

Prime time for eyeful of Hudson River Valley. N3



This small printer can handle full-size paper. N3

SIZING UP SHANGHAI

What's biggest today may be dwarfed tomorrow as this already enormous Chinese city adds skyscrapers and people at a breathtaking pace.

Shanghai is a city of unremitting growth. A taxi ride from the airport reveals hundreds of bright yellow and red construction cranes whirling about its skyline.

The parade of skyscrapers is measured not in blocks but in miles. All of Manhattan could fit in Shanghai's back pocket.

The current population of Shanghai is estimated to be 23 million — up from 18 million only five years ago. This is a city that has more people than the entire continent of Australia. How does a visitor even begin to get a grip on this vast region?

The Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center is an excellent place to start. Located in the cultural hub of town at People's Square, the center is part museum and part urban planning resource, all of it related to the city of Shanghai.

An interesting way to appreciate how



A Year and A World By Larissa and Michael Milne

far Shanghai has come in a short time is to enter the center via the past. The People's Square subway station (the busiest in Shanghai) empties directly beneath the museum into a concourse that has been redone to look like a

See SHANGHAI on N4



Shanghai Pacific Institute for International Strategy

Tall buildings march for miles in Shanghai, which sprawls on both sides of the Huangpu River. Construction cranes are omnipresent, and the population is estimated at 23 million.



The Mellqvist Coffee Bar, where author Stieg Larsson is said to have written his first novel, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo."

Step back, jack-o'-lanterns: It's Peruvian gourd carving

Nothing says October in the United States like carving pumpkins, as carvers ask, "What face should I make?"

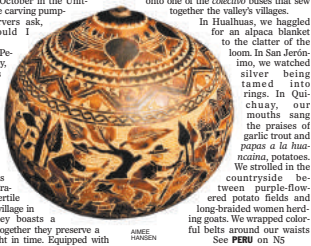
Among those in Peru's Mantaro Valley, carving gourds isn't an annual tradition. It's an ancient art. And the question they ask is "What story should I tell?"

For those seeking the Peruvian Andean soul, the Central Highlands is where the purple-floored potato fields and long-branded women herding goats. We wrapped colorful belts around our waists

hand-drawn maps, a mouthful of Spanish, and a wish to rub knees with the locals, we hopped onto one of the colorful buses that saw us together the valley's villages.

In Huailhuas, we haggled for an alpaca blanket to the clutter of the loom. In San Jerónimo, we watched silver being tamed into rings. In Quichay, our mouths sang the garlic trout and popas a la huancina, potatoes.

We strolled in the countryside between purple-floored potato fields and long-branded women herding goats. We wrapped colorful belts around our waists



This story gourd, purchased by the writer for \$20, tells of the autumn harvest. Mates burly, engraved gourds, are made by craftsmen in the Central Highlands' Cochaca community.

See STOCKHOLM on N2

Following Stieg Larsson's footsteps through Stockholm

By Bill Stephens FOR THE INQUIRER In a dark, soundless side street in the bohemian Södermalm section of Stockholm, our Stieg Larsson tour group members began arriving. "I've read all three Larsson novels and seen all three Swedish movies," a New York woman volunteered. "I've just read The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," I said. "Oh, if you've only read the first book you won't get much out of this tour," she said. "That novel takes place mostly in the Swedish countryside."

Despite the lack of enrichment my tour mate earned

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Avoiding the crush at the Great Wall

By Larissa and Michael Milne FOR THE INQUIRER Chinese emperors built the Great Wall to keep out rampaging hordes of Mongolian soldiers mounted on horseback streaming down from the north, but no amount of stone and mortar can repel hordes of tourists riding luxury motor coaches. These groups, armed with digital cameras, arrive by the thousands each day. You can avoid them, though, by veering slightly off the beaten path to tour a part of the wall that is less visited. Hiring your own driver will also vastly improve your Great Wall experience.

According to urban legend, the Great Wall is visible from outer space. Like many tales that get passed around from modern to modern, it is wrong. The structure, which follows the undulating contours of the hills and is in some areas no more than an earth-colored pile of dirt and rubble, is barely visible from an airplane flying at 40,000 feet, let alone by an astronaut in low earth orbit.

What may be visible from outer space, though, are the numerous shiny markets and tchotchkes sold at the unending souvenir stands at Badaling, the most popular choice for tourists to view the wall. The place should rename itself Badaling.

Badaling suffers from its close proximity to Beijing. From the capital it is easy to sign up for a bus tour or hire a taxi that will take you there. Since Badaling is convenient, it is located right off a multi-lane interstate highway, it is easily accessible to tour buses.

A much less visited section of the wall is 55 miles north of central Beijing at Mutianyu. The last 10 miles are by local roads, which makes it less accessible for tour buses. The ride from Beijing took us about an hour and 10 minutes.

Badaling often has more than 100 tour buses in its parking lot; when we went to Mutianyu there were two — and only two — parking spaces for about 10 total. Visitors do walk through a row of souvenir vendors to get to the entry gate (they can't be avoided wherever tourists congregate), but they are less intrusive here.

The Mutianyu section of the Great Wall dates from 1368 and was built upon the foundations of an earlier wall from about 550 A.D. Visitors can amble anywhere over a 1.5-mile stretch. The structure is about 14 feet tall and is accessed via a steep hike or a short cable-car ride. Naturally, we opted for the ride.

