

# CHINA



## 7 SHANGHAI SURPRISE

There's no shortage of personality in Jamie Drake's glamorous, modern, color-saturated interiors. It shouldn't come as a surprise, then, that the celebrated New York designer also has a reputation for being quite the bon vivant. What better insider to share his idea of a perfect day in the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai?  
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**7:30 a.m.** Rise and shine at The Peninsula hotel located right on The Bund, the famed waterfront promenade. Enjoy the view of the new city of Pudong across the Huangpu River. From here, I can see the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, an awesome 1,535-foot spire that looks like it came right off the pages of a futuristic comic book.

**8:30 a.m.** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the lobby, the hotel's airy and spacious hub. The smoked salmon with a single scrambled egg is perfect, and the breads and pastries from the buffet are hard to resist; though, I do try to limit myself.

**10 a.m.** I always make time after breakfast for a relaxed morning walk along The Bund to admire the city. It's a good way to get revved up for the day ahead, and it's the best time to avoid the massive crowds that descend on the area at

lunchtime. With so many different types of buildings, the neighborhood is a living museum of architectural styles.

**12:30 p.m.** Off to the Longhua Pagoda and Temple. It features a vegetarian restaurant, which is quite common for an active Buddhist temple. The superb main course is a soup bowl filled with carefully prepared garden delights and noodles. In the nearby entry area, school children learn how to make dumplings.

**2 p.m.** After lunch, tour the pagoda and temple with one of the monks as a guide. The multiple buildings are filled with spectacular carved and gilded deities. I'm in awe of one of the halls in particular; it's filled with 500 golden statues. My kind of army—peace-loving and glittering!

**3 p.m.** Check out more furniture showrooms in the design district around Jiangning Road. Some of the wares are eye-poppingly over-the-top, but there are a few quieter, modern offerings as well.

**5:30 p.m.** Sneak back to the hotel for a much-needed rest and pre-dinner nap.

**8 p.m.** If you grow weary of Asian food, opt for French food at the sensational bistro Franck, located in the French Concession neighborhood.



This page, clockwise from left: Gilded statues outnumber people at the Longhua Temple; the futuristic Oriental Pearl TV Tower dominates the Shanghai skyline; and designer Jamie Drake in his favorite city.



By this time, a martini up with a twist is sorely needed, and much enjoyed. When I'm there, I order a traditional Gallic meal and wash it down with a light Beaujolais. For dessert: rich and decadent chocolate mousse.

**10:45 p.m.** Lights out—until the next time. Xie Xie!