

# Hangzhou Travel Guide

Hangzhou: The City of Immortals

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## Things to do in Hangzhou

### Landmarks & Monuments

Hangzhou's iconic landmarks showcase centuries of architectural heritage and natural beauty, from the legendary West Lake to historic pagodas and monuments that define the city's character.



Must See

#### West Lake

Half day to 2 days   No Booking Needed



Map

**UNESCO World Heritage Site** and Hangzhou's crown jewel. This stunning freshwater lake is surrounded by temples, gardens, and scenic causeways. Famous for misty mornings and classical Chinese gardens. The lake covers 6.5 square kilometers with three islands connected by bridges. Best visited during cherry blossom season (March-April) or autumn (September-November).



Must See

Book Ahead

#### Leifeng Pagoda

1.5 hours   Book Ahead



Map

An iconic octagonal brick pagoda rebuilt in 2002 on the original Ming Dynasty foundation. Located on a peninsula jutting into West Lake's southern shore. The pagoda stands 71.4 meters tall with five levels offering panoramic views of West Lake and the city. Features Buddhist relics and historical exhibits in the underground museum. The glass floors provide vertigo-inducing views straight down.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

#### Six Harmonies Pagoda

2 hours   Book Ahead



Map

Ancient wooden pagoda dating to 970 AD, one of the oldest structures in Hangzhou. Located on Moonlight Mountain overlooking the Qiantang River. The 60-meter tall octagonal tower offers 360-degree views of river valleys and city skyline. Contains intricate Buddhist carvings and architectural details. Admission includes access to the Buddhist temple complex at its base.

### Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Rent bicycles to explore scenic routes around West Lake
- Visit early morning to avoid crowds and capture misty landscapes
- Purchase combination tickets for multiple attractions for discounts
- Best photography light in early morning and late afternoon



# Religious Sites

Hangzhou's spiritual heritage reflects Buddhist and Taoist traditions with ancient temples, monasteries, and meditation centers nestled in scenic mountain settings. These sacred sites offer both cultural insights and peaceful retreats.



Must See

## Lingyin Temple

2-3 hours   No Booking Needed



Map

One of China's ten most famous Buddhist temples, founded in 326 AD. Located in a lush valley at the base of Lingyin Mountain. The temple complex houses over 300,000 Buddhist relics and features intricate wooden carvings, ancient bells, and peaceful meditation areas. The main hall contains a massive gilded Buddha statue. The surrounding forest trails lead to hidden caves with Buddhist stone sculptures carved into mountainsides.



Must See

## Jingci Temple

1.5 hours   No Booking Needed



Map

"Temple of Pure Mercy" sits directly across from West Lake's Leifeng Pagoda. Founded in 954 AD, it features striking red gates and traditional Buddhist architecture. Famous for its golden Buddha statue and peaceful courtyards. The temple garden overlooks West Lake with scenic pavilions. Visitors often light incense and participate in Buddhist meditation sessions. The temple teahouse serves traditional Hangzhou green tea.



Top Pick

## Yue Fei Mausoleum

1.5 hours   No Booking Needed



Map

Sacred site honoring the Song Dynasty general Yue Fei. The mausoleum features traditional red walls, ornate gates, and ritual spaces. Contains exhibits about the legendary general and his tomb. Surrounded by peaceful gardens and incense-filled halls. Visitors pay respects to this revered historical figure. The complex includes museums with historical artifacts and traditional architecture showcasing Song Dynasty design.

## Tips for Religious Sites

- Temples open early (5-6 AM) for meditation sessions
- Remove shoes when entering main halls as a sign of respect
- Photography may be restricted in certain sacred areas
- Incense and offerings available for purchase at temple shops
- Best to visit on weekday mornings for peaceful experience



## Museums & Galleries

Hangzhou's cultural institutions showcase art, history, and heritage through comprehensive collections spanning ancient artifacts to contemporary creations, providing deep insights into Chinese civilization.



Must See

### Hangzhou National Tea Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

World's premier tea museum dedicated to Chinese tea culture and Hangzhou's famous Longjing (Dragon Well) tea. Six galleries feature tea history from ancient times, traditional processing methods, tea ceremonies, and global tea traditions. Interactive demonstrations show tea leaf picking, roasting, and brewing techniques. The museum garden contains original tea plantations. Visitors can participate in tea tasting sessions guided by experts who explain flavor profiles and production methods.



