

# TRANSPORT

Shànghǎi is simple to get to. It is China's second-largest international air hub (third-largest if you count Hong Kong) and if you can't fly direct, you can go via Běijīng or Hong Kong. With rail and air connections to places all over China, and buses to destinations in adjoining provinces and beyond, Shànghǎi is also a handy springboard to the rest of China.

Flights and tours can be booked online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services).

Shànghǎi itself is not very easy to navigate. Although it's fascinating to stroll around certain areas, Shànghǎi's sheer size and staggering sprawl makes foot-slogging useful only for brief trips.

The best way to get around town is either by taxi or on the metro. The rapidly expanding metro and light railway system works like a dream; it's fast, efficient and inexpensive. Rush hour on the metro operates at overcapacity, however, and you get to savour the full meaning of the big squeeze. Taxis are ubiquitous and cheap, but flagging one down during rush hour or during a rainstorm requires staying power of a high order. With a wide-ranging web of routes, buses may sound tempting, but that's before you try to decipher routes and stops or attempt to squeeze aboard during the crush hour. Buses also have to contend with the increasing solidity of Shànghǎi's traffic, which can slow movement to an agonising crawl.

Shànghǎi is hurling money into transport infrastructure like a city possessed, but with everyone and his dog wanting a car, vehicle ownership is undergoing parabolic growth. It's a war of attrition between road builders and gridlock, with minor victories for the transport department swiftly wrested back by the expanding mass of vehicles. The metro is spearheading Shànghǎi's best offensive against the transport quagmire. Plans to extend the celebrated MagLev line – bringing Pǔdōng's blindingly fast hover train rocketing into central Shànghǎi – may one day get off the drawing board, but don't hold your breath.

To the untrained Western eye, the traffic in Shànghǎi can seem totally anarchic. The roads can be lethal (especially to pedestrians), with unpredictable swerving, sudden lunges and weaving manoeuvres. Every square metre of tarmac is fought for, tooth and nail. Take a cab and see how often the driver hits the brakes.

## THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

It's also worth noting that drivers travel more slowly than their Western counterparts, as other vehicles are driven erratically. Traffic rules are, however, widely ignored. Indicators are often shunned in favour of the sudden and unexpected manoeuvre.

Unpopular and unloved, Shànghǎi's 8000 whistle-blowing crossing guards man intersections across the city, preventing pedestrians from crossing into oncoming traffic. Wearing ill-fitting uniforms and armed with no more than a whistle, crossing guards do their best to keep Shànghǎi's increasingly gridlocked roads open.

Come rush hour (from around 7am to 9.30am and 4pm to 6.30pm) it's every frail old man for himself. Cool aggression and elusive speed, along with a friendly smile, keep things from getting ugly.

## AIR

China Eastern Airlines operates out of Shànghǎi; Shanghai Airlines is a smaller airline, with limited international routes.

For domestic and international flights on Chinese airlines, the baggage allowance for an adult passenger is 20kg in economy class and 30kg in 1st class. You are also allowed 5kg of hand luggage, though this is rarely weighed. The charge for excess baggage is 1% of the full fare for each kilogram over the allowance.

Airline information in Chinese is available at ☎ 6247 5953 (domestic) and ☎ 6247 2255 (international). Departure tax is now included in the air ticket price.

Domestic air travellers can conveniently check in baggage at the [airport city terminal](#) (Shànghǎi Jǐchǎng Chéngshì Hángzhàn Lóu; [Map pp98–9](#); ☎ 3214 4600; 1600 West Nanjing Rd; 🗺️ Jing'an Temple)

just east of Jing'an Temple, before proceeding to Hongqiao Airport by bus (from the terminal basement) or the nearby metro.

Daily (usually several times a day) domestic flights connect Shànghǎi to every major city in China. Minor cities are less likely to have daily flights, but chances are there will be at least one flight a week, probably more, to Shànghǎi. Domestic flights are from Hongqiao Airport and Pudong International Airport, so check when you buy your ticket as it is generally more convenient to fly from Hongqiao Airport, which is closer to downtown. You can buy tickets from hundreds of airline offices and travel agencies (including hotel travel agents) around town (few take credit cards); try to book several days in advance of your flight. Tickets are typically substantially discounted so shop around. Prices quoted in this book are the full fare. Discounts can be harder to come by during the main holiday seasons (Chinese New Year, first week of May and October) and on weekends.

