Hi! I’m Nicole, your W Insider. Get ready to make the most of your stay in this city of captivating contrasts. Whether you’re savoring the city’s futuristic skyline or exploring its intimate traditional lanes, we’ve got you covered with the places only locals know and love.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

Taxis in Shanghai only accept cash payment. Taxi fare from Pudong International Airport is approximately CNY 200–250. Download DIDI App which is China’s equivalent to Uber.

Go all out! Shanghai is known for its fashion and sass. But mind you, it can be windy especially by the Bund area. So, make sure to have enough layers!

Break the great firewall and stay connected to the internet with a secure VPN.

**TALK LIKE A LOCAL**

Know slang from the streets.

你好 (ni hao) ‘hello!’
麻煩你 (mafan ni) ‘please’
谢谢 (bie|xie) ‘thank you’
不客气 (bu keqi) ‘You’re welcome!’
沒問題 (mei wenti) ‘no problem’
THE BUND

(CULTURE)
Wai-baidu Bridge
Shanghai People’s Heroes Memorial Tower
Palace Hotel
Shanghai’s Bull on the Bund
Gutziaff Signal Tower
1933 Shanghai – Old Millfun

(RELAX)
No. 1 Waitanyuan (Former British Consulate)
Horiguchi Coffee
Art+1 Shanghai Gallery
Rockbund Art Museum
De Medici Italian Gelato

(PARTY)
Unico
Club 3 1/3
Bar Rouge
MINT

(CASUAL LUNCH)
The Kitchen Table
YEN
Pop American Brasserie
El Willy
M on The Bund

INSIDER TIP

1. Take a selfie in the middle of the Bund Boulevard
2. Count how many wedding photoshoots are happening in one evening
3. Witness the Pearl Tower light show every hour
4. Be immersed in the crowds of Nanjing East crossroad
5. Visit every historical building and appreciate the art deco of each site
6. Find the financial bull of the Bund
7. Grab drinks on the rooftop bars (listed above) and mesmerize on the stunning views of the city by day and night.
Art+ Shanghai Gallery
191 South Suzhou Road
TUE–SUN, 10AM–7PM

Contemporary Chinese art scene at its best. Art+ Shanghai Gallery venerates young, emerging artists in China in every experimental array of art form from oil on canvas, sculpture, porcelain, photography to all sorts on installations.

INSIDER TIP If you’re your main go-to person here, look for her and she’ll give you the full ‘insider access’.

The Bund Tea Company
100 Dianchi Rd
Daily, 9AM–8PM

You’d never guess that this hidden gem of a place still exists in this 1900’s Heritage Architecture building! The Bund used to be the port where black tea trade was done and so the history of The Bund Tea Company immersed. In here you’ll only find the finest, premium tea from the hand-picked tea blooms of the different tea regions in China.

INSIDER TIP It’s like a time travel portal when entering the shop – 1900’s flashback!

Canton Table
5F, “tree on The Bund
Daily, 11:30AM–2:30PM & 5:30PM–11:30PM

What have we here? A new Cantonese restaurant on the Bund? Don’t just yet and say ‘oh another one of those again’... Quite ironically, this one’s a very good contender amongst the high-profiled Cantonese restaurants on The Bund that won’t make you shed a tear when the bill comes rolling.

INSIDER TIP Don’t believe me? Dim sum plates starts at CNY 22. That’s a deal!

De Medici
17 Yan’an East Rd
Daily, 11AM–11PM

If it’s genuine Italian Gelato you’re looking for, then you’ll be surprised to know that De Medici just popped up in time for Summer, and boy is it frizzin’ good. It’s the perfect pit stop for that long walk by the Bund on a hot Summer’s day.

INSIDER TIP I’m a huge Chocolate Gelato fan, and this did not disappoint!

Adesso
Rockbund, 219 Yuanningsuyuan Rd
Daily, 10AM–8PM

Not another coffee shop again? So it seems. But Adesso is not only a coffee shop, they also serve easy-going meals for lunch and dinner. What I can say though is that their location is on of the best spots in Rockbund, just right behind the mesmerizing cathedral amidst the Shanghai skyline backdrop.

