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## CITY LANDING GUIDES

# SHANGHAI



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The University of Auckland and Kea, an organisation supporting New Zealanders living overseas, have combined forces to provide you with this City Landing Guide. It is packed with insider knowledge essential to know before you take flight.

The juxtaposition of ancient history and futuristic elements makes Shanghai an exhilarating city to visit. From sipping a hot drink in a traditional tea shop to watching the light show on skyscrapers each night, Shanghai is a place of wonder, overwhelming the senses at every turn.



## Key industries

- Shanghai is a major industrial centre, accounting for almost 80 percent of the country's gross industrial output. It is also home to some of China's largest industrial manufacturers including steelmaker Baosteel Group and China's largest and oldest shipbuilder Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding Group.
- Shanghai is a major centre of higher education in China with more than 30 universities and colleges. These include China's most prestigious tertiary providers, including Fudan University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Tongji University and East China Normal University.
- Lujiazui is the financial district of Shanghai and is often called the Wall Street of China. Lujiazui has around 13,000 commerce and trade businesses, so it plays an important role in driving the city's growth in the financial and shipping sectors.
- New Zealand Central is in Shanghai's glitzy precinct of Xintiandi. It is an upmarket hub purpose built for New Zealand companies conducting trade in China. There are casual meeting spaces, conference rooms and there are flat whites on tap.



## Insider hints

- Air quality can vary from good to very bad within a 24-hour period. On some days air pollution can be so severe that people are advised to remain indoors as much as possible. You can



buy inexpensive breathing masks which can help, but those with breathing difficulties or asthma should be especially careful. There are a range of apps available that provide information about the air quality in real time.

- While credit cards are generally accepted at international hotels, department stores and high-end restaurants, they generally can't be used at smaller restaurants and shops, where cash is normally the only form of payment accepted. Tipping is officially discouraged by the government, though waiters in some of the more expensive restaurants will happily accept any extra dollars you care to offer them.
- Expats often complain about Shanghai's unhealthy lifestyle. People tend to work long hours and the social scene revolves around late nights, eating and drinking at local bars. It's easy to get into the habit of taking taxis everywhere

- and to neglect exercise or general health, especially if you live in the city. However, an increasing number of gyms have sprung up throughout the city, with yoga becoming particularly popular. Shanghai has more than 150 public parks available for recreational activities and there are also local rugby and cricket clubs which can help Kiwis to feel more at home.
- All the streets in Shanghai run north to south and east to west and all the street signs have a N/S/E/W on them, making it easier to navigate.
- If you want to get out of the city's intensity for a weekend, there are some great travel companies that cater for the expat market and it's also a good way to meet like-minded expats in the city. Try M2Adventures, Hiking Lovers and Travelers Society. For an easy getaway, head down to Moganshan for the weekend.



## Essential apps

- **WeChat or Tencent QQ:** Popular messaging platforms.
- **Alipay:** Mobile payments platform. Cash is being replaced by mobile payment options and credit cards are not widely accepted.
- **Pleco:** Chinese dictionary. The premium version will even translate menus.
- **Astrill:** Virtual Private Network (VPN) which enables users to get around China's highly effective firewall that blocks Facebook, Google and a range of other western websites.
- **Smart Shanghai:** The best website and app for getting addresses in Chinese and catching up on the latest news and events. They also have an essentials guide which is great for finding your feet in the city.



## Know before you go

### Visas

China doesn't offer a visa on arrival service, so before you go, you'll need to arrange your visa well in advance. Due to strict requirements you should check your visa category with the Chinese embassy or consular office to ensure you apply for the right one.

### Employment

Before you sign on the dotted line make sure you have done your homework. While most New Zealanders enjoy their experience, some have reported arriving under contract with promises of generous salaries and bonuses which never came to fruition.

### Cost of Living

Even though the cost of living in Shanghai has declined in recent years, it remains China's most expensive city to live in and the sixth most expensive in the world. However, the cost of living in Shanghai is roughly half the cost of living in New York City or London and around 40 percent less than Singapore.

The monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the city centre is around NZ\$1500, while a room in a shared apartment would range between NZ\$500-1000 depending on its size. Local food items including bread, rice and eggs tend to be relatively cheap, while products such as milk, butter and cheese are expensive. Alcohol is also expensive as it is heavily taxed. Recreational activities and entertainment can also be pricey – a gym membership is likely to set you back around NZ\$95 a month.

The University also has an international network of Volunteer Alumni Coordinators (VACs) who organise informal events and provide advice for alumni who are new to the area.

To update your details go to [alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update](http://alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update) and to find your local VAC contact go to [alumni.auckland.ac.nz/networks](http://alumni.auckland.ac.nz/networks)

Checking out Kea's website, [keanewzealand.com](http://keanewzealand.com), is another excellent way to connect with fellow Kiwis. For events, job listings, business networks and more, Kea supports a prospering community around the globe. Check out the Kea New Zealand Wechat account as well.

There is also Kiwi Drinks, a monthly event for Kiwis and friends on the second Friday of every month at Hooked, at Found 158. It is a fun place to meet other Kiwis and get involved with the New Zealand community in Shanghai.



## Where do Kiwis flock to?

Alumni networking events are hosted by the University of Auckland across the world. Be sure to keep your contact details up to date so we can notify you of upcoming networking opportunities in your city.



## Top tips

Don't forget that China has a BYO toilet paper policy, so keep some handy when you are travelling.

Many hospitals demand payment before treatment, so ensure you have sufficient funds in case of emergency – especially since not all international medical insurances are accepted.





## Advice from local alumni

*“The best gallery is M50 Art District because it’s a very creative and innovative place to see free art. The place has a great vibe and it’s fun to stroll through the small streets and buildings with exhibitions.”*

– Christoph

*“My favourite museum is Shanghai Museum because it’s in the centre of the city with plenty of gorgeous exhibits of ancient China and it’s an amazing place to learn Chinese history.”*

– Ningfang

*“Eat local food! Shanghai caters for literally every cuisine in the world and within China alone there are numerous specialties from every province. Don’t be afraid to eat street food either. The key for all restaurants is to eat where the place is packed with locals. Chinese people are obsessed with fresh food so if you follow that rule, you’ll find awesome food and won’t get sick.”*

– MJ

*“The expat community is very welcoming, everyone has been new here once, so they get what it’s like to be new and a bit lost. Locals are often very interested in New Zealand, especially our fresh food and beverages and there are lots of Kiwis here doing amazing things.”*

– Kim



*“Don’t get tea scammed! It is common for foreigners to be scammed by Chinese ‘students’. These are young Chinese people who have very good English and will often approach foreigners in China around tourist spots. They are very friendly and charming and will invite you to try some traditional tea with them. Do not go or you will be forced to pay a large amount of money before you can leave the tea house.”*

– Anna-May

*“Head to Lujiazui, there are lots of world-famous high rise buildings and good views, especially late at night. There are lots of bars and restaurants along the Huangpu River.”*

– Wanjing



### Instagrammable locations

- The Captain
- Chenghuangmiao
- Oriental Pearl Tower
- Gongqing forest park
- The Shanghai French Concession

Please note the information in this guide is intended as general information only.