

SAMPLE ARTICLES – SEO GENERALS

Why Shanghai still stands as a ‘must see’ to-date

Size, wealth, people, places—these are but a few of what defines Shanghai as a city. It sits next to the sea making it an important trading port as well as a stopover for sea-dwelling vessels. Over the years it has seen the world change rapidly but in the eyes of the whole world, it seemed more like Shanghai took change more seriously.

It is said that if a man had lived his whole life in Shanghai, he would have already seen a hundred or more years’ worth of his life just by watching the many changes that have taken place in this bustling metropolis.

West vs. East

Given the city’s rich historical past, Shanghai boasts a number of still-standing architectures that have withstood the tides of time, as well as constant development threats that its own people pose against it.

Not only does it have some of the most grand colonial era buildings in the whole of China, but also the city houses the most interesting collection of pre-20th century structures which still serve the same purpose as they did in the past. For travellers to experience a bit of the luxurious and sophisticated side of Shanghai life, a stroll along the British and French concessions would introduce them to restaurants that serve good food, local and international couture, luxury houses, and spacious parks. Of course it also grants them access to the Bund which is reputed for its breathtaking view of Lujiazui and the Huangpu River.

For the more adventurous and oriental theme-seeking people, Shanghai has Jing’an, Yu Yuan Garden, Old Town, and a few more to engage with. Of course their very stay in the city is in itself a mix of western and eastern influences that it would be a challenge sifting through everything. It takes a while to get used to but it’s always fun to try figuring out which is which.

Shopping with a capital \$

No matter where you are in Shanghai, the sidewalks and side streets appear to be shopping points in their own right. Items of all sorts seem to pop-out of nowhere, waiting to be purchased by ecstatic customers—tourists and locals alike.

Be it daily clothes or special ones, antiques, sporting goods, or basic trinkets, Shanghai has almost everything to offer. People from all over the world see it as a top shopping destination, so don’t be surprised to see a lot of stores or boutiques with seemingly crammed with a whole battalion of purchase hungry people; it’s only normal.

If initial shopping attempts fail and frustration starts sinking in, one can always go to East Nanjing Road to have another round of search. The street has hundreds upon hundreds of shops that it almost never gets cleared.

Now, the fun part about doing shopping is buying something cheap despite being a great find. In the simpler and less tourist-known locations, it is always a good idea to bargain. Chances are, if you bargain hard enough an actual item can be as low as 20% or less of what was originally said.

Xiaolongbao and the rest of the gang

Shanghainese cuisine is as popular as its Beijing counterpart. Just as Beijing has the Peking duck to boast of, Shanghai has its very own *xiaolongbao*. Filled with shrimp and vermicelli juice, xiaolongbao is an all-time favourite in this city.

Be it in one of the more upscale restaurants or the simpler side street vendors, xiaolongbao is sought for its taste no matter where a person may be in Shanghai. But perhaps it would be wise to go and check among the food lane situated at the West Nanjing Road – Shimen Road intersection; the place is a haven for food lovers.

Having a taste of local Shanghainese delicacies is a definite must for first time visitors!

Non-stop construction

Perhaps one of the first things that could be noticed by people who travel to Shanghai is the overwhelming amount of construction taking place in the city. Passing through Shanghai's Pudong side will introduce the many building projects currently underway as the city prepares for the much awaited 2010 Shanghai Expo.

Nonetheless, Shanghai does not merely focus on Expo-related construction projects. Being a bustling city that it is, much of Shanghai has ongoing road & building projects aimed at improving the quality of life in particular areas. Furthermore, more and more interesting buildings are said to come so travellers can always expect new things to see during their next visit.

Shanghai continues to evolve not by the year but by the day.

Missing out on Shanghai is comparable to missing out on one of the best kept secrets of the Eastern world. With all that can be seen and done in Shanghai, people from all over the world will definitely keep going back to this amazing city.

Dreams or convictions?

I miss everything about my childhood. I miss the time everything was so simple and happiness simply meant chocolates, toys and dresses. Why is it that as we grow older, things become more and more complicated?

I am one of the many graduating students who have a lot of uncertainties and anxieties. Where will I work after graduation? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?