INSIDER TIP 10H, the parma ham with rocket salad pizza was actually quite good.

Horiguchi Coffee
Rockbund, 133 Yuanningsuyuan Rd
MON–FRI, 11AM–7PM
SAT–SUN, 10AM–7PM

It’s the ‘crème de la crème’ of coffees and this is not an exaggeration. This top-notch Japanese drop coffee company finally makes its way to Shanghai with their flagship store smack in the middle of Rockbund. Talk about quality and the finest coffee quality located in the most sophisticated neighborhood in town!

INSIDER TIP Watch as their coffee master prepares your coffee with flair and take that first sip of perfection.

1945 Chinese Tavern
Rockbund, 169 Yuanningsuyuan Rd
SUN–THU, 11AM–1AM
FRI–SAT, 11AM–2AM

Nestled in the luxurious Rockbund row is this new cocktail lounge that offers a unique twist to Chinese liquor and wine. Cocktail presentation is on point mostly because the people behind it are the same guys from the award-winning bars in Shanghai – Speak Low and Sober Company. It’s a real treat to go there as you step in this heritage building and into the doors greeted by chirping birds. Quite an entertaining sight I must say.

INSIDER TIP You have to try their yellow rice wine based drinks which are freshly fermented in Shoxing and are of the highest quality in all of China.
**CULTURE**
Marriage Market at People’s Park (weekend only)
Jing An Temple
Jing’An Sculpture Park
Natural History Museum
Yu Garden
Shanghai Old City Wall
Xintiandi

**FOODIE SPOTS**
Commune Social
RAW
Mayita
Highline
Xixi Bistro
Linlongfang
Shouning Rd
Malabar

**RELAX**
People’s Park
Xintiandi
Starbucks Roastery

**AFTER DARK**
Cocktail Revolution
Sober Company
Above the Globe
Funky Monkey
Kartel
El Ocho
Candor

**SHOPPING**
East Nanjing
West Nanjing Rd
Xintiandi
K11
Yu Yuan

1. Brave the crowds at East Nanjing Pedestrian and shop along with thousands of locals
2. Visit People’s square on the weekends from 12PM-5PM and pick out a partner for life
3. Aim high when shooting your 1kuai at Jing’An Temple
4. Have a coffee at the biggest Starbucks Roastery in the world
5. Visit old laneways and see how the locals go about their daily business
6. Brunch it out at Xintiandi and witness how Shanghai revamped this old shikumen neighborhood
7. Stroll through day or night in the streets of Yu Yuan and have fun snapping some shots
8. Have a stinky tofu if you’re brave enough to try it
9. Master your chop stick game with original Xiao Long Bao at Linlongfang
Together
546 Yuyuan Rd
MON-SAT, 11:30AM-2:30PM & 6PM-10PM

The great minds behind The Commune Social is up to something surprising... Together is your new casual French-Asian fine dining restaurant that celebrates the concept of sharing as their portions are designed just for that! The space is warm and welcoming which is located in a newly developed locale in Jing ‘An. To put it simply, this place is the perfect choice for a friendly gathering with friends.

INSIDER TIP: Don’t miss out on the dessert course. Chef Kim’s mastery on the sweet side is not to be skipped!

The Peacock Room
3/F Taikoo Hui, 180 Shimen Yi Rd
Daily, 11:30AM-2:30PM

Get ready to cash out some good money for some really good food. Take a tour through the voluminous versions of fine-dining Sichuan cuisine served in courses more than your fingers and toes combined can count.

INSIDER TIP: A 20+ course menu comes in a set starting from CNY1000 per person. Hefty but definitely worth a try!

Tai’an Table
161 Zhenning Rd
TUE-SAT, 6-8PM

Tai’an Table is the latest private dining concept in Shanghai. If you’re looking for an interactive, innovative with an intimate setting, this is one of the must-tries for every ultimate foodie out there. It’s no surprise that they received a star in Shanghai’s Michelin Guide of 2017 and 2018.

