

# Jìng'ān

WEST NANJING ROAD | SHANGHAI RAILWAY STATION

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Fathom the fantastic at Shanghai's most sacred shrine, the **Jade Buddha Temple** (p128).
- 2 Catch up with the latest trends in the Chinese art world at postindustrial **M50** (p129).
- 3 Delve into the *lilòng* lanes of the **Bubbling Well Road Apartments** (p135) on our walking tour.
- 4 Pixelate the **Jing'an Temple** (p130) against a skyscraper backdrop.
- 5 Catch the acrobats at the **Shanghai Centre Theatre** (p140).



For more detail of this area see Map p309 and Map p310 →

## Explore: Jīng'ān

In the early days of the International Settlement, West Nanjing Rd was known as Bubbling Well Rd; its far western end was where city stopped and countryside began. By the swinging 1920s, the fields were being swallowed up by the rapidly expanding city, and Bubbling Well Rd was one of Shànghǎi's busiest and most exclusive streets. Apart from its name, not much has changed since then. The main thoroughfare of today's Jīng'ān district (静安), West Nanjing Rd today is the address of some of the city's glitziest malls, high-end shops and five-star hotels.

Pūdōng may have taller towers and the French Concession more charm, but this part of Jīng'ān is still the city's most exclusive neighbourhood. Even the skyscrapers here suggest harmony – a change from the disjointed skyline in other districts – while the traditional *lilòng* (alleyways) are unexpectedly well preserved. The heart of all the consumer action is the Shànghǎi Centre, a focal point both for tourists and the many expats who work in the district.

Head north of West Nanjing Rd and you're plunged into grittier, more authentic areas. The first stop on many tours of Jīng'ān is the Jade Buddha Temple. A short hike to the north from here are the M50 art galleries along Sūzhōu Creek. Good streets to explore for a taste of an authentic working-class Shànghǎi neighbourhood include the bustling Jiangning and North Shaanxi Rds.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Temple life** Join worshippers at the Jade Buddha (p128) and Jīng'ān Temple (p130), followed by a Buddhist vegetarian meal.
- ➔ **Art** Join the Shànghǎi Chinese looking at art in edgy M50 (p129).
- ➔ **Snack attack** When the munchies strike, follow the crowds to Wujiang Road Food Street (p138).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Line 2 runs parallel to West Nanjing Rd, stopping at People's Sq, West Nanjing Rd, Jīng'ān Temple and Jiangsu Rd. Line 7 runs north-south and intersects with line 2 at Jīng'ān Temple and line 1 at Changshu Rd in the French Concession. When completed, line 13 will link Changshou Rd in north Jīng'ān with West Nanjing Rd.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 19 links the North Bund area to the Jade Buddha Temple area; catch it at the intersection of Tiantong and North Sichuan Rds. Bus 112 zigzags north from the southern end of People's Sq to West Nanjing Rd, and up Jiangning Rd to the Jade Buddha Temple.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Jīng'ān has some remarkably well-preserved *lilòng* (alleyways). The gentrified Bubbling Well Road Apartments are a great place to start exploration, and architecture buffs should also seek out the handful of lanes off Yuyuan Rd in the west of the district, particularly those at Nos 395 and 361, near the intersection with West Beijing Rd.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Wujiang Road Food Street (p138)
- ➔ Commune Social (p136)
- ➔ Jen Dow Vegetarian Restaurant (p131)
- ➔ Sumerian (p131)
- ➔ Fu 1088 (p138)

For reviews, see p131. ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Fennel Lounge (p139)
- ➔ Kāibā (p139)
- ➔ Malone's (p139)
- ➔ Spot (p139)
- ➔ B&C (p139)

For reviews, see p139. ➔

## Best Sports & Activities

- ➔ Apsara Spa (p142)
- ➔ Green Massage (p142)
- ➔ Oz Body Fit (p142)

For reviews, see p142. ➔