

Zhèjiāng 浙江



Zhèjiāng may be one of China's smallest provinces but it's hardly insignificant. For centuries it's been a prosperous culture centre, home to some of China's most influential thinkers, politicians and artists. Today Zhèjiāng is a thriving commercial hub, with tourism as its number one draw. Its rich history and natural beauty offer something for every taste, whether you're into biking, ceramic making, or just lounging on the beach.

The province can be divided into two parts: the Yangzi River delta area north of Hángzhōu, a region of green rolling hills, tea plantations and twisting rivers, and the mountainous area to the south that borders the rugged terrain of Fújiàn.

Zhèjiāng's best-known sites are in the north. Hángzhōu, the capital, is home to idyllic West Lake, which Marco Polo once compared to paradise. The city is also famous for its tea and has long been a centre of silk production. Not far from Hángzhōu is the waterside city of Shào xīng, once the home of such notables as Lu Xun, one of China's most famous 20th-century writers. Further north, along the border of Jiāngsū are the water towns of Wúzhèn and Nánxún, with their arched bridges, winding canals and views of rural life.

Southern Zhèjiāng is a region of wild beauty, with jagged mountain peaks and rocky, unspoiled valleys. The thriving trade city of Wēnzhōu is a perfect place to base yourself for rambles into the countryside. If hiking isn't your thing, perhaps you should head to the tranquil Buddhist island of Pǔtuóshān; with its clean sandy beaches and lively temples it's a wonderful place for some rural respite.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Submit to nature in the spectacular surrounds of **Jingning County** (p337), in Zhèjiāng's deep south
- Fall under the spell of Hángzhōu's enchanting **West Lake** (p317), venerated by poets and emperors alike
- Get down and dirty making your own pottery at the **Southern Song dynasty Guan Kiln** (p320) outside of Hángzhōu
- Travel back in time at the delightful water towns of **Ānchāng** (p329) and **Wúzhèn** (p324)
- Soothe your soul on the peaceful island of **Pǔtuóshān** (p332)



History

The Yangzi delta was inhabited over 7000 years ago and archaeologists have found the remains of advanced agricultural communities. By the 7th and 8th centuries Hángzhōu, Níngbō and Shàoxīng had become three of the most important trading centres and ports. The Grand Canal (Dà Yùnhé) ends here – Zhèjiāng was part of the great southern granary from which food was shipped to the depleted areas of the north. Their growth was accelerated when, in the 12th century, the Song dynasty moved court to Hángzhōu in the wake of an invasion from the north. Because of intense cultivation, northern Zhèjiāng has lost most of its natural vegetation and is now a flat, featureless plain.

Níngbō was opened up as a treaty port in the 1840s, only to fall under the shadow of its great northern competitor, Shànghǎi. Chiang Kaishek was born near Níngbō, and in the 1920s Zhèjiāng became a centre of power for the Kuomintang.

Climate

Zhèjiāng has a humid, subtropical climate, with hot, sticky summers and chilly winters. Rain hits the province hard in May and June but slows to a drizzle throughout the rest of the year.

The best times to visit are during the spring (late March to early May) when the humidity is lowest and the vegetation turns a brilliant green.



Language

Zhèjiāng residents speak a variation of the Wu dialect (Wú yǔ), which is also spoken in Jiāngsū. The dialect is almost unintelligible from city to city and residents rely on standard Mandarin to communicate.

Getting There & Away

Being an important tourist destination, Zhèjiāng is very well connected to the rest of the country by plane, train and bus. Ferries were once the traditional means of getting around the region and are still in use today, though mainly for shuttling hordes of tourists around. Ferries travel from Hángzhōu and Wēnzhōu to Nánjīng, Shànghǎi and Sūzhōu.

Getting Around

As the province is quite small, getting around is easy. For the most part, travelling by bus is safe, fast and convenient. Trains are also an option, though at times more circuitous and slower than buses. Flying is an option, especially for those with cash to spare and limited time.

HÁNGZHŌU 杭州

☎ 571 / pop 6.16 million

Hángzhōu, capital of Zhèjiāng, is one of China's most famous tourist sites. Located at the southern end of the Grand Canal and surrounded by fertile farmlands, the city has been a significant cultural centre for hundreds of years. Current-day Hángzhōu, with its characterless architecture, has little to differentiate it from other modern Chinese cities. The main reason for coming here is to visit the legendary West Lake (Xī Hú), a true beauty in the midst of a concrete jungle.

Praised by emperors and revered by poets, the lake has figured large in the Chinese imagination for centuries. With its willow-lined banks, ancient pagodas and mist-covered hills, being here is like stepping into a classical Chinese watercolour. Despite huge numbers of tourists, West Lake is a delight to explore, either on foot or by bike.

History

Hángzhōu's history goes back to the start of the Qin dynasty (221 BC). When Marco Polo passed through the city in the 13th century he described it as one of the most splendid in the world. Although Hángzhōu prospered greatly after it was linked with the Grand Canal in

AD 610, it really came into its own after the Song dynasty was overthrown by the invading Jurchen, predecessors of the Manchus.

The Song capital of Kāifēng, along with the emperor and the leaders of the imperial court, was captured by the Jurchen in 1126. The rest of the Song court fled south, finally settling in Hángzhōu and establishing it as the capital of the Southern Song dynasty.

When the Mongols swept into China they established their court in Běijīng. Hángzhōu, however, retained its status as a prosperous commercial city. In 1861 the Taipings laid siege to the city and captured it, but two years later the imperial armies took it back. These campaigns reduced almost the entire city to ashes, led to the deaths of over half a million of its residents through disease, starvation and warfare, and finally ended Hángzhōu's significance as a commercial and trading centre.

Few monuments survived the devastation, and most of those that did became victims of the Red Guards a century later during the Cultural Revolution. Much of what can be seen in Hángzhōu today is of fairly recent construction.

Orientation

Hángzhōu is bounded to the south by the Qiántáng River and to the west by hills. Between the hills and the urban area is West Lake. The eastern shore of the lake is the developed tourist district; the western shore is quieter.

Information

BOOKSHOPS

Foreign Languages Bookshop (Zhèjiāng Wàiwén Shūdiàn; 446 Fengqi Lu) has a good range of maps and books about Hángzhōu in English and Chinese.

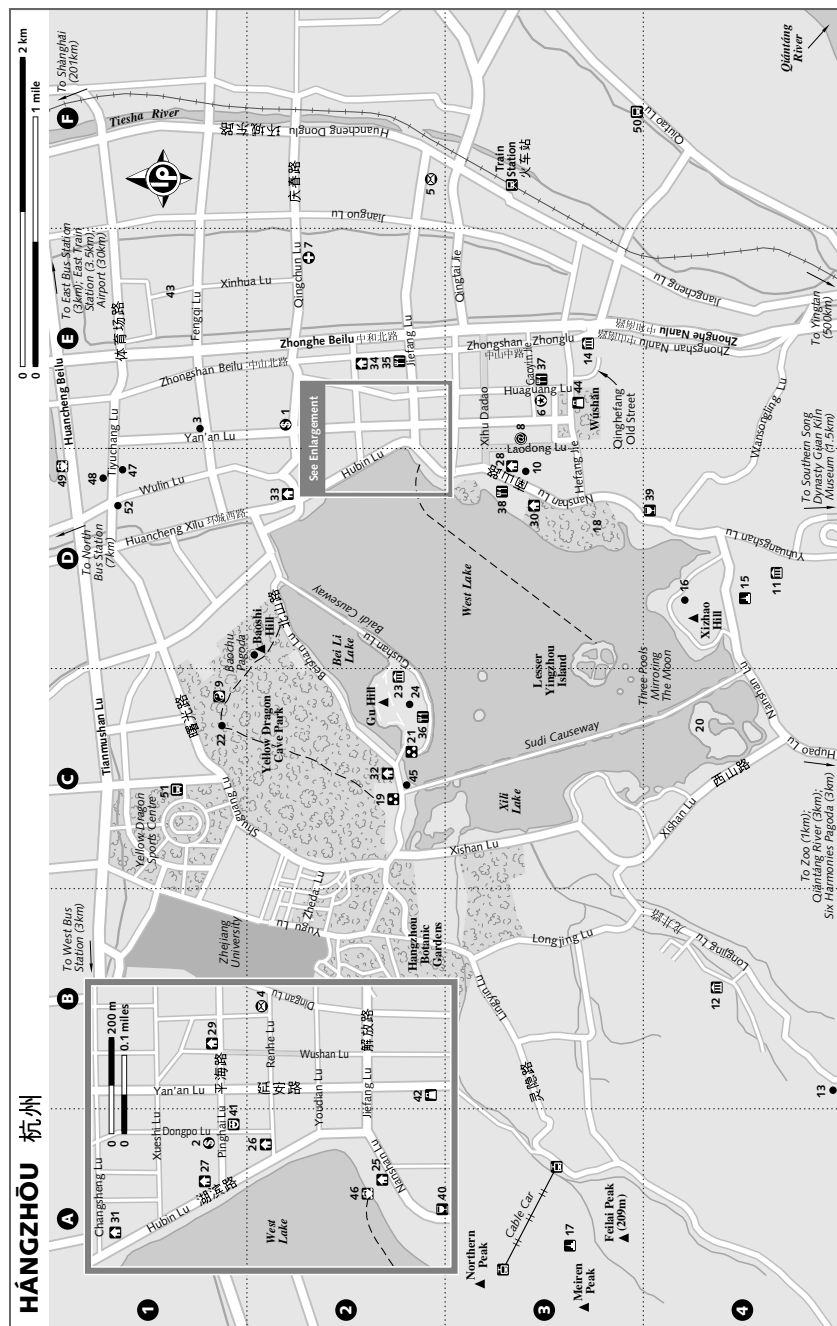
INTERNET ACCESS 网吧

Government crackdowns have made internet cafés difficult to find – many places have closed or changed names and locations frequently. Almost all hotels offer internet facilities, though you'll pay upwards of Y20 per hour to use their services.

Zonline (Zhèjiāng Xiàn; 168 Laodong Lu; ☎ 9am-late) is a large café behind the China Academy of Art. The rate is Y3 an hour, with a Y20 deposit.

INTERNET RESOURCES

www.gotohz.com Current information on events, restaurants and entertainment venues around the city.
www.hangzhou.com.cn Similar to above site.



INFORMATION

- Bank of China 中国银行..... 1 E2
- Bank of China 中国银行..... 2 A1
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- Lingyin Temple 灵隐寺..... 17 A3
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- Mausoleum of General Yue Fei 岳飞墓..... 19 C2
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MEDICAL SERVICES

Zhejiang University First Affiliated Hospital
(Zhèjiāng Dàxué Yīxuéyuàn Fūshǔ Dìyī Yīyuàn;
79 Qingchun Lu)

MONEY

It is also possible to change money at high-end hotels (guests only).
Bank of China (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 320 Yan'an Lu;
☎ 9am-5pm) This branch of the bank has a secure, well-lit ATM. Travellers cheques can be changed here, as well as at other branches around town.

POST

Post Office (yóujú; Jiefang Lu) This main branch of the post office is at the eastern end of Jiefang Lu. There's also a conveniently located post office on Renhe Lu, close to the West Lake.

PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU

PSB (Gōngānjū; ☎ 8728 0561; 35 Huaguang Lu;
☎ 8.30am-noon & 2.30-5pm) Helps in cases of emergency, in addition to extending visas.

TOURIST INFORMATION & TRAVEL AGENCIES

There's a tourist office immediately to your left as you exit the main train station at the

bottom level. It has maps (Y6) in English and Chinese.

Hángzhōu Tourist Centre (Hángzhōu Lǚyóu Jísàn Zhōngxīn; ☎ 8796 8560; Yellow Dragon Sports Centre; Wúshān Square; ☎ 9am-5pm) Books air and train tickets and can arrange tours. It has friendly, English-speaking staff.

Tourist Complaint Hotline (☎ 8796 9691) Can help with complaints.

Sights & Activities

Hángzhōu grants free admission to all museums and gardens. Sights offer half-price tickets for children between 1m to 1.3m, free for shorties under 1m.

WEST LAKE 西湖

There are 36 lakes in China called **West Lake** (Xi Hú), but this one is by far the most famous. Indeed this is the West Lake from which all others take their name. Originally a lagoon adjoining the Qiántáng River, the lake didn't come into existence until the 8th century, when the governor of Hángzhōu had the marshy expanse dredged. As time passed, the lake's splendour was gradually cultivated: gardens were planted, pagodas built, and causeways and islands were constructed from dredged

silt. The poet Su Dongpo famously personified West Lake as a young woman whose beauty was enhanced by her elegant dress.

Su himself had a hand in the lake's development, constructing the **Su Causeway** (Sūdī) during his tenure as local governor in the 11th century. It wasn't an original idea – the poet-governor Bai Juji had already constructed the **Bai Causeway** (Báidī) some 200 years earlier. Lined by willow, plum and peach trees, today the traffic-free causeways with their half-moon bridges make for excellent outings, particularly on a bike.

Connected to the northern shores by the Bai Causeway is **Gu Hill** (Gū Shān), the largest island in the lake and the location of the **Zhejiang Provincial Museum** (Zhèjiāng Shěng Bówùguǎn; ☎ 8797 1177; 25 Gushan Lu; 🕒 8.30am-4.30pm Tue-Sun; admission free, audioguide ¥10), **Zhongshan Park** (Zhōngshān Gōngyuán) and the Louwailou Restaurant (p321). The island's buildings and gardens were once the site of Emperor Qianlong's 18th-century holiday palace and gardens. Also on the island is the intriguing **Seal Engravers' Society** (Xīlíng Yīnshè), dedicated to the ancient art of carving the name seals (chops) that serve as personal signatures. In the northwest is the lovely **Quyuan Garden** (Qūyuán Fēnghé), a collection of gardens spread out over numerous islets and renowned for its fragrant spring lotus blossoms. Near **Xiling Bridge** (Xīlíng Qiáo) is the tomb of **Su Xiaoxiao** (Sū Xiǎoxiǎo Mù), a 5th-century courtesan who died of grief while waiting for her lover to return. It's been said that her ghost haunts the area and the tinkle of the bells on her gown can be heard at night.

The smaller island in the lake is **Lesser Yingzhou Island** (Xiǎo Yíngzhōu) where you can look over at **Three Pools Mirroring the Moon** (Sāntán Yīnyuè), three small towers in the water on the south side of the island; each has five holes that release shafts of candlelight on the night of the mid-autumn festival. From Lesser Yingzhou Island, you can look over to **Red Carp Pond** (Huāgāng Guānyú), home to a few thousand red carp.

Liulang Wenying Park (Liùlǎng Wènyīng Gōngyuán) was once an imperial garden during the Song dynasty. Nowadays, the park is famous for its willow trees and is the site of the Lunar Festival.

MAUSOLEUM OF GENERAL YUE FEI 岳飞墓 General Yue Fei (1103–42), commander of the southern Song armies, is a fabled fig-

ure in literature, opera and movies. During the 12th century, the general led a series of successful battles against Jurchen invaders from the north. Despite his initial successes, he was recalled to the Song court, where he was executed, along with his son, after being deceived by the treacherous prime minister Qin Hui. In 1163, Song emperor Gao Zong exonerated Yue Fei and had his corpse reburied at the present site.

The **mausoleum** (Yuè Fēi Mù; Beishan Lu; admission ¥25; 🕒 7am-5.30pm) is in the compound bounded by a red-brick wall. Inside is a large statue of the general and the words 'return our mountains and rivers', a reference to his patriotism and resistance to the Jurchen. You'll also see over 100 stone stelae, with inscriptions and a poem written by Yue Fei while he was in prison, some paintings depicting the general's life and some interesting statuary.

YELLOW DRAGON CAVE PARK 黄龙洞公园 West of the mausoleum, a path leads upwards above the lake, eventually reaching this secluded mountainside **park** (Huánglóngdòng Gōngyuán; 🕒 7.15am-6pm), tucked deep into the hills and surrounded by bamboo, ponds and teahouses. At the park summit you'll see a small spring with the stone head of a dragon and a stele nearby with an inscription that reads, 'Where there are dragons, there are spirits'.

If you follow the main path eastward, you'll come to the yellow-walled **Baopu Taoist Compound** (Bāopǔ Dàoyuán; admission ¥5; 🕒 7am-5pm), named after the Taoist master Ge Hong (AD 284–364), famous for his longevity elixirs. This is an active place of worship, with chanting in the early morning and evening. Behind the monastery is **Sunrise Terrace** (Chūyáng Tái) with fantastic views of the lake and the sprawling city surrounding it.

If you continue following the path eastwards as it heads down the hill, you'll reach the **Baochu Pagoda** (Bāochù Tǎ) or 'Precious Stone' pagoda, which looks out over the northeastern shore of the West Lake. Originally built in the 9th century, its current renovation dates to 1933.

LEIFENG PAGODA 雷锋塔

East along the shore is the eye-catching **tower** (Léifēng Tǎ; admission ¥40; 🕒 7.30am-11pm) or 'Thunder Peak Pagoda', which you can ascend for fine views of the lake. The original pagoda,

built in 975, was a popular spot to watch the sun set over the lake for centuries, until it collapsed in 1924. During its most recent renovation in 2001, Buddhist scriptures written on silk were found in the foundation, along with other treasures. At the bottom of the pagoda is a museum with English captions.

JINGCI TEMPLE 净慈寺

Across the road from the Leifeng Pagoda is this peaceful Chan (Zen) **temple** (Jìngcí Chánsì; admission ¥10; 🕒 6am-4.30pm), originally built in AD 954 and now fully restored. Inside the temple is an enormous bronze bell – on the eve of the Lunar New Year, the bell is struck 108 times for prosperity.

LINGYIN TEMPLE 灵隐寺

This **temple** (Língyīn Sì; Língyīn Lu; admission ¥30, Feilai Peak ¥35; 🕒 7am-5pm), roughly translated as 'Temple of the Soul's Retreat', is one of Hángzhōu's chief attractions. It was built in AD 326 and, due to war and calamity, has been destroyed and restored no fewer than 16 times.

The walk up to the temple skirts the flanks of **Feilai Peak** (Fēilái Fēng; Peak Flying from Afar), which is supposed to have been magically transported here from India. The real highlights here, though, are the **Buddhist carvings** lining the riverbanks and hillsides – all 470 of them, dating from the 10th to 14th centuries. To get a close-up view of the best carvings, including the famous 'laughing' Maitreya Buddha, follow the paths along the far (east) side of the stream.

The main **temple buildings** are restorations of Qing dynasty structures. The Hall of the Four Heavenly Guardians at the front of the temple is inscribed with the line 'cloud forest Buddhist temple', penned by the Qing emperor Kangxi, who was a frequent visitor to Hángzhōu and was inspired on one occasion by the sight of the temple in the mist and trees. On either side of the entrance are two 1000-year-old stelae.

Behind this hall is the Great Hall, where you'll find the magnificent 20m-high statue of Siddhartha Gautama. This was sculpted from 24 blocks of camphor wood in 1956 and was based on a Tang dynasty original. Behind the giant statue is a startling montage of 150 small figures, which charts the journey of 53 children on the road to buddhahood. During the time of the Five Dynasties (907–60) about 3000 monks lived in the temple.

Bus K7 and tourist bus Y2 (both from the train station), and tourist bus Y1 from the roads circling West Lake, go to the temple. Behind Lingyin Temple is the Northern Peak (Béi Gāofēng), which can be scaled by **cab car** (up/down ¥30/40). From the summit there are sweeping views across the lake and city.

QINGHEFANG OLD STREET 清河坊古街

At the south end of Zhongshan Zhonglu is this noisy, bustling pedestrian street (Qīnghéfāng Gǔjiē), with makeshift puppet theatres, tea-houses and curio stalls. It's also the home of several traditional medicine shops, including the **Huqing Yutang Chinese Medicine Museum** (Zhōngguó Huóqīng Yutang Zhōngyào Mù; admission ¥10; 🕒 8am-5.30pm), which is an actual dispensary and clinic. Originally established by the Qing dynasty merchant Hu Xueyan in 1874, the medicine shop and factory retain the typical style of the period.

CHINA ACADEMY OF ART 中国美术学院

Located on the banks of the West Lake, this **art academy** (Zhōngguó Měishù Xuéyuán; ☎ 8778 8027; 218 Nanshan Lu) was the first of its kind established in China. Founded in 1928, the school teaches painting, design, sculpture and art history to local and international students. There are short-term classes available for those who want to learn traditional Chinese painting. A number of small galleries surround the academy.

SOUTH OF WEST LAKE

The hills south of West Lake are Hángzhōu's most undeveloped area and are a prime spot for walkers, cyclists and green tea connoisseurs. Close to the lake is the **China Silk Museum** (Zhōngguó Sīchóu Bówùguǎn; 73-1 Yuhuangshan Lu; admission free; audio guide deposit ¥100; 🕒 9am-4.30pm Tue-Sun). It has good displays of silk samples, and exhibits explain (in English) the history and processes of silk production.

Not far into the hills, you'll begin to see fields of tea bushes planted in undulating rows, the setting for the **China Tea Museum** (Zhōngguó Cháyè Bówùguǎn; Longjing Lu; admission free; 🕒 8.30am-4.30pm) – 3.7 hectares of land dedicated to the art, cultivation and tasting of tea. Further up are several tea-producing villages, all of which harvest China's most famous variety of green tea, *lóngjīng* (dragon well), named after the spring where the pattern in the water resembles a dragon. You can enjoy

BIKE TOURS

There are numerous possibilities for cycling around Hángzhōu. This circuit loops through the forested hills south of West Lake and takes a half-day minimum; however you could easily stretch it into a longer trip by stopping at the sights along the way. It's by no means the *Tour de Chine*, however it covers approximately 10km and does cross over one pass, so be prepared. Bring plenty of water and a Hángzhōu Travel Guide trail map.

Begin by heading south from the lake on Longjing Lu (龙井路). It's a gradual ascent into the hills, past the **China Tea Museum** (p319) and fields of tea plantations. From here the gradient becomes significantly steeper. When you approach Longjing village, the road forks; put in the extra effort, go left and keep on heading up the mountain on Manjiaolong Lu (满觉陇路) – an easier route is to go right up to Longjing village and over a lower pass down Jiuxi Rd.