The view from the peak is superb. During our weekday visit, there were moments when we had entire sections to ourselves. There are 22 watchtowers along the ridge-line, spaced approximately 100 yards apart, dividing a hike into easily manageable portions. As we strolled along the granite walkways from

Information

The Great Wall at Mutianyu is 55 miles north of Beijing.

Hours Open 365 days a year. April to October, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; November to March, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission The Great Wall at Mutianyu is a Chinese national park. Admission to the park is 40 CNY (\$6.25) for adults, 20 CNY (\$3.15) for children 12 and under.

The cable car costs 65 CNY (\$10.15) for a round-trip for adults; 35 CNY (\$5.50) for children 12 and under.

Personal Driver/Guide www.cometobeijing.com. Ask for Joe.



A bride poses for photos at the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall at the heavily visited section nearest Beijing. Mutianyu is less accessible to tour buses.

one watchtower to the next, we could imagine what it was like more than 600 years ago to be a solitary guard on the lookout for invaders. We brought along a few sandwiches from, believe it or not, a Subway shop located near the tram entrance, and enjoyed an impromptu picnic. From our vantage point we took in the view of the

scenic beauty that surrounds it. Unfortunately, the majority of visitors do not get to experience the magical silence of the wall. To do so, go a bit farther afield and travel independently. You'll probably only see the wall once your life make it a truly memorable experience.

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The Great Wall of China

The Shanghai skyline at night. The explosive growth of the city has occurred in a relatively brief period, especially in the Pudong district east of the Huangpu River. Twenty years ago, it was mostly farmland; today it boasts more than 35 skyscrapers.

Shanghai grows up, up, and out

ShANGHAI from N1 Shanghai's street scene from 1930, including old streetlights, trams, and sepia-toned photos of the period. From here visitors ride the escalator to the Exhibition Center and are instantly launched into the 21st century.

A contemporary structure with an abundance of natural light, the center consists of five floors of both permanent and rotating exhibits. They all relate to Shanghai's development and are presented in both passive and interactive formats to interest all ages.

On our recent visit, there was a 360-degree film that was prepared for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, whose theme was "Better City, Better Life."

The center's crowning glory is its three-dimensional scale model of the city of Shanghai, which is officially listed as the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest model of its kind. At more than 6,500 square feet, it is the size of three singles tennis courts. It displays the entire urban region, including both of the city's massive airports. Toss away the guidebooks and maps, none can compare to feeling like a modern-day Gulliver with the city laid out at your feet.

Visitors can view this Shanghai in miniature from multiple perspectives by wandering around a raised walkway that circumnavigates the model. For a bird's-eye view, take the escalator up one floor and peer down from a balcony onto this "mini Shanghai." Handsets can be rented in English that highlight the city's development.

The model is a "living document" that is still used by urban planners and constantly updated with new building projects. Included are those that are still under construction — they are represented in clear plastic. To indicate their "work in progress" status, the Shanghai of the future is also evident.

With this new perspective on the city, we set out to see in an elevator that for some reason featured 1970s-era dis-

co flashing lights. After our brief trip back in time we reentered the modern era as we strolled around the observation deck. Angled floor-to-ceiling windows, along with a few cleverly placed glass cutouts in the floor, give the impression that you are floating above the growing city. Having come so recently from the Urban Planning Center, we felt there was a surreal aspect to the whole experience. Laid out below us in every direction was the city, exactly as we had viewed it earlier in the day — only this was the real thing.

Using the Huangpu River as a landmark, it is easy to spot the Bund, the cluster of early-20th-century buildings that front the river and give Shanghai its signature blend of Asian and art deco architecture. We could even look down at the peak of the Jin Mao Tower.

A parade of high-rise apartment complexes stretched to the horizon, distinguishable from this height only by their color-coordinated rooftops

that give it the appearance of a giant Lego set. From this perspective it is not hard to believe that more than 23 million people live in Shanghai. The view was mesmerizing. When it was completed in 2014, this new edifice of block will top out at 128 floors, surpassing both the Jin Mao Tower and the SWFC. In modern Shanghai, "skinner duster" more is an unending refrain.

A parade of high-rise apartment complexes stretched to the horizon, distinguishable from this height only by their color-coordinated rooftops

There we enjoyed a drink from this height, only by our own pace. Down below us,



Information

Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center 100 Renmin Ave., Shanghai Located on the north side of People's Square Park, adjacent to the People's Square Metro Station. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Closed Monday. Admission: 30 CNY (\$4.70). The English audio guide is available for 40 CNY (\$6.25).

Shanghai World Financial Center 100 Century Ave., Pudong New Area, Shanghai Take the Metro to the Lujiazui Station. Open daily 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission: 120 CNY (\$18.75).

Shanghai Metro Operates daily from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Final train times are clearly marked, but vary by station so it is important to take note if you are out late. A single-journey ticket is 3 CNY (\$0.50); a one-day unlimited pass (good for a full 24 hours after first use) is 18 CNY (\$2.80). Purchase tickets at automated machines at all stations; one-day passes must be purchased at customer service desk at the station.

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Larissa and Michael Milne are living around the world for a year. Follow their journey at www.ChangestheWorld.com.