

Shanghai Has Filled My Life With so Much Love!

I first visited Shanghai with my mother and brother in 2010 for a vacation and loved this vibrant and fast paced city. When I was offered a position in an architecture firm, I took it on without hesitation and moved to shanghai in 2011. I still remember telling my mom, "home is irreplaceable, I will be back home in 2 years before you know it!" Only until today counted, I have lived in Shanghai for 8 years!

Shanghai has filled my life with so much love!



I met the love of my life who is a loving, gentle Shanghainese man, Sam. (Yes, all the good things you hear about Shanghainese men are true!) I have been 'adopted' into a typical Shanghainese family where Dad is a super fantastic cook and Mom does all the housework without any complaints!

Shanghai made me realize how much I love animals, we rescued and adopted 3 cats! There are so many groups in Shanghai which encourage rescuing animals and many outlets for animal lovers to volunteer or to donate resources. There are many opportunities for Charity in Shanghai and China. I feel very blessed to be able to give back to the society every now and then.

During the recent coronavirus outbreak, Shanghai has stepped up to serve the nation by volunteering to go fight the battle at frontline. The people of shanghai, have been most cooperative with all the guidelines for social distancing, security checkpoints and also improving personal hygiene. It is amazing to see such a well disciplined and responsible city! I feel so safe in Shanghai and would not rather be anywhere else in the world right now.

Shanghai has filled my life with Art!



I enjoy attending furniture trade fairs, art exhibitions, visiting art galleries in small hidden lane houses. In Shanghai, I had my first go at tie dye, wood sculpting, leather ware, jewelry making, pottery etc. Shanghai is bustling with new hotels, restaurants, shops which are so beautifully renovated and they give me so much inspiration for my own design projects.

Shanghai has filled my life with Music!



I enjoy the many vibrant and different genres of music festivals, concerts and plays. It is also in Shanghai where I mustered my courage to take up viola lessons as an adult. Recently, I have signed up for an online class to learn the ukulele. I am also very tempted to learn other Chinese instruments now!

Shanghai made me an Entrepreneur!



When I first arrived, we were still in that time where we had to pay for utility bills at a convenience store and use pre-paid/top up mobile phone cards. Just look at how Shanghai has grown, even foreigners now enjoy all the tech- conveniences.

Shanghai's e-commerce platforms are comprehensive and has a wide global reach. I can get all the supplies for my own handbag and accessories brand without leaving home. Shanghai's extensive global logistic advantage makes it the best place for my startup business. There are many creative parks / offices and co- work offices to help make office rental affordable for startup businesses. I have benefited much from this flexible work culture here in Shanghai.

Shanghai will always be the home of Sam and my second home! Thank you, Shanghai for all the love and opportunities!

Jodi Chen from Singapore

Moved to shanghai in 2011 and currently residing in Shanghai Pudong