

Hangzhou Travel Guide book



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Hangzhou is a beautiful city and major tourist destination in China, with a history of over 2200 years history. Hangzhou enjoys the fame of real paradise on earth together with Suzhou. The best time to visit Hangzhou is spring and autumn, usually from March to April and September to October.

Need to Know

City name: Hangzhou(杭州)

Time zone: UTC +8

Location: Eastern China

City districts: 10 administrative districts, 2 counties and 1 county-level cities

Climate: subtropical monsoon climate

Annual mean temperature: 17.8°C

Best time to visit: spring and autumn

Shangcheng District	Xiacheng District	Jianggan District	Gongshu District
Xihu District	Binjiang District	Xiaoshan District	Yuhang District
Fuyang District	Linan District	Tonglu County	Chun'an County
Jiande City			

Main train stations: Hangzhou East High-speed Railway Station, Hangzhou Railway Station(Chengzhan Station), Hangzhou South Railway Station, Yuhang Railway Station

Main airports: Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport

Taxi fare: The starting fare of Hangzhou taxi is CNY 13, which covers the first 3 kilometers, with additional CYN 2.5 per km beyond 3 kilometers and within 10 kilometers, and a 50% extra charge beyond 10 kilometers.

Emergency contacts

Environmental Protection Line: 12369

City Tourism Complaints Line: 96123

Taxi Supervision Hotline: 96520

Price Complaints Hotline: 12358

Airport Information: 96299

1. West Lake 西湖

West Lake is a must-visit place in Hangzhou and one of the most beautiful lakes in China. Located in the west part of Hangzhou, embraced by green hills by three sides, this lake is reputed for beautiful scenery, a multitude of historical sites and brilliant cultural relics. West Lake is no wonder the symbol of Hangzhou, this charming lake provides all the tourists beautiful but different sceneries for all the four seasons.

2. Lingyin Temple 灵隐寺

Located to the northwest of West Lake, Lingyin Temple, also known as Yunlin Temple, is one of the ten most famous ancient Buddhist monasteries in China. It was first built in 326, with a history of more than one thousand years, and it is the oldest temple in Hangzhou. Tourists could go to Lingyin Temple, visit the old buildings, see Buddhism scriptures, and valuable paintings housed in Linyin Temple, and climb Feilai Mountain.





3. Six Harmonies Pagoda 六和塔

Located on the Yuelun Hill, to the south of West Lake, the Six Harmonies Pagoda, under protection as a key national cultural relic today, was constructed first in 970 during the Northern Song Dynasty to suppress the tides. Today the brick-and-wood structure of the Six Harmonies Pagoda remains largely intact. In the pagoda there are more than two hundred sites of brick carvings, which feature a wide range of motifs, including megranate, lotus, phoenix, peacock, parrot, lion, kylin and so on.



4. Wuzhen Water Town 乌镇水乡

With a history of over 1,300 years, only 80 km to the northeast of Hangzhou, Wuzhen Water Town one of the six China's southern towns, which still well preserved its late Qing Dynasty style layout and water system. The whole town is built along the rivers, while the river courses crisscrossed in the town. Enjoys superb climate and geographical conditions, Wuzhen is also a place where people called "the land of fish and rice".



5. Xitang Water Town 西塘古镇

Xitang Water Town is a small ancient scenic town on water that still preserves its original look. It is sited in Jiashan County, Zhejiang Province, near to Hangzhou and Shanghai with convenient transportation. Xitang is famous for its numerous bridges, alleys and sheltered corridors three features. The 1300 meters sheltered corridors in Xitang is a unique site in the town. The architecture of Xitang date back to the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

6. Grand Canal Hangzhou 京杭大运河

China Grand Canal is a man-made canal, completely excavated in the end of the 6th century, with a total length of 1797 km from Hangzhou to Beijing, and it is the world's longest ancient canal, and also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Grand Canal Hangzhou is from Yuhang to Qiantang River, with a length of 39 km. Tourists could take cruise in day time and night time to enjoy its beauty.



7. Meijiawu Tea Village 梅家坞茶村

Meijiawu in Hangzhou is a village community and a tea culture leisure area with the most features of tea village. Besides, it is an ideal place to drink Longjing Green Tea and have rural meals. Meijiawu Tea Cultural Village tucked inside the greenery of the mountains and waters. Tea houses join each other at "snaking tranquil creek", while the fragrance of tea is in the air.



