

HANGZHOU

CITY GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

Hangzhou is the capital and most populous city of Zhejiang Province in East China. It is one of the most important tourist cities in China. Marco Polo described it as "the city of heaven" and "the finest and most splendid city in the world".

It currently has a growing population of over 12.2 million people. Hangzhou's climate is humid subtropical with a mean annual temperature of 17.0 °C with monthly daily averages ranging from 4.5 °C in January to 28.9 °C in July. The total GDP was over 298 billion USD in 2021.

 12.2 million

29°C   4°C

GDP \$298bn

HISTORY & NATURAL

Zen

Hangzhou is a major center for Zen-seekers. One of the best spots is Lingyin -- which means "soul's retreat." It's one of the country's oldest and most important Buddhist monasteries.

Lingyin Temple: sits inside the bigger Fei Lai Feng Scenic Area. Entry to the Scenic Area costs 45 yuan (\$6.40) and access to Lingyin Temple costs another 30 yuan (\$4.30). Open daily, 7am-6pm, and the crowds.

Xiangji Temple: is located near water, resting peacefully by the famous Grand Canal. It holds a prominent place in Hangzhou's Buddhist Culture.

Tea Making

Hangzhou is the birthplace of **Dragon Well (Longjing) tea**, which is the most famous green tea in China and ranked as first among China's top 10 teas.

Hangzhou, known as the "**Capital of Tea in China**", has been one of a famous tea production base in China since ancient times. The tea culture is an important part of Hangzhou.

It is a fun day trip to **step into a tea plantation**, pick tea leaves and learn the art of tea-making.

C O N T E N T S

Culture

History & Natural Wonders

Cuisine

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Popular Attractions

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C U L T U R E



Hangzhou is one of China's seven ancient capitals and has been designated by the government as a "Historic and Cultural City".

There are lots of theatres in Hangzhou showing performances of opera shows. **Shaoxing opera** originated from Shengzhou, Zhejiang Province and is the second most-popular opera form in China.

There are also several big shows with themes revolving around the history and culture of Hangzhou like Impression West Lake and the Romance of Song Dynasty.

WEST LAKE



West Lake, the symbol of Hangzhou, is considered to be one of the most beautiful sights in China. It was recognized by **UNESCO** as a **World Heritage Site** in 2011. It is a perfect combination of numerous temples, pagodas, pavilions, gardens, and ornamental trees, as well as causeways and artificial islands.

With a length of more than 2,000 kilometers, the **Grand Canal**, is the longest canal or artificial river in the world, running from Beijing in the north to Hangzhou in the south. It was added to the World Heritage List in 2014. Taking a boat trip down the canal is definitely recommended.

I N D U S T R Y

Growth

- Hangzhou has emerged as as a city of huge importance to China's economy; in particular since China increased its involvement in global trade.
- In just ten years the city's GDP per capita increased four-fold, Hangzhou's GDP surpassed 298 billion USD in 2021, showing a 8.5% year on year growth.
- The city is the home to the largest number of top Chinese private enterprises.

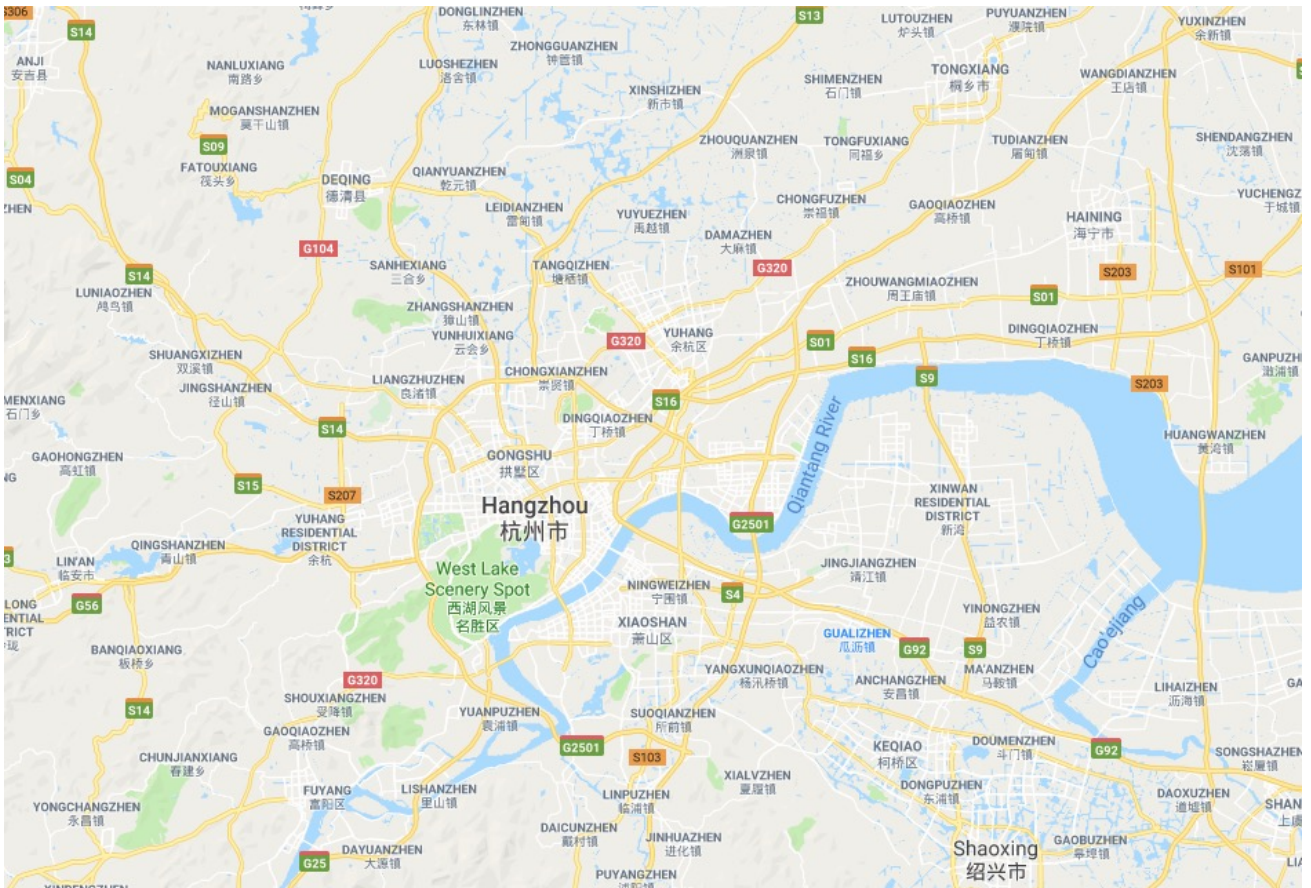
Hangzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone

- It was established and approved as a national development zone by the State Council in 1993.
- Encouraged industries include electronic information, biological medicine, machinery and household appliances manufacturing, and food processing.

Hangzhou Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone

- It is the Alibaba group's headquarter and major Western companies such as Motorola, Nokia and Siemens have established R&D centres in the zone.
- It's GDP accounts for around 6% of Hangzhou's total GDP. The HHTZ positions itself as the "Silicon Valley" of China.

CITY MAP



Hangzhou has 13 districts, among them, main natural and historic & cultural attractions are located in Xihu District and Shangcheng District.

Xihu District features many natural landscapes, such as West Lake, Xixi National Wetland Park, Lingyin Temple and Longjing Tea Plantation.

Shangcheng District takes historic & cultural sites as highlights, including Hu Xueyan's former residence, Hu Qingyu Traditional Pharmacy, Hangzhou Drum Temple, Wangsong Academies, Song Dynasty Town.

ATTRACTIONS



B U S

Bus Categories

- Downtown Lines: Mainly from 1 to 96 with some exceptions.
- Night Lines: From 201–251
- Suburban Lines: 300–498, 700–799 with some exceptions.
- Micro Bus Lines: 801–879 with some exceptions.
- Mini Bus Lines: 801–879 with some exceptions.
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Lines: Lines that start with the letter "B", such as B1, B2, B支1, B支2, etc.
- Tourist Lines: Y2, Y6, Y8, Y9, Y10

Operating hours

- In general, buses in the downtown area run from 05:00 to 22:30. Some suburban lines stop as early as 17:30 or 18:00.
- The night lines from 201 to 251 run from 21:30 p.m. to 05:30 a.m.

Ticket Fare

- Most of the city-buses charge CNY1–3 per person.
- There is a discount on the normal ticket fare when paying with a Transportation Smart Card.

TAXI

General Info

- Getting around the city by taxi can be a convenient way. At present, there are around 10,000 taxis running in the city and passengers can easily hail one almost along every street. The flag-down fare is CNY11 for the first 3km (2mi).
- It costs CNY2.5 per kilometer (0.6mi) for the following 4-10km (2.5-6mi). For the distance of over 10km (6mi), the charge is CNY3.75 per kilometer. It costs CNY2.5 for every 4 minutes' waiting. For your reference, the cab fare from Xiaoshan Airport to the downtown area is CNY100-150.

Advice

- It is hard to hail a taxi around 3:00-4:00pm when drivers are usually changing shifts.
- The price of online car-hailing varies according to different companies, vehicles and mileage. Generally, the app will provide an estimated cost before taking a taxi.
- Taxi reservation hotline: 86 - 0571 - 28811111.

S M A R T C A R D

General Info

- Hangzhou Transportation Smart Card, like the MetroCard in New York City and the Oyster Card in London, can be used on city-buses, some taxis and other public vehicles.
- There are two large kinds of smart card in the city, the Xiling Card and the Transportation IC Card. The Xiling Card is a day card for tourists and the Transportation IC Card is for both the citizens and visitors.