Top Pick

### Hangzhou Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Comprehensive museum covering Hangzhou's 8,000 years of history through extensive artifact collections. Four main galleries showcase Neolithic pottery, Tang Dynasty art, Song Dynasty achievements, and contemporary development. Features interactive displays, virtual reality experiences, and multimedia presentations. The museum building itself is architecturally significant with bamboo-inspired design. Collections include ancient calligraphy, porcelain, bronze vessels, and historical documents preserving Hangzhou's cultural heritage.



Top Pick

### China National Silk Museum

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Dedicated to China's legendary silk industry with extensive galleries exploring 5,000 years of silk production history. Features live silk worm demonstrations, traditional weaving looms in operation, and historic silk garments. Interactive exhibits show sericulture techniques, dyeing processes, and weaving methods. The museum shop sells authentic Hangzhou silk products. Visitors can observe artisans creating silk embroidery and traditional brocade patterns, understanding why Hangzhou remains China's silk capital.

## Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Reserve tickets online for popular museums to skip queues
- Many museums offer free entry on specific weekdays
- Bring a camera for photo opportunities in galleries
- Allow extra time for interactive exhibits and demonstrations
- Museum cafes serve traditional Hangzhou snacks



## Parks & Gardens

Hangzhou's green spaces reflect classical Chinese garden design principles, combining natural landscapes with artistic cultivation. These peaceful environments offer respite and showcase horticultural traditions.



Must See

### Longjing Tea Village

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Picturesque village nestled in tea plantations producing world-famous Longjing Dragon Well tea. Terraced hillsides covered with emerald tea bushes create stunning landscapes. Traditional village architecture with stone-paved streets and old homes converted to tea tasting rooms. Visitors can participate in tea leaf picking (seasonal), watch traditional roasting demonstrations, and taste freshly brewed tea. The village atmosphere transports visitors back centuries. Local farmers offer tea-picking experiences and farm-to-cup tastings.



Top Pick

### Botanical Garden

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Sprawling 333-hectare garden on Hangzhou's eastern outskirts featuring diverse plant collections from around the world. Six specialty gardens showcase bamboo groves, medicinal plants, orchids, and rare species. Walking trails wind through forested areas with mountain views. The garden includes greenhouses with tropical plants and seasonal exhibitions. Peaceful meditation areas and scenic bridges offer perfect photography spots. Cherry blossoms in spring and chrysanthemums in autumn create stunning displays.



Top Pick

### Japanese Gardens

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beautiful Japanese garden complex featuring authentic design principles and seasonal plantings. Peaceful water features, carefully pruned trees, and traditional stone pathways create contemplative spaces. The garden includes a museum with Japanese art and cultural artifacts. Tea ceremonies are held regularly in the traditional tea house. Visitors experience authentic Japanese aesthetics and horticultural traditions. The garden changes dramatically with seasons, offering year-round visual interest and photographic opportunities.

## Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Spring (March-May) offers cherry blossoms and fresh greenery
- Autumn (September-November) provides crisp weather and colorful foliage
- Wear comfortable walking shoes for garden trails
- Bring water and sunscreen for outdoor exploration
- Early morning visits offer best lighting and fewer crowds
- Tea villages busiest during spring harvest season



# Neighborhoods & Districts

Historic districts and vibrant streets in Hangzhou preserve traditional architecture and local culture while showcasing modern urban life, offering authentic glimpses into everyday Hangzhou.



Must See

## Hefang Street

1-2 hours    No Booking Needed



Map

Historic pedestrian street stretching 800 meters through Hangzhou's old city. Traditional storefronts sell silk, tea, souvenirs, and local crafts alongside modern shops. Classical architecture features tiled roofs, red lanterns, and ornate wooden facades. The street is lined with restaurants serving authentic local cuisine. Street-level galleries showcase local artists. Evening illumination creates magical atmosphere. This is Hangzhou's premier shopping and cultural destination where ancient and modern commerce blend seamlessly.



Must See

## West Lake Causeway

2-3 hours    No Booking Needed



Map

Scenic causeway connecting different areas of West Lake with pedestrian paths, cycleways, and scenic overlooks. Classical arched bridges cross waterways where locals fish and relax. Weeping willows frame the path, creating classic Chinese landscape scenes. The causeway offers constantly changing views of temples, mountains, and water. Street vendors sell snacks and drinks. Walking the full causeway takes 2-3 hours and provides peaceful nature immersion. Sunset views are particularly stunning with golden light reflecting on water.