8. Hu Qingyu Traditional Pharmacy 胡庆余堂

Hu Qingyu Traditional Pharmacy which locates at the foot of Wushan hill in the beautiful city of Hangzhou, is the only state-level professional one in China. Built on the foundation of a group of old buildings of Hu Qing Yu Tang traditional Chinese Pharmaceutical Factory, the museum presents to visitors a style of antique architecture besides a treasury of traditional Chinese medical science and technology.



9. China Tea Museum 中国茶叶博物馆

China National Tea Museum is a national museum specially set up to tea, with several exhibition halls, and it has collected ancient tea pots and tea sets, great paintings and calligraphies about tea. In China National Tea Museum, tourists could learn tea history, see tea sets made at different times, drink cups of tea and have activities like picking up tea leaves from tea farms and making tea. For those who love Chinese tea culture and fond of Dragon Well Tea, don't miss this museum in Hangzhou.



10. China Silk Museum 中国丝绸博物馆

Located at the foot of Yuhuang Mountain, China Silk Museum covers an area of 48,000 square meters. The China Silk Museum aims at displaying the great achievement of China's silk industry and its splendid silk culture. It is the first national silk museum in China, as well as the largest silk museum in the world. Here visitor has a chance to see the existing earliest silk textile in the world.



Things to do in Hangzhou

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1. Appreciate the best scenery of Victoria Harbour by Star Ferry

Star Ferry, with a long history of more than 100 years, is a famous cross-harbor transport connecting Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. It is considered the best choice to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Victoria Harbour, cheap and convenient, including lines between Tsim Sha Tsui and Central, between Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai.

2. Have a Bird-eye view of Hong Kong on Victoria Peak

Victoria Peak, with an altitude of 554 meters, is the highest hill in Hong Kong Island. Being one of the landmarks in Hong Kong, Victoria Peak is no doubt the best place to have a bird-eye view of Hong Kong, including those skyscrapers, dense forests and also Victoria Harbour, don't miss the exceptional night view there. Meanwhile, riding the Tram will be a good choice for you to enjoy the spectacular sceneries.



3. Visit a Water Town near Hangzhou

Visit water towns around Hangzhou must be one of the top things to do in Hangzhou. Wuzhen Water Town shows a picture of charming ancient town with long history, colorful folk culture and extraordinary landscape. Xitang Water Town, takes about 90 minutes to get from Hangzhou, is also a famous ancient town, smaller, less commercialized with more original outlook of how a typical ancient water town should be. Nanxun Water Town well preserved the most original ancient architectures and culture.

4. Experience Buddhism culture in Hangzhou

Hangzhou is deeply influenced by Buddhism culture, so that experience Buddhism culture will be one of the top things you should do in Hangzhou.

Lingyin Temple is one of the top ten most famous ancient Buddhist monasteries in China. You'd better not miss the Buddhist hill Peak Flown from Afar near Lingyin Temple. Six Harmonies Pagoda is the best place to overlook Qiantang River for the breathtaking sceneries of the world's largest tidal wave.





5. Explore Hangzhou tea culture in Meijiawu Tea Village

Dragon Well Tea, or Longjing Tea, is one of the most famous ten kinds of tea in China. For those who love Chinese tea culture and fond of Dragon Well Tea, don't miss the best thing for you to do in Hangzhou. Go to Meijiawu Tea Village to have a look at tea plantation and explore Hangzhou tea culture, it's really one of the unusual things to do in Hangzhou.

6. Fulfill your cultural discovery trip in Hangzhou

Hangzhou is no wonder a great place for you to start a cultural discovery trip in China. Except for Buddhism culture and tea culture, culture of silk and traditional Chinese medicine makes Hangzhou more attractive. Pay a visit to China Silk Museum or Hu Qingyu Traditional Pharmacy to fulfill your cultural discovery trip in Hangzhou.



Nightlife in Hangzhou

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photo by ctrip.com

1. Watch the Impression Show of West Lake

The glorious show named Impression of West Lake is an optional entertainment for your Hangzhou night. Staged on the wavy, mellow and changing West Lake, the performance appears vivid and natural. Contented with the myths and legends of the West Lake, the show leads you to a sweet thousand-year dream.

2. Enjoy the Romance of the Song Dynasty Show

The Romance of the Song Dynasty is a large stereoscopic musical drama which was wholeheartedly made by Song Dynasty City. The drama adopted the old stories and legends in Hangzhou City, integrated the world music with acrobatic art, applied the high technology to create a dreamy poetic imagery. Till now, the drama has received more than ten million audiences and wins a large outpouring of favorable comments.

3. Enjoy Musical Fountain of West Lake

Musical Fountain of West Lake is sited in a lake in Hu Bin San Lakeside Park. The 126 meters long musical fountain not only shows its charm grace in the day, but also during the evening. The entire musical fountain has 6 types of nozzle to make different shapes and LED lights, and each light can change to different colors. Musical Fountain of West Lake would be an acoustic and visual feast for visitors.

4. Take a Night Cruise along the Grand Canal

The Grand Canal in Hangzhou starts from Yuhang Tangxi in the north and ends in Qiantang River in the south, with a length of 39 kilometers. The Grand Canal is a world cultural heritage. On both sides of the canal are scattered attractions with the theme of canal culture and history. You may take a cruise along the canal to admire the beautiful night view that is decorated with lighting lanterns.



5. Go Shopping at Night Markets

Night market is the best place to get to know the civil life of local people. You may have much more fun to visit to street vendors or markets. Wushan Night Market is the most authentic old night market, where collects numerous and cheap small commodities. Wulin Night Market sells cheap clothing, souvenirs, cheap bags, etc. This is perfect place for women to do shopping.

6. Relax yourself in a Pub

Drinking in a pub would be a good way to relax yourself after a day's journey. Baochu Road, Shuguang Road, Dragon Sport Center and Nanshan Road are the famous bar street where you can find a pub to have a cup of drink. Feeling Club, SOS Club, h·Linx, π Asia PAR Club, G+ and Club Queen are very popular pubs among tourists and locals as well.

1. West Lake Fish in Sweet Sour Source 西湖醋鱼

West Lake Fish in Sweet Sour Source is the most well-known fish dish in Hangzhou. Fish used in the dish are from the West Lake. Before cooking, a fresh alive grass carp should be firstly kept hungry in clear water for one or two days to excrete intestinal sundry and remove earthy smell. The cooking requirements are very strict and can only be cooked in just three or four minutes. Fish tastes tender and delicious with slight sweetness and sour.

Recommended Restaurants:

Lou Wai Lou Restaurant: 30 Gushan Road, Solitary Hill, Hangzhou

Wai Po Jia Restaurant: 2/F, 3 Hubin Road, near Pinghai Road, Hangzhou

Shan Wai Shan Restaurant: 8 Yuquan Road, near Taoyuan Ling, Hangzhou

photo by dianping .com



2. Dongpo Pork 东坡肉

Dongpo Pork is a famous dish that must be eaten when you travel in Hangzhou. It is named after a famous poet in Song Dynasty. Dongpo Pork make good use of pork as the main ingredients. The pork is cut to around 2 inches square in dimensions, consisting of half fat and half lean meat. It is very delicious with oily but not greasy taste and the fragrance of wine.

Recommended Restaurants:

Lou Wai Lou Restaurant: 30 Gushan Road, Solitary Hill, Hangzhou

Zhi Wei Guan Restaurant: 83 Renhe Road, Shangcheng District, Hangzhou

3. Beggar's Chicken 叫花鸡

Beggar's chicken comes from the traditional ways of cooking in Zhejiang province in China. The process involves wrapping a whole spiced chicken in lotus leaves first, then encasing it in mud and roasted in open fire. When fully cooked, the mud forms a hard shell around the chicken and cracked open before revealing the deliciously roasted chicken inside. Including stuffed, wrapped in clay and roasted process, it can take about 6 hours to prepare a single serving.

Recommended Restaurants:

Hangzhou Restaurant: Tiyuchang Road, Xiacheng District, Hangzhou

Lou Wai Lou Restaurant: 30 Gushan Road, Solitary Hill, Hangzhou



photo by ctrip.com

4. Fried Shrimps with Longjing Tea 龙井虾仁

Fried Shrimps with Longjing Tea is a delicacy of Hangzhou City. The main material is the meat of live river prawns. They are coated with egg white and moistened starch, then fried in lard at a medium-low temperature for 15 seconds, removed from the oil and drained when jade-white in color, and then quickly stir-fried over extreme heat with boiling water infused with Longjing tea, tea leaves and Shaoxing wine. The flavor is fragrant and light.

