

# SHANGHAI

ENCOUNTER

CHRISTOPHER PITTS

Shanghai Encounter

Published by **Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd**  
ABN 36 005 607 983

**Australia** (Head Office) Locked Bag 1, Footscray,  
Vic 3011  
☎ 03 8379 8000 fax 03 8379 8111  
talk2us@lonelyplanet.com.au

**USA** 150 Linden St, Oakland, CA 94607  
☎ 510 250 6400  
toll free 800 275 8555  
fax 510 893 8572  
info@lonelyplanet.com

**UK** 2nd fl, 186 City Rd  
London EC1V 2NT  
☎ 020 7106 2100 fax 020 7106 2101  
go@lonelyplanet.co.uk

This edition of *Shanghai Encounter* was written by Christopher Pitts. Damian Harper wrote the previous edition. This title was commissioned in Lonely Planet's Oakland office and produced by: **Commissioning Editor** Emily K Wolman **Coordinating Editor** Jessica Crouch **Coordinating Cartographer** Peter Shields **Layout Designer** Wibowo Rusli **Assisting Editors** Kate Evans, Robyn Loughnane, Dianne Schallmeiner, Saralinda Turner **Assisting Cartographer** Csanad Csutoros **Managing Editor** Laura Stansfeld **Managing Cartographer** David Connolly **Cover Research** Dan Baird, lonelyplanetimages.com **Internal Image Research** Sabrina Dalbesio, lonelyplanetimages.com **Project Manager** Chris Love **Managing Layout Designer** Laura Jane **Thanks to** Lucy Birchley, Sally Darmody, Yvonne Kirk, Ji Yuanfang, Rebecca Lalor, Raphael Richards

ISBN 978 1 74179 411 3

Printed through Colorcraft Ltd, Hong Kong.  
Printed in China.

Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries.

Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: [lonelyplanet.com/ip](mailto:lonelyplanet.com/ip).

© Lonely Planet 2010. All rights reserved.



**Mixed Sources**

Product group from well-managed  
forests and other controlled sources  
[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SGS-COC-005002  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

### Colour-Coding & Maps

Colour-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighbourhood also gets its own colour, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighbourhood section.

Shaded yellow areas on the maps denote areas of interest – for their historical significance, their attractive architecture or their great bars and restaurants. We encourage you to head to these areas and just start exploring!

### Prices

Multiple prices listed with reviews (eg Y10/5 or Y10/5/20) indicate adult/child, adult/concession or adult/child/family.

*Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.*

**Send us your feedback** We love to hear from readers – your comments help make our books better. We read every word you send us, and we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors. The most useful submissions are rewarded with a free book. To send us your updates and find out about Lonely Planet events, newsletters and travel news visit our award-winning website: [lonelyplanet.com/contact](http://lonelyplanet.com/contact).

Note: We may edit, reproduce and incorporate your comments in Lonely Planet products such as guidebooks, websites and digital products, so let us know if you don't want your comments reproduced or your name acknowledged. For a copy of our privacy policy visit [lonelyplanet.com/privacy](http://lonelyplanet.com/privacy).

## CHRISTOPHER PITTS

A Philadelphia native, Chris started off his university years studying classical Chinese poetry before a week in 1990s Shanghai (en route to school in Kunming) abruptly changed his focus to the idiosyncrasies of modern China. After spending several years in Asia memorising Chinese characters, he abruptly traded it all in and moved to Paris, where he currently lives with his family: Perrine, Elliot and Céleste. Chris works as a freelance writer, editor and translator for a number of publishers, including University of California Press, and has contributed to several Lonely Planet titles. Visit his website at [www.christopherpitts.net](http://www.christopherpitts.net).



## CHRISTOPHER'S THANKS

Thanks to Damian Harper, author of the stellar 1st edition, and Daniel McCrohan, coauthor of the *Shanghai City Guide*. In Shanghai, thanks to Claudio Valsecchi, Gerald Neumann, Zane Mellupe, Antonio Jiménez Rosa, Munson Wu and Maria Chao. Finally, gratitude to the family on both sides of the Atlantic and kisses to Perrine, Elliot and Céleste.

## THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Greg Elms has been a contributor to Lonely Planet for more than 15 years. Armed with a Bachelor of Arts in photography, Greg was a photographer's assistant for two years before embarking on a travel odyssey. He eventually settled down to a freelance career in Melbourne, and now works regularly for magazines, graphic designers, advertising agencies and, of course, publishers such as Lonely Planet.

**Our readers** Many thanks to the travellers who wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes. Irene Arriaza, Mark Broadhead, Penny Lattey.

