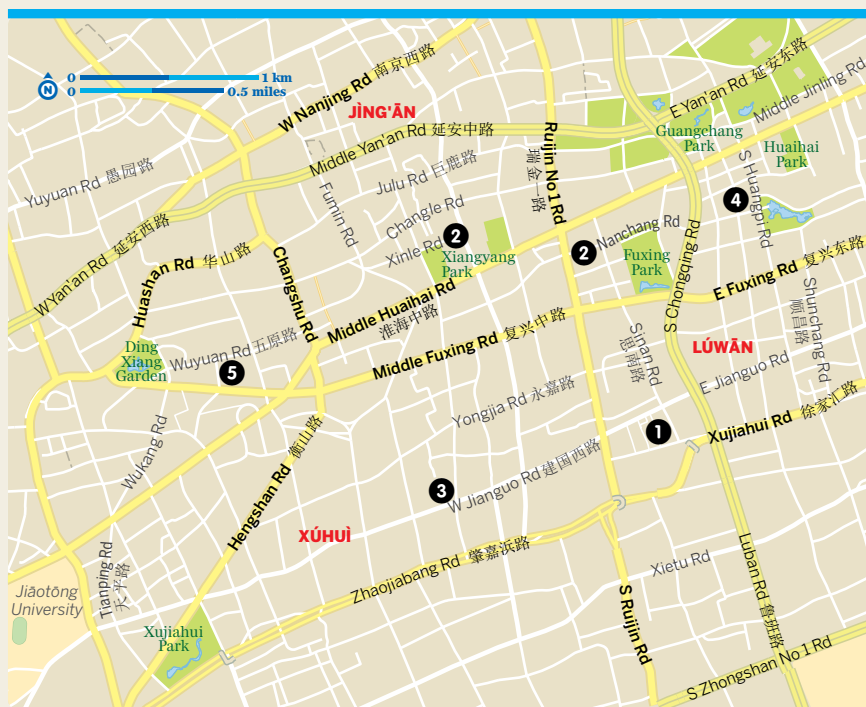


French Concession

FRENCH CONCESSION EAST | FRENCH CONCESSION WEST

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ① Weave through a forest of shoppers' elbows in the charming *shikùmén* warren of **Tiánzifāng** (p95).
- ② Shop your socks off in the boutiques of **Nanchang** or **Xinle Roads** (p122).
- ③ Savour home-style Shanghaiese cuisine at **Jian Guo 328** (p106).
- ④ Mosey around the interior of a *shikùmén* stone-gate house at **Xintiāndi** (p96).
- ⑤ Ease into the French Concession cocktail hour at **el Cóctel** (p115).



For more detail of this area see Map p302 and Map p306 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Although most expats use the colonial-era term 'French Concession', the name means little to most Shanghainese. Locals call much of the eastern area Lúwān (卢湾) or Huángpǔ (黄浦), while the area west of South Shaanxi Rd is known as Xúhùi (徐汇), a district that extends southwest into Xújiāhuì. It's worth familiarising yourself with these official district names. The literal Chinese for the historic French Concession is Fǎzǔjiè (法租界).



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Spicy Joint (p106)
- ➔ Jian Guo 328 (p106)
- ➔ Madison (p108)
- ➔ Dī Shuǐ Dòng (p104)
- ➔ Noodle Bull (p106)

For reviews, see p101. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ el Cóctel (p115)
- ➔ Cotton's (p115)
- ➔ Abbey Road (p116)
- ➔ Boxing Cat Brewery (p116)
- ➔ Dr Wine (p116)

For reviews, see p111. ➔



Best Shopping

- ➔ Tiánzǐfáng (p119)
- ➔ NuoMi (p123)
- ➔ Pilingpalang (p123)
- ➔ Lolo Love Vintage (p123)
- ➔ Ooak Concept Boutique (p123)

For reviews, see p118. ➔

Explore: French Concession

The French Concession is Shànghǎi's sunny side up; it's the city at its coolest, hippest and most elegant. Once home to the bulk of Shànghǎi's adventurers, revolutionaries, gangsters, prostitutes and writers – ironically many of them weren't French – the former concession (also called Frenchtown) is the most graceful part of Pǔxī. Shànghǎi's erstwhile reputation as the 'Paris of the East' owes a big debt to this neighbourhood's tree-lined avenues, 1920s mansions and French-influenced architecture.

Must-see sights are thin on the ground, but the concession's leafy backstreets and European disposition make exploration a delight. Most first-time visitors start off in Xintiāndì, which offers an all-in-one introduction to the local *shíkùmén* (stone-gate house) architecture alongside alluring dining and shopping options. South from here is the former concession's other big draw: Tiánzǐfáng, a less-polished warren of lanes and artsy boutiques that can keep you wandering (often lost) indefinitely.

The French Concession's real attraction is not sight-seeing. Like Shànghǎi itself, the area thrives on its endless quest for sophistication, and its tirelessly inventive restaurant and bar scene, coupled with pop-up boutiques and diverse entertainment options, means that you should come prepared to expand your tastes – just make sure you have cash to spend.

Local Life

➔ **Lǐlòng & Lǒngtáng** Slip down Shànghǎi's charming alleyways for the homely rhythms of community life.

➔ **Foot massages** Sink into an armchair (and maybe catch some Hong Kong action on the tube) while a masseuse kneads your tension away.

➔ **Snacks** Dumplings, noodles, haute cuisine, Sichuanese, Hunanese, stinky tofu and lychee ice cream – no matter when or where, you'll find something to eat (and a local at your elbow).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro lines 1 and 10** These two main lines serve the French Concession area, both running east–west past Xintiāndì. Line 1 continues on to People's Sq, while line 10 serves the Old Town and East Nanjing Rd (the Bund). The two lines meet at the South Shaanxi Rd metro stop.

➔ **Metro line 9** At the southern edge of the concession, line 9 serves Tiánzǐfáng.

➔ **Metro line 7** This north–south line provides a handy link between the French Concession and the Jīng'ān neighbourhood; it connects with line 1 at Changshu Rd and line 9 at Zhaojiabang Rd.