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A hand is shown holding a single smooth, white, oval-shaped stone. Below it, a stack of seven similar smooth, white stones is balanced on a beach of small, multi-colored pebbles. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean and sky.

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Tourist Attractions in Shanghai, China

By Ong Sheau Fen

The Mandarin for Tourism Curriculum for MOOC students is currently under development, with "Travel to Shanghai" as one of the new topics. As part of this update, the author is preparing travel-related information about Shanghai for the students. Therefore, the author shares this travel information with colleagues in this e-Lingua issue as well to assist those interested in visiting Shanghai.

Tourist Attractions Spots

Traveling typically involves visiting interesting tourist attractions, shopping, tasting delicious food, and experiencing the culture. For interesting tourist spots, the Oriental Pearl Tower, the Bund, and Nanjing Road are must-visit locations in Shanghai.

The Oriental Pearl Tower is a versatile television and radio tower, standing at 468 meters tall. It is one of the tallest buildings in Asia. The tower offers various attractions, including an observation deck, restaurants, and a museum. Visitors can enjoy panoramic views of Shanghai, dine at the restaurants, and explore the city's history at the tower.



The Bund, located along the Huangpu River, is a historic waterfront area known for its colonial-era buildings. The buildings, constructed with various architectural styles such as Gothic, Baroque, and Art Deco in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, are a symbol of Western influence in China. Tourists can stroll along the waterfront, admire the architecture, and enjoy scenic views of the Pudong skyline across the river. Additionally, it has numerous restaurants, cafes, and shops, making it an ideal destination to visit.

Nanjing Road is a famous shopping street filled with numerous shops and restaurants. Visitors can shop for clothes, electronics, and local souvenirs while also enjoying delicious Chinese cuisine. The street also features lively street performers and musicians, making it a great place to experience Shanghai's city culture.



Oriental Pearl Tower

The Bund

Nanjing Road



Accommodation and Transport

In Shanghai, budget accommodations that cater to travellers are quite affordable and comfortable. Hostels are widely available in the French Concession and Nanjing Road, offering dormitory-style rooms and communal spaces for socializing. These hostels often provide amenities like free Wi-Fi, laundry services, and tour bookings. For those seeking more privacy, travellers can also opt for guesthouses and budget hotels, which can be found throughout the city, particularly in districts like Jing'an and Xuhui.

For getting around, Shanghai's metro system is a cost-effective and efficient way to explore the city, with English signage and affordable fares. Public buses complement the metro and cover areas not reached by the metro. For short distances or a more local experience, bike-sharing services like Hellobike, Meituan and Qingju are popular and economical. Taxis are relatively inexpensive compared to many major cities, and ride-sharing apps like Didi Chuxing offer competitive rates. However, most drivers only speak Chinese, so it is better to carry addresses written in Chinese to show to the taxi drivers. It is recommended to sign up for Alipay for making payments in Shanghai. Walking is also a pleasant option in pedestrian-friendly areas such as The Bund and People's Square.

Utilizing these budget-friendly accommodations and transport options allows travellers to experience Shanghai's culture and attractions without breaking the bank.