



SHANGHAI, China

Erica - Shanghai is a futuristic playground, full of excitement and learning; you can't go there without being amazed!



Picture by Erica Swallow

Student to Student Guide

NYU StudyAbroad. Be there.

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the 2008-2009 student-written Study Abroad Guide on Shanghai. This guide was compiled by the **Global Ambassador** program - a leadership organization of returnee study abroad students. Through this guide the students discuss their time abroad, including practical information and insider tips on everything from places to visit to things to do. Though we have tried to make this guide as comprehensive as possible and applicable to all of the study abroad populations, please keep in mind that some information may be more or less relevant to your situation. We encourage you to seek out the relevant office running your study abroad program to answer specific questions about housing, health and safety, student life. Our hope is that this guide will not only give you insight into what your time abroad can potentially be, but also provide you with a launching point for exploring your new “home”.

In addition to the *Shanghai Guide*, we have created eight city-specific guides on studying abroad at NYU's sites in *Berlin*, *Buenos Aires*, *Florence*, *Ghana (Accra)*, *London*, *Madrid*, *Paris* and *Prague*, as well as topic-specific guides including tips for *European Travel*, experiences of *Women* and *LGBT* students studying abroad and *Students in Transition* for Freshman and Transfer students that spend their first year abroad. Finally, our newest guide, *Lost in the Translation* is a collection of real stories from previous study abroad students that highlight the cross-cultural diversity you will inevitably encounter while abroad. All guides can be found online at: <http://www.nyu.edu/studyabroad/studentguides>

We hope you enjoy this amazing experience - it goes quickly!

If you still have unanswered questions or feedback on the guide, please contact us at: global.ambassadors@nyu.edu



Picture by Erica Swallow

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New York University does not endorse services provided by the businesses, organizations, or individuals listed in this *NYU student-written Study Abroad Guide for Shanghai*. The guide is produced by and compiled of information collected based on the personal experiences of students who have participated in NYU Study Abroad. Individuals should exert the appropriate judgment when using services provided in this guide. Any opinions expressed represent solely those of the student writer, not New York University.

THE CITY

First Impressions

Shanghai is a dynamic place. Although it is technically a “Chinese” city, the heart of Shanghai looks like any other modern metropolis—in fact, some of its buildings (and definitely its subways) are more futuristic and advanced than the ones in New York.

There is always something going on in Shanghai. Foreign artists, scholars and writers often visit Shanghai to perform or give lectures. Student from Fall 2006 met music artist Macy Gray and Thomas Friedman, New York Times columnist and author of *The World is Flat*, while students from Fall 2007 toured the set of *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*.

On the downside, Shanghai, like many other Chinese cities, is still growing. Lack of pollution regulations for cars and factories has had harmful effects on the city’s air quality. Traffic can also be a mess and it is not just because of cars. The city’s streets are loaded with all kinds of vehicles, including buses, bicycles and motorcycles. Visitors should always be on their toes.

Homelessness is another very noticeable problem in Shanghai. It can be overwhelming to encounter so many beggars, especially the young ones. This is an unfortunate reality, but like any other major world city, Shanghai is not without its problems. Still, students should not be afraid to venture out and explore. Shanghai is a truly fascinating city with lots of sights, sounds and eats.

NYU in Shanghai also makes the transition easier by taking students around for the first few days. During orientation, you’ll get to see all the famous sites like Xintiandi and the Oriental Pearl Tower as well as eat at some great local restaurants. Throughout the semester, NYU in Shanghai hosts lots of other excursions and events, so students will never feel bored.

Anna - Shanghai is really an international city, especially when it comes to food. I found a great Greek restaurant, awesome burgers at Malone’s and amazing New York cheesecake at City Diner.



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Raena Binn



Picture by Raena Binn

Erica - The best way to find the most awesome people, food, and events is to get out there and look. Past students really stuck to this mantra with adventurous spirits. From us to you, we wish you the best of adventures and travels in China!



Exploring Culture in Shanghai

When students first arrive in Shanghai, many expect to be blown away by the “Chinese-ness” of the city. Instead, they are often surprised to see just how westernized Shanghai is. McDonald’s, KFC, Nike, Coke—all of which we’re used to seeing in the United States—are everywhere, especially in shopping malls and dense areas like People’s Park.

Throughout the guide, you will read about some of the most well-known places in Shanghai such as Nanjing Lu, the Bund, and the Oriental Pearl Tower, but there is so much more to this city than the futuristic skyline. Behind the glass facades, flashing lights, and fake Gucci bags, there is an entirely different world. On the outskirts of the city, students will discover a far quainter side Shanghai. Small noodle shops, bubble tea stands and dumpling vendors line the streets, inviting passersby to stop and look or, better yet, taste. Whether students are wandering in the center of the city or exploring Shanghai’s tinier alleyways, they will find an array of exciting things to do! **It is all what you make of it! So, get out there and explore!**

Networking

One of the best ways of getting around Shanghai and learning about the city and its people and culture is through networking. While you’re out, make sure you meet other people. So, you decide to hang out at Glamour Bar on a Tuesday night? Don’t just waste your time sipping cosmopolitans. Get up and speak with someone! You never know where the relationships will go. Maybe you and your new acquaintances will end up having brunch back in New York a semester later.



Picture by Raena Binn

THE PEOPLE

Cultural Comparison

It is always difficult to describe people in just a few words. While we attempt to look at the lives of the Chinese here, it is important to remember that these perspectives are from Americans studying abroad. It is essential to keep an open mind when looking at cultures other than one's own. We may not agree with everything they do, but as guests in their countries, we should respect their customs and beliefs. With that in mind, here are a few key observations.

Manners

Street manners are quite different in Shanghai. People spit on the sidewalks, children urinate in the streets and it is not uncommon for people to throw trash everywhere. Some streets can be pretty dirty, especially after it rains, but then again so can New York City streets.

As a result, street food vendors usually work in unsanitary conditions, although that doesn't stop anyone from eating their food. In fact, some can be quite good and they're usually very inexpensive. Use your best judgment. If something looks like it will make you sick, don't eat it!

Lines are usually formed haphazardly and many students become frustrated when the locals "cut the line." Our advice is to be patient.

Cultural differences are also evident at the dinner table. For example, the Chinese prefer slurping noodles loudly. American students may be appalled, but it's important to remember that in Chinese culture, slurping noodles or soup loudly are compliments to the chef.

The Chinese are also very strict about other table manners when they are eating with others. When pouring tea, you must always pour tea for your guests before pouring for yourself. Another custom in the Chinese dining culture is fighting over the bill. This may seem silly to Americans, but it is serious for the Chinese. So, if you are out with a Chinese friend, make sure you offer to pay, even if they have already agreed to do so.



Picture by Katherine Wang



Picture by Patty Lee

Hobbies

One of the most popular hobbies in China is Tai Chi Quan (太極拳). Tai Chi is an internal martial art which promotes health and longevity. Early in the morning, people of all ages gather outside in large groups to exercise. They usually meet at parks and listen to the radio, which leads them through slow, synchronized moves. Chinese students often comment that foreigners think *all* Chinese people practice martial arts. This is a common misconception study abroad students should recognize. In the case of Tai Chi, for example, many people do practice it, but most of the people at parks in the morning are older Chinese men and women.



Patty

Top Five Things I Wish I Had Known Before Studying Abroad in Shanghai:

1. People stare a lot, especially when you're large groups and everyone's speaking English. It might be annoying at first, but just think of yourself as a superstar with a lot of fans!
2. Things may seem really cheap, but tiny purchases do add up!
3. The water in China will turn white clothes gray and the washing machines can be pretty harsh so try not to bring too many delicate pieces of clothing or if you are, be prepared to hand wash some of them.
4. It's really easy not to use Chinese even though you're in China. Shanghai is such a cosmopolitan, international city that most people speak and understand English. I had to make a huge effort to speak Mandarin whenever I was out, but in the end it was trying to speak it all the time that helped my language skills improve.
5. I wish I had known more how many places in China there are to visit. I was disappointed that I couldn't make it to every destination, especially as the semester got busier and there was less time to travel outside of Shanghai.



Picture by Erica Swallow

Perspective on Foreigners

Chinese are interested in foreigners and tend to pay more attention to a foreign stranger than a local stranger. People always want to know more about you and Chinese students will want to practice English with you. Make good use of this attention and make friends! Most Chinese, especially local students, are very receptive of American students. Just like you, they want to know more! But even though many of your Chinese peers speak good English, try to speak Chinese as much as possible. The Chinese will respect you for trying. Speaking Chinese comes in handy when bargaining, trying to get around, or just making friends. Not only will they be happy to see a foreign face, but the fact that you speak Chinese will astound them!

The Shanghainese

Each area in China has its own generalizations about the people who live there. The Shanghainese, in particular, seem to have a bad reputation among the many Chinese sub-cultures. Others think of the Shanghainese as greedy, rude, ruthless, cunning, opportunistic, and unpatriotic because of their position as China's business capital.

Like the rest of China, the Shanghainese speak their own dialect. Many do speak Mandarin, but you will hear differences in their accents. Travel throughout Shanghai and explore as many aspects of the city as you possibly can. Once you grasp the true spirit of the people, you may have a different take on their demeanor.



Picture by Erica Swallow

FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS

Lunar New Year

The two biggest holidays in China are the Lunar New Year and the Mid Autumn Festival.

Lunar New Year - 春节 (chūn jié). Also known as Spring Festival, the festivities for this holiday begin on the first day of the month of the lunar calendar and end on the fifteenth day of that month. The last day is the Lantern Festival. According to legend, in ancient China, Nián (年) was a man-eating beast from the mountains which came out every twelve months somewhere close to winter to prey on humans. The people later believed that Nián was sensitive to loud noises and the color red, so they scared it away with fireworks and the liberal use of the color red. These customs led to the first New Year celebrations.



Picture by Erica Swallow

Mid Autumn Festival

Mid Autumn Festival - 中秋节 (zhōng qiū jié). The Mid Autumn Festival falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. It is a celebration of abundance and togetherness. Also known as the “Moon Festival” or “Mooncake Festival,” the celebration falls on the Autumn Equinox of the solar calendar, when the moon is at its fullest and brightest. Friends and family gather for a huge feast and eat moon cakes together.

The traditional story behind the festival is that of Chang’e and Houyi. There are several different versions, but most legends about Chang’e in Chinese mythology involve some variation of the following elements: Houyi, the Archer; Chang’e, the mythical Moon Goddess of Immortality; an emperor, either benevolent or malevolent; an elixir of life; and the Moon.



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Patty Lee

Learning Chinese in Shanghai

All students studying abroad in Shanghai are required to study Chinese, whether they are beginning, intermediate, or advanced learners. If you are a native speaker, you have the option to test out of Chinese courses. If native speakers and students who have already finished NYU's Chinese curriculum want to continue taking Chinese, they can enroll directly in ECNU's Chinese courses, which are taught to other international students.

Learning a new language can be difficult, but at the same time, it provides students with the opportunity to learn about a country's culture. This is particularly true in China. Since Chinese is a hieroglyphic language, the characters are directly related to meaning of a word. Of course, the characters have evolved throughout history, so many may no longer carry their traditional meanings, but most characters can be traced back to ancient Chinese writing systems.

For students who have been studying Chinese, studying in China gives them a special opportunity to strengthen their language skills. Students often find that their speaking abilities drastically improve during their semester abroad in China. Students who are new to the Chinese language are also lucky because they get to begin their language education in its country of origin. No matter what level students at, they will appreciate this opportunity.