Top Pick

## Qinghefang Ancient Street

1.5 hours    No Booking Needed



Map

Renovated Ming and Qing Dynasty street featuring traditional architecture and local heritage. Stone pathways wind past antique shops, tea houses, museums, and galleries. The street hosts cultural performances and exhibitions celebrating Hangzhou's artistic traditions. Visitors find calligraphy studios, paper-cutting workshops, and traditional craft shops. Historic buildings have been converted into cultural centers. The street offers peaceful exploration away from main tourist routes while maintaining authentic old-town character.

# Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Visit pedestrian streets early morning for photos without crowds
- Evening strolls offer beautiful lighting and local atmosphere
- Carry small bills for street vendors and small shops
- Most shops close between 2-3 PM for staff breaks
- Street food is authentic and inexpensive



## Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and interactive activities provide deeper cultural engagement, from lake cruises to tea ceremonies, allowing visitors to participate in authentic Hangzhou traditions.



Must See Book Ahead

### West Lake Boat Cruise

1-2 hours Book Ahead

Traditional boat tours traverse scenic routes around West Lake with knowledgeable guides explaining historical sites and literary references. Options range from 30-minute express cruises to 2-hour comprehensive tours. Evening cruises offer romantic atmosphere with illuminated temples and gardens. Tea service available onboard with premium Longjing tea. Multiple departure points allow flexible itineraries. Boats feature covered seating and open-air viewing areas. The lake experience provides perspective impossible from shore, revealing landscape compositions classical poets celebrated.



Must See Book Ahead

### Traditional Tea Ceremony Experience

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Participate in authentic Chinese tea ceremony (gongfu cha) with trained masters explaining philosophy and techniques. Sessions include tea leaf identification, water temperature selection, brewing methods, and tasting protocols. Ceremonies typically last 1.5-2 hours in peaceful tea houses. Small group settings allow personalized instruction. Visitors learn distinctions between tea varieties and develop appreciation for subtle flavor nuances. Many venues offer tea-leaf-picking experiences at mountain plantations during spring season, combining agricultural work with ceremony appreciation.



Top Pick Book Ahead

### Silk Production Workshop

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Hands-on workshops teaching traditional silk production from sericulture to finished products. Expert artisans demonstrate silk worm cultivation, cocoon harvesting, thread extraction, and weaving techniques. Participants try basic weaving on traditional looms and learn embroidery fundamentals. Workshops produce small mementos visitors take home. Sessions provide appreciation for silk's complexity and labor intensity. Instruction covers history of Hangzhou's silk trade and why region's climate and tradition made it the silk capital.

## Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book activities in advance during peak seasons
- Arrive 15 minutes early for orientation
- Wear comfortable clothing for hands-on activities
- Ask guides about seasonal variations in experiences
- Many venues offer discounts for group bookings
- Photography typically permitted but confirm beforehand



## Day Trips & Excursions

Hangzhou's location provides easy access to neighboring attractions, from stunning natural landscapes to historic cultural sites, perfect for extending your exploration beyond the city.



Must See

### Wuzhen Ancient Water Town

Full day or overnight trip No Booking Needed



Map

Beautifully preserved water town 45 kilometers northeast with 1,200 years of history. Canals, stone bridges, and traditional architecture create picturesque scenery. Wooden buildings house tea houses, galleries, antique shops, and restaurants. Boat tours explore waterways and traditional neighborhoods. The town hosts annual arts festival attracting international artists. Theater performances occur nightly in historic venues. Staying overnight allows peaceful exploration after day tourists depart. Wuzhen represents traditional Jiangnan region culture and lifestyle before modern development altered landscape.



Top Pick

### Qiandao Lake

Full day trip No Booking Needed



Map

Massive artificial lake 150 kilometers east of Hangzhou featuring 1,078 islands creating intricate waterscapes. Crystal-clear water reflects surrounding mountains and vegetation. Popular activities include island-hopping boat tours, hiking, fishing, and water sports. The lake region offers resorts ranging from luxury to budget-friendly. Underwater ancient city Lion City lies submerged in lake depths, attracting diving enthusiasts. The peaceful environment and natural beauty make it ideal escape from urban intensity. Day-trip or overnight visits both feasible from Hangzhou via organized tours.