INSIDER TIP: Keep in mind that because of the hidden nature of this concept, you won’t find a phone to make a reservation. Reach out to your W Insider and she’ll connect you right through.

Lin Long Fang
10 Jianguo East Rd
Daily, 7AM-7:30PM

The ever-famous Xiao Long Bao in all its glory! This off-the-grid shop offers the all time favorites: pure pork xībāo, pork and crab xībāo, pork & salted xībāo, scallion oil noodles.

INSIDER TIP: Learn the proper way of eating Xiao Long Bao by experiencing it the authentic way: with the locals! It’s an art and requires 100% concentration and puts your chopsticks game on the test.
**FORMER FRENCH CONCESSIONS**

**CULTURE**
- Fuxing Park
- Propaganda Art Museum
- Avenue Jeoffre (Huaihai Road)
- Tianzifang
- Ohel Rachel Synagogue

**RELAX**
- Ferguson Lane
- Columbia Circle
- Donghu/Fumin Lu
- Anfu Lu

**SHOPPING**
- Changle Rd
- Xinle Rd
- Nanchang Rd
- Madame Mao’s Dowry
- Kate Wood
- Culture Matters

**FOODIE SPOTS**
- Jinxian Rd
- Yongfoo Elite
- Lost Heaven (Gaoyou Lu)
- Spicy Moments
- Jesse
- People 6
- Ginger
- Styx
- Villa Le Bec
- Commune Social
- The Cannery

**AFTER DARK**
- Taxx
- Arkham
- Le Baron
- Shake
- ASL
- ALL
- Candor

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**MUST DO**

1. Walk under the leafy streets of the Former French Concessions
2. Get a Vintage Sidecar and drive around the small lilongs
3. Discover the amazing Art Deco of the historical buildings all over the French Concession
4. Try traditional Xiao Long Bao at Pushi Xiaodian
5. Download Mobike/Ofo Bike APP and bike along every streets
6. Have a nice coffee break in each quaint coffee shops along Fumin Road
7. Purchase the famous Shanghainese sneakers, Feyu, at Culture Matters for as low as RMB70

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Alimentari
158 Anfu Rd
Daily, 8AM–12PM

Although Alimentari recently opened their second branch in Jiazhou Lu, their Anfu joint is still my favorite stop over in FFC. This Deli shop has all the boxes ticked — fresh slices of prosciutto? Check! Soft chunks of brie? Check! Bottled drinks of Aperol? Double check!

INSIDER TIP: Can’t judge their bottled cocktails at first glance. Believe me, I did. And how wrong I was!

Blackbird 2.0
Columbia Circle
1252 Yanan Xi Rd
SUN-THU, 11AM-1AM
FRI-SAT, 11AM-2AM

Once used to be in the bustling streets of Wulumpuq Rd and now spotted in the newest hotspot in Shanghai, Columbia Circle. From the makers of Oha Eatery and Bar No. 2 you get a picture of the food a drink they’re serving paired up with that laid back ambience of the neighborhood, it’s the perfect spot to chill and kill a whole afternoon with a good cocktail on hand.

INSIDER TIP: Did I mention the drinks were conceptualized by the people behind Bar No. 3?

Bar Alocase
Room 101-A, 433 Changle Rd
Daily, 6PM-2AM

The artsy bartenders of Union Trading joined forces to put up the newest bar in town that’s about to rock the bartending scene in Shanghai. The bar oozes with that speakeasy vibe reflecting a very masculine yet glittery interior. Lucky’s head bartender, take on the cocktail menu is something noteworthy indeed. Her expertise throughout the Union Trading years reflected in every drink curated.

INSIDER TIP: Not only are their drinks topnotch, the food menu is also quite alluring.