Patty - Since I already finished NYU's required Chinese courses, NYU in Shanghai arranged for me to audit a Chinese class directly at ECNU. It was such a great experience. I really recommend it for advanced speakers. You meet a lot of international students and everyone is forced to practice their Mandarin because we have no idea how to speak each other's native languages!



Language Pointers

- Learn how to **navigate taxi drivers** to the NYU Center and your dorm. If you get lost in Shanghai, you will always know how to get home! Also, keep a copy of the address in your purse or wallet, just in case the driver cannot understand you.
- **Speak as much Chinese as you can** at all times. You are in China! Take advantage of your location, and utilize your skills!
- **Do not be afraid to speak** because you think your American accent is horrible. You will find that the Chinese are very encouraging of new speakers, and even if you think your accent is horrible, they will always compliment you on your speaking.
- Mainland China, including Shanghai, uses simplified Chinese characters while Hong Kong, Taiwan and overseas Chinese use traditional ones. The **goal of the NYU Chinese program is to teach both simplified and traditional characters.** Traditional characters are generally taught during elementary and intermediate classes. Simplified characters are utilized in advanced Chinese. If you have spent time at NYU studying traditional, consider learning simplified before studying abroad. This may help in the transition from traditional to simplified characters. If you have never studied Chinese before, you will be learning simplified characters at the NYU in Shanghai program. Be prepared to possibly transition back to traditional characters upon returning to the East Asian Studies department in New York.

Jennifer - Google Pinyin is great way to learn and start typing Chinese. This program is very simple to use. Once you download and install the program, you can use it immediately. Switch the language to Chinese by pressing "shift" and "alt" together on your keyboard, type in the pinyin and you'll see the Chinese characters appear. Hit the spacebar and viola!



Key Phrases

Chinese	Pin Yin	Translation
你好	Nǐ hǎo	Hello
你好吗？	Nǐ hǎo ma?	How are you?
我叫 ____。	Wǒ jiào ____.	My name is ____.
再见	Zài jiàn	Goodbye
谢谢	Xiè xiè	Thanks
不用谢	Bú yòng xiè.	You're welcome
我要 ____。	Wǒ yào ____.	I want ____.
我不要。	Wǒ bú yào.	I don't want it.
太贵了！	Tài guì le!	Too expensive!
对不起	duì bu qǐ	Sorry
我是美国人。	Wǒ shì měi guó rén.	I'm an American.
我是纽约大学学生。	Wǒ shì Niǔ yuē Dà xué xué shēng.	I'm an NYU student.
我学习中文。	Wǒ xué xí Zhōng wén.	I study Chinese.

Resources for Learning Chinese

- <http://hk.dictionary.yahoo.com/>
Chinese dictionary in traditional characters with audio.
- <http://www.tigernt.com/dict.shtml>
Chinese-English and English-Chinese dictionary with both traditional and simplified characters.
- <http://tools.google.com/pinyin/>
Chinese typing program
- <http://www.chinese-tools.com/phrasebook/>
An online Chinese phrasebook that covers everything from greetings to measurements.

Dining Culture

Unlike American dining, where each diner is served pre-determined portions at the beginning of the meal or each course, **Chinese dining is communal**. While each person receives a small bowl of rice, all main dishes are placed in the center of the table, usually on a rotating “lazy Susan.” Diners dish out small portions of the main plates as dinner progresses. The two main components are carbohydrates (such as rice, noodles, or dumplings) and accompanying dishes, consisting of meats, vegetables, or fish. Soup is often served after the main dishes are finished. Lastly, for formal banquets, fruit slices, usually watermelon and oranges, are placed on the table. Common beverages include hot tea, water, orange juice, cola, sprite, and beer.



Erica - Life seems to be formed around eating! At noon, it's lunch time, at around 6PM it's dinner time! You're crazy if you miss them!

Picture by Patty Lee

Vegetarians

China has plenty of vegetarian dishes to offer. Just make sure that the dishes you order do not use animal-based oils or broths in preparation. Some recommendations are located on the next page on the Food Translator. Some recommendations from previous vegetarian NYU students traveling to China include:

- 番茄炒蛋 (fān qié chǎo dàn) - fried tomatoes and scrambled eggs
- 三丝饭 (sān sī fàn) - three shredded vegetables over rice

Some vegetarians had trouble finding “actual” vegetarian food. For example, the waiter might bring out an eggplant dish with tiny shrimp sprinkled on top, even after specifically ordering “No meat.” Sometimes, you just have to laugh it off and reorder. Or, if you are fine with picking out shrimp, that works too!

When traveling to smaller cities, whether on group travels or individually, however, students may be dismayed to find a lack of vegetarian options and an excess of exotic meats such as dog, pig testicles, frog legs, snakes, and so on. Make it an adventure, and stay open-minded.



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Jimmy Zheng



Picture by Katherine Wang

FOOD

Restaurant Guide

Blue Frog 蓝蛙

30, Lane 3338 Hongmei Lu
虹梅路3338弄虹梅休闲步行街30号
<http://www.bluefrog.com.cn/>
Head here to satisfy your cravings for American food. All Blue Frog burgers are buy one get one free on Mondays starting at 4 p.m. And don't forget to ask about the 100 shots "Wall of Fame."

City Diner 城市小馆

146 Tongren Lu, 2nd floor, by Nanjing Xi Lu
铜仁路146弄2楼, 近南京西路
This café is a great escape for homesick study abroad students. Everything on the menu—pancakes, milkshakes, cheesecake—will remind you of home. Best, of all it's open 24 hours a day!

New York City Deli

103 Fujian Nan Lu, by Jinling Dong Lu
福建南路103号, 近金陵东路
<http://www.delinyc.com/>
In the mood for a sandwich? Call up NYC Deli! With everything from turkey subs to tuna melts, this deli is just like its American counterparts. Minimum 50RMB order for delivery.

Hello Pizza

1216 Ding Xi Lu, by Wu Yi Lu
定西路1216号
<http://www.hellopizza.com.cn/>
Just minutes from NYU's apartments on Ding Xi Lu, Hello Pizza is the place to go for reasonably-priced Italian food. Order online and get a two kuai discount!

Black Café

65 Maoming Bei Lu, by Yan'an Lu
茂名北路65号, 近延安西路
Known as the "blind restaurant," guests eat entirely in the dark. It's especially fun with a big group of friends.

People 6 弯六人间

150 Yueyang Lu, by Yongjia Lu
岳阳路150号, 近永嘉路
Try People 6 for off-beat cuisine and an excellent dining experience. A bit pricier than most Chinese restaurants, but worth the splurge. It certainly wins the prize for the most bizarre bathrooms in any restaurant in this city.

Bi Feng Tang 避风塘

175 Changle Lu, by Maoming Nan Lu
长乐路175号, 近茂名南路
This popular Cantonese restaurant is the place to go if you miss dimsum. Bi Feng Tang has all the familiar snacks, including shrimp dumplings and egg rolls.

Din Tai Fung 鼎泰丰

123 Xingye Lu, 2nd floor (inside Xin Tian Di), by Huangpi Nan Lu
兴业路123弄新天地南里6号楼2楼, 近黄陂南路
Taiwanese-inspired restaurant chain famous for its xiao long bao (steamed soup dumplings) and large variety of Chinese teas, soup noodles and hot and cold appetizers. The restaurant also serves some delightful desserts in quintessential Chinese flavors like taro and red bean.



Picture by Patty Lee

Food Translator

Chinese	Pin Yin	Translation
小笼包	xiǎo lóng bāo	Soup dumplings (Shanghai specialty)
羊肉串	yáng ròu chuàn	Lamb kebobs (typical of Xinjiang)
番茄炒蛋	fān qié chǎo dàn	Fried tomatoes and scrambled eggs
三丝饭	sān sī fàn	Three shredded veggies over rice
宫保鸡丁	gōng bǎo jī dīng	Kung Pao chicken
麻婆豆腐	má pó dòu fǔ	Tofu in chili sauce
四川火锅	Sì chuān huǒ guō	Sichuan hot pot
芥兰牛肉	jiè lán niú ròu	Beef with broccoli
北京烤鸭	Běi jīng kǎo yā	Peking Duck
清蒸鱼	qīng zhēng yú	Fish steamed in broth
麦当劳	Mài dāng láo	McDonald's
肯德基	Kěn dé jī	Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC)
必胜客	Bì shèng kè	Pizza Hut

Around the ECNU Campus

Silver Spring Café

The international diner is located next to the NYU Center on the ECNU campus. It is more expensive than the everyday Chinese food, but if you have a craving for spaghetti or cheeseburgers, you can get a quick fix here! On the other hand, compared to American prices, it is really cheap. It can be a little crowded at times, but is worth it if you really need your fix!

Vendors at ECNU's Back Gate

Take advantage of NYU's prime location near the back gate! You can find bubble tea shops, a restaurant solely dedicated to preparing chicken dishes, international cuisine, kebob stands, Xinjiang restaurants, small noodle shops, and more! Not to mention that you can pick up a few DVDs or CDs while looking around the many street vendors there. The best way to learn about this area is to explore it yourself! Have fun!

NIGHTLIFE

Bars & Lounges

Barbarossa

231 Nanjing Xi Lu, inside People's Park
南京西路231弄，人民公园内
Built on a lake in People's Park, this Moroccan lounge offers amazing skyline views and hookahs with indoor and outdoor seating. Happy Hour 5-8pm, all drinks half price.

Windows Too

J104, Jing'an Si Plaza, 1699 Nanjing Xi Lu, by Huashan
南京西路1699号，静安寺广场J104，近华山路
With its reasonably-priced drinks and pool table, Windows too is a popular hangout for students and young ex-pats.

Absolut Icebar

138 Huaihai Lu, B1 Infinity
138 淮海路
You and your drink are literally "on the rocks" at Asia's first ice bar. Don a special snow cape and head downstairs for an ice-filled drinking experience.

Scenic Views

Bar Rouge

7/F, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu, by Nanjing Dong Lu
中山东一路18号7楼，近南京东路
Capping 18 on the Bund, Bar Rouge is as glamorous as the drinks are original.

The Glamour Bar

6/F, 5 Guangdong Lu, by Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu
广东路20号7楼，近中山东一路，外滩5号
www.m-theglamourbar.com
Innovative drinks with a style that rivals the finest clubs in SoHo. Dress to impress, because you'll meet a lot of interesting people.

Clubs

Note: Covers for Shanghai venues are usually equal to or more than U.S. ones.

Armani Bar

B/F, Shanghai Art Film Center, 160 Xinhua Lu, by Panyu Lu
新华路160号上海影城地下一层，近番禺路Hot
Hot hip-hop and house club that packs in the local party people.

Babyface

101, Shanghai Square, 138 Huaihai Zhong Lu
上海广场，淮海中路138号
Babyface is suited for dancers and loungers. It features hip hop and techno rooms!

BonBon

Yunhai Tower, 2F, 1329 Huaihai Zhong Lu, by Hengshan Lu 淮海中路1329号2楼，近衡山路
With legendary UK dance brand Godskitchen in the DJ booth, the hip and stylish bring out their best dance moves all night long.

Richy Shanghai

109 Yandang Lu, inside Fuxing Park, by Nanchang Lu
雁荡路109号复兴广场，近南昌路
One of the several clubs inside Fuxing Park, Richy is a good place for hip hop fans. The bartenders are just as wild as the people who are dancing, so look out for some wild antics (and free drinks) at the bar.