**Cover photograph** Flying a kite and cycling at sunrise on the Bund, Anthony Arendt/Alamy. **Internal photographs** p45, p57, p76, p89, p95 by Christopher Pitts; p8 Radius Images/Corbis; p87 Bali Laguna; p114 Sunmdm/Dreamstime; p119 Jia Shanghai; p128 Dragonfly Therapeutic Retreat; p132 Giles Robberts/Alamy. All other photographs by Lonely Planet Images and by Greg Elms, except p4, p23, p25 Richard l'Anson; p11 Keren Su; p20 Brent Winebrenner; p30, p39, p116, p135 Phil Weymouth; p47 Martin Puddy; p51 Krzysztof Dydyski; p112 Bruce Bi; p115 John Banagan; p125 Tony Burns.

All images are copyright of the photographers unless otherwise indicated. Many of the images in this guide are available for licensing from **Lonely Planet Images**: [lonelyplanetimages.com](http://lonelyplanetimages.com)



Shoppers enjoy a colourful day out

# CONTENTS

<b>THE AUTHOR</b>	<b>03</b>	> TAICHI & CHINESE	
<b>THIS IS SHANGHAI</b>	<b>07</b>	MARTIAL ARTS	129
<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>08</b>	> ART GALLERIES	130
<b>SHANGHAI DIARY</b>	<b>25</b>	> MARKETS	131
<b>ITINERARIES</b>	<b>29</b>	> CLUBS	132
<b>NEIGHBOURHOODS</b>	<b>34</b>	> GAY & LESBIAN	
>THE BUND & PEOPLE'S SQUARE	38	SHANGHAI	133
>OLD TOWN	54	> RELIGION	134
>FRENCH CONCESSION EAST	62	<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>135</b>
>FRENCH CONCESSION WEST	72	<b>DIRECTORY</b>	<b>143</b>
>JING'AN	82	<b>INDEX</b>	<b>155</b>
>PUDONG	92		
>XUJIAHUI & SOUTH SHANGHAI	98		
>HONGKOU & NORTH SHANGHAI	104		
<b>EXCURSIONS TO</b>			
<b>CLASSICAL CHINA</b>	<b>109</b>		
<b>SNAPSHOTS</b>	<b>116</b>		
> ACCOMMODATION	118		
> ARCHITECTURE	120		
> FOOD	122		
> DRINKING	124		
> FASHION	126		
> SILK & ANTIQUES	127		
> MASSAGE & SPA TREATMENT	128		

Why is our travel information the best in the world? It's simple: our authors are passionate, dedicated travellers. They don't take freebies in exchange for positive coverage so you can be sure the advice you're given is impartial. They travel widely to all the popular spots, and off the beaten track. They don't research using just the internet or phone. They discover new places not included in any other guidebook. They personally visit thousands of hotels, restaurants, palaces, trails, galleries, temples and more. They speak with dozens of locals every day to make sure you get the kind of insider knowledge only a local could tell you. They take pride in getting all the details right, and in telling it how it is. Think you can do it? Find out how at [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com).



# THIS IS SHANGHAI

There's no place in China quite like Shanghai. There are no summer palaces, fog-enmeshed temples or transcendent cliff-side Buddhas here.

Remnants of an alluring past remain, but to dwell there would be to miss the point entirely. Shanghai has never been about what has already happened; it is about what is going to happen. For millions of Chinese, it is more than just a city; it is a symbol of change, opportunity and sophistication. While Beijing may pull the country's strings, Shanghai is the pacesetter when it comes to future aspirations. It revels in its glamorous airs and entrepreneurial flair, in its global reach and ability to synthesise and adapt foreign ideas to home-grown tastes.

Now two decades in the making, the post-Communist megalopolis is an ever-evolving cityscape. Old Concession architecture stands in the shadows of giant towers, glitzy restaurants open around the corner from tiny dumpling stands, and the intermittent flashes of welding torches compete with neon signs and ubiquitous TV screens. More than any other place in the Middle Kingdom, Shanghai is electrified with youthful optimism and prospects. Business may be the city's *raison d'être*, but there's plenty to do here, from nonstop shopping and skyscraper hopping to stand-out art and fantastic eats.

As modern China's ground zero, the city exudes a unique style that's unlike anywhere else in the country. Often portrayed as a blend of East and West, Shanghai, with its voracious appetite for new styles and trends, is above all cosmopolitan and cutting edge. It's a place to taste a future that's just around the bend, to hang on to the roller-coaster ride of change, to hunt down the ghosts of old alleyways, the vanishing remains of debauched glory days and the creations of the next generation. For deal makers, fashion freaks, in-the-know foodies and those who just want to ride the crest of China's emerging wave – this is Shanghai.

Left Hearty homestyle meals at Dongbei Ren (p69)