During the final screening for the Ayala Young Leaders Congress, an Ayala executive asked me if I had plans of going abroad. I knew that question would arise. As a student leader, my community expects me to serve my country after graduation. After having attended so many training sessions and seminars, people expect me not to leave the Philippines when I finish college. I am expected to put into action the things I have learned in and out of the campus. So when the question was put to me, I was supposed to answer no, lest I miss the opportunity of being part of the congress.

My conscience struggled with my mind and my conscience won. I said yes, and luckily, I was still picked as one of the 73 participants after a nationwide search. It was then that I realized that honesty and truthfulness can have good results.

Probably, some people are disappointed by this admission, particularly my mentors. I am a student in development communication (devcom) and yet I plan to work abroad and serve another country instead of my own.

When the executive asked me why, I told him that I could not effect change in my community if I had nothing to offer. Let us face the fact: it is hard to make things happen without money. While it is true that a devcom practitioner has to be with the people and be for the people, it is also a fact that I need money to do such things. To do community work, particularly educating people in the far-flung areas, I cannot always expect to get a subsidy from the government or anybody else.

I also told my interviewer that my first priority is my family and that I need to work and earn for them. However, I do not plan to spend my whole life in a foreign country. After five years of working and saving abroad, I'll go back to this place and pursue my dream for my own land.

When I was in high school, I envisioned myself as a journalist and as a community worker. Now that I am in college, I enjoy being an advocate of environmental protection. But aside from this, I also have my responsibilities as a daughter and a sister.

I am torn between my dreams and my convictions. I am torn between what I need and what I love. My mind argues with my heart about which is better and which is best, which is more beneficial and which is essential.

If our country could only provide for the needs of our people, probably no one would find himself in such a dilemma. If our country had a lot to offer to its people, probably I would not be in this state of confusion. But who can you blame? Is it the government or the circumstances I find myself in?

I don't want to be pessimistic about all the things that are happening to me and to our country. I don't want to linger on the grim scenarios. But I am no longer a child and I know that now I have to deal with the situation as a mature person. I can no longer react like a child when her candies are taken from her. I don't know what the future has in store for me, but I hold on to my faith that God will never forsake me.

The sad realities of life need to be cured by a positive outlook and a positive response. "The response to pain and suffering is to forget," Ann Rice says. "Flesh and blood, bodily needs, these are what inspire memory in man. And when these are wholly absent, it can be sweet to remember nothing at all."

For me to live is to learn and to go beyond what is real, what is obvious, what is evil, and discover why God placed us in the situation we are in. I know that in due time, my convictions and my dreams will reconcile. And the things I love and the things I need will complement each other.

How To Move On and Face Reality Of A Lost Cause

Reality bites, we often hear that. It is a cliché but it is so true. Perhaps one of the hardest things of growing up and being mature is facing reality and making hard decisions of moving on with your life. There are many lost causes in life that can be considered as stupidity by many but for someone who holds it dear to their heart may find a thousand excuse to hold on to these excuses.

Making excuses is the easiest defense that humans do. Being defensive is a natural reaction and dominant to someone who had been hurt. It's a coping mechanism that protects not only our emotional well being but also our bodies from coping from the stress of a hard situation. It's normal but one must realize that this is just a stage that needs to be overcome. Stop making excuses and bring down your defenses and start acting as a grown adult.

Acceptance is also part of the equation on moving on. Accept the reality that whatever you are fighting for and struggling for is not worth it anymore. Stop hurting yourself by going into an unending circle of having life drama and struggle especially if you are fighting for a lost cause. The best thing to do is accept it and move on. Life goes on. Some battles in life are meant to be lost. This makes us a better person and helps us to be more mature in future circumstances.

Listen. Some advices may hurt you but seriously listen to these advises. The reason why people gives you advises is because they see the things that you are blinded to see because you can't let go of that lost cause. Don't wait for the time that people who loves you will just give up and consider you as the lost cause.

Lastly, focus on the good things in life. As many excuses as you may have on holding on to that lost cause, there are also a million of reason to focus on good things in life.

Especially for those who really matters in your life. Time flies by so easily, don't let time pass you by holding to that lost cause. Focus on things that really matters instead of the trivial things. Invest your time to other people who needs you and would appreciate you for who you are. There are more important things in life than struggling and being trapped in the endless circle of fighting for the lost cause.