STYX
692 Yongji Rd
TUE-SUN, 12AM-12PM

To put it simply, STYX does skewers — but it’s a far cry from the hygienically-dubious, street-side Shanghai versions. These are skewers curated by owner Pascal’s upbringing in far-flung locales such as Singapore (Indonesian Satay Sauce) and Bali (Babi Guling or Roasted Piglet). The inspiration may be global, but the decor is seriously tropical; ultra trendy banana leaf wallpapers and all.

INSIDER TIP: STYX is a strong addition to Yong Ping J, a newly developed F&B complex on Hengshan Lu that’s also home to hop spots such as Peruvian gastronomic Colca, Cuban join La Elegueta del Medio, and Qimin Organic Hotpot.

Madame Mao’s Dowry
207 Fumin Rd
Daily, 10AM-7PM

Looking for that perfect gift? Madame Mao’s Dowry got you covered. This quaint shop in Fumin Lu is where you’ll find tiny trinkets of Chinese-inspired antique furniture, vintage maps, cell phone cases, photographs, etc. The highlight of the store are Mao’s art figures and paintings which exemplifies the contemporary art of the Cultural Revolution Era. The unusual mix of old and new items make the trip to the store in itself worth visiting.

Moka Bros
100 North Xiangyang Rd
Daily, 8AM-12PM

What-you-see-is-what-you-get and that practically sums up the whole experience at Moka Bros. This unpretentious joint is the real deal when you’re up for ‘eating well and feeling good’. Poke bowls, salads and wraps taken on a higher notch thanks to the culinary hands of Daniel Ur dan et a and Alex Molina.

INSIDER TIP: They’ve got perfect power breakfasts here to fuel up your day.

FORMER FRENCH CONCESSIONS
FLASK (Tiger Bites)
108 North Xiangyang Rd
SUN–THU, 7PM–2AM
FRI–SAT, 7PM–4AM

The new FLASK features a smart, contemporary bar, an attractive clientele, an equally attractive staff of dapper bartenders and a solid array of classic and modern cocktails.

INSIDER TIP For non-nigh owls next door is Tiger Bites, which feature the Flask Group’s take on the beloved Taiwanese night-market snack gubao.

Bar No. 3
277 Xingguo Rd
Daily, 11AM–2AM

You can’t go wrong with this one. Even our Head Mixologist, Dylan, goes here for a drink. Bar No. 3 boasts on their craft cocktails – and they have every bragging-right to do so! The menu is ambitiously cocktail-centric and does not shy away from experimented concoctions too.

ALL
2F, 17 North Xiangyang Rd

The founders of Shanghai’s seminal, recently-shuttered underground club, The Shelter, have debuted their new project—a club called ALL. Although a sleeker and more elegant version of its predecessor, the focus remains the same: to promote emerging alternative electronic music. Programming mixes a roster of local DJs and producers with a variety of international guests. The interior features industrial concrete-steel elements and minimalist furniture, lit with an ever-evolving series of eerie visual projections.

INSIDER TIP Skip the bar and head straight for the club’s highball machine, which automatically dispenses four different, surprisingly tasty varieties of the whisky-soda drink.

Fed by July
918 Changle Rd
Daily, 11:20AM–2PM & 6PM–1AM

Acronym for Flower, Eat and Drink. Here’s one of the newest kid on the French block that plays on plating like a Monet painting. First impression may give you a ‘stand-offish’ feel, but don’t judge just yet because it still has that easy French comfort form the first bite.

Lokal by Wagas
202 Wukang Rd
MON–FRI, 8AM–9PM
SAT–SUN, 7AM–9PM

The ever so popular healthy fast food joint to every LAowai in Shanghai has a new baby and they’ve added a little more flair with a hint of a ‘bistro-feel’ to it. The ambience is inviting, with a courtyard of leafy shades that make up for that perfect Pinterest-like afternoon coffee pin.

INSIDER TIP Healthy options is what you’ll be expecting here. But just right around the corner, you can indulge with a tasty homemade ice cream.

Laundry Co.
95–5 North Xiangyang Rd
MON–FRI, 6:30PM–1:30AM
SAT–SUN, 6:30PM–2AM

SPEAKEASIES ARE BACK BABY. And we’ll just leave it at that. Come find your way into this seemingly functional laundromat and whirlpool yourself in for some good ol’ over-priced cocktails (you’re coming here for the experience, okay?)