Cloud 9

87/F Grand Hyatt, Jin Mao Tower, 88 Shiji Dadao
世纪大道88号金茂大厦87楼
For unparalleled views of Shanghai, head up to Cloud 9 at the top of the JinMao Tower. It's a bit pricey, but well worth the extra kuais.

Student Tips on Shanghai Hang Out Spots

Alice - I loved to hangout at Barbarossa. It is this lounge that has hookahs, food and drinks in the middle of a lake in the middle of People's Park. Just imagine a hookah bar/lounge/restaurant located in the middle of central park surrounded by a lake and you get the idea.

Erica - If you're a fan of Latin dancing, definitely don't miss Zapata's. While their free Salsa lessons can be really basic for more advanced dancers, it's a really fun way to meet new people. It's just intriguing to be a part of a Salsa lesson in Shanghai!

Melissa - Bar Rouge was where I found NYC nightlife in Shanghai. The crowd and the view are beautiful, the music is great, and the bar is literally on fire the entire night. Bar Rouge is definitely one of the best scenes on the Bund.

Katherine - Expat entertainment is usually a little more expensive than local places, but a ton of English-speaking people are around and it's always interesting to meet people with different backgrounds. I've definitely run into a few NYU professors and administrators and met people from my hometown of Vancouver, Canada who I shared mutual friends with!



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Patty Lee



Picture by Erica Swallow

LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER (LGBT)

While the Chinese government maintains a "Three No's" policy towards homosexuality - no approval, no disapproval, and no promotion - the city of Shanghai has proven to be one of the most LGBT friendly cities of mainland China. Community groups, mainly internet-based, continue to develop as well as numerous clubs and businesses that usher to the queer Shanghainese community.

Legislation

- There is no legal protection of LGBT individuals. LGBT discrimination, however is not a rampant occurrence; it is in fact very rare.
- The issue of gay marriage has been brought to the attention of the National Congress several times, the first time happening in 2001 and the most recent occurrence in 2006.

Cultural Differences

- It is not uncommon to see male friends holding hands, as it is an accepted part of the culture. The opinion of men doing this can change if they identify as homosexual.
- Unlike New York, the idea of homosexuality is still kept quiet in the community and the media overall. It is only slowly emerging as the government chooses to tackle issues of sexuality and most recently the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

For more info on the current initiatives in China against HIV/AIDS, check out <http://www.casy.org/policy.html>

Hotspots

Eddy's Bar - <http://www.eddys-bar.com/shanghai.asp>

1877 Huaihai Zhong Road by Tianping Lu, 淮海中路1877号

A very famous venue, being one of the few bars to openly support and serve the LGBT community of China. This hotspot hosts a beautiful décor and has been compared to some of the best bars in other countries.

The Canteen

407 Dagu Lu by Chengdu Lu, 大沽路407号

This restaurant is a gay-owned eatery that offers a menu of traditional Chinese and Shanghainese cuisine in an atmosphere comfortable for a Western public.

Club Deep

1649 West Nanjing Road, 南京路1649号

Known as the biggest gay club/lounge in China, Club Deep is the place to go for a great night of dancing, mingling and just having a good time. Though it can be pricey, the club makes up for it in atmosphere and variety.

Getting Involved/Informed

- **Shanghai LGBT** is a yahoo.com group that has achieved prominence in connecting the LGBT community. They host events at LGBT-friendly venues on the last Thursday of each month throughout Shanghai, promoting a powerful message of awareness and acceptance.
- <http://www.utopia-asia.com/chinshan.htm> is one of the best sites to browse. The site on its own has detailed information about clubs, events, and current political issues. There are also personal stories from travelers and citizens of Shanghai, Chinese cities like Beijing, and also people of other East Asian countries and communities.



Picture by Erica Swallow

Travel

Hong Kong

While offering a similar feel to Shanghai, Hong Kong distinguishes itself as an international hub of expats and other citizens within its LGBT community.

<http://www.utopia-asia.com/chinhk.htm>

Beijing

If you are looking to escape the cosmopolitan nature of Shanghai while finding an increasingly accepting community, Beijing is the place.

<http://www.utopia-asia.com/chinbeij.html>

Bargaining

An interesting interaction with the Chinese is bargaining. If you ever want to buy something in China, you have to bargain for it. When the Chinese merchants see that you are an American/foreigner/not Chinese, they will automatically quote a price that is usually two to four times more than the product is worth (or even more). You should immediately shout out, “tài guì le!” (too expensive) and the bargaining begins. Both you and the vendor will hash it out for a few minutes until you come to a price that you are both satisfied with. The shop or store owners are rather aggressive and if you do not want to get ripped off, you have to be aggressive while bargaining back.

You should always start at about 25 percent of the original asking price. It is always a safe bet. Once you’ve lived in Shanghai for a while, you will learn what the actual price should be and you will become a better bargainer. Remember, however, to consider the concept of “face.” You do not want to embarrass a vendor by forcing them to accept your extremely low price, but you also do not want to “lose face” by accepting a price that is too high. Bargaining is a social art. It takes time and practice. Happy shopping!



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Patty Lee

China is known for:

- Jade jewelry
- Tea, tea sets, and tea cups
- Inexpensive, custom tailoring
- Calligraphy scrolls and stamps
- Inexpensive, good silk products
- Cultural Revolution posters and propaganda
- Ancient cultural references (Ex: lions, dragons, cabbage)
- 旗袍 (Qí Pào) - Traditional Chinese dress

Jennifer - *You can bargain for almost anything and everything. Of course some locations already have set prices, but for things sold on the streets, the only way to nab the best deal is to use your mouth. Not only do you get to impress the seller with your skills, but you're practicing a local custom.*

SHOPPING

General Shops

Carrefour 家乐福

This French supercenter is similar to Wal-Mart and carries many of the everyday things you may need - that is, if you cannot find it at TrustMart, located at ECNU's front gate. Take the 67 Bus from the front gate stop north two stops. You will land right at Carrefour, which is located on the lower two floors of Cloud Nine Mall. Aside from groceries and everyday needs, this is also a great place to buy a cell phone when you arrive. Remember, if you have a seasoned bargainer with you and more than three people buying a phone at once, you can get the price lowered! (Hint: Take Joyce, the secretary, with you. She's a great bargainer!) In addition to a lot of high-end clothing stores, you will also find a Starbucks Coffee and Coldstone at Cloud Nine.

TrustMart

Located to the right of the front gate of ECNU, TrustMart has a lot of useful products, including food, hygiene products, school supplies, CDs, clothes, China Mobile phone cards, and snacks. Take a look around. Students near campus often utilize this store for everyday goods.

Qi Pu Lu 七浦路

For an exciting adventure and tons of bargaining practice, take the 3 or 4 train to Baoshan Lu. After exiting the subway station, turn right, and walk a few blocks south on Hainan Lu. Qi Pu Lu is a street full of stores carrying anything you may want or need, for extra low prices. That is, if you know how to bargain! They close at 6:00PM, though, so go early.



Picture by Patty Lee



Picture by Patty Lee



Picture by Cheryl Neoh

Markets

Shanghai South Bund Fabric Market 南外滩轻纺面料市场

Everyone needs at least a few custom-made business suits or a traditional Chinese dress, a qipao (旗袍). At the fabric market, you can get almost anything tailor-fitted. Just bring in a picture or pick from the patterns they already have. The tailors will measure you and usually have the clothes ready within a week. Make sure to explore and look at all the options. Some tailors are better than others, so look carefully at their samples. The vendors also give discounts if you order several things at once (or just order with some friends). Suits generally cost anywhere from 350-800 RMB, which is about \$44-\$100. Coats also start at around 500 RMB. Although there is a bus that goes there from People's Square, it's less of a hassle to go by taxi, especially if you plan on picking up a lot of items. 399 Lujiabang Rd.

Mall or Department Stores

Nanjing Lu 南京路

You can find the "No. 1 Department Store" at Nanjing Lu, as well as many high-end, foreign stores. Nanjing Lu is known for its lights, so make sure you visit at night!

Xintiandi 新天地

Full of Western shops and foreign restaurants (including Brazilian, Thai, American, Japanese, and more), Xintiandi is always bustling and busy. If you are looking to find a little bit of America in China, stop by Xintiandi and grab a cup of Starbucks!



Picture by Cheryl Neoh

Convenience Stores

Kedi 可的便利店

Similar to a 7-11, Kedi shops are located all around Shanghai. The closest one to campus is right across the street from the front gate of ECNU.

English Book Stores

Foreign Languages Bookstore

This is the city's main source of English-language books. The first floor has a good range of postcards, maps, Shanghai guidebooks and other English classics. The other three floors are full of imported books, poetry, novels, and much more. Located at 390 Fuzhou Rd, you can walk there from People's Square. Phone: 021 6322 3200. Hours: Sun-Thu 9:30am-6:00pm; Fri-Sat 9:30am-7:00pm.

Tourists Spots

Jade Buddha Temple 玉佛禅寺

170 Anyuan Lu, by Jiangning Lu

安远路170号, 近江宁路

Tel: 021 6266 3668

<http://www.yufotemple.com/>

Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm

This temple is one of Shanghai's few active Buddhist temples. It attracts large numbers of local and overseas Chinese tourists. Built between 1911 and 1918, the centerpiece is a two meter high white jade Buddha around which the temple was built.

The story goes that a monk from Putuoshan traveled to Myanmar (Burma) via Tibet, lugged the Buddha back to its present site and then went off in search of alms to build a temple for it. During the Spring Festival in January or February, some 20,000 Chinese Buddhists come to worship.

The seated Buddha, encrusted with jewels, is said to weigh 1000 kilogram. A smaller Buddha from the same shipment reclines on a mahogany couch. There's an extra 10RMB admission to view the Buddha. No photography is permitted.

Jinmao Tower 金茂大厦

88 Century Avenue

上海浦东世纪大道88号

Tel: 021 5047 5101

<http://www.jinmao88.com>

Hours: 8:30 am-9:00 pm

Shanghai's most spectacular building, visible from almost everywhere in the city, is largely an office block, but boasts stupendous views from the 88th-floor observatory.



Picture by Erica Swallow

The Oriental Pearl TV Tower 东方明珠塔

2 Lujiazui Lu

陆家嘴路2号

Tel: 021 5879 1888

Hours: 8:30 am-9:30 pm

Shanghai's skyline boasts one of the most futuristic TV towers of any international city skyline. At 468 meters (1,536 feet), the Oriental Pearl TV tower is the world's third tallest TV and radio tower. Besides great views from its three domes, the Shanghai Municipal History Museum is located at its pedestal. Don't forget to check that out too! There is a 2 train stop conveniently located nearby the tower, as the first stop in Pudong.

Tourists Spots

Yuyuan Gardens and Bazaar 豫园

218 Anren Jie, near Fuyou Lu

安仁街218号, 近福佑路

Tel: 021 6355 5025

<http://www.yuquantm.com.cn/yuyuan/cn/index/>

Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm

The delightful Yuyuan Gardens took 18 years (1559-77) to create, only to be ransacked during the Opium War in 1842. The gardens have been restored and are a fine example of Ming garden design. Right outside the garden is a bazaar full of tasty snacks and souvenirs. Just be aware of price gouging!

