Classic Attractions in Shanghai by Lek Boonlert

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As China has opened up to the west in recent years however tourism has exploded in Shanghai and travellers to the city are now able to see the fantastic sights and attractions that the city has to offer while staying in some really high quality Shanghai hotels.

Like any other major city there are a number of must-see attractions and sights in Shanghai which rank as the classic places to visit. Think Westminster, Buckingham Palace and Leicester Square in London, and youâ€™re on the right track. The classic places to see on a visit to Shanghai include:

1. The Bund - The Bund is the symbol of historic Shanghai and is a waterfront boasting some stunning pieces of architecture overlooking the River Huangpu from the east bank. Today the Bund represents the best place to take a stroll along the riverbank taking in the atmosphere and ambience of the city, as classical Chinese architecture vies for your attention with the more modern glass and steel of the financial district. A walk along the Bund is an inspiring treat and a perfect introduction to Shanghai.

2. Yuyuan Garden - China is of course renowned and famous around the world for its peaceful gardens, and the Yuyuan Garden in the centre of Shanghai is a wonderful example of a den of tranquillity within a busy and bustling major city. The garden was built more than 400 years ago by a government officer during the Ming Dynasty, the garden today stands as a tourist attraction stretching over 5 acres of land and Shanghai is justly proud of the place. Temples, lakes, ponds and sculptured plants and trees help to make this one of the most stunning places you can visit on a trip to Shanghai.

3. Nanjing Road - More than 3 miles long, Nanjing Road is the main Shanghai thoroughfare and home to the cityâ€™s major shopping district, something which must be experienced by the first time visitor to Shanghai. On the back of the Opium Wars in the mid-19th century Nanjing Road became the first real trading post in the city of Shanghai, operating as an open air market place. Today the street is home to over 600 shops and stores including all the most famous western department stores and names mixed with some more unique Chinese shops. There are great public transport links to and from Nanjing Road so it is an easy enough place to get to from your Shanghai hotel.

4. The Jade Buddha Temple - Simply one of the best known sights in all of Shanghai and synonymous with Chinaâ€™s history and heritage, the Temple is a stunning shrine. The temple remains active to this day so itâ€™s important to remember that when you visit the temple you will encounter people who have come to pray and worship, so please be on your best behaviour. This serene and peaceful tourist attraction houses the famous White Jade Buddhas which were transported to Shanghai from Burma around 200 years ago.

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