INSIDER TIP Perhaps leave your dirty laundry at home, but feel free to bring your dirty secrets. There’s no shame in the speakeasy game.

RAC
322 Anfu Rd
SUN–WED, 8AM–6PM
THU–SAT, 8AM–8PM

Anfu’s on a roll these days. Another new café, creperie and wine bar in the hood! It’s an all-day brunch fanatic’s dream come true!
TAXX
B1, 158 Julu Rd
Daily, 8:30AM-5AM
3,000 sqm of pure electro partying. NOW WE'RE TALKING! Design is minimal and industrial with LED screens and hologram projections in every wall imaginable. Prepare to be immersed in pumping, loud music and epilepsy-inducing flashing lights shooting form every corner.

INSIDER TIP: Crinks range from CNY 80 onward. Dive into getting a bottle with your friends and go all out!

Highline
6/F, 282 Middle Huaihai Rd
Daily, 11AM-11PM
There are tons of impressive options in the Xintiandi area. But one that sticks-cut form the bunch is Highline. Creative and classy with a prodigious rooftop overlooking the upscale, chic block of Shanghai. Food-wise, straight up contemporary Western dishes with healthy items mixed with indulgent, lip-smacking options.

INSIDER TIP: Lunch options are quite a deal. I always go for the Philly-steak sandwich!

Ohsa
27 Anfu Rd
Daily, 11AM-10PM
The rise of the izakaya-vibe crazy in Shanghai has opened its doors in the Former French Concessions. A long communal u-shaped table where chefs float around to each of the counter-seated diners make up for that very intimate and friendly feel. Oh, and did I forget to mention about their cocktails? They're superb! All thanks to the team behind Bar No. 3.

INSIDER TIP: Curried Cauliflower and Turnip is one of the glorified plates to go for.

Spicy Moment
71 Wuyuan Rd
Daily, 11:30AM-2:30PM & 5:30PM-12:30AM
Hole-in-the-wall, authentic Hunan cuisine tucked in the heart of the Former French Concessions. If you're looking for that spicy fix you've been craving for in a more refined, contemporary atmosphere that you average Hunanese joint.

INSIDER TIP: BASIL DROOPPPP! That's their famous cocktail that you MUST NOT miss.

Columbia Circle
1261 West Yan’an Rd
Daily, 10AM-1:30AM
What do we have here? A newly revamped ancient compound in Shanghai which used to be the hangout spot for Americans in the 20’s to 40’s. So retro chic! Listen up, this is the newest spot in town to pay attention to as the space is slowly getting more and more lively with their rising F&B establishments opening left and right.

INSIDER TIP: Too bad we can’t swim in that pool. Looks amazing, doesn’t it?

Sichuan Citizen
378 Wukang Rd
SUN-THU, 11AM-10PM
FRI-SAT, 11AM-11PM
Word around the Laowai grapevine that the exat beloved Sichuan restaurant closed its doors in Donghu and now sits in the famous alleys of Ferguson Lane. Now bigger... and better?

INSIDER TIP: BASIL DROPPPPP! That’s their famous cocktail that you MUST NOT miss.

House 198
198 Jinxian Rd
Daily, 11:30AM-10PM
Found in the ‘foolish street of Xuhui, lives this charming cafe called House 198 where you’ll get the most amazing Baked Eggs on Avocado that still marked an impression on me to this day. #avocadoislife
Atelier by Taste Buds
758 Jilu Rd
Daily, 6PM-2AM

This one’s been on the radar for quite some time because of their cool barrel-your-own aged libations of Negroni, Martinis, etc. It’s aged for a month and you get to have your very own mini barrel of concoction. Hence, the French term ‘Atelier’ which directly translates to ‘workshop’ in English.

INSIDER TIP Menu comes with a blowtorch to light it up (literally) and the black carbon disperses to unveil their top signature cocktails. Pretty awesome huh?