Things to look out for include the Exquisite Jade Rock, which was destined for the imperial court in Beijing until the boat sank outside Shanghai and the Hall of Heralding Spring (Dianchun Tang), which in 1853 was the headquarters of the Small Swords Society (perhaps one reason why the gardens were spared revolutionary violence in the 1960s). Note also the beautiful stage, with its gilded carved ceiling and excellent acoustics. The two shiny pavilions in the eastern corner were added in 2003.

Next to the entrance to the Yuyuan Gardens is the Mid-Lake Pavilion Teahouse (Huxinting), once part of the gardens and now one of the most famous teahouses in China, visited by Queen Elizabeth II and Bill Clinton among others. The zig-zag causeway is there to thwart spirits, who are said to be able to only travel in straight lines. Buy a packet of fish food and enjoy the sight of dozens of dancing koi just below your feet!



Picture by Erica Swallow

THINGS TO DO

Museums

Shanghai Art Museum 上海美术馆

325 Nanjing Xi Lu, near Xinchang Lu
南京西路325号, 近新昌路

<http://www.sh-artmuseum.org.cn>

Tel: 021 6327 2829

Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm

In 2000, this museum relocated to a stunning new location in the former British racecourse club building (originally built in 1933), and some of its decorative features, such as the Art Deco chandeliers, remain. The collection ranges from modern works and pop art to the Shanghai school of traditional Chinese art.

Shanghai Museum 上海博物馆

201 Renmin Dadao
人民大道201号

<http://www.shanghaimuseum.net>

Tel: 021 6372 3500

Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Of the Shanghai Museum's 120,000 works of art, one-third have never before been shown. The museum is a showcase for Chinese history that dates back thousands of years. Students can expect to spend at least half a day roaming around, if not an entire day. The museum shop sells postcards, books, and replicas of its many pieces.

Jewish Refugee Museum 犹太难民在上海博物馆

62 Changyang Lu, near Zhoushan Lu
长阳路62号, 近舟山路

Tel: 021 6541 5008

Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm

During World War II, thousands of European Jews fled to Shanghai to escape persecution. They settled in the city's northeast area of Hongkou. This museum, which was opened by Ashkenazi Jewish community in 1927, commemorates their plight.

Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center 上海市规划展示馆

100 Renmin Dadao, near Xizang Zhong Lu
人民大道100号, 近西藏中路

<http://www.supec.org>

Tel: 021 6318 4477

Hours: Mon-Thu 9:00am-5:00pm Fri-Sun 9:00am-6:00pm

The exhibits paint a picture of how Shanghai will develop in the next 20 years. The highlight is definitely the absorbing scale plan of the Shanghai of the future. Many consider it high-tech propaganda, but it is nonetheless quite a thrill. There are some interesting photos of 1930s Shanghai, a few interactive displays, and a cafe. Don't miss the basement street exit of mock 1930s cafes. You'll be just as tall as the buildings!

Resources for Finding Activities

- Word of mouth - keep your ears open!
- NYU staff - they always know what's going on!
- *City Weekend* magazine and its website: <http://www.cityweekend.com.cn/shanghai/>
- *That's Shanghai!* magazine and its website: <http://www.thatssh.com/>
- <http://www.smartshanghai.com/>
- <http://www.shanghaiepat.com/>
- Erica's website: <http://ericaswallow.googlepages.com/>

Jennifer - *In my opinion, the only site you need is <http://www.smartshanghai.com>. It has the latest news, events and deals for local bars, restaurants and clubs. It also provides the address in both pinyin and Chinese characters. What we always did was grab a piece of paper, copy the address down and show it to the taxi driver. Super convenient!*



Picture by Raena Binn



Picture by Erica Swallow

Theatre & Dance

Shanghai attracts a lot of international acts at its local theatres, but the real theatrical charms are the native Chinese acts. Known for training expert acrobats and martial artists, China has plenty of theatre and dance shows focused around its economic center, Shanghai.

Students taking Amy Goldman's course "The Mythic Image in Chinese and Western Narratives" often have the chance to attend theatre shows as a supplement to this course material.

The Shanghai Acrobatics Troupe is not to be missed. They often perform at the Shanghai Centre Theatre, located at 1376 Nanjing Xi Lu. With acts such as plate spinning, motorcycles in a cage, 20 people on a bicycle, and martial arts, you are sure to be astounded. The lighting is very dramatic, as you can see in the picture to the right. For information on purchasing tickets or about the performance in general, call (+86 21) 6279 8663. Another popular theatre is the Shanghai Grand Theatre.



Picture by Erica Swallow

THINGS TO DO

Volunteering

China Care is an international organization that helps raise money to fund surgeries for disabled Chinese orphans. It also coordinates adoptions and foster homes, and houses orphans in China. The China Care NYU chapter was founded during Fall 2005 by five NYU freshman, including two of the NYU in Shanghai pioneers, Alice Chen and Erica Swallow. Alice was inspired to start an NYU chapter after volunteering at a China Care orphanage in Beijing. Since that semester, the club has raised a lot of money, held many events, and funded three life-saving surgeries.

Currently, students studying abroad at the NYU in Shanghai program have the option to visit some of the orphanages that Erica and Alice visited. To learn more about China Care NYU, check out their official website at: <http://www.nyu.edu/clubs/china.care/ChinaCare.html>.

Students from the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semester also taught English at a Shanghai migrant school. NYU in Shanghai students volunteered every Saturday morning and even participated in the school's festival. Specific information on volunteering opportunities varies from semester to semester. For more information on how to volunteer, students should contact the Student Life Coordinator at the NYU in Shanghai program.

The past China Care volunteers have been running fundraising events back in New York! This is a great way to stay connected to your experience in Shanghai!



Picture by Jacqueline España



Picture by Jimmy Zheng

Religion

Alice - I do not have any religious practices but went to Shabbat with a friend in Beijing and it was so fun! I ended up talking to this 80-year-old Jewish guy who lived in China for some 40 years the whole night!



Picture by Erica Swallow

Buddhism and Taoism are the two most commonly practiced religions in China. Although most people do not directly associate themselves with a religion, many cultural standards tend to encompass the teachings of either Buddhist or Taoist texts.

Students interested in religious studies in Shanghai will find many temples to visit. The three most popular and visited temples include Jing'an, Jade Buddha, and Longhua Temples.

For Christian students, one option is the Shanghai Community Fellowship. They have English services every Sunday. For more information, visit <http://www.scfenglish.com/>. Remember to bring your passport for entry.



Picture by Erica Swallow

THINGS TO DO



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Victoria Zhang



Picture by Cheryl Neoh



Picture by Patty Lee

Sports

NYU participated in a basketball tournament on campus. We played against the Korean students, and then against the IIE students (another study abroad program). It was a great event that allowed a lot of different groups to come together.

Martial Arts

Students have the opportunity to learn martial arts as an extracurricular activity. Many students find the martial arts class to be a way to relax after classes. To inquire about the martial arts extracurricular activity course, students should contact the Student Life Coordinator at the NYU in Shanghai site.



Picture by Joyce Ge

On ECNU Campus

There are multiple events happening on campus at any given time. Some of the most popular things to do on campus include:

- **Participating in the NYU Talent Show** - The NYU in Shanghai study abroad site always attracts a group of talented, entertaining students. It only seemed fitting to found Shanghai Night, the NYU Talent Show. Each semester, students pool together their many talents, including singing and dancing, for the show. Chinese tutors and NYU students often collaborate on acts to add an extra spice to the action. Winners of the NYU Talent Show go on to compete in the ECNU campus-wide talent show, featuring international students from various programs as well as ECNU students.
- **Meeting ECNU Students at English Corner** - Many Chinese ECNU students attend English Corner in order to practice English. They are usually really excited to speak to native English speakers. NYU students often meet many friends at the English Corner events. Meetings are held under the Mao statue at the center of the campus on Thursday and Sunday evenings. It's not hard to miss. The Mao statue is located right across the second bridge. Many NYU students enjoy English Corner because it gives them the opportunity to meet ECNU students and to learn about their perspectives. If you miss home and want to feel like a celebrity, stop by English Corner!



Picture by Raena Binn

WHEN I MISSED HOME

Alice - *I went to Starbucks and City Diner when I missed America and flew back to Beijing when I missed my China home.*

Erica - *When I missed home, I would go to City Diner, because it was an American-style diner, which my friends and I loved.*



Pictures by Erica Swallow



Picture by Katherine Wang

International Student Dorm

During the inaugural semester of NYU in Shanghai, the only housing option was staying in the international student dorm. There were only 18 students in the program during the first semester, so they all lived on the same floor. The dorm housed students from many ethnicities since it was an international dorm, including: Korean, Japanese, Pakistani, Italian, American, British, Spanish, Cameroonians, Germans, and so on and so on! Students met a lot of interesting people.

There is a snack store on the first floor of the international dorm, where students can buy cookies, soup, and drinks. The rooms are pretty small, but compared to Chinese dorms, students are really lucky. The Chinese students do not have washers, dryers, heaters or many other amenities that we consider necessities. Students in the international dorm can pay the cleaning ladies 14 RMB (almost \$2 US) to wash and dry a load of laundry and also have daily room cleaning service. The cleaners give students new towels, clean the room, and make the beds. It was like living in a hotel.

Off-campus Apartments

For students who want bigger living spaces, NYU in Shanghai also provides off-campus apartments in the Zhongshan Park area. Students can choose from three or four-bedroom suites. Apartments are beautifully decorated and furnished with a TV, couch, full beds and appliances. Wireless internet access is also available and space is not an issue since every student has his or her own bedroom. Off-campus apartments also have their own washer and dryers and like the on-campus dorms, there is cleaning service twice a week. However, the cleaners are only responsible for the apartment's common areas. Students will have to clean their own rooms.

The area about Zhongshan park is also very convenient. There are many restaurants located nearby. Cloud Nine Mall, which has Carrefour, Starbucks and many other stores, is only a 10-minute walk away. Many vendors also set up shop on Dingxi Lu, the street where the apartments are located. There is also a security guard on-duty so students do not need to worry about safety.



Classes

- From finance and management to art and painting, NYU in Shanghai has really tried to provide students with a diverse range of classes. There are also many social science, literature and language classes. Mandarin is required for each student, along with time for private tutoring with ECNU students.
- The faculty includes NYU professors and ECNU professors. All of the professors are personable and helpful with class work.
- Class work in Shanghai is much more hands-on than work at NYU in New York City. There is clear emphasis on personal learning and educating yourself about China and its culture.
- Classes, except for Mandarin, meet once a week for three hours and there are no classes on Friday. This gives students time to explore Shanghai and plan weekend trips.



NYU Facilities

- The on-campus classrooms are located in an ECNU building right next to the international forms, with space that provides literature on China, computers and printing, administration offices and student life offices.
- The off-campus facility was recently moved closer to NYU in Shanghai's on-campus building. This facility includes classrooms, computers and printing, a copying machine and a library with plenty of information for research papers and presentations.
- Shuttle buses provide transportation to and from NYU's off-campus apartments and the on-campus facilities. Students can also walk to campus, which is about twenty-five minutes away, through a migrant worker neighborhood or take a bus from Cloud Nine mall.
- The administrators are at the facilities most of the time and getting in touch with a faculty member is never an issue.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Getting sick

Almost all students get sick at some point during studying abroad. Food poisoning is a big worry for most students in China. Be careful of what you eat when you first arrive. Although street food is a great immersion into the culture, it is usually prepared in dirty conditions. Wait a few weeks before trying any types of street food. Always boil the water before drinking it. Peel your fruits and veggies before consuming. You will save your stomach some trouble. If you have a weak stomach, take it easy while your body adjusts to the sanitation differences. **Most importantly, speak to your doctor about what medication to bring with you!!**

Health & General Well-being

Doctors - Doctors are not located on campus. You can speak to the staff on campus about how to get to the recommended hospital. The Shanghai site has an agreement set up with World Link health clinics in Shanghai. These clinics employ Western doctors and are highly recommended by NYU. Students receive information about World Link as well as their World Link membership card during orientation in Shanghai.

