

# [Shanghai]

## Canada's Home in Shanghai

A century after the first Canadian commercial officer arrived in Shanghai, this enigmatic "city by the sea" continues to attract traders—and world attention.

**I**t is a city where East meets West, a place of rich history and frenetic energy, of ancient monuments and soaring skyscrapers. Shanghai has also long been a strategic commercial centre, something Canada recognized when it established one of its first trade offices there in 1909. Now, 100 years later, the mission has grown in size and breadth, and maintains a youthful sense of excitement and energy.

Shanghai, which means "city by the sea," is home to nearly 19 million people, making it the largest city in China. It is one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. It is also the world's busiest cargo port. Home to some of the world's finest boutiques, five-star hotels, Michelin-rated restaurants, luxury spas, trendy bars and a bustling art scene, it is a blend of tradition and modernity, of ancient philosophy complementing popular Asian culture.

Dissected by the Huangpu River, on the city's east bank is the Pudong financial district with its renowned modern architecture. On the west bank is the famous Bund, the historic waterfront. Farther to the southwest are Xintiandi and the enormous former French Concession.

### CANADA IN SHANGHAI

Canada's first commercial agent in Shanghai was Alexander Maclean, who was followed by trade commissioner L.B. Jackson. In the early days, the one-person trade office focused on wheat and lumber from Canada and tea from China. Bilateral trade in the late 19th century accounted for less than \$1 million a year. The trade office changed locations a number of times—more than one of them on the Bund—and it became a consulate general in 1949. It closed in 1952 when the Nationalist government, the Kuomintang, moved to Taiwan, and it re-opened in the mid-1980s.

Today, the mission in Shanghai is one of Canada's largest consulates general abroad. Its territory includes Shanghai as well as the provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and, soon, Hubei. Particularly significant economically is the Yangtze River

**At a Glance [Shanghai]**

- Population:** 19 million
- Languages:** Mandarin, Shanghainese dialect
- Area:** 13,700 km<sup>2</sup>
- Currency:** Renminbi (Chinese yuan)
- Canadian sister city:** Montreal
- International air traffic:** 20 million passengers annually
- Shanghai's (and world's first) magnetic levitation railway top speed:** 431 km/h
- Port of Shanghai:** 540 million tonnes of cargo per year
- Trade and investment priorities:** automotive, life sciences, ICT, agriculture and agri-food, fish and seafood, building products and construction, education, environment
- Asian Hockey League professional team:** China Sharks

*Incandescence*, a watercolour painting depicting the former French Concession in Shanghai, by Alain Dandurand, a Shanghai-based Canadian artist.

