

Home Is Where the Heart Is ... Shanghai

Dear Shanghai,

From a very early age, I was fascinated by you and wanted to travel to a distant land. I grew up living overseas in different countries but it was you, Shanghai that “gripped” my heart the day I set foot in this amazing city!

After college, in the early 90’s, I had my first opportunity to study Chinese at Shanghai Teachers University. I distinctly remember this sense of “I’m meant to be here.” During this time in Shanghai, we lived in Puxi. Pudong was a large, open space of rice fields that would soon become a bustling metropolis. WOW...how you have grown!! I remember being so drawn to the kindness of the Chinese students I came into contact with during that summer of study. I left that summer determined that I would, one day, live in this amazing city again.

In 2010, my husband and I picked up our careers and family and moved to Shanghai. For the last 9 years, we have called Shanghai our home. I could speak for hours about how much this city has shaped us and our children! Let me highlight just a few:

My Family:

Thank you for giving us such a wonderful city to raise my children. My kids learned early on, to not see color or race. Their friends come from all over the world. This city provided a unique mindset for my children. They think “big” and global. Shanghai also allowed my kids to navigate a big city in complete safety without fear or concern. They have embraced the Chinese culture and food. They love the language and the opportunity to be able to communicate with Chinese friends. My kids thrive in the “electric” culture that Shanghai provides. As a mom, I am SO proud of how this city has impacted my children. If you ask them where home is...it’s Shanghai.

The People:

The “heartbeat” of Shanghai is captured in its people. Thank you for the opportunity to meet people from literally every corner of the earth. Shanghai offers this unique, rare opportunity of being a “melting pot” for the world. On any given day, you can hear multiple languages spoken around a table. Thank you for some of the most important friendships in my life that will be carried with me in the future.

My Job:

Thank you Shanghai for allowing me to run a wellness business that never feels like a job!! I am immensely grateful for a Chinese boss that supports and encourages me. Because of his belief in me, I have been able to grow and develop my business in a way that allows me to help others and connect in this amazing city. Shanghai has “grown me up” as a leader and business owner. This city has allowed me to reach all types of people with fitness and purpose as they live away from their home countries.



Shanghai...thank you!

Thank you:

- For your unique blending of old tradition with the new.
- For a safe place to grow, flourish and be myself
- For embracing my family and accepting us as your own
- For truly being our HOME.

We love your people, your culture, your amazing city of endless buildings, your cuisine, and the heartbeat that keeps this city strong in good times and challenges.

Our hearts are always with you Shanghai!! We love you so much.

Sincerely,

Jill Burns and family