Prescriptions - Students must bring all refills for prescriptions to last throughout the semester. Prescriptions are not readily available. However, students are encouraged to bring the chemical formulas for any prescriptions that they may run out of. This is the only way that the NYU Shanghai staff could assist in finding the Chinese equivalent for their prescription. American drugs are rare in China. **Please be aware that prescription drugs cannot be sent to you from the U.S.**

Contraception and toiletries - The best place to purchase would be Carrefour, which is similar to WalMart. There is one right near campus.

YanJie - Be prepared. Carry some useful, common medicine if you can—Tylenols, Advil, cough syrup, altitude sickness pills—because you never know when you'll need it or how hard (or expensive) it will be for you to get it in China.

Chinese Massage - Dragonfly @ Xinle
206 Xinle Road
tel. 54039982
(call to set an appt)

Meridianinc Massage
2nd floor Building 6, Lane 800
Huashan Road, Shanghai
tel: (021) 62269278



Patty - After coming back from a weekend trip to Guangzhou, I had a really bad cold. I went to check out the pharmacy that was down the street from NYU's academic center, but everything in there was in Chinese and I didn't see any familiar brands—I was so confused!



Common Medicine Terms

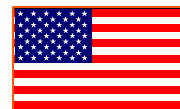
Chinese	Pinyin	Translation
泰诺	Tài Nuò	Tylenol
惠菲宁	Huì Fēi Nín	Robitussin
維他命C	Wéi Tā Mìng C	Vitamin C
保濟丸	Bǎo Jì Wán	Chinese stomach medicine
止痒药膏	Zhǐ Yǎng Yào Gāo	Anti-itch cream

Safety

Students usually feel incredibly safe in China because there are generally no violent crimes since punishments are very strict. However, petty theft is fairly common. Always be aware of your belongings. After all, there are 20 million people in Shanghai!

US Consulate General in Shanghai - <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/>

Main U.S. Consulate General Building
1469 Huai Hai Zhong Road
(Near Wulumuqi Nan Lu)
200031 Shanghai
China



American Citizens Services
Westgate Mall, 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8th Floor
Tel: (86-21) 3217-4650 ext. 2102,2103,2114
Fax: (86-21) 6217-2071
Regular Hours: 8:30am-11:30am and 1:30pm-3:30pm Mon to Fri. Closed on Tues afternoons
After Hours Emergencies: (86-21) 6433-3936
E-mail: ShanghaiACS@state.gov

Keep a copy of your passport with you when you travel. Also, when you visit other countries, go online and jot down the address of the embassy or consulate in your destination city. It is important to have if you lose your passport, are the victim of a crime, or somehow end up involved with authorities.

PRACTICAL TIPS

Transportation - Getting around Shanghai

- **Buses**

Buses are very inexpensive in Shanghai, but prices vary depending on if the bus is equipped with an air conditioner or not. Air-conditioned buses cost 2RMB, while non-air-conditioned buses only cost 1RMB.

- **Metro**

The metro is beautiful, clean, quick, and very inexpensive! Note that they use the tap cards. It's so easy—you don't even have to take them out of your wallet to swipe. How convenient!

- **Taxis**

Definitely fast and cheap! But be aware that there can be terrible traffic. Take the light blue and light green-colored taxis. They are the most respected company in Shanghai. Taxi drivers try to trick foreigners by overcharging them, rather than using the meter. So, if your driver doesn't turn the meter on, just ask him to do so. On the other hand, if you know that the quoted price is near the actual cost of the ride and you feel comfortable paying that amount, go ahead and take it.

- **Bicycles**

Bicycles are by far the most popular mode of transportation for the Chinese locals. BBC News estimates that Shanghai's population of around 20 million people owns around 9 million bicycles, which is growing at a rate of 1 million bicycles a year. Riding a bike around Shanghai will definitely make you feel like you fit in a little more with the locals, but be extremely careful on the streets.

- **Maglev**

Known more of as a tourist attraction than a mode of transportation, the Shanghai Maglev train reaches a top speed of 268 mph, running only from Longyang Road to the Pudong International Airport and back. The Maglev is a nice, exciting way of getting to and from the Pudong Airport. For a one-way fare of 50 RMB, it's a lot cheaper than taking a taxi, which could cost upwards of 200 RMB.

Jimmy - Shanghai's subway system is cleaner, faster, smoother and much more advanced than New York City's subway system. There is a timer indicating how much time before the next train arrives at the station. Most of the subway lines are crowded throughout the day, but if you don't mind some squeezing, the subway is a good value at three to five RMB per ride.



Picture by Erica Swallow

Weather

The best thing to do is look up temperature gauges. We have had good results at <http://www.weatherbase.com>. For current local weather try <http://www.weather.com>. Generally, the weather in Shanghai is similar to that of New York—hot in the summer and cold in the winter.

PRACTICAL TIPS

Money

ATMs

Most banks in China are local ones, but U.S. ATM cards usually still fit into them and students have no problem withdrawing money most of the time. The only two American banks we found in Shanghai were HSBC and Citibank, both of which have ATM machines at Cloud Nine Mall near NYU in Shanghai's off-campus apartments.

Before you leave, speak to your bank about (1) the high fees they may charge for overseas use and (2) not flagging your account as fraudulent due to the overseas use. To counter the large fees, some students took out large amounts of cash at one time (ATM machines in China give out money in 100 RMB denominations). If you choose to do that, be careful with your cash.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are only accepted at big restaurants. You can use them at ATMs that accept your carrier, though.

Exchange Rate Conversion

The exchange rate is always fluctuating, but currently the exchange rate has been hanging somewhere around \$1US = 7RMB. For the latest information check at <http://www.xe.com>.

Note: The exchange rate listed on this website does not equal the rate you will get when you exchange your money. Banks and credit cards usually charge commission for the exchange.

This great rate can be an advantage for students studying abroad in China, but do not get too carried away! The exchange rate can sometimes blind students into thinking everything is practically free... not true!

Some Tips on Stretching the Dollar

- Eat food at local Chinese restaurants instead of foreign ones. Local ones are much cheaper!
- Watch how much you buy—small amounts do add up fast!
- Use your Chinese ECNU student ID card to get student discounts into museums. You will receive this ID at the beginning of the semester.
- Many museums are free or less than \$2 US.
- Make a budget before you go and stick to it. Remember to leave a little aside for splurges!

Packing List

The best advice is to PACK LIGHTLY and leave plenty of room for souvenirs. Here are some items you might want to consider bringing.

Luggage:

- Backpacker bags and/or duffel bags may be easier for travel, especially for jumping on local transportation. If you use a bag on wheels, it may be better to use a small suitcase, instead of a large one.
- Book bag for weekend trips and groceries.

Suggested items:

- Adaptors, converters and chargers (we suggest a global converter so that you can use it no matter where you go, but adaptors can be purchased cheaply at Carrefour)
- Travel alarm clock.
- Any medication you need.
- Comfortable shoes.
- Camera!
- Toiletries, especially tampons and deodorant.
- Bug spray and hand sanitizer
- Photos of loved ones.
- Comfort foods.

You DO NOT NEED to bring:

- Too much clothing—you will buy (or tailor!) a lot.
- Sheets, since they will be provided. You may want to bring one towel for your first days.
- Shampoo, conditioner and body wash—there are plenty of American brands at Carrefour and Watson's.

If you plan on traveling:

- Flip flops for the hostel showers.
- Towels for the hostels.
- Lock - Some students felt they needed a lock for their bag.
- Do not pack new clothes for every day of your trip!
- Do not bring valuables that you do not need!

Communications

Internet - There is free Internet access in dorm rooms and the NYU Student lounge.

• Skype

Skype is a free internet phone service to speak to family and friends. You need a headset and it's free if the person you are calling has a skype account as well.

• Online Communities & Blogging

Show off your time abroad:

<http://www.Blogger.com> - Free and easy to use blogging software.

<http://www.CheckPointBlack.com> - Free internet site that connects travelers and has forums for posting stories, videos, questions, journals, etc.

<http://www.LonelyPlanet.com> - Thorn tree is a great forum to speak to other travelers.

<http://www.RoughGuide.com> - Download guide books for your Ipod or PDA.

Cell Phones - Everyone uses a cell phone in Shanghai. You can buy a phone for about \$42 US. They use pre-paid phone cards provided by China Mobile, the only cell phone service provider. You can buy them on the streets at the back gate in increments of 50RMB or 100RMB. This is the only plan available and it works quite well. A lot of Chinese students (and NYU students!) prefer text messaging, because it is very cheap compared to how much calling time costs.



Above: China Mobile 100RMB Phone Card

Traveling within China

It is very **easy to travel** by plane, train, bus, and car from Shanghai to other Chinese cities and villages. Within the following pages you will find various descriptions of destinations that students have chosen to see during past semesters at the NYU in Shanghai program. These villages and cities within China include: **Beijing, Chengdu, Guilin, Hangzhou, Hongcun, Huangshan, Jiuzhaigou, Xidi, Xitang, and Yangshuo.**

One important thing to remember is that **China is HUGE!** While it is relatively easy to book flights or train rides, students often miscalculate the time that it will take to travel from Shanghai to other destinations. For example, the train ride from Shanghai to Beijing is approximately twelve hours non-stop; however, a flight from Shanghai to Beijing only takes about two hours. Keep these times in mind when you are planning weekend trips!

Making flight or train reservations can be somewhat tricky for students who have never traveled around China, as you may run into issues because of a **language barrier**. The NYU in Shanghai staff is happy to assist students who wish to purchase weekend travel tickets. However, make sure you ask for assistance at least a few weeks in advance to allow for processing time. Plus, they are doing you a favor! Be courteous! If you are up for trying to book your travel arrangements by yourself, check out the resources below!

Travel Resources



Train Schedules -

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/china-trains>



Cheap Flights -

<http://elong.net>

<http://www.ctrip.com>



Accommodation -

<http://www.hostelworld.com>



Picture by Anna Tse



Picture by Nekeisha Amos

Top: Shanghai pioneers, Erica Swallow and Alice Chen cool off in the Yangshuo River. Bottom: Anna Tse and other NYU in Shanghai students get jolly in Tiananmen Square!

Beijing (北京)

Located north of Shanghai, you can travel to Beijing on a short, direct flight or take the cheaper option: the 12 hour overnight train. Beijing is the center for Chinese government and politics, thus their buildings and points of interest are older and rich with ancient Chinese history. You can not leave Beijing without exploring the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Ming tombs, the new Olympic stadium, and of course the Great Wall. There are many hotel chains located in Beijing, so lodging is not a problem.



