

## Huangpu River Cruise

The Huángpu River (Huángpu Jiang) is the city's shipping artery both to the East China Sea and to the mouth of the Yángzi River, which the Huángpu joins 29km (18 miles) north of downtown Shànghai. It has also become a demarcating line between two Shànghais, east and west, past and future.

### Cruising the Huángpu



Between the stately edifices along the Bund, the glittering skyscrapers on the eastern shore of Pudong, and the unceasing river traffic, there is plenty to keep your eyes from ever resting. Even on overcast days, the single greatest piece of eye candy as your boat pulls away is undoubtedly still the granite offices, banks, consulates, and hotels that comprise the Bund. The **Peace Hotel** boasts for its stunning green pyramid roof, the **Customs House** has a big clock tower.

As the ship heads north, downstream, it passes **Huángpu Park** across from the **Peace Hotel**, still considered by many to be the loveliest piece of architecture in Shànghai. Others prefer the architectural perfection of the **Jin Mào Tower** on the opposite shore; it's certainly hard to take your eyes off the Jin Mào as it tapers majestically upwards. Also on the Pudong shore are the can't-miss **Oriental Pearl Tower**, the Shànghai International Convention Center with its twin glass globes, and a slew of hotels, offices, and malls of the Lùjiazui Financial Area.

Back on the western shore, north of Huángpu Park is **Suzhou Creek (Suzhou Hé)**, formerly called the Wúsong River. Originating in Tàì Hú (Lake Tàì), the 120km-long (72-mile) river was once much busier than the Huángpu, but silting in the lower reaches eventually diminished water traffic. The creek is spanned by **Wàibáidù Bridge**, which once linked the American concession in the north (today's Hóngkou District) and the British concession south of the creek. Eighteen meters (60 ft.) wide, with two 51m-long (171-ft.) spans, this old bridge has seen all forms of traffic, from rickshaws to trams to motorcars.



North of the Suzhou Creek hugging the west shore are the old "go-downs" or warehouses of the many foreign trading firms. This area, known as Hóngkou District, and the district to the east, Yángpu District, have been marked for rapid development after Pudong, though new modern towers have already

started to stake out the skyline. Less than a mile further on is the **International Passenger Terminal**, where cruise ships from Japan tie up. The Huángpu River jogs east at this point on its way to the Shànghai shipyards, where cranes and derricks load and unload the daily logjam of freighters from the world's other shipping giants (United States, Japan, Russia, Norway). Eventually, all of this waterfront will be developed into a series of marinas and a combination of industrial and recreational areas.

Before the Huángpu slowly begins to curve northward again, you'll pass the English castle-style **Yángshùpu Water Plant** originally built by the British in 1882. The **Yángpu Cable Bridge**, like the **Nánpu Cable Bridge** to the south, is one of the largest such structures in the world. Boasting the longest span in the world, some 602m (1,975 ft.), the Yángpu Bridge is considered the world's first "slant-stretched" bridge. Its total length is about 7.6km (4 3/4 miles), and 50,000 vehicles pass over its six lanes daily.