

Shanghai Impressions

- Shanghai School Culture
- The Bund
- Nanjing Road
- Old Lanes

...

上海风物

By Ge Wencheng



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Shanghai Impressions

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Foreword

Shanghai is the most splendid pearl inlaid along the eastern coast of China.

The abbreviated form of Shanghai is “*Hu*” or “*Shen*.”

Shanghai was originally a fishing village. In Chinese language, “*Hu* (沪 or 扈)” refers to the rails made of bamboo strips and ropes which are planted on the sand beaches to catch fish by using the rises and falls of tides. Hence “*Hu*” was adopted as a short form for Shanghai.

The other abbreviated form of Shanghai is “*Shen*.” It was because during the Warring States period (475-221 B.C.), Shanghai was the fief of Huang Xie (? -238 B.C.), Lord Chunshen of the state of Chu. It proves that Shanghai has a very long history.

Shanghai is a both old and young city.

Shanghai is old because after the formation of the land in West Shanghai about 6,000 years ago, the present-day Songze Village in Qingpu District was inhabited by the ancestors of Shanghai people, who grew paddy rice and made pottery wares on the land. Over 700 years ago (in the third year of the Xianchun reign period of the Southern Song Dynasty, or 1276), Shanghai Town was set up at the place where the Wusong River (the present-day Suzhou River) and Shangkhaipu, the branch of the Yellow River, meet. In 1291 (or the 28th year of the Zhiyuan reign period of the Yuan Dynasty), Shanghai Town was renamed Shanghai County.

Shanghai is young because Shanghai has only a history of over 200 years after it was opened as a harbor city. After the Opium War in 1840, the Western Great Powers opened concessions one after another in Shanghai, turning Shanghai into the “Paradise for Adventures.”

Shanghai is young because it was not until May 27, 1949 when Shanghai was liberated that Shanghai truly became a city full of vitality. Since Pudong in Shanghai was opened to

the outside world in 1990, great changes have taken place in Shanghai with each passing day.

Over the past several thousand years, Shanghai has not only carried forward and integrated the cultures and traditions of different places all over the country, but also absorbed the Western culture and formed its “Shanghai School” culture peculiar to the metropolis.

Shanghai is an enthusiastic, bold, intellectual and steady city.

Shanghai is full of innovative and exploiting spirits. For instance, over the past decade or so since Pudong adopted the opening-up and development policy, Shanghai has made world-renowned economic achievements. The Jinmao Tower, Yangshan Deepwater Harbor and Donghai Bridge that links with the Deepwater Harbor display Shanghai's depth and width.

Shanghai is fine and diligent. For instance, the crisscrossed subways that run through the city underground, the Changzheng rockets that flew into the skies, and the skyscrapers that sprang out one after another like mushrooms are the crystallizations of the fine and diligent spirits of the Shanghai people.

It is very difficult for a book of only 100,000 words to include all the quintessence of Shanghai. Therefore I had to pick up some typical examples and introduce them to the readers through this book.

Author
May 12, 2008

Sketch Map of Shanghai



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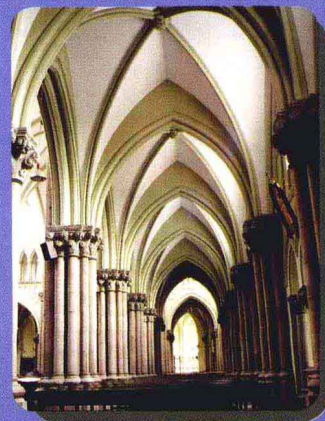
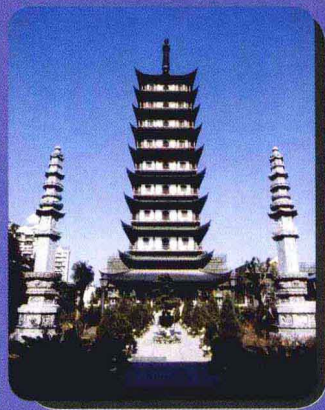
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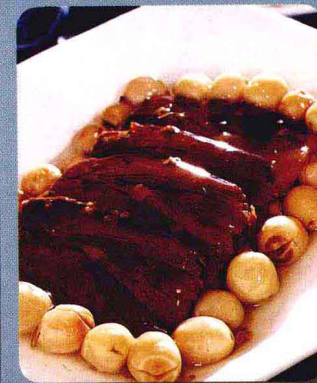
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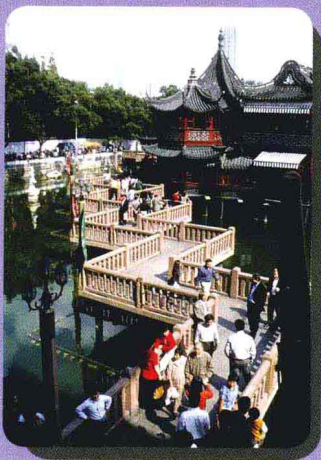
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Shanghai International Convention Center
Jin Mao Tower
Shanghai Broadway Mansion
Western-style Garden Houses in Shanghai
Shikumen, Tingzijian and Old Lanes
Shanghai Post Building
Moller's Residence



外滩建筑群

Architectural Complex in the Bund

The Shanghai people call the section of the Huangpu River shore from the west of Lujiabang to Longhua “Inner Huangpu,” and the section of the Huangpu River shore north of Lujiabang, “Outer Huangpu,” or “Outer Huangpu Bund,” which was later called the “Bund” for short.

The Bund took the lead in making development in Shanghai in modern times. A great number of foreign commercial and financial organizations and institutions are located here. Along the Zhongshan Dongyi Road that extends from Yan'an East Road to the Suzhou River, totaling 1,500 m long, there were originally 33 street numbers. With the passage of time, now only 24 street numbers are left, including the Building of Bank of China, Peace Hotel, Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp, some

classical, new classical, Renaissance-style, modern and eclectic buildings, as well as some architectural structures showing both the Chinese and Western architectural styles. They enjoy a reputation of being the “World Architecture Exposition in the Bund.” Constructed in the different times, the buildings show varied styles, but the basic unified architectural tone. They are laid out in the fashion of a maze, displaying a vigorous and firm momentum and becoming a symbol of Shanghai.

With its own history and story, each building of the architectural complex along the Bund has witnessed the historical changes of the Bund and Shanghai, and is of high scientific and artistic value. All of them are historical monuments under state protection.