Picture by Katherine Wang



Picture by Anna Tse



Picture by Katherine Wang



Picture by Jimmy Zheng

Where to stay

Leo Hostel (52 Da Zha Lan Xi Jie, Qianmen)

Not a bad hostel for the price, although no cab driver really knows where it is and we had a lot of difficulty getting to it

Qianmen Hostel (33 Meishi Street)

Better location than the Leo hostel, and the tours are cheaper. We had friends that stayed here and loved it

Things to See

- Beihai Park
- Chairman Mao Memorial Hall
- Forbidden City
- Great Hall of the People
- Summer Palace
- Temple Of Heaven
- Tiananmen Square

Eating/Drinking

Da Dong Kao Ya (Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chao Yang)

One of the best Peking duck places in Beijing, great restaurant, although a bit pricey

Qianmen Qianjude Kao Ya (32 Qianmen Da Jie, Chongwen)

Most famous Peking duck place in Beijing. Heads of states and presidents go to eat here when they come to Beijing. They even tell you what number your duck is out of all the ducks they have served.

Nightlife

Banana (22 Jianguomenwai Da Jie)

Awesome club, where the floor is actually bouncy. Very unique, but extraordinarily crowded. Mainly local club

Mix (Chaoyang - Worker's Stadium)

In a parking lot with three other clubs, great atmosphere, lots of people, and good music

Sanlitun Jie - One of the great bar streets, just walk up and down to figure out which bar you feel like going to.

Chengdu (成都)

Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province and serves as an economic and transportation center. Although it is older than Shanghai, Chengdu is home to great shopping, tourist sites, and of course, amazing Sichuan-style spicy food. While visiting Chengdu, make sure to check out the Sichuan Opera and the Panda Breeding and Research Center, where you will have a chance to see pandas up close and even take a picture with one! Chengdu is also the main inland access to Tibet, so combining those two trips together during spring break is very feasible.



Picture by Patty Lee

Above: The Chengdu Panda Research and Breeding Center is 6 miles away from downtown Chengdu.

Chongqing (重庆) and the 3 gorges

Chongqing is like Shanghai on steroids. There are more people, brighter lights, and more buildings. It is the largest municipality in China, with 30 million people, the population of the entire country of Canada. From Chongqing, you can board a cruise down the Yangtze river and get a good look at the three gorges, an absolutely gorgeous site.



Picture by Lillian Young

Where to stay

Cruiseship - (President No. 5 - Snow Mountain)

Up to Western standards cruise. The cabins are roomier than many ocean liner cabins, the food is all inclusive, you get three standard meals of Chinese food, a day and the itinerary was good. Geared towards a very relaxing vacation. You will have a lot of downtime. The itinerary included an excursion to Fengdu, the ghost city, an excursion up Shennong stream, and an excursion to see the Dam.

Things to do/see

- **ChongQing Museum** - located right by People's square, it is a beautiful area to sit and enjoy the view and people watch. Inside are ancient relics and history from the ancient kingdom of Ba and the Three Kingdoms Period to World War II.
- **Chongqing Urban Planning Museum** - very impressive to see the actual layout of the city and what it will turn into in the next decade
- **Cable Car across the River** - right by the Urban Planning Museum, it shows a beautiful view of the city

Information

When leaving, you can fly out from YiChang for about 1000rmb or Wuhan for about 200rmb. However, to get to Wuhan, you have to take a 3 hour bus from YiChang, and bus drivers have a tendency to get lost so prepare yourself for a long bumpy ride.

Guilin (桂林)

The city of Guilin is located in Guangxi Province, near another popular travel destination mentioned in this guide, Yangshuo. Located on the west bank of the Li River, Guilin boasts many beautiful views and water sports destinations. Students traveling to Guilin and Yangshuo should definitely take advantage of the bamboo rafting opportunities. Being situated along a mountainous region, Guilin also offers hiking adventures for those athletic tourists! One of their most popular hiking adventures is a trip up to Moon Hill, pictured below. Take time out to enjoy the beauty of China's countryside. Visit Guilin!



Picture by Erica Swallow

Where to stay

The Guilin Universal Hotel

Really nice, a bit expensive, but it was covered by NYU.

Things to do/see

- **The Reed Flute Caves** - beautiful cave system, a bit commercialized, but really beautiful. The surrounding areas are amazing to walk through/hike through, there are a few pavilions up in a mountain, etc.
- **Local night market in Guilin** - Tons of stuff to buy and look around.
- **Mountains** - There are beautiful mountains surrounding Guilin that would be an easy hike. Go an hour out to LongSheng and hike the Dragon Back rice terraces, see the Dragon's Back village and the women with ridiculously long hair. In the mountains, you can eat at **Pingan Hotel** - fresh, most delicious food.

Haikou (海口)

Haikou is in the Chinese area of Hainan Dao. It is more for business men than tourists, but going to the beach and walking through the city gives you an authentic Chinese experience.

Where to stay

Meritus Mandarin Hotel

Gorgeous hotel with cheap prices if booked online

Things to do/see

- **Holiday Beach** - a completely Chinese beach about 10 minutes or so outside of the downtown area. Delicious coconuts, cheap street food, rentable chairs and umbrellas, if you're just looking for a beach, this is it.



Picture by Lillian Young

Hangzhou (杭州)

Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province is renowned for its natural beauty and the artistic influences of its historic inhabitants. The West Lake is the center of Hangzhou, with boats that can take you from bank to bank to explore the multiple pagodas, hiking trails, and the Buddhist carvings inside the Feilai Feng Caves. Hangzhou is also home to the oldest Buddhist Temple, Lingyin Si, and has gained a notable reputation for its teas and silk. Hangzhou is great for a two day vacation because is just a three hour train ride from Shanghai. Feel free to take a trip to the Long Ji Rice terraces, too. We must warn you, though, that it is a 3-4 hour bus ride to the mountain village. Students loved Hangzhou because it allowed them to leave the hustle and bustle of Shanghai and enjoy a peaceful afternoon with clean air and the relaxing comfort of nature.



Picture by Patty Lee



Picture by Melissa Boyce



Picture by Erica Swallow

Above: At the water source, located in the center of Hongcun village, locals wash clothes, dishes, veggies, and almost everything. This water pool is the lifeblood of the village.

Hongcun (宏村)

Hongcun is located in Anhui Province, along the southwest border of Huangshan (Yellow Mountain). This ancient city is a prime historical site for Ming and Qing dynasty carvings and architecture. Ang Lee's Academy Award winning movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* displays Hongcun's beauty in one of its scenes, taking place on the bridge entering the ancient city. Here's an interesting fact: Hongcun was built in the shape of an ox. Don't believe us? Visit it for yourself and see! (You'll have to be pretty high to see the entire village, though! Good luck!)

Huangshan (黄山)

Huangshan mountain is renowned for its scenic views and beautiful peaks. It is an arduous hike, if you are set on reaching the top, but completely worth it once you are there and in the midst of the clouds. We recommend visiting Huangshan as early as possible, in order to avoid long lines. Also, bring snacks and water because food stands are scarce. If you enjoy exercise, hiking, and being a part of nature, you will without a doubt love your trip to Huangshan.



Picture by Erica Swallow

Above: Locks of Love: These locks are carried by lovers to the top of the mountain and locked there to secure the couple's love forever. Look how much love is in the world!

Jiuzhaigou (九寨沟)

Jiuzhaigou is located in Sichuan province and borders Tibet. If you are looking for a scenic, nature-focused trip, we definitely recommend planning a trip to this beautiful mountain. The views are magnificent, and depending on the season you travel within, the mountain colors range from deep blues to amazing reds. The lakes are breathtaking, and you will be sure to return home with many pictures that depict the natural beauty of China. Besides hiking and picture-taking, you will also be able to take part in many Tibetan festivities and enjoy the spicy Sichuan cuisine.



Picture by Melissa Boyce

Above: Who wouldn't want to jump in a beautiful lake like this?

Kunming (昆明)

A laid back city in western China that has a culture unique from the rest of China. Beautiful scenery and temples to explore, its worth spending a weekend here.

Where to stay

The Hump Hostel

25 yuan for a bed, we got a 4 person dorm with a bathroom, I would suggest this option, much more comfortable, their public bathrooms are not pleasant. They have free wifi, a washer but no dryer, and amazing food. Its located in Jinmabiji Square, Jinbi Road. You will see signs for it, its within a labyrinth of bars and clubs. Only downside is that you can hear the clubbig music from your room. Otherwise, amazingly chill hostel.

Things to do/see

- **Xi Shan** - West Mountain - take the cable car up to the middle of the mountain, then take the ski lift to the very top of the mountain. From there, hike around see the different pavilions, and make sure you see "Long Men", dragons gate, you have to buy a separate ticket, on your way down. It is really beautiful, and the most famous part of the West Mountain. Walk your way back down to the cable car station, and then find a cab. We took a boat across lake Dianchito get to the mountain and then a cab back to save time. But to get to the boat, you have to buy tickets to go through a par.
- **Golden Temple** -Situatled all around a mountain, with a beautiful view.
- **Yuantong Zen Buddhist Temple** - has a history of more than 1200 years. It is incredibly beautiful and one of the key Buddhist temples in China.

Eating/Drinking

Wei's (in Chinese (Ha Ha Can Ting) - amazing wood fired pizza, pasta, Mexican food, etc. If you're missing wetern food, check this place out. Its on 27 xiao dong jie, across he road from the downtown Carrefour

Camel's Bar - another amazing American place

Nightlife

The majority of the clubbing and bars in in the **Jinmabi** square area. Just follow the thumping music.



Sanya (三亚)

Sanya is a resort town catering to foreigners in Hainan Dao. Things in Sanya are more expensive than Haikou, but there are more options available. Where Haikou was all locals, Sanya was all tourists, and the whole city was catered to the pleasures of tourists.

Where to stay

The Kempinski Hotel

Gorgeous, at the very end of the beach, incredible pool, jet skiing and fake zorbing in the back, atvs, etc

Things to do/see

- **Monkey Island** - approximately 2 hours away, worth checking out if you have never seen monkeys close up.
- **The Night Market** - On Hongqi street, various items with reasonable prices.
- **Tanya Haijiao** - The End of the World - It was considered the end of the world a really long time ago. There are three famous rocks here with calligraphy carvings.
- **Yalong Bay** - Really beautiful beach to unwind on.

Eating/Drinking

Rainbow - If you miss western food, find this place. It is delicious and it knows how to do western food right.



Pictures by Lillian Young

Stone Forest (石林)

Stone Forest is an incredible day trip out of Kunming. There are busses that leave every half an hour or so, and it takes two hours to get there. Give yourself at least 4 hours to run through this, and make sure you check out the outer stone forest, it is beautiful with very few tourists. Its like having a playground to explore on your own.



Picture by Lillian Young

Suzhou (苏州)

Suzhou was a day trip we took out of Shanghai. It took us about an hour to get there, and right after we got off, we managed to grab us a minicab that offered to drive us around for the entire day for 65 rmb. First, we went to the Northern Temple Pagoda, which was a ridiculously high pagoda that took forever to climb up all the stairs for. After that, they took us to the water town - Luzhi, where we got on a boat and they took us through the canals. When we got out, our car disappeared, claiming that they broke down. So we didn't have to pay them at all (you pay at the end), and we promptly got us a new cab to take us to the Lingering gardens and dinner afterwards. Lingering gardens were gorgeous, surprisingly large, and very peaceful. All in all, for an entire day of sightseeing and being chauffeured around, we spent 25 US dollars, including our roundtrip train tickets.

