

Shanghai 2010 World Expo FAQ



When will the Expo take place?

The Shanghai 2010 World Expo runs from May 1 to October 31, 2010, in Shanghai; it is the first Expo hosted by China. With an estimated 70 million visitors, it is the largest Expo (or World's Fair) in history. A total of 242 participants will display at various pavilions at the Expo: 192 countries and 50 international organizations.

Where is the Expo?

The Expo Grounds are in central Shanghai on both sides of the Huangpu River, mostly between the landmark Nanpu and Lupu bridges. The Expo grounds are vast: more than 5.28 square kilometers including 3.93 square kilometers on the eastern bank (Pudong) and 1.35 square kilometers on the western bank (Puxi). For a virtual tour of the expo grounds please visit: <http://en.expo.cn/index.html#&c=home>.

What kind of pavilions will there be?

On the eastern side of the river, most of the buildings are national pavilions. These include three types: self-built structures like the USA Pavilion, Expo Organizer-built structures that are rented by participating countries, and joint pavilions that include several countries in one geographical region. International organizations such as the United Nations are also represented. The western Puxi side includes the Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA) – where San Francisco will be featured – and corporate pavilions, including Cisco, Coca-Cola, and General Motors. As the host of the Expo, China, in addition to its national pavilion, also has a number of theme pavilions and provincial pavilions.

Will the U.S. participate?

Yes. Our national Pavilion is a public-private partnership, and is 100% funded by sponsors, with oversight from the U.S. Department of State. (Please visit the USA Pavilion's website for an overview of the Pavilion and for a full list of USA Pavilion sponsors: <http://www.usapavilion2010.com/usapavilion2010/index.php>)

Why is it important that the U.S. take part?

Participating at the Expo gives us the opportunity to present America's story to a predicted 70 million visitors. It demonstrates our commitment to strengthening U.S. – China relations as well as our commitment to engaging with Asia. Our presence also supports the environmental theme of the Expo.

What is the theme of the Expo?

The theme of the Expo is “Better City, Better Life” signifying Shanghai's commitment to green urban development as a major economic and cultural center.



What is the Theme of the USA Pavilion?

The USA Pavilion theme is “Rising to the Challenge.” It tells the story of the American spirit of perseverance, innovation, and community-building in a multi-dimensional, hi-tech presentation. The Pavilion presents the U.S. as a place of opportunity and diversity where people come together to change their communities for the better.

What does the USA Pavilion look like?

This is the architect's rendering of the pavilion:



The USA Pavilion, designed by Clive Grout, is an urban building with technical features highlighting sustainability. The Pavilion design resembles the wings of an eagle extending out to welcome visitors.

Inside the USA Pavilion a show in three acts will be presented to visitors. Act One, “The Spirit of America,” is a call to collaboration, and a celebration of freedom, diversity, innovation, and opportunity. Act Two, “The Garden,” illustrates the power of an individual to inspire and transform a community. Act Three, “Opportunity and Innovation,” is a themed area that highlights the use of technology and innovation to achieve more sustainable communities.

What is the budget of the U.S. Pavilion?

The total budget of US \$61 million includes all construction, staffing, operation, show presentations, and post-Expo building demolition and materials removal costs. The building itself is about one-third of the budget. The buildings for Expos are temporary; Bureau of International Exhibition rules require demolition and removal of the pavilion at the end of the event.

Will any structures remain after Expo is over?

Only the five landmark structures, built by the host nation are planned to be permanent: the China Pavilion, Theme Pavilion, Expo Boulevard, World Expo Center and the Expo Performance Center.

What will happen to the Expo site when the event is over?

The Expo Bureau and the Shanghai Government have not yet disclosed what will happen to the Expo Grounds.

What is the difference between an Expo and a World's Fair?

They are the same thing. The U.S. has hosted a number of World Expos, including the 1876 World's Fair in Philadelphia, the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and the 1939 World's Fair in New York.

How can I get tickets?

You can buy tickets three different ways:

- 1) You may go to any China Mobile, China Telecom, Communication Bank, or China Post branch in China to purchase tickets.
- 2) During the six months of the Expo, visitors can buy tickets at Expo gate ticket booths from self-purchase machines.
- 3) **Only in the U.S.** Expo tickets are available online by Peregrine Travel Group at <http://www.worldexpochina.net/>
- 4) **Only in Shanghai** you may call the 24-hour expo ticket hotline 12580 (China Mobile), 118114/114 (China Telecom), 11185 (China Post), this includes free delivery (within Shanghai).

