

TRAVELLER

Headed for bigger times

» Continued from L28

already open, the Waldorf Astoria, next year; and the Peace Hotel, which harks back to the glamour days of Old Shanghai, will complete renovation works in time for the world fair.

But, even without Expo, there are lots to do in the city. Here are some activities to keep in mind.

EAT

Peking duck: Hyatt at the Bund

Even fussy Shanghainese say that the best bird is served at the hotel's China Kitchen, which specialises in regional cuisine.

The duck here is so popular that guests have to book it in advance when they reserve their table.

It arrives whole, then is carved in front of diners. The first cut, or the skin alone, is crunchy with a delightfully understated char-grilled taste. The second gives diners skin and meat — it's these pieces that are eaten wrapped.

The meat is surprisingly lean by China standards — there's just enough fat to subtly enhance the flavour. This delicate touch is applied to many items on the menu, so sit back and savour.

After dinner, head up to the Vue Bar on the 32nd floor of the hotel. It has an alfresco area with a whirlpool, but first-timers will probably be too taken by the view to notice.

The bar is one of the few places in Shanghai where visitors can see both Pudong and Puxi stretching in front of them.

» Peking duck, 238 yuan (\$49). Drinks at Vue Bar from 70 yuan. Hyatt at the Bund, 199 Huang Pu Rd. www.shanghai.bund.hyatt.com



Jean-Luc Moerman Solo Show at 18Gallery, 18 Bund. Photos: Jennifer Chen

HE SAID

The architecture in the French Concession defines Shanghai. You can't find these buildings anywhere else in China.
Spencer Dodington

WALK

Districts: Bund, French Concession

Although construction work on the Bund is not completed, a trip to the riverfront is still rewarding. Duck into the many historic buildings and you'll discover galleries, bars, boutiques, and cavernous, stately banks that are virtually empty.

To truly appreciate the surroundings, go with a personal guide. During our tour of the Bund, Spencer Dodington from Luxury Concierge China, a three-year-old company that offers bespoke tours, drew my attention to the facade of the Peace Hotel, soon to open under Fairmont

Hotels and Resorts.

"The builder (opium and weapons trader) Vidal Sassoon really loved his greyhounds. Those are their mugs right there," he laughed.

Having lived in Shanghai for near 15 years, Spencer reckoned that less traffic on the Bund would lead people to spend more money.

"By taking away the cars and dust, people

can enjoy the area, nip into a hotel, eat at a restaurant."

Our tour continued to the French Concession, a calm, leafy historic district in the city. "The architecture here defines Shanghai," Spencer, who studied the discipline at Shanghai's Tongji University, said.

"You can't find these buildings anywhere else in China."

Some of the designs exemplify the streamline moderne style, he added, pointing to the simple symmetry of a window-pane grid. The piece of glass was the product of a late art-deco movement. I had only seen its dust.

» www.luxuryconciergechina.com



Tian Zi Fang maze

SHOP

Tian Zi Fang

A more real version of Xintiandi, Tian Zi Fang expanded from a few art galleries set up a decade ago by the likes of late painter Chen Yifei of pipa girl fame to include boutique

shops, crafts stores, photography galleries, eateries and hole-in-the-wall cafes.

All are situated in the sprawling maze of a still-inhabited neighbourhood block.

You could sip your latte to the tune on the Chinese radio or the sight of a local wheeling his bicycle into his home.

Give yourself at least half a day to explore and don't forget the camera.

Maps can be bought for 5 yuan from shops bordering the district, but as you go deeper into the neighbourhood, they are pay as you wish.

» Tian Zi Fang, Tai Kang Lu, www.tianzifang.cn

WATCH

Burlesque club:

Gosney & Kallman's Chinatown

The decadence of 1930s Shanghai lives on at Gosney & Kallman's Chinatown, the first burlesque club in the city since China became a republic. Its founders wanted to create an environment that harks back to the city's glory days.



Opened last Halloween, the theatre has a lush interior of rich art-deco furnishings and plush red seats. Patrons can tuck themselves in with an absinthe-based drink while imagining characters like Chow Yun Fat's Shanghai hero, Hui Man Keung, striding through the door.

The opulent show is staged twice nightly. Expect Vegas thongs and feathers, British wit and Sinatra-era songs. Some of the performers do wriggle out of their bikini tops but the show is more coy than R-rated. Nimble MC Charlie Mayer is a hoot. Some teases are entirely in the mind.

» Gosney & Kallman's Chinatown, 471 Zhapu Lu, www.chinatownshanghai.com

Sotheby's | INSTITUTE OF ART
LONDON • NEW YORK • SINGAPORE

YOUR PATHWAY TO A CAREER IN THE INTERNATIONAL ART WORLD

SHORT COURSES

Courses run throughout the year in conjunction with the Master's degree programme in Art Business including: Art Law, Art Markets Ethics and the Art Market and Art Marketing.

TRAVEL PROGRAMMES

Study visits to major art centres in Asia start in August and are held in conjunction with the Master's degree programmes in Art Business and Contemporary Art: China, Indonesia, India and the USA.

BOOK NOW FOR A SHORT COURSE IN SINGAPORE OR A TRAVEL PROGRAMME. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR COURSES STARTING NOW.

T: +65 6305 2600
E: info.sg@sothebysinstitute.com
www.sothebysinstitute.com/today