Things to do/see

- Lingering Gardens -
- Northern Temple Pagoda
- Luzhi



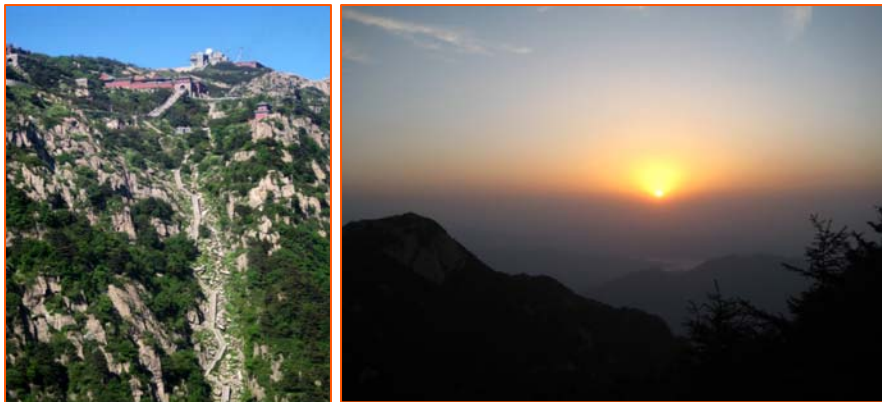
Picture by Lillian Young

Info

Its worth it to get a minicab to drive you around for a day. You can probably get them down to about 60-80 yuan for a day of driving you around to the different sites. They'll also get you the tickets to get into any of the major tourist sites, and you can probably talk down those tickets too. They get a commission for every person they bring in, and they get their tickets cheaper, so if you know that, you can talk them down.

Taishan

One of the most famous Taoist mountains in China, it is said that if you manage to climb up all 6,000 + steps, your entire family would have good luck and good health. Many climb to view the famous sunrise, a beautiful site to behold.



Pictures by Lillian Young

Where to Stay

There are tons of hotels at the top of the mountain, you can bargain them down when you get to the top.

Mountain Radio Hotel (Diantai Binguan) - 86-538-6170523, 86-139-53855473
Close to the sunrise vantage point, there are huge satellite dishes on the compound

Guanri Binguan - 86-13625382364, 86-15853804485
Best spot to see the sunrise from the hotel, if you have a good room, you can even see it from your window

Kongjun Binguan - 86-538-82269577, 86-538-8239504
Near the back route of Taishan, quite close to the summit

Xidi (西递)

Xidi is located in Anhui Province, near another ancient village mentioned in this guide, Hongcun. Like Hongcun, Xidi is one of the key locations to see Ming and Qing dynasty wood carvings and art. The village is surrounded by waterways and is characterized by narrow walkways and alleys, many of them above the waterways that divide the city. For a cultural experience and a trip back into past, do not miss Xidi!

Xitang (西塘)

Located in Zhejiang Province, Xitang is a scenic water town that is the converging point for nine rivers. Tourists that visit Xitang often choose the boat tours, as boats are the main mode of transportation for locals. You definitely need to stop by! Why? Well...

As the saying goes: "Above there is paradise, below there is Xitang; To not go one time, would be very wrong."



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Erica Swallow



Picture by Anna Tse

Above: The famous Terracotta Soldiers patiently guard Shi Huangdi, emperor of Qin from 247-221 BC.

Xian (西安)

So in china, you can't actually buy roundtrip tickets unless you do it through an agency, so when we first arrived in Xian, we have no way to get back. We assumed we could just buy tickets night of, but that didn't happen either. Lucky us, we got to buy a 1030 rmb plane ticket back...after such a comfortable train ride too. Lucky us!

Where to stay

The Bell Tower Hostel - its in the center of Xian, located between the Bell and Drum tower. It has a great location, it is in the center of the city, within walking distance from the wall. Great people, great tours, and a great resource within China to have

Things to do/see

- **Terracotta Soldiers - Qin Shi Huang Bing Ma Yong**

Admission fee: 90rmb (US\$ 11) from Mar 1 to Nov 30; Opening hours: 8:00am to 6:00pm
You can arrive at the terracotta warrior museum by tourist bus No.5 to the southeast of the Railway Station Plaza. The green bus, "5" in Chinese, is also named No.306. The bus starts every 15 mins.

- **Great Mosque - Da Qing Zhen Si**

Admission: 15.00; Opening Hours: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

- **Big Wild Goose Pagoda - Da Yan Ta**

Admission Fee: 25.00 (ascending the pagoda, extra 20.00); Opening Hours: everyday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

- **Xian City Wall - Cheng Qiang**

Admission Fee: 40.00; Different entrance has different opening hours, but the suggested visiting hours is from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm as all entrances are open. The most convenient gate is the South Gate (Nan Men), which opens till 10:00 pm.

- **Huaqing Hot Springs**
- **Emperor Qin's Mausoleum**
- **Bampo Museum**
- **The Silk Factory**

Xian was great. We stayed there for two days, two nights. One extra day would have been perfect. We saw all the sites, but just barely. We really needed an extra day or so to really get the full experience.

Yangshuo (阳朔)

Yangshuo is a small, artsy town located within Guangxi Province, near the city of Guilin. The town is known for its vegetarian friendly food, its interesting mix of tourists and locals, and the multiple points of interest that are only a bike ride away. There are so many activities to keep you busy, including hiking, biking, mud swimming, and rock climbing. The nightlife is great, due in part to the multitude of bars, clubs, and restaurants that are, interestingly enough, mostly owned by Australians.

Where to stay

Yangshuo Lijiang Hotel

There are pictures everywhere of the famous people that have stayed at the hotel. It was not bad accommodations for China. The internet was only available in some rooms. Do not eat in their buffet area as they were not good.

Things to do/see

- Cormorant Fishing** - Watching the birds fish. Also, its fascinating to watch the fisherman take the large fish that are trapped in its neck.
- Moon Hill** - Beautiful mountain to go hiking on.
- Rock Climbing** - Famous for its rock climbing. The rock faces in Yangshuo are incredibly fun. We went with a guy called Tan Xi - xixitan_cn@hotmail.com. Email him if you want to go as he's hilarious and knows English. Great incredible experience rock climbing. Another resource: <http://www.blackrockclimbing.com>.



Traveling Outside China

Traveling within China can definitely be an adventure, as it is such a huge country with many diverse regions to explore. However, some students decide to venture outside of Mainland China during their semester abroad in Shanghai.

Traveling to Other Countries Outside of China

All students should have a single-entry visa. If you travel outside of China, be aware that you will need to apply for another student visa once you have exited China in order to reenter the country. Be sure to bring your JW202 forms and your formal ECNU acceptance letter when you reapply. Chinese visa processing takes about four days in most countries. Make sure your trip allows for the wait!

Erica -A few of my closest friends and I decided to take a side trip to Thailand before the NYU in Shanghai program began. As soon as we arrived, we all applied for our visas in Bangkok. At the end of our one-week trip, we stopped by and picked up our visas. I'm sure not all visa processing is this easy, but planning definitely helps!



Hong Kong

One popular destination is **Hong Kong**. Here's a testimonial from Fall 2006 NYU in Shanghai student, Jasmine Nelson:

If you're studying abroad in China, I strongly recommend traveling to Hong Kong. It is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. Although I traveled there in mid-December, the weather was great with temperatures in the low 70's, high 60's. During winter, all the buildings and streets are decorated for Christmas. There is a light show that you can watch on the harbor and a big Christmas tree just like the one in Rockefeller Center. At first I didn't believe that there was a skyline greater than New York City's, but after seeing Hong Kong's from Victoria Peak, my opinion has changed. Definitely go see the Giant Buddha and visit Ocean Park amusement park. Enjoy the night market with all its cheap buys and the men's and women's market during the daytime. The people there are polite and the environment is friendly. Also, the train system is extremely efficient, making it easy to get around. You can even take the train to Disneyland!!!!

Obtaining a Re-Entry Visa: In order to travel to Hong Kong, you will need to obtain a re-entry visa, which costs about \$75.00. Inform the NYU staff that you wish to travel outside of China to Hong Kong. They will take you to the on-campus office to file the paperwork. Bring a copy of your JW202 form and official ECU acceptance letter. After filing, you will also go downtown to file for your re-entry visa. (Ask the NYU staff for directions.) The re-entry visa will be ready to pick up after a few days. Plan ahead, because the pickup building is pretty far from campus. Please also allow at least two weeks before your scheduled departure to Hong Kong to finish the necessary paperwork. Once that's taken care of, you'll be on your way to enjoy fabulous Hong Kong! Have a blast!



Picture by Jasmine Nelson



Above Left: An average street in Hong Kong. Exciting, eh?

Above Right: The tallest, outdoors, seated Buddha in the world is located in Hong Kong.



Pictures by Patty Lee

Seoul, Korea

Seoul is the future of Shanghai. There are no visas necessary to visit Korea, and its an interesting city to check out. It is what Shanghai will be in another decade.



Where to stay

The Renaissance Hotel in Seoul Korea

Things to do/see

- **Korean folk village** - right outside of Seoul, its Korea's version of Williamsburg, Pennsylvania. Really interesting to check out if you have the time
- **The Blue House** - where the president is - not that you can actually get into it
- **Jogyesa Temple** - Largest Buddhist temple in Seoul
- **24-hour Saunas**

Eating/Drinking

Sea Cucumbers - You chew them and it squirts out a strange liquid.
Octopi - They are everywhere, which makes them a bit unavoidable.
Stone pots - These are delicious.

Information

If you fly into Incheon, its actually about a 1-2 hour drive outside of Seoul.
 International Sim Cards do not work in Korea.



Tokyo, Japan

Only a 3 hour flight away from Shanghai, Tokyo is a completely different world. As fast paced as Shanghai, but weirder, quieter, and more orderly. Its a unique and eclectic city, and definitely worth a visit if you have the time. From the hot springs to sumo wrestling practice, there's really no other city like it. There are no visas necessary to get in and out of Japan, so coming from Shanghai is an easy trip. Be forewarned, to get money out of an atm, you have to go to the post office, unless you have a Citibank card.

Things to do/see

- **Tsukiji Market** - Tsukiji Fish Market has a crazy atmosphere, where you can try the whale, blowfish, and the scallop that they sell on the side streets.
- **Hama-Rikyū-Teien** - One of Tokyo's best gardens.
- **Sensoji Temple** - Sensoji is a Buddhist temple located in Asakusa.
- **Oeda Onsen** - The Hot Springs in Odaiba. If you go after 6pm, its only about 20 dollars to go in, and it is absolutely amazing. Inside is an ancient Japanese village, with every type of food you can imagine - raw octopus, all kinds of drinks, ice cream, sushi, etc. You have the option of buying different services, sand baths, massages, Dr. Fish - where fish will eat the dead skin off your feet. Included services include the hot springs for your feet only - hot springs for the whole body, a sauna, a steam room, and a room for relaxation with couches and TVs.
- **Fuji TV Building**
- **Ferris Wheel**
- **Toyota Building** - You can test drive the cars in there.
- **Tokyo National Museum Ueno Park**
- **National Museum of Western Art**
- **Ueno Royal Museum**
- **National Science Museum**
- **Tons of Shrines and Temples**
- **Asa Geiko** - Sumo wrestler's morning exercise. They spent several hours of warm up and technique practice, call ahead to the stables to find out if they're open that day.

Nightlife

Roppongi District - Muse - great bar, actually voted the number one bar to meet people.

Changes In Myself

After spending months in a foreign country and being exposed to the local traditions, attitudes, languages, and fashion trends, you will surely notice changes in the way you approach to certain issue or react to thoughts and actions of others. Here are some examples of what others have experienced upon their return.



