

The Bund & People's Square

THE BUND | PEOPLE'S SQUARE

Neighbourhood Top Five

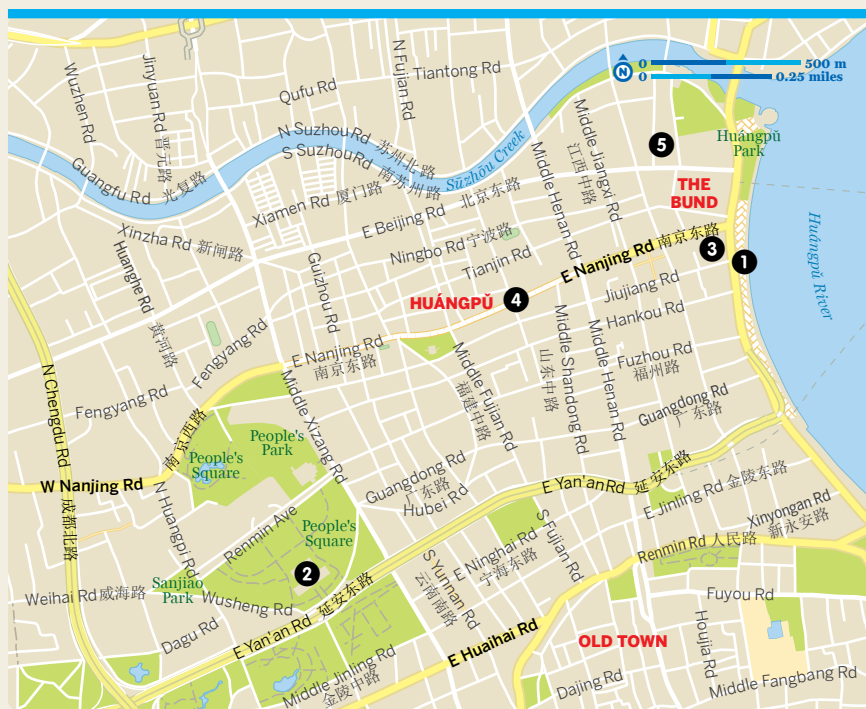
1 The Bund (p56) Strolling along the promenade, and capturing Pūdōng lighting up through a martini glass.

2 Shànghǎi Museum (p61) Loading up on Chinese culture's greatest hits at this world-class museum.

3 High Dining (p72) Indulging at some of Shànghǎi's signature Bund restaurants, such as Mr & Mrs Bund, with showstopping views as standard.

4 East Nanjing Rd (p64) Plunging into the neon-lit swell of this famous pedestrianised road.

5 Rockbund Art Museum (p64) Catching up with the latest trends in contemporary Chinese art along the 'Art on the Bund' precinct.



For more detail of this area see Map p296 ➔

Explore: The Bund & People's Square

Shànghǎi's definitive spectacle, the grand sweep of the riverside Bund (外滩, Wàitān) is a designer retail and dining strip; it's *the* address in town for the city's most exclusive boutiques, restaurants and hotels. The best strategy is just to stroll, weighing up the bombastic neoclassical contours with the pristine geometry of Pǔdōng over the water.

The streets west from the waterfront morph instantly into a less salubrious commercial district housed in the uncleaned shells of concession-era buildings, mixed with newer skyscrapers and office towers. Yet even the most casual of wanders yields sudden architectural gems.

Continuing west is People's Square (人民广场), a swathe of open space boxed in by towers. The de-facto city centre, it's the address of a host of museums, entertainment venues, malls, a park and the city hall. Much less austere than Běijīng's Tiān'ānmén Sq, People's Square is free of the rigid geometry and supervision of the capital's better-known rectangle, with musicians serenading pockets of intense crowds.

Linking the Bund with People's Square is East Nanjing Rd, once China's most famous shopping street. Mostly pedestrian, it's a bonanza of department stores, neon signs, determined English-speaking girls latching on to foreign men (and getting kickbacks from the cafes they drag their victims to), incessant offers of massage, and hawkers flogging replica watches and gimmicky toys. If you don't mind melees, it's a fun saunter.

Local Life

➔ **Dumplings** Sample *shēngjiān* at Yang's Fry Dumplings (p73) or *xiǎolóngbāo* at Jiǎjiā Soup Dumplings (p73) or Nánxiáng Steamed Bun Restaurant (p70).

➔ **Museum-hopping** Spend a rainy day checking out the museums at People's Square.

➔ **Shopping** Join the throngs on East Nanjing Rd, crowding into malls or angling for discounts in the subterranean stalls around People's Square metro station.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** The Bund is a 10-minute walk east from the East Nanjing Rd stop (lines 2 and 10). People's Square, one of the city's busiest stations, is served by lines 1, 2 and 8.

➔ **Pedicab** Drivers hang out in side streets along the Bund and charge ¥10 (total) to Yùyuán Gardens.

➔ **Bund Sightseeing Tunnel** Runs from the Bund to Pǔdōng under the Huángpǔ River.

➔ **Tourist Train** Runs the length of East Nanjing Rd's pedestrianised section (tickets ¥5), from Middle Henan Rd to Shànghǎi No 1 Department Store.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Avoid the young people posing as out-of-town students who ply the main tourist drags (East Nanjing Rd, the Bund), engaging visitors in conversation. They seem friendly enough. You help them take their picture, chat about China and they invite you to a traditional tea ceremony. It sounds welcoming, but don't do it. You'll get the tea all right, but you'll also get a bill for US\$100 or more.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lost Heaven (p71)
- ➔ Yang's Fry Dumplings (p73)
- ➔ Mr & Mrs Bund (p72)
- ➔ Yúxín Chuāncài (p70)
- ➔ M on the Bund (p72)

For reviews, see p70 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Long Bar (p74)
- ➔ M1NT (p74)
- ➔ Barbarossa (p75)
- ➔ Glam (p74)
- ➔ Pop (p74)

For reviews, see p74 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Annabel Lee (p76)
- ➔ Sūzhōu Cobblers (p76)
- ➔ Shànghǎi Museum Art Store (p76)
- ➔ Shànghǎi No 1 Food Store (p76)
- ➔ Blue Shànghǎi White (p76)

For reviews, see p76 ➔