Advice

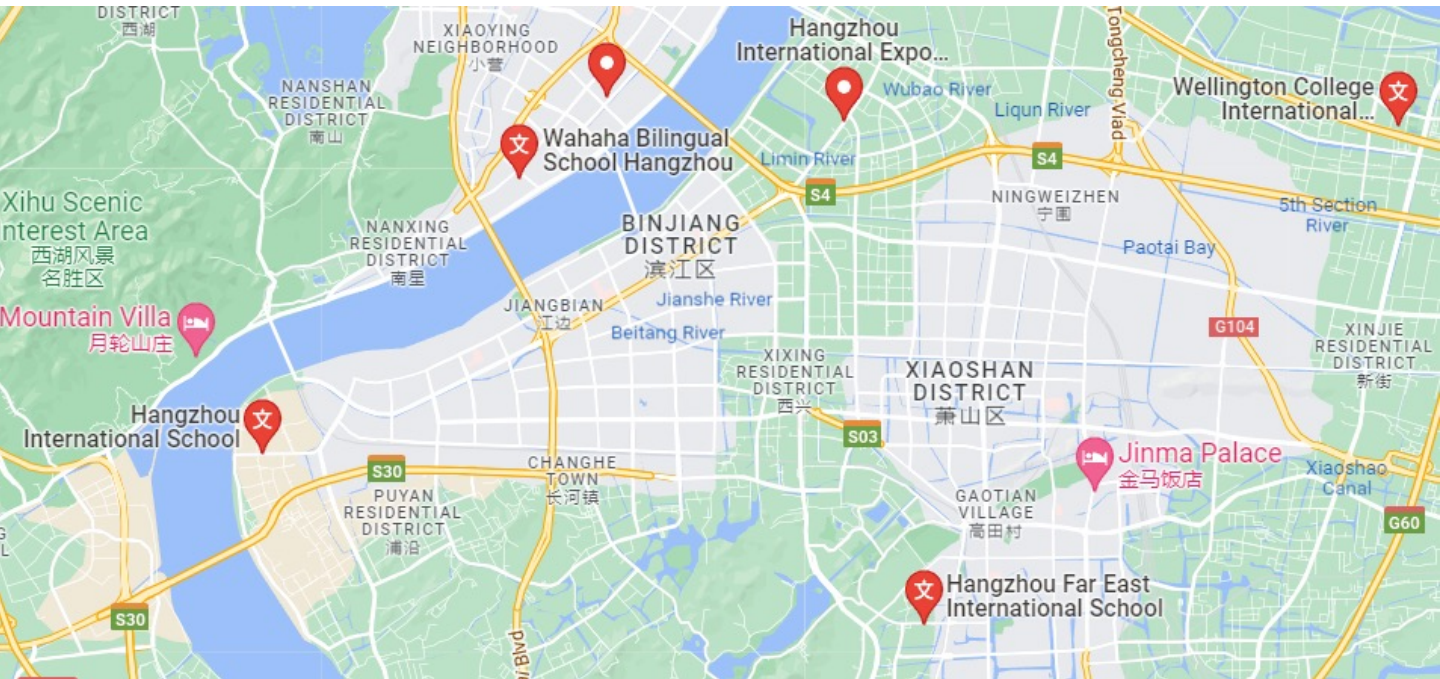
- Do not store too much money on the card, since there is no compensation if you lose it.
- You could also use alipay or Union pay for buses, Metro and Maglev Express.
- CNY25 is charged as a fee when applying for a Card.

HOUSING



- Large variety of accommodations, which can be found on the property proposal webpage of Maxxelli.
- Apartments, townhouses, and villas in both western and traditional styles listed in high to low price ranges.

SCHOOLING



-Hangzhou International School

-Wellington College International Hangzhou

HEALTHCARE



In terms of medical treatment for expats, Hangzhou hosts multiple foreign hospitals. These include:

- The North American International Clinic (run by an American doctor)
- Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital (one of the best in Zhejiang province)
- Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital – a local general hospital which nevertheless caters for international patients.

SHOPPING



Hefang Street

One of the most famous historic streets in Hangzhou, Hefang Street reflects the social features of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). Taking a stroll along this street, you will be awed by the antique buildings and local crafts such as silk parasols, brocades, renowned Zhang Xiaoquan scissors and Hangzhou fans.

Yan'an Road

This road is considered the most prosperous one in Hangzhou. It runs from the north to south for about 3,000 meters, and has become Hangzhou's commercial center, with many modern grand buildings.

NIGHTLIFE



At night, foreigners here tend to frequent bars along Nanshan Lu and Shuguang Lu, the latter hosting popular foreigners' hang-out Maya Bar. Shamrock is your archetypal Irish pub with big screens and pool tables, and is located under the Holiday Inn in the east of the city.

Addresses

Situated in a Europe-style building on the bank of the West Lake, the Le Jazz could supply the most exciting nightlife.

Location: 6, Liuying Road, Shangcheng District

Compared with others, the TRAVELLER is much quieter and elegant. It also frequently hosts good bands.

Location: 176, Shuguang Road, Xihu District

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Contact	Telephone Number
Police emergency	110
Traffic Accident	122
Medical Emergency	120
Fire Emergency	119
Tourist Complaint	87706026
US Consulate	8628 8558 3992



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