For me, it was an interesting experience because I'm Chinese, but have grown up in New York City where most of the Chinese population is Cantonese (and more recently, Fujianese). Living and traveling in China showed me how diverse the country really is.
- Patty, Shanghai

I found myself more open minded to different experiences and people. Before I left for Shanghai, I felt somewhat distant from the NYU community, Since I've come back I find myself appreciating America and being grateful for what I have. I've learned and felt first hand experience that the world does not revolve around America. I feel that there are plenty of opportunities outside of America, it just takes some effort to find it. I feel that I've evolved into a much more knowledgeable person, not only academically, but also socially.
-Jennifer, Shanghai



Surprisingly, I felt a bit estranged from American culture in general. Living abroad, I watched most American news stories (especially the election primaries) with a wary eye. I was fascinated by the world's perception of America and a bit disgusted to see American tourists who acted like they were somehow superior to the rest of the world. I'm also more likely to show interest in European news stories, since I can now associate with many of the cities.
-Stephen, Florence

Perhaps the biggest thing I have learned from traveling is to always understand who you are from the inside out, but to also remember what people perceive from the outside in.
- Margaret, London

Reverse Culture Shock

Believe it or not, initially after returning to the states, you may experience a period of time where you miss studying abroad and need to readjust to life in the States. However, keep in mind that you are not alone and degree of reverse culture shock varies greatly from individual to individual. Some past students have thought and talked about their experiences abroad nonstop (part of the reason why so many of us joined Global Ambassadors!) while others may find it difficult to reconnect with New York City (join Global Ambassadors and meet others in your position!).

I'm still adjusting. I stayed in New York this summer because I thought it would be easier to return there than to the suburbs. What happened was that I experienced all my culture shock in the city I had once loved so much. I've taken solace in blasting Italian music on my iPod every day, and once a month I go to Luzzo's (1st and 13th), which is the most authentically Italian restaurant I've seen outside of Italy. It gives me amazing peace of mind.
-Anah, Florence



After my first semester abroad, I came back disgusted at the lack of culture in the States, and was dying to go back to Europe. After a semester in Madrid, however, I realized that eight whole months abroad helped me realize what was missing from my life without the states, and I began appreciating the American things I took for granted before. Beach Boys, 24-hour diners, big breakfasts, and the freedom to be who you want to be.
-Sarah, Florence & Madrid

I had trouble reconnecting with New York when I returned. It was all too loud, too big, and quite different from the more reserved nature of Prague. For the first week I felt like a stranger in a city I love. No one really discusses with you the difficulties of studying in two different cities and the trouble of returning. In order to reconnect with NYC, I did the things that made me happy: go to my favorite café, take long walks, do some shopping and especially see my friends.

-Jeremy, Prague



Immediately upon leaving the airport, I made several comments about the sizes of automobiles and the strangeness of the scenery. Only initially, I felt sort of distant from my group of friends at home. I guess I coped by sharing lots of stories with them, but eventually I started feeling like I was talking about my experiences too much.
- Stephen, Florence

ANECDOTES

Alice



My **best experience** was taking the raft down the Yangshuo River in Guilin with my great friend, Erica, and jumping into the river for a swim on a whim.

My **worst experience** was when I fell asleep outside my own Beijing Apartment after a long day.

My **favorite thing** in Shanghai was the food.

The **hardest thing** about living in Shanghai was directing cab drivers to go where I want them to go!

You live and you learn and if you don't - just laugh. Keep an open mind when you go to Shanghai and bargain everything down to at least a third of the price!

Erika



The **best experience** of studying in Shanghai was seeing an entirely different culture in action, and being a part of it.

The **worst experience** was seeing a dog on a rotisserie as I was walking down a street in the outer parts of Shanghai.

My **favorite thing** about Shanghai is that it is constantly getting better. There's always action, and everything is in motion! Life is never boring, and there's something to look forward to around every corner and through every doorway.

The **hardest part** about living in Shanghai is feeling so isolated. Being a foreigner, you can start to feel as if you don't belong. Passersby often stare on the streets, but usually in an interested manner. You soon learn that they are just curious about you, just as you are about them. Sometimes I even felt as if I was a celebrity!

Be open minded and go explore! There's nothing better than taking a map out in the city and walking around for a day. You'll learn so much, use the language, find interesting places, and feel accomplished for going out on your own! Just do it!

Anna

I fell in love with Shanghai! There's always so much to do and so much to see. I love eating at all the different restaurants and trying out different types of cuisines. Shanghai is really any international city especially when it comes to food. I found a great Greek restaurant, awesome burgers at Malone's and amazing New York Cheesecake at City Dinner.

One thing I really missed while I was in China was going to the movies. The movie theaters in China have a very limited selection in English and the last show is at around 9:00PM.



Top Five Things I Wish I Had Known Before Studying Abroad in Shanghai:

1. There were so many amazing places to visit that are very close to Shanghai and easily accessible by train like Nanjing and Hangzhou
2. Mailing things back home using the China Post is not very expensive and is actually pretty reliable. You can ship some of your books or other bulky items home using the least expensive option and it will arrival in the States in about two months in case you run out of room in your suit case.
3. The Maglev can get you to the airport and back relatively quickly especially if you don't want to risk sitting in traffic.
4. IKEA! It's a great place to pick up little things to decorate your room so it will seem more homely.
5. What my credit card charged as a foreign exchange fee. If you plan on using your credit card abroad or withdrawing money using your ATM card, make sure you talk to your bank or credit card company first and find out what the exchange rate is, if there's a fee and make sure they know that they know that you're abroad!

ANECDOTES

Jasmine



My **best experience** in China was being able to sit in a classroom and learn about a country that I was actually in! That way when teachers referred to a specific landmark or custom practiced in China, I could go out and actually see it for myself. I also loved being in a place completely different, learning about another culture.

My **worst experience** was taking the overnight hard sleeper train to Huangshan mountains for 12 hours. That was a big shocker, especially since it was our first week in China.

My **favorite thing** about Shanghai is how welcoming the people there were. The Chinese people were just as interested in me as I was in them. It was sort of a drag coming back to America because no one cares to get to know you. I was sort of enjoying the celebrity life. ☺

The **hardest thing** for me was getting used to the food. In general, I am extremely picky when it comes food and

I have to have plates with dividers so that my food does not touch. Chinese eating customs are very different than my own, so that was something that I had to get used to.

Shanghai is like the New York City of China. It is extremely lively and the people there are awesome. It has become my home in the Eastern Hemisphere and I am sure that anyone who goes there will have as great a time as I did. As when exploring anything new, approach this experience with an open mind and the willingness to immerse yourself in a cultural environment different from your own.

Top Four Things I Wish I Had Known Before Studying Abroad in Shanghai

1. Although the dollar goes a long ways in China, budgeting is still necessary. It's like going to the 99 cents store and buying 100 items. You still spent \$100 even if everything was cheap.
2. That they didn't sell tampons with applicators.
3. That it would still be excruciatingly hot when I arrived in the fall semester. It didn't cool down until mid-October.
4. That the summer was going to last so long!!! My mom needed to ship me extra summer clothes.

Kristen



My **best experience** was being able to teach elementary school children in a mountain village. These children had never before been exposed to English. It was a very rewarding experience.

My **worst experience** in China (which is now one of the funniest) was running out of money in Leishan, a small and very rural village in the south where no one spoke English, phone access was only for local calls, and the only village bank would not take a foreign card. The sad part was that I did plan for "worst possible scenarios" but every "worst case scenario" took place. My friend, Melissa, and I were net negative RMB.

My **favorite thing** about China is the diversity of opportunities to expose yourself to.

With such a variety of cultures, dialects, traditions, peoples, and much more, Shanghai really is a spectacular place.

Melissa



My **best experience** was teaching English in the mountain region of Que Liao, in addition to teaching on Fridays at the migrant workers' elementary school. The kids were so excited to learn and play with us, and it absolutely completed our stay in Shanghai.

My **worst experience** occurred on spring break. After a day of traveling around Yangshuo, I went to pay for groceries when I realized that my entire wallet was gone. All my money and IDs were stolen, and I had to rely on my roommate for money for the rest of spring break.

My **favorite thing** was conversing in Mandarin with the taxi drivers

我爱中国! (Wǒ ài Zhōng guó! - I love China!) China will be one of the best experiences of your life. Make sure to wake up early and take advantage of every day.

Lillian



I am Chinese American, and I felt that I knew almost nothing about the Chinese part of my heritage. I came to China to improve my mandarin and to experience a culture that I have only experienced in a distance Americanized way. I also wanted to live and experience a developing country, to see how things are handled, and just to see if I could handle the culture shock.

I'm interested in outdoors activities, traveling, business, and law. China has so many outdoor activities and little to no safety regulations, so it's ridiculously fun. For example, they'll zip you into a plastic ball, no air holes, and roll you onto a river, a pond, anything, and just let you roll around in the plastic inflated ball until they think you're about to run out of air, and then pull you back in.

The traveling in Asia is incredible. They will deliver train tickets straight to your door, and there is a really well-worn backpacking route throughout China. There are great hostels in every major city; plane tickets and train tickets are really easy to book last minute; and there is a seemingly never ending supply of new places, scenery, and things to do in this country.

Studying business and law in a country whose system is so vastly different from the United States is fascinating. The courses offered here are really amazing, too. Professor Guttman and Professor Xiao are two of the best teacher I've ever had.

Although I'm in Shanghai right now, I know I'm going to miss the exchange rate when I leave. Its incredible how cheap things are here. I'm going to miss being able to rock climb for 20 rmb an hour (3 dollars), buy a meal for 5 rmb (80 cents), and cab everywhere because the most expensive cab ride was usually only 40rmb (6 dollars). I'm also going to miss the plethora of street food that is everywhere in Shanghai. It is some of the best food in China.

Five Things I Wish I Had Known Before Studying Abroad in Shanghai:

- 1. China is unaware that peanut butter can be put with chocolate.** The Chinese have somehow failed to import Reese's peanut butter cups. You can't buy them or anything resembling Reese's anywhere in Asia.
- 2. How big Shanghai really is.** When you go to the urban planning museum, you will see just how big the entire city is, and how little of the city you really visit. Students here for the most part have been to ECNU, Xintiandi, People's Square, and the Bund. Beyond those 4 areas, they really don't explore anywhere else. If you look at a map of Shanghai though, the entire city is huge, with hidden treasures in many temples, gardens, zoos, etc. Give yourself time to really explore Shanghai
- 3. How much time I would spend eating.** After the first few weeks, I realized how unproductive I was, and it was because the food here is so cheap, so we would go into nice sit-down restaurants for every meal, take an hour or two to eat, talk, enjoy ourselves, and before we knew it, it was nighttime.
- 4. Everything can be bargained.** This rule has very few exceptions. Almost everywhere in all of China, you can bargain down the price. Even in the stores in the airport, some malls, taxi rides, motorcycle rides, etc. If you don't mind the extra 5 minutes or so, you can pretty much haggle down everything. Such a great thing to know, because when I first got into Shanghai, I only haggled in markets, and then I realized how much of a markup I was getting.
- 5. Airport and train station cabs will try to cheat you out of your money.** It should take a maximum of 150 rmb to get from Pudong International Airport to ECNU, and a maximum of 40 rmb to get from Hongqiao International Airport to ECNU. Cab drivers will try to set prices hire, or will circle you around for a while to get the cab fare higher. This is true in every city you visit in China.