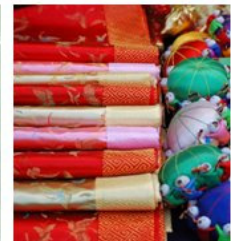




# Hangzhou


杭州



*“without doubt, the finest and most splendid city in the world”*

*Marco Polo*

## Hangzhou

Country	China	
Province	Zhejiang	
Population	6.6 million	
Area	16,874 km <sup>2</sup>	
Time Zone	China Standard Time	
Temperatures (for April)	High of 21°C (69°F) Low of 12°C (54°F)	

Hangzhou is the perfect destination for first time visitors to China – in Hangzhou you will experience the best of China at the very heart of Zhejiang. For those more experienced travellers to China, Hangzhou will exceed your expectations and confirm all the things you love this fascinating city –stunning scenery, warm people, fascinating culture and exquisite food. Once you visit, be prepared to return to Hangzhou again and again!



‘In heaven there is paradise, on earth there is Hangzhou’

*Traditional Chinese saying*

# Hangzhou Character

## Ancient Hangzhou

Hangzhou is the considered birth place of ancient China. The Liangzhu civilisation was establish here almost 5000 years ago and since that time, Hangzhou has been a respected seat of politics, commerce, science, education. The city attracted many of the ancient world's great artists, philosophers and scientists, which has added to the city's rich cultural heritage.



## Luxurious Hangzhou

Modern Hangzhou is a vibrant and prosperous city and generates approximately 20% of China's annual GDP. With growing economic strength and excellent academic institutions, the cities population is young, educated and wealthy. The standard of living in Hangzhou is reputedly the best in China and the city is renowned throughout China as a luxury destination - Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Dior, Burberry and Lancôme have all recently in vesting in flagship Hangzhou stores.



## Clean Hangzhou

Surrounded by natural beauty, Hangzhou residents are acutely aware of their environmental impact and the city is the first in the world to launch a low carbon tourism programme. Despite its large population and consistent flow of tourists, Hangzhou is also one of the cleanest and safest cities in China making it ideal for visitors to explore the cities many sites and experiences.



## Friendly Hangzhou

With a long history of welcoming visitors from foreign lands, the people of Hangzhou are warm, friendly, hospitable and proud to show the world the best of their city. Stay in Hangzhou and you will not fail to see the generous, inquisitive and happy nature of the Zhejiang people.





## Hangzhou Specialities

### Hangzhou Silk

Hangzhou is well known for producing the best silks and satins in the world. The city's skilled weavers use the finest materials and maintain traditions that date back over 1,000 years.



Through a unique and labour intensive weaving process the city's satin is highly prized. It is possible to purchase this most luxurious of fabrics from wholesalers such as Silk City, Tiyuchang Road which sells the produce of over 600 silk producers. Here you can buy an astounding variety of silk products such as garments, scarves and ties, but even without purchasing a visit to the silk market is a fantastic experience full of colour and excitement.



### Longjing Tea

Longjing tea is famous throughout China and Hangzhou produces this tea with the most exquisite flavour. The term "Longjing" means "Dragon Well," which derives its name from the dragon that is said to live in local wells. The tea leaves are picked from late March to early April, and it is done by hand so that the delicate leaves are not damaged. The leaves are then pan-dried immediately and rolled by hand to release flavour and are then finally dried.



This method requires great skill in maintaining an even temperature and tenderness throughout the process to retain the purest and freshest flavour possible. It is possible to experience this process by visiting some of the distinguished tea producers in the hills surrounding Hangzhou, where this delicious product can also be bought.



Drinking tea in a traditional tea house is one of the most popular and relaxing activities in Hangzhou. You will stumble across many tea houses as you walk through the city serving this delicious and healthy tea. When properly brewed, the tea will turn a light green colour and have a delicate, herbaceous, and somewhat tangy flavour.



## Opera

Among Zhejiang's rich cultural heritage is a variety of genres of opera – over a dozen forms are played out in the cities opera houses. The music is often derived from local songs that tell the fables of local people's lives. Their tunes are sweet and lyrical and they are performed through unique dance and movement and astoundingly beautiful and vivid costumes.



