

Jìng'ān

SOUTH JÌNG'ĀN | NORTH JÌNG'ĀN

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Jade Buddha Temple (p130) Fathoming the fantastic at Shànghǎi's most sacred shrine.

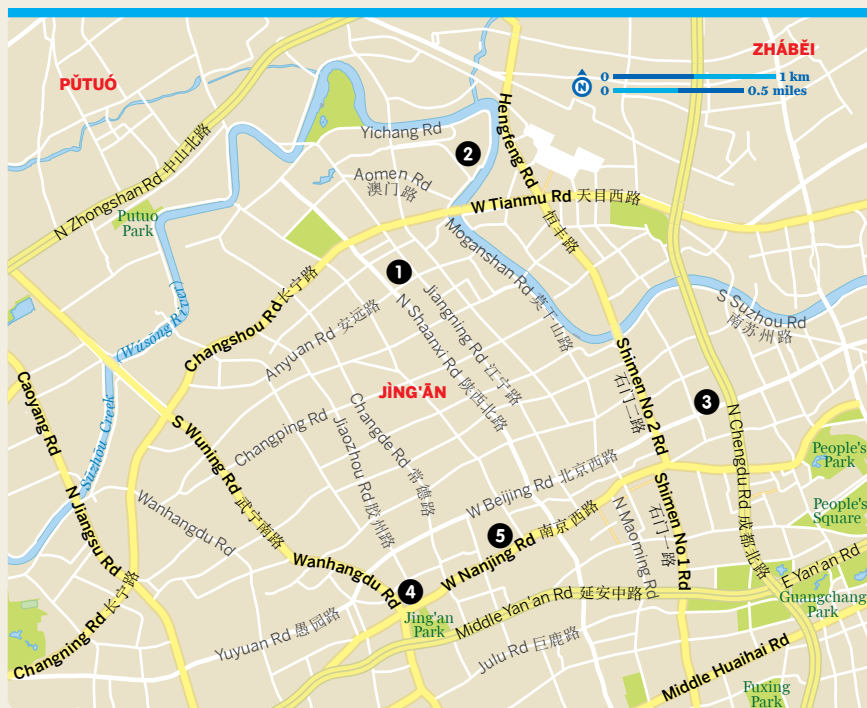
2 M50 (p128) Catching up with the latest trends in the Chinese art world at this post-industrial art precinct.

3 Jing'ān Sculpture Park (p135) Enjoying offbeat art installations while strolling through this art park.

4 Jing'ān Temple (p129) Wandering this atmospheric temple, contrasted by a

modern skyscraper backdrop.

5 Shànghǎi Centre Theatre (p141) Catching local acrobats performing nightly at this venue.



For more detail of this area see Maps p309 and 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 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 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 (p130) and Jīng'ān Temples (p129), followed by a Buddhist vegetarian meal.
- ♦ **Art** Admire contemporary Chinese art in edgy M50 (p128).
- ♦ **Neighbourhood Life** Delve into the *lilòng* (alleyways) of the Bubbling Well Road Apartments on a walking tour (p131).

Getting There & Away

- ♦ **Metro line 2** Runs parallel to West Nanjing Rd, stopping at People's Square, West Nanjing Rd, Jīng'ān Temple and Jiangsu Rd.
- ♦ **Metro line 7** Runs north-south and interacts with line 2 at Jīng'ān Temple and line 1 at Changshu Rd in the French Concession.
- ♦ **Metro line 13** When completed, will link Changshou Rd in north Jīng'ān with West Nanjing Rd.

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

- ♦ Commune Social (p139)
- ♦ Jen Dow Vegetarian Restaurant (p137)
- ♦ Yang's Fry Dumplings (p135)
- ♦ Fù 1088 (p139)
- ♦ Alan Wong's (p139)

For reviews, see p135 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- ♦ Dogtown (p139)
- ♦ Tailor Bar (p139)
- ♦ Mokkos Lamu (p140)
- ♦ BeerGrdn (p140)
- ♦ That One Place (p140)

For reviews, see p139 ➡

Best Places to Shop

- ♦ Spin (p141)
- ♦ Jīngdézhen Porcelain Artware (p141)
- ♦ Design Commune (p141)
- ♦ Han City Fashion & Accessories Plaza (p142)
- ♦ 10 Corso Como (p142)

For reviews, see p141 ➡