Once you've cleared the pass, you'll coast through a small **tea village** (翁家山; Wēngjiāshān). Enjoy the downhill into the forest, but don't go too fast, or you'll miss the turn-off for Yángméiling (杨梅岭), a tiny road on your right. This leads down through another village and out onto the forest floor, following a small stream past **Li'an Temple** (里安寺; Liān Sì).

Not far after this is **Nine Creeks Park** (九溪烟树; Jiǔxī Yānshù; admission Y2), with a lovely little pool fed by a waterfall (if you came from Lóngjǐng village, this is where you'll end up). From here you'll be wending your way through scenic countryside, until you reach Jiǔxī village (九溪村) at the highway. There are two restaurants and a convenience store in Jiǔxī. Turn left on the highway, and follow Qiántáng River until you reach **Six Harmonies Pagoda** (below). Fork left, go under the bridge, and head north on Hupao Lu, from where it's a reasonably easy ride all the way back to the lake.

one of Hángzhōu's most famous teas at the **Dragon Well Tea Village** (Lóngjǐng Wēnchá; admission Y10; ☎ 8am-5.30pm), near the first pass. Tourist bus Y3 will take you to the museum and the village.

Three kilometres southwest of the lake, an enormous rail-and-road bridge spans the Qiántáng River. Close by is the 60m-high octagonal **Six Harmonies Pagoda** (Liùhé Tǎ; 16 Zhijiang Lu; admission Y20, Y10 to climb pagoda; ☎ 6am-6pm), first built in AD 960. The pagoda also served as a lighthouse, and was supposed to have magical power to halt the 6.5m-high tidal bore which thunders up Qiántáng River every autumn (see p323). Behind the pagoda stretches a charming walk, through terraces dotted with sculptures, bells, shrines and inscriptions.

SOUTHERN SONG DYNASTY KILN MUSEUM 南宋官窑博物馆

This royal **kiln** (Nánsòng Guānyáo Bówùguǎn; ☎ 8608 3990; 42 Nanfu Lu; admission free; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm Tue-Sun) was once a production site for the famed porcelain and ceramics of the Southern Song dynasty. You can visit the remains of the kiln, where there are some exhibits of ancient kiln tools and equipment. There's also a showroom of Song ceramics and explanations in English that outline the history of ceramic ware in China. You can even try your hand at making

some treasures of your own for a nominal fee (Y20 to Y50). To get here, take tourist bus Y3; the museum is 1.5km from town.

Tours

Just about every midrange and top-end hotel offers tours to West Lake and the surrounding areas. Frequent tours also run from the Hángzhōu Tourist Centre.

Festivals & Events

One of the most important festivals in the region is the International Qiántáng River Tide-Observing Festival, which takes place every autumn in Yánguān, outside Hángzhōu. See p323 for more details.

Sleeping

Hángzhōu's hotels are mainly midrange and top end, with only a few budget options. In the busy summer months and during Chinese New Year, hotels can be booked out, prices soar and finding accommodation can be difficult. Most of the midrange and top-end hotel rooms are equipped with free broadband internet.

BUDGET

Mingtown Youth Hostel (Míngtǎng Hángzhōu Guójī Qīngnián Lǚshè; ☎ 8791 8948; 101-11 Nanshan Lu; 南山路

101-11号; dm Y40-50, d Y120-280; ☎) With its convenient lakeside location and proximity to major tourist sites, this friendly hostel is highly recommended. It offers ticket booking, internet access, and rents bikes and camping gear. The Mingtown also has two other locations: 4 Zhaogong Causeway (赵公堤4号) and 96 Siyiting Siyi Lu (四宜路四宜亭96号) at Wúshān. Call ahead to reserve.

Jiexin Century Hotel (International Art Centre Inn; Yiyàn Bīnguǎn; ☎ 8707 0100; 220 Nanshan Lu; 南山路220号; d Y280-498) Affiliated with the China Academy of Art next door, this small guesthouse offers sparsely furnished rooms. The location is terrific, but don't expect the facilities (free bottled water, cable TV) that come with other hotels in this price range. Paintings done by art students hang on the walls.

MIDRANGE & TOP END

Dongpo Hotel (Dōngpō Bīnguǎn; ☎ 8706 9769; 52 Renhe Lu; 仁和路; s Y280, d Y300-420) Located on a small but busy street adjacent to the lake, this hotel provides spotless rooms. Ask for a room in the back to avoid the noise of tourist traffic.

Zhongshan Hotel (Zhōngshān Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 8706 8899; fax 8702 2403; 15 Pinghai Lu; 平海路15号; d Y570-680, with lake view Y880-980) A favourite of business travellers, this hotel offers modern, quiet rooms and is about a 10-minute walk to the lake. Rooms are often discounted by as much as 50%.

Overseas Chinese Hotel (Huáqiáo Fāndiàn; ☎ 8707 4401; fax 8707 4978; 15 Hubin Lu; 湖滨路15号; d Y598-663) This hotel was one of the first in Hángzhōu to accept foreigners and is still popular. Rooms are overpriced but in a great location right on the lakefront.

Dahua Hotel (Dàhuá Fāndiàn; ☎ 8718 1888; 171 Nanshan Lu; 南山路171号; d Y780, with lake view Y980) This hotel strives to compete with its lakeside neighbours, though lumpy beds and brusque service keep it at a disadvantage. The hotel's claim to fame is that Mao stayed here.

Wanghu Hotel (Wānghú Bīnguǎn; ☎ 8707 8888; 2 Huancheng Xilu; 环城西路2号; d Y780, ste from Y2580) Good value and in a great location, this hotel has rooms that equal the Sheraton, for much less money. Room choices include the fancily named 'Rivulet Hall', 'Sapphire Hall', or even the 'Olympus Palace' for Y4580. The price includes breakfast.

Shangri-La Hotel (Hángzhōu Xiānggélǐlǎ Fāndiàn; ☎ 8707 7951; fax 8707 3545; www.shangri-la.com; 78 Beishan Lu; 北山路78号; d Y1000-1150, with lake view Y1450, plus 15% service charge) Situated on the northern shore

of the lake and surrounded by forest, this hotel wins for the most picturesque location. Rooms, however, are ordinary, with plastic décor that is found in most major hotel chains.

Grand Hyatt Regency (Hángzhōu Kǎiyuè Jiǔdiàn; ☎ 8779 1234; www.hangzhou.regency.hyatt.com; 28 Hubin Lu; 湖滨路28号; d Y1700-1850, with lake view Y2050; ☎) This sprawling megaplaza dominates the eastern lakeshore. In addition to international standard rooms, the hotel offers 5-star luxuries such as a swimming pool, sauna and health club.

Eating

Hángzhōu cuisine emphasises fresh, sweet flavours and makes good use of freshwater fish, especially eel and carp. Dishes to watch for include fatty pork slices flavoured with Shàoxīng wine (东坡肉; dōngpō ròu), named after the Song dynasty poet Su Dongpo, and chicken wrapped in lotus leaves and baked in clay, known in English as 'beggar's chicken' (叫化童鸡; jiàohuàtóng jī). Bamboo shoots are a local delicacy, especially in the spring when they're most tender.

Some restaurants are institutions in Hángzhōu and do a brisk trade with tourist groups. All have English menus.

Kuiyuan Restaurant (Kuiyuán Guǎn; ☎ 8702 8626; 154 Jiefang Lu; mains Y10; ☎ 11am-10.30pm) This restaurant is over 100 years old, and has garnered a reputation for its excellent noodle and seafood dishes. Try its delicious fried noodles with eel and shrimp (虾爆鳝面; xiā bào shàn miàn).

Tianwaitian Restaurant (Tiānwàitiān Cǎiguǎn; ☎ 8796 5450; 2 Lingying Tianzhu Lu; mains Y30-90; ☎ 11am-10pm) Run by the same group who own Louwailou (with a similar menu), this restaurant is near the entrance to Lingyin Temple and is a nice place for lunch.

Louwailou Restaurant (Lóuwàilóu Cǎiguǎn; 30 Gushan Lu; ☎ 8796 9023; mains Y30-100; ☎ 9am-10pm) Founded in 1838, this is Hángzhōu's most famous restaurant. The local speciality is sweet and sour carp (西湖醋鱼; xīhú cùyú). Service is grumpy but the food is good.

For restaurants that cater mostly to locals, head to Gaoyin Jie, near Wúshān Sq, where a lively string of restaurants dish up local specialities.

Lǎo Hángzhōu Fēngwèi (141 Gaoyin Jie; mains Y20; ☎ 11.30am-9pm) This local watering-hole serves tasty homestyle dishes, including wine-braised bamboo shoots (糟会鞭笋; zāohuì biānsǔn) and Dongpo pork. Make sure to try the crispy

potato cakes with garlic and chilli (婆婆敲土豆饼; *pópóqiāo tǔdòu bǐng*).

NON-ASIAN

Along Hubin Lu and Nanshan Lu are a glut of Western-style eateries, fast-food joints and bars. On the lakeshore is **Xihú Tiāndì**, a collection of upscale restaurants and cafés in a leafy garden setting. For picnics, head to **Carrefour Shopping Centre** (Jiālěfú; 135 Yan'an Lu; ☎ 9am-9pm), which has a good selection of imported foods. On the weekends, shopping here feels like being caught in a stampede.

Drinking

Over the past several years, the bar scene in Hángzhōu has mushroomed. The most popular bar strip is along Nanshan Lu, near the Academy of Art. There are far too many to list; take your pick from those mentioned below or head off and see what you can uncover.

Night and Day (Dèná; ☎ 8777 0275; 240 Nanshan Lu; meals Y56-85, beer Y25; ☎ 10am-2am) This is a wonderfully atmospheric Chinese bar and restaurant that plays Latin music with dancing after 9pm. The top-floor balcony overlooks West Lake.

Kana's Bar (Kānà Jiūbā; ☎ 8706 3228; 152 Nanshan Lu; beer Y22; ☎ 6.30pm-3.30am) Owned by a former foreign student, this lively bar attracts an eclectic mix of both locals and tourists. This is the place to be seen on the weekends.

Entertainment

Hángzhōu has several cinemas that screen English-language movies. Close to the lake is the **West Lake Cinema** (Xīhú Diànyǐngyuàn; 95 Pinghai Lu; admission Y30).

Shopping

Hángzhōu is well known for its tea, in particular *longjing* (dragon well) green tea as well as silk, fans and, of all things, scissors. You can find all these things at the **Wúshān Lu night market** (Wúshān Lù Yèshì) in addition to touristy kitsch. Fake ceramics jostle with ancient pewter tobacco pipes, Chairman Mao memorabilia, silk shirts and pirated CDs. Get the gloves off and haggle hard if something catches your eye.

For silk, try the **market** (Sīchǒu Shìchǎng; Xinhua Lu; ☎ 8am-6pm), a couple of blocks east of Zhonghe Beilu. The silk area starts on the north side of Fengqi Lu. Make sure you check that the silk is genuine and not a polyester clone (it

should feel smooth and soft between your thumb and finger).

Getting There & Away

AIR

For flights, Hángzhōu is serviced by **Dragonair** (Gānglóng Hángkōng Gōngsī; ☎ 8506 8388; 5th fl, Radisson Plaza Hotel, 333 Tiyuchang Lu), with regular connections to all major Chinese cities. There are several flights a day to Běijīng (Y1050), Guǎngzhōu (Y960) and Hong Kong (Y1840).