The Beach House
2/F, 758 Jilu Rd
Daily, 3PM-12AM

A glimpse of that summer touch in your favorite leafy neighborhood. The Beach House is your tropical city-scape that serves up mouth-watering seafood goodness. Oh and I forget to mention their Niki-Beach-cocktail terrace? Why, hello there Ibiza!

INSIDER TIP Seafood, seafood and a whole lot of seafood!

Qimin Organic Hot Pot
3/F, 191 Hengshan Rd
Daily, 11AM-12MN

While it’s still cold outside and all you want to do is just hibernate and eat, then that would be the perfect time to get your hotpot fix on. What’s awesome with this joint is that it’s all organic ala ‘farm-to-table’ style and not in any means pretentious at all.

INSIDER TIP Who made the best sauce dip? Put your game face on for the saucy competition!

%Arabica
374 Wukang Rd

Notoriously known for its short-lived first opening attempt, now sits in the intimate corners of the French Concessions in an alley down the back of Ferguson Lane. Coffee precision from Japan but not anything like those over-hyped coffee brands that make your eyes roll.

INSIDER TIP It’s internet famous nowadays, so you might have to queue for a bit.

Drops
368 Wukang Rd

This cold weather just might be the perfect reason why you should waste away the afternoon daydreaming and coffee-sipping. Drops gets you to do both! Not only that, Drops offers a cozy and relaxing space that welcome you with an amazing flower shop by the entrance and an unexpected lovely terrace inside.

INSIDER TIP The name ‘Drops’ literally was coined after the drip-coffee they’re well-known for.

Douce Maison
12 Wukang Rd
Daily, 11AM-6PM

Douce Maison has been around the block for quite some time now but somehow every time I step in, it always feels like it’s my very first time. Now decked up with their fall and winter collection that seamlessly dissimates in the shop’s boho background. In the end of the boutique, you’ll find the cutest coffee shop that serves afternoon tea that looks oh so picturesque!

INSIDER TIP The building is an antique villa that retained most of its original layout.
Pushi Xiaodian
339 Changle Rd
Daily, 8AM-9PM

Unearthing the best Xiao Long Bao in Shanghai can be a tedious job especially when there are hundreds of shops tucked in almost every street in the city. To know that you’ve got a decent XLB on hand, you have to check the dough, the folds and the broth. You better head to Pushi Xiaodian and have a taste of authentic, excellent Xiao Long Bao.

INSIDER TIP Go for the Pure Pork XLB. You can’t go wrong with this one!

Momënti
Xinliandi
Lane 181, Taicang Rd
Daily, 9:30AM-1AM

Italian cuisine is perhaps everyone’s favorite and most likely the most ‘murdered’ cuisine when in the wrong culinary hands. Thank goodness this is not the case for Momënti. These guys really know what they’re doing here! This restaurant is a coffee shop by day that transforms into a sleek bistro by night. Hence, its name as it incorporates the different moments of time whether you’re feeling like having that ristretto or setting up the night with that lip-smacking aperitivo.

INSIDER TIP I would go back anytime for their Spaghetti Momenti because I’m a sucker for BURRATA!

Stack
202 Wukang Rd
Daily, 10:30AM-9PM

Stack is the newest addition to the well-known leafy streets in Wukang Lu. Right from the get go, you’ll see heaps of teenagers making use of the restaurant’s clean, cute background. The food is western comprising of burgers, salads, pancakes and all those Western favorites you fantasize when you shove your diet out the window anyway. It’s great for photos right?

INSIDER TIP While it’s not terribly cold yet, go for their Milkshakes! Don’t even think twice DO IT!

Mercado 505
505 North Wu Limuqi Rd
MON-SAT, 11:30AM-11:30PM

A new market-to-table concept joint in Shanghai mainly serving high-quality meats, cheeses and seafood from Spain. Its expansive patio welcomes tourists, expats and locals alike to dine and have a merry, good time.

INSIDER TIP Cheers! Sangrias here are an absolute hi.