How much do Expo tickets cost?

An ordinary ticket costs 160 RMB, (US\$23.46) and a peak-day ticket costs 200 RMB (US\$29.41).

You can also buy 3 or 7 day passes: three-day (400 RMB) and seven-day (900 RMB) tickets that will allow repeated visits to Expo (note: these tickets can only be used once on any given day).

After the Expo starts in May, you can buy cheaper night tickets (90 RMB) at the entrance.

What are Peak Days?

The Expo Bureau has designed a number of days as "peak" days. You can only visit the Expo on these peak days if you purchase a ticket in advance before April 30, 2010. Expo Peak days include May 1-3 (*sold out*), October 1-7 and October 25-31, for a total 17 days. The 200-yuan ticket for these peak days that are expected to be especially crowded, including May Day and China's National Day holidays and the last week of Expo (October 25 to 31), have been extremely popular since sales began on March 27 last year.

What time does the Expo open each day?

09:00 Expo site opens for entry
09:30 Expo pavilions open for visit
22:30 Expo pavilions close for visit
24:00 Expo site closes

How long will I have to wait in line?

The U.S. Pavilion is anticipated to be one of the most visited. Wait times for entrance into each pavilion (especially the China Pavilion) will be long – some as long as 2 hours at times, so be prepared and be patient.

How do I get to the Expo?

There is NO PARKING at the Expo site. You may not drive a personal vehicle to the site.

The Chinese government is expecting approximately 500,000 people each day at the Expo, more on peak days. All visitors are encouraged to take public transportation. There are a wide variety of public transportation options for getting to the Expo site but expect security checks. Subway line 13 will have stops within the Expo grounds and provides easy access between the Pudong (World Expo Park Station) and Puxi (Lupu Bridge Station) sides of the Expo. There also will be special Expo-only shuttle buses departing from various locations in the city.

Information on transportation options is available on the Expo website at:
<http://en.expo2010.cn/a/20100412/000003.htm>

What should I wear to the Expo?

Definitely wear comfortable shoes and also casual outfits, unless you have a meeting or event to attend.

What/When is USA National Day at Expo?

A National Day is a day during the Shanghai Expo chosen by a participating country to showcase its national image and culture. The U.S. National Day at the Expo is July 2. National Day

events will be held at the main Expo Center building as well as at the USA pavilion. On July 2, we will host an Official Protocol Ceremony, the Consulate's official Independence Day reception, and a Gala Concert along with other cultural programming.

What American performers/cultural events will be coming to Expo from the U.S.?

The Philadelphia Orchestra is featured as part of opening week celebrations, at the special invitation of the World Expo organizers. Performances by Grammy-winning performers such as Ozomatli and by Herbie Hancock, Dee Dee Bridgewater and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz are arranged by the State Department. In addition to a daily "Dance-America!" outdoor show, the USA Pavilion features a wide range of performances including jazz, pop, bluegrass and classical music, university marching bands, and theater and dance ensembles. The Expo Bureau plans six thematic forums on urban development issues in Shanghai and neighboring cities as well as a youth summit and closing summit in late October.

Where should I stay?

Shanghai has a variety of hotel options, but there could be an acute shortage of accommodation on the 17 peak days (May 1-3, October 1-7, October 25-31) and a few of the popular weekends around Chinese holidays. Post estimates that hotel room rates during Expo will cost an average 20 percent more than normal. Early hotel booking is strongly encouraged for visiting the Expo in Shanghai. There are no hotels/hostels on the Expo grounds or inside the Expo site. Hotels are easily booked using online sites such as: Expedia (<http://www.expedia.com/>), elong (<http://www.elong.net/>) and ctrip (<http://english.ctrip.com/>).

How hot is Shanghai in the summer?

Shanghai is hot and humid in the summer, like D.C.

Where can I find more information on the Shanghai Expo?

Official Expo website (English):

<http://en.expo2010.cn/>

USA Pavilion's official website:

<http://www.usapavilion2010.com/usapavilion2010/index.php>

What are the Emergency Numbers in Shanghai?

Ambulance: 120

Fire: 119

Police: 110

Lifeline Shanghai (English): 6279-8990

U.S. Citizen Services:

Business Hours: 3217-4650

After Hours Emergencies: 6433-3936