lines in total. The world's first commercially-run magnetic levitation line will be expanded. A Disneyland will open its door to a magic kingdom in the west part of the city. A world-class eco-friendly locale, Chongming Island, is now being developed for low-carbon communities. Just to name a few.

On the street life level, the city is never short of surprises as well. Exploring the city on foot in its downtown areas will help you find interesting places, from heritage architectures to fancy boutiques. Restaurants are popping up every day, offering delicacies from all around the world. The nightlife is particularly electrifying. You can take an evening cruise around the harbor, or head out to the theatres, operas, discos, acrobat shows, karaoke clubs and upscale lounges, or shop till you drop from glitzy emporiums to small shops without names.

All these make Shanghai an ideal location for the World Expo. From May 1 to October 31, Shanghai hosts the 21st-century world's fair and expects to attract as many as 70 million visitors. Through this event, Shanghai will not only hone its skills in entertaining its guests, but more importantly, make the urban living better for its citizens. "Better city, better life", we all hope.

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