

Shanghai

Story Walks

Walking tours through Old Shanghai

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EARNSHAW
BOOKS

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WALK I:

From Huashan Road
to the Jing An Temple Area

华山路——静安寺

**A Time to Dance,
A Time to Mourn**





Jing An Hotel 静安宾馆

This walk makes a loop, starting and finishing near the same stretch of Yan'an Road (M) 延安中路 in the Jing'an area. It takes you through what was known in Old Shanghai as the Chinese Territory. From the 1840s, after the first Opium War, up to World War II, Shanghai was basically divided into sections: the British and the American sections which were combined to be the International Settlement north of Yan'an Road, the French Concession, and the Chinese areas all around these two core districts.

On this walk you will stroll through a peaceful park in the traditional Chinese style that is a part of a well-known hospital, hear love stories of actresses and dancers, and be introduced to a formerly grand mansion and a popular dance hall. You will also walk through a fashionable neighborhood of the 1930s and get a glimpse of how the local Chinese people live today.

Subway Line 2—Jing'an Temple Station—Exit 2: Go up the escalator, turn left, walk south down Huashan Road, and take the pedestrian bridge over Yan'an Road (M). The Hilton Hotel is on your right; turn right at the intersection just beyond it, staying on Huashan Road, and the Jing An Hotel is on the right.



Jing An Hotel 静安宾馆

This tall, white building at the end of the driveway faces a rolling lawn of 6,000 square meters. Built in 1925 in the Spanish style by Elliott Hazzard, the building was originally called Elias Court Apartments, after its Sephardic Jewish owner, a prominent financier who lived in the 9th-floor penthouse. The name was later changed to Haig Court Apartments, reflecting the Old Shanghai name of Huashan Road, Avenue Haig, named after General Douglas Haig, who commanded the British Expeditionary Forces

Jing An Hotel
静安宾馆
370 Huashan
Rd
华山路

Elliott Hazzard

Elliott Hazzard, the building's architect, grew up on a rice plantation in South Carolina and attended the Citadel. Being with the firm of well-known architect, Stanford White, Hazzard worked on New York's Lord and Taylor building, for example. In 1920 Hazzard signed a two-year contract with the Chinese government to work as a city planning consultant, as recommended by Standard Oil. After the two years were up, he stayed in China and founded his own architectural firm. He designed several buildings in Shanghai, including another building down the street, the Brookside Apartments. He died in 1943 in a Japanese internment camp.



Huashan Hospital 华山医院

during World War I.

The building was also home to several American Foreign Service officers, including John S. Service, who was known as a “China Hand”. Born to missionaries in Sichuan Province in 1909, and mastering the Chinese language at an early age, he attended the Shanghai American School before moving to California with his parents. He eventually worked for the State Department and was attached to the American Consulate in Shanghai in 1938. He lived here 1939 and 1941.

He was probably evacuated along with other consular personnel after December 7, when the U.S. declared war against the Japanese after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Later he was sent as part of the U.S. Dixie Mission to Yan’an, to assess the Communists politically and militarily. Service reported how the Communists were energized in Yan’an and predicted they would defeat the U.S.-backed Kuomintang. However he was later heavily criticized by pro-Kuomintang U.S. politicians, and Senator Joseph McCarthy accused him in 1950 of being a communist for his optimistic appraisal of the Chinese Communists. Service was fired from his State Department job but was later reinstated by

the Supreme Court.

The Jing An Hotel has been altered since 1949 with an additional floor and lower ceilings. But it was one of the few high-end hotels in Shanghai before the city's recent development, and locals still look upon the hotel favorably.

After the hotel, continue along Huashan Road to the intersection with Wulumuqi Road 乌鲁木齐路, also called Urumqi Road.

Huashan Hospital, established in 1910, was the earliest general teaching hospital affiliated with the Number One Shanghai Medical University. For decades it has been one of the best hospitals in Shanghai. On the eighth floor in Building No. 1, which started operations in 2004, is the fancy new clinic for foreigners.

Bear left of the building, pass the little green space, and if you continue on this path you will come to a two-story, red brick building, numbered 10. This building originally served as the **China Red Cross Hospital 中国红十字会医院**, which was the former name of Huashan Hospital. Today it is used for meetings and hosting VIPs.

Go inside the Chinese garden **华山花园** at the far west end of the hospital property, and take a stroll among the ponds, trees, and rockery. Linger by the traditional Chinese buildings with latticed doors and windows painted in red. This garden transports you to a different world in a different era, away from the hustle and bustle of a modern metropolis.