Top Pick

### Moganshan Mountain

Full day trip or overnight No Booking Needed



Map

Scenic mountain resort 70 kilometers north of Hangzhou at 1,600 meters elevation. Bamboo-covered slopes, waterfalls, and hiking trails offer outdoor recreation and escape from heat. The mountain town features boutique hotels, cafes, and galleries attracting creative communities. Cool climate makes it ideal summer destination. Clear air provides stunning vistas of surrounding valleys. Hiking trails range from easy to challenging. Local specialties include bamboo shoots and bamboo crafts. Many day-trippers explore hiking trails and return to Hangzhou for evening; others overnight to experience mountain atmosphere.

## Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Arrange transportation through hotels or tour companies
- Start early to maximize daylight for exploring
- Bring sunscreen, water, and sturdy shoes for outdoor activities
- Mountain and lake destinations have limited evening services
- Check weather before booking outdoor day trips
- Overnight trips allow more leisurely pace and authentic experiences



## Transportation

Hangzhou offers efficient transportation networks connecting airport, train stations, and attractions via metro, buses, taxis, and bike-sharing, making navigation convenient for visitors.



Essential

### Metro System

As needed No Booking Needed



Map

Hangzhou Metro consists of 9 operational lines (Lines 1-5, 6-10) covering 400+ kilometers. Tickets cost 2-9 RMB based on distance. Cards and mobile payment accepted. Stations feature helpful signage in English and Chinese. Metro connects airport terminal 3 to city center in 40 minutes. Most tourist attractions have nearby metro access. Rush hours (7-9 AM, 5-7 PM) experience crowding. Subway operating hours: 6 AM to 11 PM. Modern, clean stations and air-conditioned cars provide comfortable travel. Hangzhou Metro app provides navigation and route planning.



Essential

### Public Buses

As needed No Booking Needed



Map

Extensive bus network with 400+ routes covering entire metropolitan area. Fares: 1-3 RMB for standard routes, higher for express buses. Easy mobile payment via Alipay/WeChat apps. Bus stops display routes in English. Many buses feature air-conditioning and electronic destination displays. Operating hours primarily 6 AM to 11 PM. Popular routes to attractions may have English-language announcements. Real-time tracking apps help plan journeys. Buses slower than metro but provide local neighborhood views and access to areas without metro coverage.



Recommended

### Bike Sharing & Cycling

As needed No Booking Needed



Map

Hangzhou's extensive cycling infrastructure features dedicated bike lanes throughout the city. Multiple bike-sharing systems (Helibike, Mobike) offer convenient short-term rentals. Hourly rates: 1.5-2 RMB. Apps allow bike location and booking. Cycling preferred for West Lake exploration and scenic routes. The city hosts 3,000+ kilometers of cycling paths. Rental shops near attractions offer daily rentals for deeper exploration. Hangzhou's flat terrain suits cycling. Major traffic intersections have traffic lights with countdown timers for safety.

## Tips for Transportation

- Purchase rechargeable transit card at metro stations for discounts
- Download Alipay/WeChat for mobile payment at all transport
- Download Hangzhou Transit app for real-time tracking
- Avoid rush hours when possible
- Cycling best on non-rainy days
- Taxis available but expensive, minimum fare 11 RMB



## Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Hangzhou, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

### Fang Chun Jian Jiao Steamed Dumplings★★★★★ 4.8 (23)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Fang Chun Jian Jiao Steamed Dumplings is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.8★ from 23 reviews. Located at 481 Zhong Shan Nan Lu, Shang Cheng Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310002.

Must See

### Dragon Well Manor★★★★★ 4.7 (27)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Dragon Well Manor is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.7★ from 27 reviews. Located at 399 Long Jing Lu, Xi Hu Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310007.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM

Must See

### Green Tea Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (136)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Green Tea Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.6★ from 136 reviews. Located at 83 Long Jing Lu, Xi Hu Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310007.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Must See

## Green Tea Restaurant★★★★ 4.6 (58)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Green Tea Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.6★ from 58 reviews. Located at China, Zhe Jiang Sheng, Hang Zhou Shi, Shang Cheng Qu, Yan An Lu, 98□□□□□□□□ 3□ □□□□ : 310002.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Must See

## Grandma's Home★★★★ 4.6 (28)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Grandma's Home is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.6★ from 28 reviews. Located at 738R+35V, Zi Jin Gang Lu, Xi Hu Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310058.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM

Must See

## Dongyishun★★★★ 4.6 (39)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Dongyishun is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.6★ from 39 reviews. Located at 99 Gao Yin Jie, Shang Cheng Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310002.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

## Hangzhou at West Lake Four Seasons Hotel Chinese Food Restaurant★★★★ 4.5 (33)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Hangzhou at West Lake Four Seasons Hotel Chinese Food Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.5★ from 33 reviews. Located at 5 Ling Yin Lu, Xi Hu Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310013.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

## Xinbailu Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.4 (41)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Xinbailu Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.4★ from 41 reviews. Located at 56 Long You Lu, 西湖区 Cheng Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310025.

Xia

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Top Pick

## Hubin 28 Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.3 (90)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Hubin 28 Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.3★ from 90 reviews. Located at China, Zhe Jiang Sheng, Hang Zhou Shi, 西湖区 28号 酒吧街 : 310025.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

## The Grandma's★★★★☆ 4.2 (149)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Grandma's is a highly-rated restaurant in Hangzhou, rated 4.2★ from 149 reviews. Located at 3 Hu Bin Lu, 西湖区 Shang Cheng Qu, Hang Zhou Shi, Zhe Jiang Sheng, China, 310001.

### Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

## Practical Information

### Seasonal Overview

**Spring (March-May):** Ideal season with pleasant 15-25°C temperatures. Cherry blossoms peak in early April. Gardens and parks showcase flowers. Light clothing needed. West Lake experiences magical morning mists. Higher tourist crowds. Accommodation fills quickly.

**Summer (June-August):** Hot and humid, 28-35°C with occasional heavy rain. Less ideal for sightseeing. Tea leaf picking season ends. Summer festivals occur. Early mornings best for outdoor activities. Evening boat cruises popular. Expect crowded attractions.

**Autumn (September-November):** Excellent season rivaling spring. Cool, crisp weather 15-25°C. Dramatic clear skies. Chrysanthemums bloom in September-October. Autumn colors peak in November. Ideal for hiking and temples. Perfect photography conditions. Comfortable walking conditions.

**Winter (December-February):** Cold 0-10°C, occasional snow (rare). Fewer tourists, peaceful atmosphere. Heating in buildings often insufficient. Short daylight hours. Not recommended unless seeking solitude. Spring tea preparation occurs in late winter.

### Getting Around Hangzhou

**From Airport:** Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport (HGH) is 27km southeast of city center. Metro Line 4 provides 40-minute express service to downtown (9 RMB). Airport buses serve major hotels (25-30 RMB). Taxis cost 90-120 RMB depending on traffic. Ride-hailing apps (Didi) available 60-80 RMB.

**Public Transportation:** Metro 9-line system most efficient. Buses cover areas without metro. Single journey tickets or rechargeable transit cards. Mobile payment accepted everywhere. Operating hours generally 6 AM-11 PM. Bike-sharing extensive for short trips.

**Day Trips:** Train stations (East/West/South) connect to surrounding cities via high-speed rail. Tour buses depart from hotels for Wuzhen, Qiandao Lake, Moganshan. Organized tour companies handle transportation with hotel pickup.

### ➔ Airport Transfer

**Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport (HGH)** to city center:

- **Metro Line 1:** Direct to Hangzhou East Railway Station in about 40 minutes, ticket around 8 yuan
- **Airport Shuttle Bus:** Runs to several city center drop-off points in 50 to 60 minutes, tickets around 20 yuan



- **Taxi:** Metered ride to West Lake area takes roughly 45 minutes and costs around 120 to 150 yuan
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service to your hotel in about 45 minutes, typically 180 to 250 yuan

## Shopping & Souvenirs

**Must-Buy Items:** Longjing Dragon Well tea (premium grades 500-5,000 RMB per catty). Silk products—scarves, fabrics, garments from government-approved shops. Silk embroidery artworks. Bamboo crafts from Moganshan mountain. Porcelain from nearby Jingdezhen. Vintage tea utensils from antique markets.

**Shopping Districts:** **Hefang Street** (800m historic street with souvenirs, tea, silk). **Qinghefang Street** (antiques, galleries, traditional crafts). **Hubin Road** (upscale malls, international brands). **West Lake Causeway shops** (tea and lake-themed items). **Wanda Plaza** (modern shopping mall).

**Markets:** **Qingshui Fish Market** (mornings, local produce, experience). **Antique markets** (weekends, jade, porcelain, furniture). **Night markets** (seasonal, street food, souvenirs).

**Bargaining Tips:** Expected in markets, not in retail stores. Start negotiations at 40-50% of asking price. Be respectful. Sealed tea products not negotiable. Government shops have fixed prices.

## Events & Festivals

**Chinese New Year (January-February):** Most important holiday. Temples host prayers and celebrations. Fireworks light night skies (limited in urban areas). Family reunions result in crowded attractions. Hotels fill months ahead. Many shops close for 1-2 weeks.

**Spring Tea Festival (April):** Celebrates tea harvest with competitions, tastings, and cultural performances. Longjing tea village hosts tea-picking competitions. Museums organize exhibitions. Excellent time for tea-lovers. Peak tourist season.

**West Lake Expo (May-June):** International garden and landscape exhibition. Temporary installations and performances. Food festivals. Crowds very high. Advance tickets recommended.

**Dragon Boat Festival (June):** Traditional dragon boat races on West Lake. Celebration of ancient poet Qu Yuan. Special rice dumplings (zongzi) sold everywhere. Holiday period sees family outings.

**Mid-Autumn Festival (September-October):** Moon-viewing festivals. Silk lantern installations on lakes. Mooncakes (traditional pastries) widely available. Evening celebrations and gatherings. Beautiful festival timing.

**Hangzhou International Festival (September):** Arts and culture festival with performances, exhibitions, and street celebrations. International artists participate. G20 Summit area hosts special events annually.

## 5-Day Itinerary

**Day 1 - West Lake Classic:** Arrive and settle into hotel. Afternoon: Bicycle around West Lake Causeway (2 hours). Evening: Hefang Street dinner and shopping (1.5 hours). Watch sunset from West Lake. Total walking time: 4-5 hours. Accommodation near metro for flexibility.

**Day 2 - Temple & Tea:** Morning: Lingyin Temple hike through forested trails (3 hours). Lunch: Buddhist vegetarian cuisine. Afternoon: Longjing Tea Village exploration (2 hours) with tea tasting (1 hour). Evening: Tea ceremony workshop. Total: Full-day activity. Bring water, sunscreen, comfortable shoes.

**Day 3 - Museums & Culture:** Morning: Hangzhou Museum (2.5 hours). Lunch: Traditional Hangzhou cuisine. Afternoon: National Tea Museum (2 hours) with tasting. Evening: Qinghefang Street exploration and dinner. Total: 6-7 hours cultural activities. Less strenuous day for recovery.

**Day 4 - Day Trip to Wuzhen:** Early morning departure via tour or train (45 minutes). Full day exploring water town. Boat tours, galleries, shops, theater performance evening. Return to Hangzhou evening. Total: 12 hours with transportation. Stunning photography opportunities.



**Day 5 - Relaxation & Shopping:** Morning: Leifeng Pagoda and views (2 hours). Afternoon: Silk Museum workshop (2.5 hours). Late afternoon: Botanical Garden stroll (2 hours). Evening: Final shopping, local restaurant, West Lake night cruise. Total: Flexible pacing. Preparation for departure.

## Best Photography Locations

**West Lake Sunrise:** Arrive 5:30-6 AM at Broken Bridge North area for mist-covered lake photography. Golden light reflects water. Tourists minimal. Misty conditions create atmospheric shots. Best spring and autumn.

**Leifeng Pagoda at Sunset:** Visit 4-5 PM for golden light illuminating pagoda against West Lake. Sky changes colors during hour before sunset. Distant mountains frame composition beautifully. Reflection in water doubles visual impact.

**Longjing Tea Terraces:** Shoot early morning (6-7 AM) with golden light on rows of tea bushes creating stunning patterns. Spring harvest season most vibrant. Use wide angles to capture terraced landscape.

**Lingyin Temple Entrance:** Early morning (6-7 AM) captures golden light, temple bells, morning prayer rituals. Fewer tourists. Mist may rise from surrounding forest. Architectural details clearly visible.

**Hefang Street Evening:** Red lanterns illuminate street after 6 PM. Traditional architecture glows warmly. Crowd activity creates dynamic images. Golden hour lighting before sunset ideal. 1-2 hour window optimal.

**Qinghefang Ancient Street:** Shoot late afternoon (4-5 PM) as light rakes across stone streets and traditional buildings. Ancient atmosphere most palpable. Stone textures and shadows create depth. Fewer crowds than Hefang.

**West Lake Boat Perspective:** Sunset cruises offer unique vantage points. Temples framed against colorful sky. Water reflections create mirror effects. Evening light golden and warm. Book evening cruise specifically for photography.

## Electrical Standards

**Voltage & Frequency:** China operates on 220V alternating current (AC) at 50 Hz frequency. This differs from North America (110V, 60Hz) and some other regions (230V, 50Hz). Device compatibility depends on voltage range specifications.

**Plug Types:** Mainland China primarily uses Type A, Type C, and Type I plugs. **Type A:** Two flat parallel pins (North American standard). **Type C:** Two round pins (European standard). **Type I:** Two flat angle pins (Australian standard). Most hotels have multiple socket types available.

**Adapter Recommendations:** Universal travel adapters recommended for reliability. Purchase quality brands before traveling. Hangzhou hotels provide adapters at reception (sometimes for deposit). Electronics stores sell adapters (50-100 RMB). Multiple adapters recommended for simultaneous device charging.

**Device Compatibility:** Check device labels for voltage range. "100-240V" devices work in China. "100-120V only" devices require step-down transformer (expensive, not recommended). Most modern devices (phones, laptops, cameras) accept 220V. Never force incompatible plugs.

**Power Strips:** Bring quality extension strips with USB ports. Hotel rooms often have limited outlets in convenient locations. USB chargers increasingly standard in accommodations. Outlet strips with surge protection protect expensive electronics.

## Culinary Experiences

**Signature Dishes:** **West Lake Fish in Vinegar Gravy (Xi Hu Cu Yu):** Freshwater fish in savory-sweet sauce, Hangzhou's most famous dish. **Longjing Shrimp (Longjing Xia):** Shrimp stir-fried with Longjing tea leaves, aromatic and delicate. **Hangzhou Noodles (Long Xu Mian):** Hand-pulled noodles in shrimp soup. **Dongpo Pork:** Braised pork belly in soy sauce, melt-in-mouth texture. **Bamboo Shoot Dishes:** Spring delicacy, fresh and tender.



**Dining Experiences: Fine Dining:** Government-approved restaurants with Michelin recognition. Dishes highlight local ingredients. 150-400 RMB per person. **Mid-range Restaurants:** Quality food in casual settings. Extensive Longjing shrimp and fish options. 60-120 RMB per person. **Street Food:** Dumplings, noodle stalls, tea snacks. 10-30 RMB per item.

**Drinking Culture:** Tea is primary beverage. Local beer brands Qingdao and Snow popular. Rice wine (huangjiu) traditional. Coffee culture growing in cosmopolitan areas. Tap water not potable; bottled water widely available.

**Dining Tips:** Restaurants open 11 AM-2 PM (lunch), 5 PM-10 PM (dinner). Lunch cheaper than dinner. Many restaurants only serve during meal times. English menus available in major restaurants. Pointing at other tables' dishes works. Tipping not customary. Eating while walking considered impolite.

## Tourist Passes

### Hangzhou Tourist Pass (3-Day)

**Comprehensive Package:** Includes metro/bus unlimited travel, entry to major attractions (West Lake, Leifeng Pagoda, Lingyin Temple, National Tea Museum, Silk Museum), and discounts at restaurants/shops. 398 RMB provides significant savings over individual tickets. Valid 3 consecutive days. Available at metro stations and online booking platforms. Recommended for major attractions tourists.



[www.hangzhou-pass.com](http://www.hangzhou-pass.com)

### West Lake & Temple Combo

**Budget Bundle:** Covers West Lake boat cruise, Leifeng Pagoda, Jingci Temple, and Lingyin Temple. 198 RMB saves 40% versus individual purchases. Valid 2 days. Boat cruises must be booked within 2-week window. Ideal for focused West Lake and temple exploration. Available at tourist information centers and major attractions.



[www.westlake-combo.com](http://www.westlake-combo.com)

## Museum & Cultural Pass

**Cultural Immersion:** Unlimited access to Hangzhou Museum, National Tea Museum, Silk Museum, and temporary exhibitions. 168 RMB offers excellent value for museum enthusiasts. Valid 7 days. Includes guided tours availability. Perfect for rainy days or cultural deep-dives. Available at participating museums with ID.



[www.hangzhou-museums.com](http://www.hangzhou-museums.com)