Recommended Restaurants:

Hangzhou Restaurant: Tiyuchang Road, Xiacheng District, Hangzhou

Lou Wai Lou Restaurant: 30 Gushan Road, Solitary Hill, Hangzhou





5. Sister Song's Fish Broth 宋嫂鱼羹

Sister Song's Fish Broth has been popular for more than 800 years. It is a world-famous traditional Hangzhou cuisine. Fish broth is usually cooked with steamed mandarin fish or perch, shredded ham, mushrooms, bamboo shoots, chicken soup and other ingredients. It tastes as good as crab meat, and is lustrous in color, and creamy in taste.

Recommended Restaurants:

Lou Wai Lou Restaurant: 30 Gushan Road, Solitary Hill, Hangzhou

Zhi Wei Guan Restaurant: 83 Renhe Road, Shangcheng District, Hangzhou

photo by ctrip.com

6. Stewed Bamboo Shoots 糟烩鞭笋

Stewed Bamboo Shoots is a traditional vegetarian dish in Hangzhou. The main material is bamboo shoots. It is cooked with pickled grains by sauteing, fried and stewed. It tastes tender and refreshing and is rich in fragrance.

Recommended Restaurants:

Lou Wai Lou Restaurant: 30 Gushan Road, Solitary Hill, Hangzhou



photo by pho123.com

7. Beancurd with Eight Delicious 八宝豆腐

Babao Tofu is a specialty snack of Han nationality in Hangzhou. Beancurd with Eight Delicious takes tofu, egg white, lotus seeds, lily, sea cucumber, chicken, ham, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, cole and Green onion, ginger, flavours, starch as seasonings. It is delicious, smooth and tender, rich in nutrients and easy to digest.

Recommended Restaurants:

Lou Wai Lou Restaurant: 30 Gushan Road, Solitary Hill, Hangzhou



photo by baidu.com



photo by dianping.com

8. Duck Soup with Dried Bamboo Shoots 笋干老鸭煲

Duck Soup with Dried Bamboo Shoots is one of the traditional dishes in Hangzhou. The soup is of a strong taste and not greasy at all. The duck tastes crispy and tender. Ingredients include old duck, Jinhua Ham, Tianmushan bamboo shoots, dried raw chicken feet, fresh reed, scallion, eaves, ginger, monosodium glutamate, Shaoxing Wine, chicken powder.

Recommended Restaurants:

Zhang Sheng Ji Restaurant: 77 Shuangling Road, Qingchun East Road, Hangzhou



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Shopping in Hangzhou

Where to shop

Qinghefang Street has been a prosperous street since ancient times. It is an ideal place for you to get close to the local culture and experience the ancient buildings and characteristic shops. Yanan Road, the largest shopping street in Hangzhou, has become the most concentrated street for commerce, finance, entertainment and tourism in Hangzhou. Wulin Square is a modern shopping center of Hangzhou. High quality shopping malls like Intime Shopping Center and Hangzhou Department Store and are scattered here. Xinhua Road Silk Featured Street is famous for selling silk fabrics, silk garments, silk materials, silk crafts, ties, scarves, tourist souvenirs, etc. Other good places for shopping include Southern Song Imperial Street, Xinyifang street, Yanan Road, Jiefang Road, etc.

What to buy

Hangzhou, as a famous historic city, has a lot of special local products. Silk products in Hangzhou have always been regarded as the best in China, with soft texture, beautiful color and wide varieties. Longjing Tea is one of top ten most famous teas in China. As a symbol of Hangzhou arts and crafts, Hangzhou embroidery is suitable for gift giving. Silk Umbrella is a famous specialty in Hangzhou City and made from Hangzhou silk and bamboo.

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How to get to Hangzhou

Air

Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, located 30 kilometers away from the city center, is one of the largest international airports in China. This airport is available for flights from most of main cities in China and many international airlines. Shuttle bus in the airport is easily to take, and you can also take airport express to cities near Hangzhou, such as Suzhou, Shaoxing and Yiwu.

Train

You may take trains from most of cities in China to Hangzhou Railway Station or Hangzhou East Railway Station. Metro is available to take inside the station, and there are a lot of buses can get to train station as well.

Trains from Hangzhou to

High speed trains from Hangzhou East to

Destination	Duration	Price CNY for a 2 nd Class Seat	Frequency
Beijing West	4.5-6.5 h	538.5	15
Shanghai Hongqiao	1-2 h	73	140
Chongqing North	10-12.5 h	565	6
Guilin North	8 h	584.5	3
Guangzhou South	6-10 h	720	8



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