There is a story about the family connected with this garden. Once upon a time, three brothers with the family name Zhou moved from Ningbo to Shanghai to seek their fortune. Legend has it that they were so poor they could afford only

Huashan Hospital

华山医院

12 Wulumuqi Rd

乌鲁木齐路

corner of

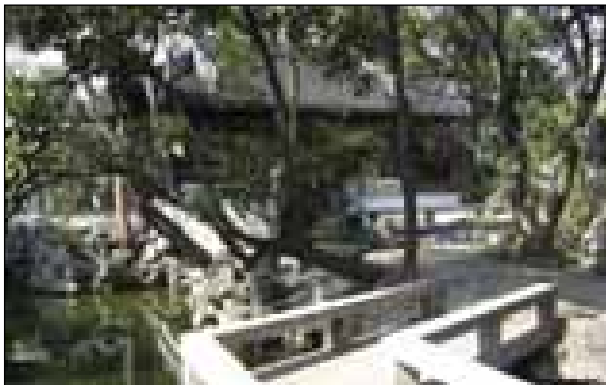
Wulumuqi and

Huashan Roads,

entrance on

right side of

Wulumuqi



Huashan Garden 华山花园

one preserved salty egg and divided it among themselves for two meals. After the brothers learned to speak some English, one would go to the harbor to trade currencies with the sailors and merchants on the boats. Such was their humble beginning. Eventually the two elder brothers left Shanghai, but the third, Zhou Liantang 周莲塘, remained. He got to know a French priest and ran errands for him. During the late 1800s, when many foreigners moved to Shanghai, Zhou acted as a liaison between the foreigners and the local Chinese. He also started his own construction business to build and repair houses. One day the French priest decided to leave China, and he transferred all his real estate holdings to Zhou. This made Zhou an important property owner. Soon he was in business with the likes of Sir Victor Sassoon, one of the most influential names in Shanghai business.

Zhou had a very capable wife, Shui Chunlan 水春兰, to help him. She would listen behind a screen when her husband held business meetings. Afterwards she would analyze for him what went well or poorly. At the year's end, she would hand out bonuses and evaluations to employees so they knew why they got what they got. Once, when

accountants who had come to check the company books were seated at a banquet table, she asked the chef why there were no delicacies ready. This made the accountants feel very important.

When Zhou died, he left two sons barely in their teens. As a result, people began to question if it was wise to continue doing business with the Zhous. When Mrs Zhou heard this, she took her two sons to visit their business partners and to assure them that as long as she was alive, the Zhou business would continue as before. This impressed the many who decided to continue their business dealings with the Zhou family.

It turned out that the two sons had excellent timing in their business dealings. Between 1911 – when there was much unrest as the Qing Dynasty was being overthrown – and the 1930s – during the anti-Japanese resistance – many rich people, ex-warlords, and ex-Qing Dynasty officials moved from places like Beijing and Tianjin to Shanghai to live in the concessions. Many businesses moved to Shanghai for its relative stability. Land prices skyrocketed several times over, and the Zhous benefited greatly. They owned many lanes of houses, and those lanes all had the character “庆”, meaning celebration, in their names.

Wealth was not lost on the two brothers. The elder son, Zhou Xiangyun 周湘云, was a more conservative and traditional Chinese businessman who collected Chinese antiques. The younger son, Zhou Chunqing 周纯卿, was more Westernized and had many foreigner friends. He loved cars and yachts. Motor car registration plates in Old Shanghai were issued in numerical order, and there was great ‘face’ to be had from possessing a low number. When he heard a doctor was returning to Denmark and wanted to sell his car, Zhou Chunqing

snapped it up for its No. 1 license plate. He imprinted his family's name on his car door handles. The last time his car was seen on Shanghai streets was during his funeral in 1945.

Zhou Chunqing was the original owner of this garden, and his family came here to spend summer days. His youngest daughter, who is in her nineties, still remembers how she and her father loved to ride horses in their garden. One of Zhou's daughters contracted tuberculosis. At that time, there was no cure – the best advice was to eat well and enjoy life – and she spent her last days here. Perhaps because of this unhappy memory, Zhou later sold the garden. Today, as part of the Huashan Hospital, it is used by patients as they recuperate.

Exit the Chinese garden, and turn left onto Huashan.

Bear in mind that this street and others nearby were very quiet residential streets before Shanghai's rapid economic development began in the 1990s. There were no cars honking or people with bikes blocking the sidewalks. No little shops or restaurants lined the street either.

Continuing west along Huashan Road, on your right side, across the street, there is a large garden with red brick walls and broken glass on top of the walls. The black gates are numbered 560 Huashan Rd. The garden inside the red brick walls now belongs to the hospital that government officials favor, Huadong, formerly Country Hospital or Hong'en 宏恩医院, off Yan'an Road. The garden was the site of the former German Garden Club, a German social center. The German Ladies' Benevolent Society, a.k.a. German Women's Club, operated here in the early 1930s. Nearby were the German Pharmacy and a German radio station, XGRS. This area was known as the German Corner.