Yueju opera (Shaoxing Opera) is a very popular local Chinese opera which originated in Shengxian County, in the Yue Dynasty. Due to the soft characters and songs of Yueju, both male and female roles in Yueju opera are often played by women.



## Hangzhou Temples

Hangzhou was the capital of Wuyue Dynasty from 907 to 978 during the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period. The leader of Wuyue was a noted patron of the arts and he is responsible for many of the cities beautiful temples, architecture, art and sculptures. Two of Hangzhou's most famous temples are Lingyin and Jingci.



### Lingyin Temple (Temple of Soul's Retreat)

Lingyin Temple is one of the largest and wealthiest Buddhist temples in China. Founded in 328 AD during the Eastern Jin Dynasty, the temple boasted nine multi-storey buildings, 18 pavilions, 72 halls and more than 1300 dormitory rooms, and was inhabited by more than 3000 monks. The temple also includes a number of grottos and religious rock carvings, the most famous of which is the Feilai Feng.



### Jingci Temple

Jingci Temple was first built in AD 954 by Qian Hongji of Wuyue Dynasty for a famous Chinese monk Yong Ming. Parts of the temple have been destroyed and rebuilt as various, providing an interesting example of many architectural styles throughout Chinese history. A newly forged copper bell, weighing over 100 Kilograms and carved with the Lotus Sutra (68,000 characters) rings out in evening providing one of the most enchanting experiences in Hangzhou - Evening Bell Ringing at the Nanping Hill".



## Hangzhou Experiences

Hangzhou is proud of its rich tourism, and rightly so – it has a wealth of beautiful and historical sights. The West Lake is probably the most famous and it integrates many different sites such as gardens, museums, and notable historical buildings. Whatever the season, or the weather, beauty can always be found in the West Lake and all its diversions.



### Spring Dawn at Su Causeway

Spring Dawn at Su Causeway tops the list of the ten best known sights in Hangzhou. The causeway built during the Northern Song Dynasty, stretches 2.8km and includes six bridges. When spring comes, the whole causeway is blanketed by peach blossoms and weeping willows, creating an especially beautiful scene.



### Scents of Crooked courtyard

According to historical sources “crooked courtyard” was a brewery dated back to Southern Song Dynasty. The smell of lotus flowers blended by the cool lake breezes is intoxicating in summer and the flowers can be admired effortlessly from the gently arching bridges.



### Dusk at the Leifeng Pagode

Leifeng Pagoda, built in the 10th century, Leifeng Pagoda used to stand in front of Jingxi Temple on Nanping Mountain; though the original pagoda collapsed in early 1900s. In 2002, Leifeng Pagoda was reconstructed and now looks especially majestic when surrounded by the golden hues of the setting sun.



### The moon on West Lake

At the western end of Bai Causeway is located a stone tablet bearing the etched calligraphy of Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty, which reads: "Autumn Moon on Calm Lake". It is said that the lake is a special place to appreciate the moon and its amazing affect on the night's landscape. The moon appears especially bright set off against the purple mountains beyond the lake.



## Hangzhou Cuisine

Zhejiang cuisine is one of the eight famous culinary arts in China. With an abundance of fresh produce from the lakes, mountains and surrounding rural areas, Hangzhou food is fresh and varied.

The fresh, tender, soft, and smooth dishes accompanied by its mellow fragrance have won an excellent reputation in China and across the world. Hangzhou dishes, being the most important part of Zhejiang cuisine, are noted for its elaborate preparations, sophisticated way of cooking and its fresh taste.

Hangzhou cuisine is not only delicious, but time and care is taken by local chefs to ensure it is elegantly presented too. Local delicacies include:

- Jiaohua Chicken (an entire chicken baked in lotus leaves until very tender)
- West Lake fish in sweet sour sauce
- Dongpo pork (braised pork)
- Fried shrimps with Longjing tea leaves
- Deep-fried bean-curd rolls (stuffed with Minced pork)



We look forward to seeing you in Hangzhou soon!

