

Shanghai's 'special' coffee shops



— Hellorf

Seed of Inspiration by Hinichijou

It is operated by visually impaired twin brothers Yin Tianbao and Yin Tianyou. Tianbao is also the manager and 10-percent shareholder. The interior has been specially designed to accommodate their disability. The control panel of the automated coffee machine has different shapes of buttons to distinguish the various brews. The shop welcomes customers with disabilities with free cups of coffee every day.



An employee with hearing impairment uses sign language to communicate with a customer at LiLi Time café.
— Jiang Xiaowei

Menggongfang

Menggongfang, which translates as "dream workshop," employs people with mental disabilities, such as autism and Down's syndrome. It operates in cooperation with the Pudong Special School for young people with intellectual disabilities. It's not a charity, but rather an authentic business. All staff sign work contracts. In addition to wages, they receive basic social insurance.

Shanghai has more than **7,000** coffee shops, or an average of just over three for every **10,000** people. That ranked it **No. 1** among world cities as of the end of June 2022.



Staff with intellectual disabilities serve coffee to a customer at Menggongfang.
— Jiang Xiaowei

LiLi Time

This coffee shop hires people with hearing loss. The name is an abbreviation for the slogan "love is life illuminated." Beyond coffee, the shop also sells works by disabled artists and hosts charity events such as music performance by autistic children.