One place to book air tickets is the **Hángzhōu Xiaoshan International Airport Ticketing Office** (Hángzhōu Xiǎoshān Guójiā Jíchéng Shòupiàochù; ☎ 8515 4259; 309 Tiyuchang Lu)

Most hotels will also book flights, generally with a Y20 to Y30 service charge.

BOAT

You can get to Sūzhōu by boat up the Grand Canal from Hángzhōu. There's one boat daily, leaving at 5.30pm. The trip takes about 14 hours. Economy class in a cabin of four people costs Y60 per bed, deluxe cabins for four people are Y88 per bed and two-person cabins cost Y78 to Y130 per bed. Most of the trip is in the dark and you won't get to see much. Buy tickets at the passenger wharf just north of Huancheng Beilu.

BUS

All four bus stations are outside the city centre. The north bus station on Moganshan Lu has buses to Nánjīng (Y120, five hours), Wúkiāng (Y15, 1½ hours) and other points in Jiāngsū. Buses for Qiāndào Hú (Y35, four hours) and Huáng Shān (Y60, six hours) leave from the west bus station on Tianmushan Lu.

The east bus station is the most comprehensive, with frequent deluxe buses to Shànghǎi (Y54, 2½ hours), Wúzhèn (Y25; one hour), Shàoxīng (Y22, one hour) and Níngbō (Y42, two hours). Economy buses are cheaper, but slower. Buses to Tiāntái Shān (Y50, six hours) and Hǎining (Y24, one hour) also leave from here. The south bus station has buses to Wēnzhōu (Y100, nine hours).

TRAIN

Trains from Hángzhōu's main train station go south to Xiàmén (Y231, 27 hours) and Wēnzhōu (Y112, eight hours) and east to Shàoxīng (Y19, 45 minutes) and Níngbō (Y44, 2½ hours). Most trains heading north have

to go to Shànghǎi, but there's a direct train to Běijīng (Y341, 16 hours) from Hángzhōu.

Five express trains run between Hángzhōu and Shànghǎi (Y40, two hours) daily, with some trains continuing through to Sūzhōu. Booking sleepers can be difficult at the Hángzhōu train station, especially to Běijīng. Most hotels can do this for you for a Y20 service charge. You can also buy tickets at the **train ticket booking office** (199 Wulin Lu; ☎ 8am-5pm).

Getting Around

TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Hángzhōu's airport is 30km from the city centre; taxi drivers ask around Y120 for the trip. Shuttle buses leave from the Marco Polo Hotel.

BICYCLE

Bike hire (Y15 per four hr, Y500 deposit) is available from Mingtown Youth Hostel and from **stalls** (Y8 per hr, Y200 deposit) across from the Yue Fei Mausoleum. Check out the bikes before you take off, especially the brakes.

BOAT

Getting out on the water is one of the best ways to enjoy West Lake. Cruise boats depart from the eastern shore, crossing the lake and visiting the islands en route for Y45. If you want a private ride, you can be paddled around for Y80 per hour. For a romantic evening under the stars, there are night tours of the lake for Y25 per person. If you'd prefer to do the work yourself, there are paddle boats available for Y30 to Y50 an hour.

BUS

Hángzhōu has a clean, efficient bus system and getting around is easy. Bus K7 is very useful – it connects the main train station to the eastern side of the lake. Bus K56 travels from the east bus station to Yan'an Lu and buses 15 and K15 connect the north long-distance bus station to the northwest area of the lake. Tourist bus Y1 circles the lake to Lingyin Temple and bus Y2 goes from the train station, along Beishan Lu and up to Lingyin Temple. Tourist bus Y3 travels around the West Lake to the Silk Museum, China Tea Museum, Dragon Well Tea Village and the Southern Song dynasty Guan Kiln. Tourist bus Y5 will take you out to the Six Harmonies Pagoda. Tickets are Y2 to Y5.

TAXI

Metered taxis are ubiquitous and start at Y10; figure on around Y20 to Y25 from the train station to Hubin Lu.

AROUND HÁNGZHŌU

Qiántáng River Tidal Bore 钱塘江潮

A spectacular natural phenomenon occurs when the highest tides of the lunar cycle cause a wall of water to thunder up the narrow mouth of the Qiántáng River from Hángzhōu Bay (Hángzhōu Wǎn).

Although the tidal bore can be viewed from the riverbank in Hángzhōu, the best place to witness this amazing phenomenon is on either side of the river at Yánguān, a small town about 38km northeast of Hángzhōu. Among the Chinese, viewing the bore has traditionally been associated with the **Mid-Autumn Festival**, around the 18th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar. However, you can see it throughout the year when the highest tides occur at the beginning and middle of each lunar month. For tide times, check with the Hángzhōu Tourist Centre (p317).

Hotels and travel agencies offer tours to see the bore during the Mid-Autumn Festival, but you can visit just as easily on your own. Buses to Yánguān leave from Hángzhōu's east bus station for Y20.

Mògānshān 莫干山

☎ 0572

About 60km north of Hángzhōu is the hilltop resort of Mògānshān. Delightfully cool at the height of summer, Mògānshān was developed as a resort for Europeans living in Shànghǎi and Hángzhōu during the colonial era. It's well worth visiting and staying in one of the old villas. There are the obligatory tourist sights, such as old villas that once belonged to Chiang Kaishek and the Shànghǎi gang leader, Du Yuesheng, but the best thing to do in Mògānshān is to lose yourself along the winding forest paths. You can pick up a Chinese map (Y3) at your hotel for some sense of orientation. The main village (Mògānshān Zhèn) is centred around Yinshan Jie (荫山街).

Mògānshān is full of hotels, most of them housed in old villas. Du Yuesheng's old stone villa has been transformed into the **Léidìsēn Mògānshān Biésù** (雷迪森莫干山别墅; ☎ 803 3601; d Y1100-1300), which is now owned by the Radisson group. A cheaper alternative is the pleasant **Jiànquán Shānzhūāng** (剑泉山庄;

☎ 803 3607; 91 Moganshan 莫干山91号; d Y480), which sits below the village. Your only eating options are in the hotels themselves, which all serve palatable food.

Entry to Mógānshān is Y65. The easiest way to get there is from Hángzhōu. Take a minibus from Hángzhōu's north bus station to Wūkāng (武康; Y13, 40 minutes), which run every half-hour from 6.20am to 7pm. From Wūkāng you need to hire a taxi (Y35) to reach the top of the mountain.

Buses from Shànghǎi run to Mógānshān in July and August. Three public buses do the Shànghǎi–Wūkāng trip (four hours; Y42); they leave from a small bus station near Bao-shan Rd metro, at 80 Gongxing Rd. Buses depart Shànghǎi at 6.30am, 11.50am and 12.50pm; buses depart Wūkāng at 6.30am, 7.40am and 1pm.

WŪZHÈN 乌镇

☎ 0573

In the northeast corner of Zhèjiāng, the town of Wūzhèn has been around since the late Tang dynasty, but was only recently painstakingly restored and resurrected as a tourist destination. Like Zhōuzhuāng and other places in southern Jiāngsū, Wūzhèn is a water town whose network of waterways and access to the Grand Canal once made it a prosperous place for its trade and production of silk. The ambitious restoration project recreates what Wūzhèn would have been like in the late Qing dynasty. Most residents still live in the old town, going about their daily lives and have (yet) to be chased out by developers.

Sights

Wūzhèn is tiny and it's possible to see everything in a couple hours. Most people come here on a daytrip from Hángzhōu or Shànghǎi. The main street of the old town, Dongda Jie, is a narrow path paved with stone slabs and flanked by wooden buildings. You pay an entrance fee at the **main gate** (Daqiao Lu; adult/child Y60; ☎ 8am–5pm), which covers entry to all of the exhibits. Some of these are workshops, such as the **Gongsheng Grains Workshop** (三白酒坊; Sānbáijiǔ Fāng), an actual distillery churning out a pungent rice wine ripe for the sampling. Next door, the **Blue Prints Workshop** (蓝印花布作坊; Lán Yīnhuàbù Zuōfāng) shows the dyeing and printing process for the traditional blue cloth of the Jiāngnán region.

Further down the street and across a small bridge is **Mao Dun's Former Residence** (茅盾故居; Máo Dùn Gùjū). At the time of research it was being renovated – it should be open by the time this book hits the shelves. Revolutionary writer Mao Dun is a contemporary of Lu Xun and the author of *Spring Silkworms* and *Midnight*. Mao Dun's great-grandfather, a successful merchant, bought the house in 1885 and it's a fairly typical example from the late Qing dynasty. There are photographs, writings and other memorabilia of Mao Dun's life, though not much explanation in English.

At the western end of the old town, around the corner on Changfeng Jie, is an interesting exhibit many visitors miss. The **Huiyuan Pawn House** (汇源当铺; Huiyuán Dāngpù) was once a famous pawnshop that eventually expanded to branches in Shànghǎi. It has been left intact and despite the lack of English captions, the spartan décor gives a Dickensian feel to the place.

One of the best reasons to visit Wūzhèn is for the live performances of local Flower Drum opera (*Huāgǔ xī*) held throughout the day in the village square, and shadow puppet shows (*píyǐngxi*) in the small theatre beside the square. The puppet shows in particular are great fun and well worth watching. There are also martial arts performances on the 'boxing boats' in the canal every half hour from 8.30am to 4.30pm. You can hire a boat at the main gate for Y80 a person to take you for a ride down the canal.

Getting There & Away

From Hángzhōu, buses run from the east bus station to Wūzhèn (Y25, one hour), leaving every hour or so from 6.30am to 6.10pm. From Wūzhèn, minibuses make the run to Hángzhōu for Y14.

If you're coming from Shànghǎi, the easiest (but most expensive) way is to take a tour bus from Shanghai Stadium. The Y148 ticket includes the entrance fee to Wūzhèn, return trip to Shànghǎi and a Chinese-speaking guide. Tour buses leave at 8.45am and 9.45am and the trip takes about two hours each way. A cheaper option is to take a bus from the long-distance bus depot behind the train station for Y28.

NÁN XÚN 南浔

☎ 0572

Nestled on the border with Jiāngsū province, about 125km from Hángzhōu, Nánxún is a water town whose contemporary modest

appearance belies its once glorious past. Established over 1400 years ago, the town came to prominence during the Southern Song dynasty due to its prospering silk industry. By the time the Ming rolled around, it was one of Zhèjiāng's most important commercial centres. The town shares the typical features of other southern water towns – arched bridges, canals, narrow lanes and old houses – but what sets it apart is its intriguing mix of Chinese and European architecture, introduced by affluent silk merchants who once made their homes here. Nánxún today is a quiet place that remains relatively undisturbed by tourism. Plans are currently in the works, however, to restore or remove some of the old buildings along the canal and give the town a controversial face-lift to increase tourist revenue. Hopefully, even with these new developments, the peace and tranquillity of Nánxún will be preserved.

Sights

Nánxún (☎ 301 5021; admission Y60; ☎ 8am–5pm, winter 8am–4.30pm) isn't large and it won't take more than a couple of hours to see everything. The entrance fee includes all sights. On the back of your ticket is a small map to help you find your way around.

Nánxún's most famous structure is the rambling **100 Room Pavilion** (百间楼; Bǎijiān Lóu) in the northeast corner of town. It was built 400 years ago by a wealthy Ming official to supposedly house his servants. It's a bit creaky but in amazingly good shape for being so old.

Nánxún has some attractive gardens; the loveliest is **Little Lotus Villa** (小莲庄; Xiǎolián Zhuāng), once the private garden of a wealthy Qing official. The villa gets its name from its pristine lotus pond surrounded by ancient camphor trees. Within the garden are some elaborately carved stone gates and a small family shrine.

Close by is the **Jiaye Library** (嘉业堂藏书楼; Jiāyètāng Cāngshūlóu), once one of the largest private libraries in southeast China. It was home to over 30,000 books, some dating back to the Tang. Inside is a large woodblock collection and displays of manuscripts. The library is surrounded by a moat – an effective form of fire prevention in the Qing.

The **Zhang Family Compound** (张氏铭旧宅; Zhāngshímíng Jiùzhái) is one of the more interesting old residences in Nánxún. Once

owned by a wealthy silk merchant, it was the largest and most elaborate private residence in southeastern China during the late Qing. The home was constructed with wood, glass, tiles and marble, all imported from France. The buildings are an intriguing combination of European and Chinese architecture surrounded by delicate gardens, fishponds and rockery. Most incongruous is a French-style mansion with red brick walls, wrought iron balconies and louvred shutters. Amazingly there's even a ballroom inside, complete with bandstand. This fondness for Western architecture is also seen in the **Liu Family Compound** (刘氏梯号; Liúshì Tīhào) with its imported stained glass, heavy wooden staircases and red-brick exterior.

It's pleasant after a day of walking to relax at one of the small restaurants facing the canal for a snack or some tea. You'll need to bargain for your meal; don't accept the first price you're told.

Getting There & Away

Nánxún has two bus stations: the Tai'an Lu station (Tà'ān Lù chēzhàn) and another station by the expressway (nánxún qìchēzhàn). Both stations have buses that run to Shànghǎi (Y30, 2½ hours) and Sūzhōu (Y15, one hour) from 5.50am to 5pm. Buses from Shànghǎi leave from the station on Hongjiang Lu from 6am to 7.30pm and from Sūzhōu's south bus station from 7am to 5.50pm.

Buses leave hourly from Hángzhōu's north or east bus station for the town of Húzhōu (湖州; Y25, 1½ hours). From there, you'll need to switch to a Nánxún bus. The 34km trip from Húzhōu to Nánxún costs Y8.

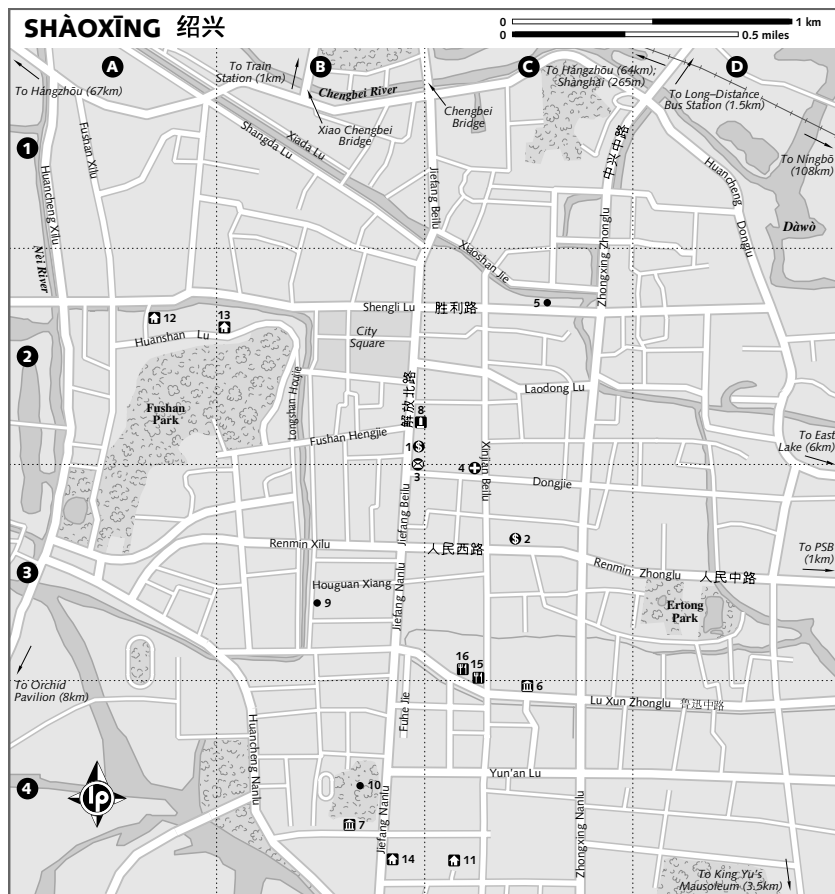
SHÀOXÍNG 绍兴

☎ 0575 / pop 4.3 million

Just 67km southeast of Hángzhōu, Shàoxīng has for years been touted as a charming water town, with winding canals, arched bridges and antiquated residences. Nowadays, the waterways remain but much of Shàoxīng has undergone rampant redevelopment and much of its former romantic image has slipped. However, beneath all the dust and scaffolding, a bit of the old Shàoxīng still remains. There are a few interesting things to see and some excursions out of town that make a stay worthwhile.

History

Shàoxīng has a flourishing administrative and agricultural centre for much of its history. It



was capital of the Yue kingdom from 770 to 211 BC.

Shào xīng was the birthplace of many influential and colourful figures over the centuries, including the mythical 'flood tamer' Yu the Great, the painter and dramatist Xu Wei, the female revolutionary hero Qiu Jin and Lu Xun, the country's first great modern novelist. It's also the home of Shào xīng wine, which most travellers would agree is definitely an acquired taste.

Orientation

Encircled by bodies of water and rivers, and crossed by canals, Shào xīng is a pleasant place to explore on foot. The hill in Fushan Park is a good place for shady walks. A large city

square fills up the corner of Shengli Lu and Jiefang Beilu.

Information

Bank of China (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 201 Renmin Zhonglu; ☎ 8am-8pm) Changes travellers cheques and major currency. Its ATM accepts international credit cards. There's another branch at 472 Jiefang Beilu.

China Telecom (Zhōngguó Diànxìn; per hr ¥2; ☎ 24hr) There's an office with an internet café on Dongjie near Xinjian Beilu.

Post Office (yóujú; 1 Dongjie; ☎ 8am-5pm) Centrally located on the corner of Dongjie and Jiefang Beilu.

Public Security Bureau (PSB; Gōngānjú; ☎ 865 1333 ext 2104) About 2km east of the city centre on Renmin Donglu, near Huiyong Lu.

INFORMATION

Bank of China 中国银行	1	B2
Bank of China 中国银行	2	C3
Post Office 邮局	3	B2
Shaoxing People's Hospital 绍兴人民医院	4	C3
Xinhua Bookshop 新华书店	5	C2

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Lu Xun Memorial Hall 鲁迅纪念馆	(see 6)	
Lu Xun's Former Residence 鲁迅故居	6	C4
Qiu Jin's Former Residence 秋瑾故居	7	B4
Statue of Qiu Jin 秋瑾像	8	B2
Xu Wei's Studio 青藤书屋	9	B3
Yingtian Pagoda 应天塔	10	B4

SLEEPING

Jishan Hotel 稽山宾馆	11	C4
Longshan Hotel 龙山宾馆	12	A2
Shaoxing Hotel 绍兴饭店	13	B2
Xianheng Hotel 咸亨大酒店	14	B4

EATING

A-pó Miànguǎn 阿婆面馆	15	C3
Xianheng Jiǔjiā 应天塔	16	C3

Shào xīng Hotel (Shào xīng Fàndiàn; ☎ 515 5858; fax 515 5565; 9 Huanshan Lu) Can arrange tours and book trips onwards.

Shào xīng People's Hospital (Shào xīng Rénmín Yiyuàn; 61 Dongjie)

www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/zhejiang/shaoxing Provides general background information on Shào xīng.

Xinhua Bookshop (Xinhua Shūdiàn; 115 Shengli Lu; ☎ 9am-9pm) Sells English-language maps of the city.

Sights

LU XUN'S FORMER RESIDENCE 鲁迅故居 Lu Xun (1881-1936), one of China's best-known modern writers and author of such stories as *Diary of a Madman* and *Medicine*, was born in Shào xīng and lived here until he went abroad to study. He later returned to China, teaching at Guǎngzhōu's Zhongshan University in 1927. He was forced to hide out in Shànghǎi's French Concession when the Kuomintang decided his books were too dangerous. His tomb is in Shànghǎi.

There are several sights associated with Lu Xun, grouped together in a cluster of buildings on Lu Xun Zhonglu. A combined ticket to see everything costs ¥120. You can visit **Lu Xun's Former Residence** (Lǔ Xùn Gùjū; 393 Lu Xun Zhonglu; ☎ 8am-5:30pm), where his living quarters are faithfully preserved. At the same site is the **Lu Xun Memorial Hall** (Lǔ Xùn Jìniànguǎn; ☎ 8am-5:30pm). You'll see displays of photographs and the novelist's baby clothes, among other things. Opposite is the one-room school he attended as a young boy.

ANCESTRAL HOMES

The **studio** (Qīngténg Shūwū; admission ¥2; ☎ 8am-4pm) of the controversial Ming painter, poet and dramatist Xu Wei (1521-93) is off Renmin Lu in a small alley. Born in Shào xīng, Xu's artistic talents brought him early fame and later he served as a personal assistant to the governor of the southeastern provinces. When the governor was killed for treason, Xu spiralled into madness. Over a period of years, he attempted suicide nine times, once by trying to split his skull with an axe. Later, in a fit of rage he beat his wife to death and was sent to prison. Skilful manoeuvring on the part of his friends got him free.

In his later years, Xu remained in Shào xīng, living in this study where he spent the remainder of his life painting and writing plays. Some of his dramas are still performed today and his paintings are highly sought after. He's remembered as one of the most innovative artists of the Ming.

The studio, surrounded by a tranquil bamboo garden, is a well-maintained example of 16th-century architecture, with its ivy-covered, whitewashed walls and black-tiled roof. Inside are displays of the artist's paintbrushes, painting and calligraphy.

Another interesting home to visit is **Qiu Jin's Former Residence** (Qiū Jīn Gùjū; 35 Hechang Tang; adult/child ¥3/1.50; ☎ 8am-5:30pm), where the pioneering woman revolutionary Qiu Jin was born. Qiu Jin studied in Japan, and was active in women's rights and the revolutionary movement against the Qing government. She was beheaded in 1907 by Qing authorities at the age of 29. There's a memorial **statue of Qiu Jin** on Jiefang Beilu, near Fushan Hengjie.

YINGTIAN PAGODA 应天塔

This **pagoda** (Yīngtiān Tǎ; admission ¥2), originally part of a Song dynasty temple, stands gracefully on a hill overlooking modern-day Shào xīng. Destroyed during the Taiping Rebellion (1850-64) and later rebuilt, the pagoda offers good views from the top.

KING YU'S MAUSOLEUM 大禹陵

According to legend, in 2205 BC Yu the Great became the first emperor of the Xia dynasty, and earned the title 'tamer of floods' after he conquered the dragons that lived underground and caused floods.

A temple and mausoleum complex to honour the 'great-grandfather of China' was first

constructed in the 6th century and was added to over the centuries that followed. The **mausoleum** (Dà Yǔ Líng; admission Y50; ☎ 7.30am-5.30pm) is about 4km southeast of the city centre and is composed of several parts: the huge 24m-tall Main Hall, the Memorial Hall and the Meridian Gate (Wǔ Mén). A statue of Yu graces the Main Hall.

Bus 2 will get you to King Yu's Mausoleum from the train station area or from Jiefang Beilu (get off at the last stop).

Festivals & Events

The **Orchid Pavilion Calligraphy Festival** is held each year on the third day of the third lunar month at the Orchid Pavilion (opposite). Calligraphy exhibitions are held as well as calligraphy contests.

Sleeping

Shàoxīng can be done as a day trip from Hángzhōu or used as a stay over if you want to spend some time at the outlying sights.

Jishan Hotel (Jīshān Bīnguǎn; Toulaohekou; 投醪河口; ☎ 806 3838; fax 806 7965; s & d Y188-388) This friendly little hotel behind the Xianheng has reasonably priced rooms, though some smell strongly of cigarettes and beds are very hard. Smell first, pay later.

Longshan Hotel (Lóngshān Bīnguǎn; ☎ 533 6888; fax 515 5308; 500 Shengli Xilu; 胜利西路500号; s Y280, d Y220-480, tr Y300) Rooms are cheap in this popular place but somewhat shabby and bathrooms are outdated. Check the room out before handing over your cash.

Shàoxīng Hotel (Shàoxīng Fàndiàn; ☎ 515 5858; fax 515 5565, 9 Huanshan Lu; 环山路9号; d Y660-1280) One of the nicest places to stay in town, this modern hotel has well-equipped comfortable rooms surrounded by gardens. The restaurant has an excellent reputation.

Xianheng Hotel (Xiánhēng Dàjiūdiàn; ☎ 806 8688; fax 805 1028; 680 Jiefang Nanlu; 解放南路680号; s & d Y980) Considered to be the poshest place in Shàoxīng, this shiny hotel at the southern edge of town has impeccable rooms coupled with snooty service.

Eating

Take a walk around Shàoxīng and you won't get very far before being struck by an odour so strong it makes you want to plug your nose and run for the hills. What you're smelling is stinky tofu (臭豆腐; *chòu dòufu*), one of Shàoxīng's best-known treats. Believe it or not, the pungent snack actually tastes better than it smells.

Another speciality is yellow rice wine (绍兴黄酒; *Shàoxīng huángjiǔ*), which has been distilled in Shàoxīng for over 2,000 years (see the boxed text, below).

Near the Lu Xun Memorial is **A-pó Miànguān** (100 Lu Xun Zhonglu; meals Y6-15; ☎ 9am-11pm) with outside seating and good noodle dishes. The signature dish is 'A-Po's noodles with exploding eel'; simply put, it's stir-fried eel with noodles. Across from A-Po's is the very popular **Xiánhēng Jiǔjiā** (44 Lu Xun Lu; meals Y20-30; ☎ 11am-late), which serves traditional Shàoxīng specialities, including Shàoxīng wine, Shàoxīng chicken and stinky tofu.

WARM WINE, HIGH SPIRITS

'Warm a bowl of wine', the dishevelled beggar Kong Yiji pleads in the short story of the same name by Lu Xun, China's celebrated 20th-century writer. Kong Yiji is Lu Xun's most famous literary character, a failed scholar whose only joy comes from the wine he drinks at the local tavern, set in Shàoxīng, Lu Xun's hometown. Kong Yiji's favourite beverage is yellow rice wine (*huáng jiǔ*), a Shàoxīng speciality made from sticky rice, spring water and wheat yeast. The wine is famous for its amber colour and mellow taste, making it a favourite among China's tipplers. It gets its unique taste from a lengthy fermentation process, which includes being aged in an earthen barrel for over five years.

Shàoxīng has been producing yellow wine since around 18 BC. In olden times, a family would bury an elaborately decorated jar of wine at the birth of a daughter and unearth it when the daughter was married. This custom is still practiced in rural counties outside of Shàoxīng.

Traditionally, yellow wine is drunk warm. It's heated in a metal wine pot and half immersed in a bowl of hot water before it's served. The warm wine is thought to be good for the digestion and to build up immunity. The wine also shows up in a variety of Chinese dishes, from chicken to tofu, where its pungent aroma and flavour add quite a punch. Despite its popularity in China, most Westerners find the taste of yellow wine peculiar, likening it to a fine furniture polish.

Getting There & Away

All Hángzhōu-Níngbō trains and buses stop in Shàoxīng. Luxury buses from the long-distance bus station go to Níngbō (Y40, 1½ hours), Hángzhōu (Y22, 45 minutes) and Shànghǎi (Y65 to Y70, three hours)

Getting Around

The bus system in Shàoxīng is fairly straightforward. Bus 1 travels from the train station down Jiefang Beilu and then east to East Lake. Bus 8 travels south down Zhongxing Lu from the long-distance bus station. Taxis are cheap, starting at Y5.

AROUND SHÀOXÍNG

Orchid Pavilion 兰亭

The **Orchid Pavilion** (Lán Tīng; admission Y25; ☎ 8am-5pm) is considered by many Chinese to be one of Shàoxīng's 'must see' spots. The site is where the famous calligrapher Wang Xizhi (AD 321-379) gathered with 41 friends and composed the collection of poetry called the *Orchid Pavilion*. At the pavilion you'll see gardens, Wang's ancestral shrine and stelae with his calligraphy. A calligraphy festival is held yearly in March. The Orchid Pavilion is around 10km southwest of the city and can be reached by bus 3 from Shengli Lu.

ĀNCHĀNG 安昌

☎ 0575

About 40 minutes west of Shàoxīng by bus is the peaceful little water town of **Ānchāng** (admission Y35; ☎ 8am-4.30pm). It sees few visitors, and has yet to be developed into a major tourist attraction. The town has been around since ancient times and was given its present name during the Tang dynasty. Ānchāng has few sites; there's little to do but explore the two main streets along the canal, which are linked by a series of 17 stone bridges. What you'll see is a China that's fast disappearing – the old Ming and Qing style stone houses and shops that line the canal front have seen little restoration and daily life goes on as it has for thousands of years. Townsfolk gather along the canal playing mah jong, cobblers sew cloth shoes and elderly women sit in doorways spinning cotton into yarn.

Some old buildings have opened to the public and are interesting to peruse; the map on the back of your entry ticket has them marked in Chinese. Your best bet is to wander and see what you find. Close to the entrance is a

former **bank** (穗康钱庄, *suikāng qiánzhuāng*), with displays of abacuses and Nationalist-era bank notes in its gloomy, cobwebbed interior. Also interesting and a few minutes' walk from the bank is an old **mansion** (斯干堂, *sīgān táng*) with three large courtyards that have interesting displays of beds, chairs and other Qing-style furnishings.

A real treat is to take a ride in an oilcloth-covered boat down the canal, steered by an elderly boatman who may serenade you with one of the local folksongs. Y10 per person is a reasonable bargaining price.

Bus 118 from Shàoxīng's south bus station will take you on a bumpy roundabout tour of the countryside before dropping you off at Ānchāng's entrance, marked by an arch. The trip costs Y5.

NÍNGBŌ 宁波

☎ 0574 / pop 5.4 million

Although it's some 20km inland on the Yong River, Níngbō rose to prominence during the 7th and 8th centuries as a trading port for tea, ceramics and silk. Ships carrying Zhèjiāng's exports sailed from here to Japan, Korea, the Ryukyu Islands and along the Chinese coast.

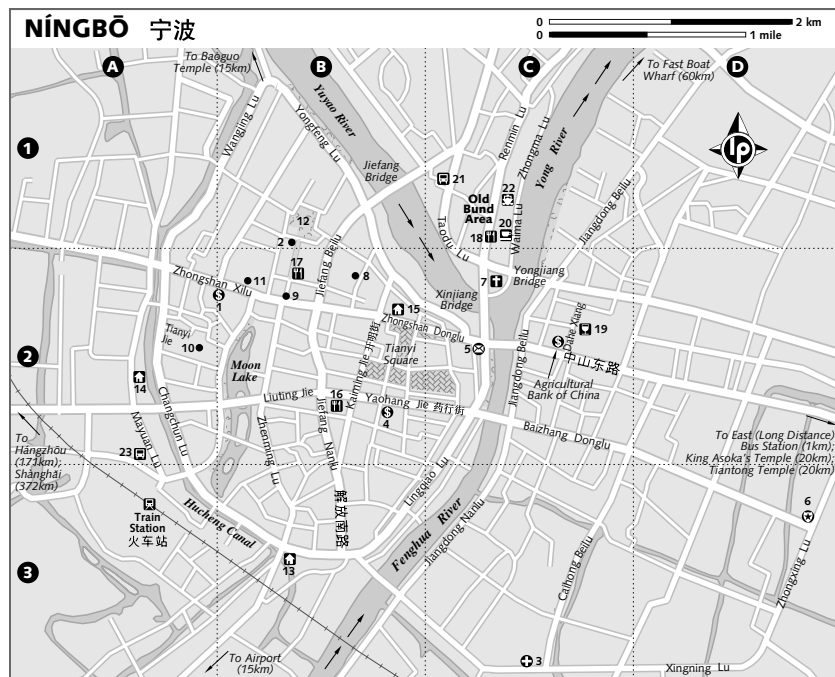
By the 16th century, the Portuguese had established a colony in the area north of the Xinjiang Bridge and established themselves as entrepreneurs in the trade between Japan and China, as the Chinese were forbidden to deal directly with the Japanese. During the 18th century, the East India Company also attempted to establish itself in Níngbō, but it wasn't until 1842, after the First Opium War, that the Treaty of Nanking enabled the British to set up a treaty port and British Consulate.

Soon after, Níngbō's once-flourishing trade gradually declined as Shànghǎi boomed. By that time the Níngbō traders had taken their money to Shànghǎi and formed the basis of its wealthy Chinese business community.

Today Níngbō is a thoroughly modern port city that lacks the frenzy of most major urban centres in China. It's a relaxing place to spend the day before heading to the Buddhist island of Pǔtúoshān (p332), one of Zhèjiāng's premier tourist attractions.

Information

Bank of China (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 139 Yaohang Jie; ☎ 8am-5pm) Changes travellers cheques and major currency. There's another smaller branch on Zhongshan Xilu.



CITS (Zhōngguó Guójí Lǚxíngshè; ☎ 8725 5111; Gongyuan Lu) Behind the Drum Tower on the west side of the pedestrian walkway near Zhongshan Park.

Internet cafés (per 30min around Y2) Look for internet cafés along the pedestrian walkway north of the Drum Tower on Zhongshan Xilu.

Li Huili Hospital (Lǐ Huìlǐ Yīyuàn; ☎ 8739 2290; 57 Xingning Lu) For medical needs try this hospital on the outskirts of town.

Main post office (yóujú; ☎ 7.30am-8pm) Just south of the Xinjiang Bridge (Xinjiāng Qiáo).

Public Security Bureau (PSB; Gōngānjū; ☎ 8706 2505; 658 Zhongxing Lu) Handles all visa matters.

www.chinats.com/ningbo For general information on Ningbō.

Sights

Ningbō's most famous attraction is the **Tianyi Pavilion** (Tiānyì Gē; 10 Tianyi Jie; admission Y20; ☎ 8am-5.30pm), which was built during the Ming dynasty and is believed to be the oldest private library in China. Tianyi Pavilion was founded by Fan Qin, head of the Ministry of War during the Ming period. An avid bibliophile, Fan Qin collected scores of rare woodblocks, manuscripts, imperial rosters

of examination candidates and Chinese classics, carefully storing them in this complex of buildings.

Many of the rare documents have been moved to the Zhejiang Provincial Library in Hāngzhōu, but some are still on display here for visitors. One of the most whimsical exhibits is a display outlining the history of mah jong in English and Chinese.

The library and outlying buildings, with their black-tiled roofs, are typical of southern architecture. Surrounding the library is a lovely secluded bamboo garden with ponds and rocky. You can reach the library by bus 2, 9, 10 or 14.

Moon Lake (Yuè Hú), near Tianyi Pavilion, is an open park with a wide expanse of green grass and water. This was once the oldest part of town, but recent construction and demolition of old buildings has brought it firmly into the 21st century.

On Zhongshan Xilu, two prominent landmarks have withstood the teeth of modernisation. The stately **Drum Tower** (Gǔ Lóu) marks the entrance to a pedestrian street full of restaurants and internet cafés. Close

INFORMATION		Tianyi Pavilion		EATING	
Bank of China 中国银行	1 B2	天一阁	10 A2	Food Street 食品街	16 B2
CITS (Mirage Hotel)		Xianfeng Pagoda		Good Earth Vegetarian	
中国国际旅行社 (凯州大酒店)	2 B1	咸封塔	11 B2	Restaurant 好地楼	17 B2
Li Huili Hospital 李惠利医院	3 C3	Zhongshan Park		Xiāngbàn Yú 香饕渔	18 C1
Main Bank of China		中山公园	12 B1	DRINKING	
中国银行	4 B2			LBB English Bar 英语酒吧	19 C2
Main Post Office 邮电局	5 C2	SLEEPING		Yihe Teahouse 颐和茶馆	20 C1
PSB 公安局	6 D3	Nanyuan Hotel		TRANSPORT	
		南苑饭店	13 B3	North Bus Station 汽车北站	21 C1
		Ningbo Hotel		Passenger Ferry Terminal	
		宁波饭店	14 A2	轮船码头	22 C1
		Ningbo World Hotel		South Bus Station 汽车南站	23 A2
		宁波大酒店	15 B2		
		鼓浪屿			

to the tower is the nearby **Xianfeng Pagoda** (Xiánfēng Tǎ).

The once decrepit **bund** (Lǎowàitān) north of the city, across the Xinjiang Bridge, is currently being transformed into a waterfront park. There are few old buildings remaining; most of what you see is quite recent. Close to the passenger ferry terminal is the old Portuguese **Catholic Church** (Tiānhǔ Jiàotáng; 40 Zhongma Lu; admission free), worth a visit if you're in the area. First built in 1628, it was destroyed and rebuilt in 1872. It's an active church (Mass is held daily at 6am), with a Mediterranean-style whitewashed interior displaying prints of the 14 Stations of the Cross, colourful icons and a vaulted ceiling.

Sleeping

You won't have much luck finding budget accommodation in Ningbō but most hotels offer 30% to 50% discounts. All hotels, unless specified, offer broadband internet.

Ningbo Hotel (Níngbō Fàndiàn; ☎ 8709 7888; 65 Mayuan Lu; 马园路65号; s Y338-358, d Y498-618) This long-established place offers some of the best value in the city, with recently renovated rooms and new bathrooms. It's a quick walk from the south bus station, train station and Tianyi Pavilion.

Ningbo World Hotel (Níngbō Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 2788 0088; fax 2788 0788; 145 Zhongshan Donglu; 中山东路145号; d Y768-950) Conveniently located in the centre of town, this hotel has comfortable, good-sized rooms and friendly staff. Sizeable discounts are given on weekdays.

Nanyuan Hotel (Nányuàn Fàndiàn; ☎ 8709 5678; fax 8709 7788; 2 Lingqiao Lu; 灵桥路2号; d Y1020-1780) This elegant five-star establishment offers a wide variety of rooms and is a top choice for business travellers. It's a few minutes walk from here to the train station.

Eating

Seafood is the speciality in Ningbō; check out **'food street'** between Kaiming Jie and Jiefang Lu for the best places to eat.

Tianyi Sq (Tiānyì Guǎngchǎng), between Zhongshan Donglu and Yaohang Jie, has a collection of Chinese and Western fast-food restaurants that serve inexpensive meals. For more formal dining, the old bund area has some good places to eat, including the stylish **Xiāngbàn Yú** (27 Yangshan Lu; ☎ 8735 9677; mains from Y40; ☎ 11.30am-10pm), which is known for its excellent crab and turtle dishes.

Vegetarians should head to the **Good Earth Vegetarian Restaurant** (Hǎodìyuán; ☎ 8725 5495; 8 Gongyuan Lu; mains from Y8; ☎ 10.30am-9pm) on the pedestrian street north of the Drum Tower. The red-cooked beancurd with fresh bamboo shoots (红烧豆腐; *hóngshāo dòufu*) is delicious.

Drinking

TEAHOUSES

Yihe Teahouse (Yíhé Cháguǎn; ☎ 8766 5797; 17 Yangshan Lu; ☎ 10am-late) Sumptuously decorated with Qing period furnishings, this teahouse offers a variety of teas starting from Y58 per person. With tea comes a free dinner buffet.

BARS

LBB English Bar (14-1 Dahe Xiang; beer Y25; ☎ 6pm-late) This long-standing place remains popular with locals and foreign teachers. To get here, head down the lane next to the Agricultural Bank of China on Zhongshan Lu.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Ningbō's Lishè airport has daily flights to Hong Kong (Y1134) and is well-connected to other major Chinese cities. Most hotels will book air tickets for you.

BOAT

There are frequent fast boats to Pǔtuóshān. The trip takes 2½ hours, including a 1½-hour, bone-rattling bus ride from the Ningbō passenger ferry terminal to a fast-boat wharf outside the city. Tickets are Y60, including the bus ride. Buses to the wharf leave from the terminal every half-hour from 5.40am to 3.15pm. The ferries to Shànghǎi are no longer running.

BUS

Long-distance buses to Wēnzhōu (Y119, three hours), Sūzhōu (Y105, 2½ hours) and Tiāntái Shān (Y30, two hours) leave from the orderly long-distance bus station (kèyùn zhōngxīn) on the eastern outskirts of town. From the south bus station (nánzhàn), buses leave frequently for Shànghǎi (Y98, four hours), Hángzhōu (Y42, two hours) and Shàoxīng (Y40, 1½ hours).

TRAIN

Frequent trains run to Hángzhōu (Y44, two hours), Shànghǎi (Y26 to Y84, 3½ hours), Nánjīng (Y84, four hours), Héféi (Y130, 13 hours) and Guǎngzhōu (Y353, 26 hours). Hotels can book tickets for a Y20 surcharge.

Getting Around

Ningbō's airport is a 20-minute drive from town. Free airport shuttle buses leave from most hotels. A taxi to/from the airport should cost around Y50. Taxis around town start at Y8.

AROUND NINGBŌ**Baoguo Temple 保国寺**

Set in the Lishan Hills 15km northwest of Ningbō is **Baoguo Temple** (Bǎoguó Sì; admission Y12; ☎ 8am-4.30pm), one of the oldest wooden buildings south of the Yangzi. Built in 1013, the temple was originally constructed without the use of a single nail, instead relying on a complex system of interlocking beams and brackets. The temple was restored during the Qing (with nails) but it's still possible to see many of the early architectural details. To get here from Ningbō, take bus 332 from the north bus station in the bund area.

King Asoka's Temple 阿育王寺

At the foot of Pushan Mountain, 20km east of Ningbō, is this Chan (Zen) temple (Āyùwáng Sì; admission Y5; ☎ 7am-4pm) famous for its miniature stupa (15cm) thought to have once belonged

to King Asoka of India, the first major patron of Buddhism. It's believed that the stupa once held the cranium bone of the Buddha, which was supposedly stolen by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution and never recovered. The easiest way to get to the temple is to hop on one of the frequent minibuses from the east bus station.

Tiantong Temple 天童寺

Situated in the Taibai Mountains close to King Asoka's Temple, this Chan temple (Tiāntóng Sì; admission Y5; ☎ 6.30am-5.30pm) is one of the largest and most important in China. Founded in AD 300, it's an important pilgrimage site for Chan followers and has attracted some famous visitors over the years, including Dogen (1200-53) who founded the Soto Zen sect in Japan. Bus 332 from Ningbō's east bus station runs to the temple.

PǔTUÓSHĀN 普陀山

☎ 0580

Just south of Shànghǎi and part of the Zhōushān Archipelago, the island of Pǔtuóshān is one of four sacred Buddhist mountains in China. In many ways, it's the China we all dream about – mountain peaks, temples, pagodas, arched bridges, fishing boats, artisans and monks. With its clean beaches and fresh air, it's the perfect island getaway. The best time to visit is midweek, as the island gets very crowded on the weekends.

Orientation

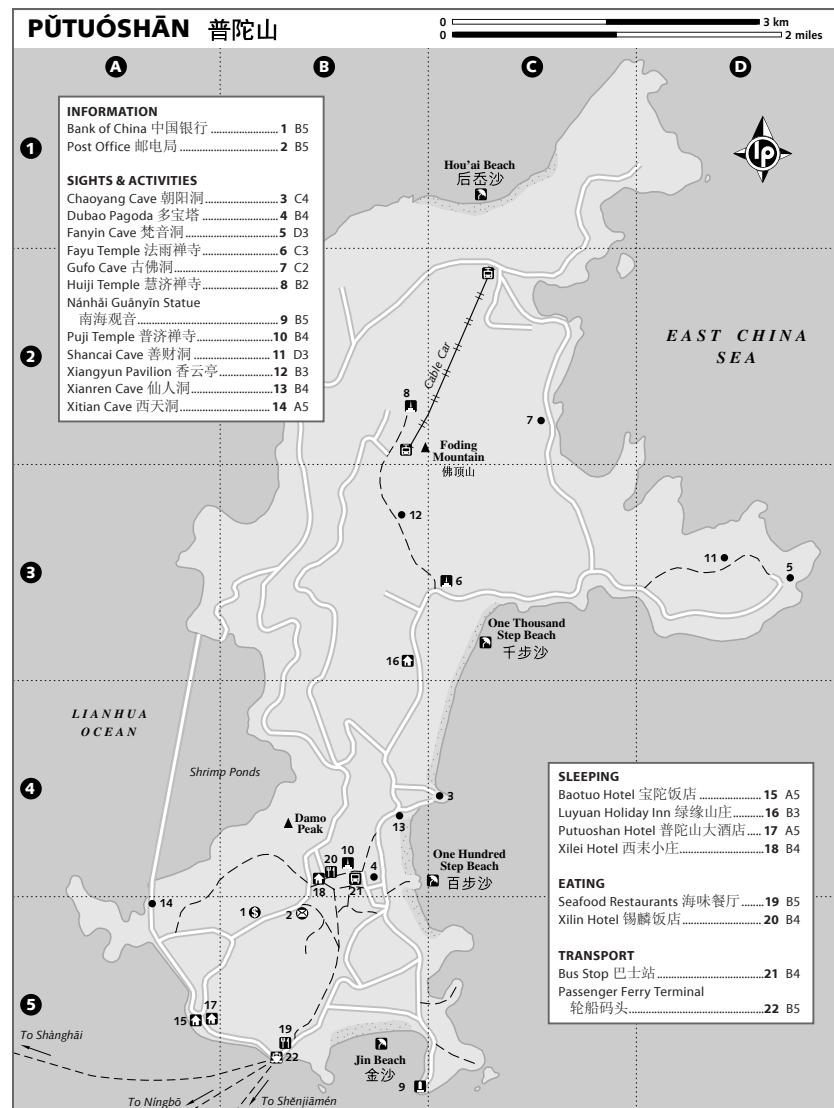
You pay a steep Y110 entrance fee to the island upon arrival, which does not include entry fees to other sights. The central part of town is about 1km north of the ferry terminal and is where most of the hotels are located, as well as Puji Temple. Another way to reach the central square is to take the roads leading west from the ferry terminal; either way takes about 20 minutes. Alternatively, hop on a minibus at the ferry terminal, which will whisk you off to Puji Temple for Y5.

Information

The post office (yóujú) is southwest of Puji Temple and a **Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; ☎ 8-11am & 1-4.30pm) further west down the road.

Sights

Pǔtuóshān's temples are shrines for Guanyin, the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy, and you will



see her image everywhere. A striking landmark is the **Nánhǎi Guānyīn** (admission Y6), a 33m-high golden statue of Guanyin overlooking the sea at the southernmost tip of the island. It's the first thing you'll see as you approach the island by boat.

Puji Temple (Pǔjì Chánsì; admission free; ☎ 5.30am-6pm) stands in the main square of the village

and has been around from at least the 17th century. Buses leave from the west side of the temple to various points around the island.

The two large beaches, **One Hundred Step Beach** (Bǎibùshā) and **One Thousand Step Beach** (Qiānbùshā) on the east of the island are attractive and largely unspoilt, although you have to pay for access (Y15).

Fanyin Cave (Fānyīn Dòng; admission Y5; ☎ 5.30am-6pm) on the far eastern tip of the island has a temple dedicated to Guanyin perched between two cliffs with a seagull's view of the crashing waves below. The sound of the roaring waves in **Chaoyang Cave** (Cháoyáng Dòng; admission Y12), which overlooks the sea, is said to imitate the chanting of the Buddha. Other natural wonders include the **Shancai Cave** (Shāncǎi Dòng; admission Y5), **Gufo Cave** (Gúfó Dòng; admission Y5), **Xianren Cave** (Xiānrén Dòng; admission Y5) and **Xitian Cave** (Xitiān Dòng; admission Y5).

The highest point of the island is **Foding Mountain** (Fóding Shān; admission Y5), which is also the site of the **Huiji Temple** (Huiji Chānsì; admission Y5; ☎ 5.30am-6.30pm). A cable car goes up the north side of the mountain (Y40), and stone steps lead down to sea level and **Fayu Temple** (Fáyú Chānsì; admission Y5; ☎ 5.30am-6pm), a peaceful place surrounded by huge camphor trees. The nearby **Xiangyun Pavilion** (Xiāngyún Tíng) is a nice place to relax if you've been walking for a while.

Other sights on the island include the five-storey **Duobao Pagoda** (Duóbào Tǎ; admission Y15) near Puji Temple, which was built in 1334.

Sleeping

It's difficult to provide reliable details on Pǔtuóshān's accommodation as prices fluctuate with demand and season. Be prepared to bargain for a room, as there are no 'fixed' rates. As you get off the boat, you'll be greeted by hotel touts who can fix you up with a place to stay.

Luyuan Holiday Inn (Lúyuán Shānzhuāng; ☎ 669 0588; fax 609 2537; 61 Fayu Lu; 法雨路61号; d Y458-658) This lovely hotel faces the sea and offers spacious, comfortable rooms; some have balconies with ocean views.

Baotuo Hotel (Bāotúo Fāndiàn; 118 Meicen Lu; 梅岑路118号; ☎ 609 2090; fax 609 1148; s/d Y500/680) If you're looking for a clean, quiet place away from the tourist crowds, try this budget hotel on the west side of the island. Rooms can be discounted to Y200 on weekdays.

Putuoshan Hotel (Pǔtuóshān Dǎjiūdiàn; ☎ 609 2828; fax 609 1818; 93 Meicen Lu; 梅岑路93号; d Y450-820) On the road leading west from the ferry terminal, this hotel provides four-star accommodation, with amenities and service to match.

Xilei Hotel (Xīlěi Xiāozhuāng; ☎ 609 1505; fax 609 2109; 1 Xianghua Jie; 香花街1号; d Y430-1280) Near 100 Step Beach, this tourist favourite offers

a wide choice of rooms in varying condition. You'll need to book ahead as this place is often full.

Eating

Pǔtuóshān isn't known for its food; what you get is generally brought in from the mainland and expensive. Seafood is the staple here, but be prepared to bargain before committing yourself. Private seafood restaurants line the road to the ferry terminal, where you choose your meal from a tub outside. Some of the best places to eat in are in the temples, where vegetarian meals are usually served at lunch and sometimes at breakfast and dinner for Y2 to Y10. Other options include the **Xilin Hotel** (Xīlín Fāndiàn; ☎ 609 1303; 2 Xianghua Jie; mains Y20-60; ☎ 7am-9.30pm), which offers decent meals, though more expensive than what you'd pay outside.

Getting There & Away

Pǔtuóshān is accessible by boat from either Níngbō or Shànghǎi, but Níngbō is closer and offers more frequent services.

From Níngbō, the simplest way to Pǔtuóshān is via the fast ferry, with frequent departures from Níngbō's passenger ferry terminal (*lúnchuán mǎtòu*). The trip takes about 2½ hours, which also includes the bus ride from the Níngbō passenger ferry terminal to the fast boat wharf outside Níngbō. Tickets are Y60. From Pǔtuóshān to Níngbō boats leave every half-hour from 7am to 4.40pm from the ferry terminal.

A daily night boat (two on Sunday) leaves Pǔtuóshān at 4.40pm for the 12-hour voyage to Shànghǎi. Tickets cost Y84 to around Y390; it's easy to upgrade once you're on board. A fast boat goes from Pǔtuóshān to Lúcháo, where passengers are then bussed to Shìliùpù Wharf on the bund. About three hours are spent on the boat and one to two hours on the bus. Tickets are Y195 and Y225. Keep in mind that this can be a rough trip for those prone to seasickness. See p274 for information on how to reach Pǔtuóshān from Shànghǎi.

Getting Around

Walking around Pǔtuóshān is the most relaxing option if you have time. If not, minibuses zip from the ferry terminal to Puji Temple (Y5), where you can transfer to buses going to other sights.

TIĀNTÁI SHĀN 天台山

☎ 0576

Noted for its many Buddhist monasteries, some dating back to the 6th century, **Tiāntái Shān** (Heavenly Terrace Mountain) is the birthplace of the Tiāntái Buddhist sect, which is heavily influenced by Taoism.

From Tiāntái town it's a 3.5km hike to colourful **Guoqing Monastery** (国清寺; Guóqīng Sì; admission Y15; ☎ 7.30am-4pm) at the foot of the mountain. A road leads 25km from the monastery to **Huading Peak** (华顶峰; Huàdǐng Fēng; admission Y25; ☎ 8am-4pm). From here continue by foot for 1km or so to **Baijing Temple** (拜经台寺; Bǎijīngtái Sì) on the mountain's summit.

Another sight on the mountain is **Shiliang Waterfall** (石梁飞瀑; Shìliáng Fēipù; admission Y60; ☎ 8am-4pm). From the waterfall it's a good 5km to 6km walk along a series of small paths to Huading Peak.

Public transport up to the peak and waterfall is sporadic, though you may be able to jump on a motorcycle or hook up with a tour bus. Expect to pay about Y10 to Y20.

There's a **CITS** (中国国际旅行社; Zhōngguó Guójí Lúxíngshè; ☎ 398 8899) in Tiāntái town at Tiāntái Bīnguǎn that can help arrange tours.

Buses link the mountain with Hángzhōu (Y50, three hours), Shàoxīng (Y27, two hours), Níngbō (Y45, 1½ hours) and Wēnzhōu (Y70, 2½ hours).

WÈNZHŌU 温州

☎ 0577 / pop 7.4 million

Wēnzhōu, a thriving seaport on Zhèjiāng's east coast, is a pivotal player in China's wheeling and dealing free market economy. Strong business ties to Europe and North America have given the city a prosperous air (and a large number of shoe factories). Most travellers find Wēnzhōu rather dull, although there are some scenic places to visit outside the city.

Information

Bank of China (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 113 Chan Jie; ☎ 8-11.30am & 1.15-4.45pm) Changes travellers cheques and major currency. Its ATM accepts international credit cards. There's another branch on Lucheng Lu.

Post Office (yóujú; Xīnhe Jie; ☎ 8am-5.30pm) Conveniently located in the city centre.

Public Security Bureau (PSB; Gōngānjú; ☎ 8821 0851) At the end of a small lane called Xigong Jie, north of Guangchang Lu.

Shengyi Internet Bar (Shèngyì Wǎngbā; 201 Renmin Zhonglu; per hr Y4)

Sights

The main scenic site is **Jiangxin Island** (江心岛; Jiāngxīn Dǎo; admission adult/child Y20/15; ☎ 8am-11pm) in the middle of the **Ou River** (Ou Jiāng). The island park is dotted with pagodas, a lake and footbridges. It's easily reached by ferry, included in the admission, from Jiangxin Pier (Jiāngxīn Mǎtòu) on Wangjiang Donglu.

Maguo Temple (Mǎguó Sì; admission Y3) on Songtai Hill next to Renmin Xilu, is a peaceful temple that dates back to the Tang dynasty. It makes an interesting diversion from the concrete and noise of the city.

Sleeping

Wēnzhōu is primarily a business centre and has predominantly midrange hotels, with few budget options. Most hotels have broadband internet.

Wenzhou Hotel (Wēnzhōu Fāndiàn; ☎ 8825 2525; fax 8825 1100; Renmin Zhonglu; 人民中路; s/d Y320/450) Situated on a small side street off Renmin Zhonglu, this unassuming hotel has clean, sizeable rooms with hard-as-board beds. If you need a spine realignment, stay here.

Jinwangjiao Seaview Hotel (Jīnwàngjiāo Hǎigāng Dǎjiūdiàn; ☎ 8803 8888; fax 8819 7008; Wangjiang Lu; 望江路; Y488, d Y498-568) This hotel, with pleasant, airy rooms facing the river, is a good option for those who want to avoid the noise and crowds of the city centre.

Wenzhou International Hotel (Wēnzhōu Guójí Dǎjiūdiàn; ