

Hangzhou Attractions

With its surrounding hills, water and numerous beautiful sightseeing places



Hangzhou has long been a tourist destination for Chinese travelers attracted to the beauty of West Lake, and is now becoming a favorite spot for international travelers. The widely expressed Chinese proverb, "In heaven there is paradise and on earth there are Hangzhou" the words of Marco Polo describing this area as "the most beautiful and magnificent city in the world", have helped to make Hangzhou one of the most popular tourist attractions in China.

Fortunately, while any city would struggle to live up to a reputation as "paradise", Hangzhou has retained its beauty in modern times. Despite the idyllic preconceptions one might have before arrival, it is hard not to like this city. Even the most seasoned traveler will appreciate West Lake for its scenic beauty. Hangzhou is a city with a rich history and culture spanning more than 2000 years. The city first made a name for itself in the sixth century, when the Grand Canal opened up and linked the area to other centers of trade such as Suzhou. The Song dynasty helped to make Hangzhou famous when they moved the imperial family to this area in the 12th Century. With its inviting views and outstanding scenery, West Lake soon became popular with artists, poets and painters seeking inspiration in the solitude of this "paradise".

Whenever talking about Hangzhou, the famous [West Lake](#) can never be far from one's thoughts. Held on three sides in the embrace of hilly peaks, this water wonderland has been an attraction for centuries and it is small wonder that it was a favorite imperial retreat. The lake and its environs have all the elements of a traditional Chinese garden but on a grand scale. The natural setting of strangely shaped peaks, serene forests and springs, dense foliage and a myriad of blossoms especially in springtime are enhanced by a treasury of sculpture and architectural features. The largest part of West Lake is known as the Outer Lake and it is bounded by the North Inner Lake, Yuehu Lake, West Inner Lake and Lesser South Lake.

The [Gu Shan \(Solitary Hill\)](#) lies between the Outer Lake and the North Inner Lake and is an ideal spot from which to admire the vista. For those who have a love of sculpture and art and those who have a particular interest in Buddhism [Fei Lai Feng](#) (Peak Flown From Afar) and [Ling Yin Temple](#) (Temple of the Soul's Retreat) are the must see attractions. The nearby [Mausoleum of General Yue Fei](#) is a monument to the

patriot who was murdered in 1141 at the behest of his archrival Qin Hui, the Song prime minister. These buildings together with others in the vicinity of the lake such as the slender 13 storey high [Six Harmonies Pagoda](#) adds to the calm and beauty of their surroundings.

Hangzhou is a beautiful city always ready to offer visitors more to see. If you have more time to travel in the city and want to see other places of wonderful landscape, you can visit the following scenic spots. [Hangzhou Botanical Garden](#) is both a park embracing beautiful plants and a research base to study botany. [Hupao Spring](#) is famed for its unique fountain of high water quality. [Mt. Putuoshan Scenic Spot](#) is held sacred by Buddhists and it was here that over the centuries a once large Buddhist community was to evolve. [Red Carp Pond](#) is the heart of Viewing Fish at Flower Harbor Park (Huagang Guanyu), one of the ten places of interests at West Lake. [Thousand Islets Lake \(Qian Dao Lake\)](#) is a pure lake with fresh and clean air. [Twin Peaks Piercing the Clouds](#) is a unique sight in foggy days.

No visitor to the West Lake and Hangzhou can fail to learn something of this city's most famous products, namely silk and Longjing (Dragon Well) Tea. [China National Silk Museum](#) is the first Chinese national museum to be dedicated to silk culture and is the largest of its kind in the world. A similar museum is dedicated in homage to tea. Located at the West Lake Dragon Well Tea Plantation, the [National Tea Museum](#) provides a fascinating insight into the history and production of Chinese tea. Additionally visitors can go to other museums. [Museum of Traditional Chinese Medicine](#) is the only state-level professional Chinese medicine museum in China. [Southern Song Dynasty Guan Kiln Museum](#) has been praised as the Civilized Museum of Zhejiang Province and the first group of provincial education base of patriotism.

Another natural spectacle to be found in Hangzhou is the [Qiantang River Bore](#) that has enthralled people for centuries. Annually, millions of people from both home and abroad flock there to watch the magnificent tide on the eighteenth day of the eighth lunar month (also around the Mid-Autumn Day). When the surging tide comes, the water can rise up to a height of 30 feet and the noise it generates sounds like thunder, or thousands of galloping horses.

The other great feat of much earlier engineering is the [Grand Canal](#). Linking Hangzhou in the south with Beijing in the north, this is the longest man-made waterway in China and surpasses both the Suez and Panama canals. Boating on the old Chinese Canal is one of the best ways to get a panoramic view of the landscape of typical river towns in southern China, which include ancient dwellings, stone bridges of traditional designs and historical relics.

Around Hangzhou, there are also some places worth visiting. For example, [Wuzhen](#), ranking first among the six ancient towns south of the Yangtze River was authorized as the Provincial Ancient Town of History and Culture. [Xitang](#) is a famous town with thousands of years of history. [Mogan Mountain](#) has been listed as one of the 'Four Best Summer Resorts in China' along with Beidaihe Scenic Spot, Mt. Lushan and Jigong Mountain. [Tiantai Mountain Scenic Area](#) is known for its beautiful scenery and for being the cradle of the Tiantai Sect of Chinese Buddhism.

Hangzhou, with its surrounding hills, water and numerous beautiful sightseeing places, has been ranked as one of the ten best famous tourists.

