

Shanghai Museum

Erected in 1994 on People's Square, the Shanghai Museum is a leading showcase for ancient Chinese art. Famed for the variety and sophistication of its collections, it is an imposing building 29.5 metres high, spread over an area of 39,200 sq.m. The building is topped by a dome and stands on a square base to illustrate the old belief that "The sky is round and the earth square". This building, composed of eleven special rooms and three exhibition galleries, recently extended by the reopening of the gallery dedicated to national Chinese minorities, reflects China's traditional culture and the spirit of its history.

Renovation of the laboratory

> The conservation of relics requires constant attention. The laboratory of the Shanghai Museum has conducted extensive research on new technologies to optimise the protection and authentication of antiquities, cultural relics, equipment to carry out functions ranging from humidity control to analysis of the thermoluminescence of Yue porcelain, and nitrogen micro-atmosphere techniques to protect old textiles. Today, the objective of the Shanghai Museum is to become the biggest conservation laboratory in China. It will soon finish the entire renovation of its laboratory so that it can open its doors by December 2010.

Shanghai Museum in the digital era

> Furniture, paintings, calligraphy, bronze objects, coins and medals, jade and ceramic... Although the Shanghai Museum houses over 120,000 pieces of ancient Chinese art, it has also plunged into the digital era by launching a virtual visit of the permanent collection, and soon the creation, in progress, of a site totally devoted to a digital visit of the museum.



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An international programme

> While waiting to visit the museum, seated at your computer, you can also admire one of the many exhibitions programmed this year. 'Matteo Ricci, a European in Imperial Court of the Ming Dynasty' will be held from April to May, followed by 'Star of the North: Catherine the Great and the Golden Age of the Russian Empire' from August to October, and then 'Divine Devotion: The Temple Art of Indian' from August to November. In parallel to these exhibitions, the Shanghai Museum will pursue a policy of international exchanges and cooperation with museums all over the world. You can contemplate "Telling Images of China. Narrative and Figure Paintings of China (15th to 20th century)" at the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin, Ireland, from January to May; or you can discover "Shanghai" at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, USA, from February to September; of 'The Emperor's Dragon: Precious Collection from the Shanghai Museum' at the Gold Museum in Bogota, Colombia, from October 2010 to January 2011.

Information: Shanghai Museum, 201, Remmin Dadao, People's Square, Shanghai. Tel: +86 21 6372 3500.

Website: www.shanghaimuseum.net



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A preview of Shanghai in 2020

> The city of Shanghai can already see itself in 2020! A scale model of the city of Shanghai, as it will be in ten years' time, is the centerpiece of the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall that occupies nearly all the space on the third floor. In parallel to the Shanghai 2010 World Expo in China, the Museum has opened a multimedia room permitting a virtual visit, thanks to a 360° screen of the city and the ecological

urban projects that will flourish in the future, including the first eco-town in Dongtan, on the island of Chongming, which will be inaugurated during the Shanghai 2010 World Expo.

Information: Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall, 100, Remmin Dadao, People's Square, Shanghai. Tel: +86 21 6372 2077.

Website: www.supec.org/index.html