

Shanghai Curated:

# An Insider's Guide for Global Guests

“Because I want to be a real Shanghaiese for a day.”  
— From "100 Reasons to Spend Spring Festival in Shanghai"

## Chinese New Year Customs & Traditions Celebrate Chinese New Year and experience traditional folk festivals

### 2026 Shanghai Yu Garden Lantern Festival

**Location:** Grand Yuyuan Cultural District (extending to Fuyou Rd, Fangbang Middle Rd, Old Town Park, The Bund, etc.)

**Duration:** Jan 26 – Mar 3, 2026 (Lights remain off on Chinese new year's Eve)

**Ticketing:** The "Yu Garden Folk Art Lantern Area" requires time-slot tickets. The other five lantern areas are free.

**Price:** Adult: 80 RMB/person; Discounted: 50 RMB/person.

**Booking:** "Yu Garden Ticket" (豫园票务) WeChat Mini-program or Ticketing Planet (票星球).

**Why Visit:** Known as "Shanghai's No. 1 New Year Tour," the Year of the Horse theme connects Yu Garden to The Bund. A must-visit for traditional Chinese New Year vibes.

**Description:** As Shanghai's most iconic New Year landmark, the 2026 festival expands to Fuyou Rd and the BFC Bund Financial Center. It features horse-themed lantern sets, folk markets, cultural performances, and high-tech interactions, recreating the memory of the Old City while blending modern trends.

### "Chinese new year in Ancient Towns" Series

**Location:** Zhouqiao Old Street, Nanxiang, Anting, Fengjing, Qibao, Sijing, Zhujiajiao, Qingxi, etc.

**Duration:** Jan – Feb 2026

**Ticketing:** Free admission to town streets; some specific attractions require separate tickets.

**Why Visit:** Explore Jiangnan water towns, taste authentic New Year delicacies, and catch traditional opera performances.

**Description:** From the water reflections of Zhujiajiao to the blessing culture of Fengjing, each town offers a unique charm. Visitors can enjoy traditional snacks (like Nanxiang Xiao Long Bao) and shop for local New Year specialties amidst the classic white-walled and black-tiled architecture.

### "Lantern Festival Celebration" Series

**Location:** Luodian Ancient Town, INLET (今潮8弄), etc.

**Duration:** Jan – Mar 2026

**Ticketing:** Free

**Why Visit:** Immerse yourself in light and shadow displays across the city.

**Description:** Luodian's "Golden Luodian" display is inspired by local history and intangible heritage. INLET's "Dreamy Horse Realm" (梦马瑶境) blends Chinese romance with Western fantasy through five massive light art installations, markets, and workshops.

### Zhang Yuan New Year Garden Party

**Location:** Zhang Yuan (Corner of West Nanjing Rd and North Maoming Rd, near Wujiang Rd)

**Duration:** Feb 15 – Feb 23, 2026

**Ticketing:** Free

**Why Visit:** Experience the fusion of Shanghai-style (Haipai) culture, light art, and heritage architecture.

**Description:** Featuring Year of the Horse installations, this event blends the vintage charm of centuries-old villas with modern art. It's a sophisticated mix of traditional New Year customs and trendy creative markets.

### Longhua Winter Fair

**Location:** Longhua Temple and Longhua Square

**Duration:** Now through Feb 21, 2026

**Ticketing:** Free for square/market areas.

**Why Visit:** Participate in a thousand-year-old temple fair, taste local snacks, and find intangible heritage crafts.

**Description:** A cultural carnival centered on the Longhua Temple. It features the "Longhua Fair" seasonal theme, providing an immersive "New Chinese Style" atmosphere. Visitors can hear the traditional bell-ringing for blessings and find peace in the heart of the city.



### "Expats Celebrate Chinese New Year"

**Location:** 63 Anyi Road

**Duration:** Feb 2026

**Ticketing:** Free

**Why Visit:** A dedicated cultural exchange for international friends to experience local customs in a fashionable "International" yet "Grounded" neighborhood.

**Description:** Located next to Jing'an Kerry Centre, this event invites foreign residents and tourists to experience the charm of Chinese traditions in a modern urban setting.

### "Search for the Horse" Mall Campaign

**Location:** Century Link, Yu Garden, CITIC Pacific Plaza, and various malls citywide.

**Duration:** Now through early Mar 2026

**Ticketing:** Free (Public areas)

**Why Visit:** A city-wide public art hunt for "Horse" installations featuring diverse artistic styles.

**Description:** Features a 4-meter "Digital Pegasus" at New World Daimaru, "Gallop Horse Treading on a Flying Swallow" at Plaza 66, and Dunhuang-inspired art at 1000 Trees. It's a blend of retail therapy and contemporary zodiac art.