Business-class tickets cost 25% over economy class, and 1st-class tickets cost an extra 60%. Babies pay 10% of the adult fare; children aged two to 12 are charged 50% of the adult fare; those over 12 pay the adult fare.

## DOMESTIC AIRFARES FROM SHÀNGHǎI

Destination	One-way fare (¥)
Běijīng 北京	1180
Chéngdū 成都	1660
Chóngqīng 重庆	1540
Fúzhōu 福州	830
Guǎngzhōu 广州	1330
Guīlín 桂林	1350
Hàikǒu 海口	1710
Huángshān 黄山市 (Túnxi)	550
Kūnmíng 昆明	1950
Níngbō 宁波	470
Qīngdǎo 青岛	790
Shēnzhèn 深圳	1320
Tiānjīn 天津	1080
Xiàmén 厦门	1010
Xī'ān 西安	1310

Prices are approximate; check current fares with the relevant airlines. Note that there are direct buses to Kowloon from the Shēnzhèn airport, which is a cheaper option than flying direct to Hong Kong. Also note that there are now direct flights from Shànghǎi to Taipei (roughly ¥3000).

Cancellation fees depend on how long before departure you cancel. On domestic flights, if you cancel 24 to 48 hours before departure you lose 10% of the fare; if you cancel between two and 24 hours before the flight you lose 20%; and if you cancel less than two hours before the flight you lose 30%. If you don't show up for a domestic flight, you are entitled to a refund of 50%.

## Airlines

China Eastern Airlines has many sales offices, as well as ticket sales counters at most major hotels.

**Air China** (Zhōngguó Guójiā Hángkōng; Map pp98–9;

☎ 400 810 0999; www.airchina.com.cn; Room 307, Kerry Centre, 1515 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路1515号307室)

**China Eastern Airlines** (Dōngháng; Map pp98–9;

☎ 95808; www.ce-air.com; 258 Weihai Rd; 威海路258号; ☎ 24hr) There is also a branch at the Shanghai Train Station (Map pp98–9).

**Shanghai Airlines** (Shànghǎi Hángkōng; ☎ 1010 5858;

www.shanghai-air.com) French Concession (Map pp86–7; 90 South Shaanxi Rd; 陕西南路90号); Jing'an (Map pp98–9; 212 Jiangning Rd)

**Spring Airlines** (Chūnqiū Hángkōng; Map pp128–9;

☎ 400 820 6222; www.chinaspringtour.com; 1558 Dingxi Rd; 定西路1558号)

International airlines in Shànghǎi include the following:

**Air Canada** (Jiānádà Hángkōng; Map pp98–9; ☎ 6279

2999; www.aircanada.cn; Room 3901, United Plaza, 1468 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路1468号3901室)

**Air France** (Fāguó Hángkōng; Map pp66–7; ☎ 400 880

8808; www.airfrance.com.cn; Room 3901, Ciro's Plaza, 388 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路388号3901室)

**Air Macau** (Àomén Hángkōng; Map pp86–7; ☎ 6248

1110; www.en.airmacau.com.mo; Room 302, Hotel Equatorial, 65 West Yan'an Rd; 延安西路65号302室)

**British Airways** (Yīngguó Hángkōng; Map pp66–7;

☎ 800 810 8012; www.ba.com; Room 703, Central Plaza, 227 North Huangpi Rd; 黄陂北路227号703室)

**Cathay Pacific/Dragonair** (Guótài Hángkōng; Map

pp86–7; ☎ 6375 6375; www.dragonair.com; Room 2101-2104, Shanghai Plaza, 138 Middle Huaihai Rd; 淮海中路138号2101-2104室)

**Lufthansa** (Hànshā Hángkōng Gōngsī; Map pp86–7;

☎ 5352 4999; www.lufthansa.com.cn; 3rd fl, Bldg 1, Corporate Ave, 222 Hubin Rd; 湖滨路222号1号楼3层)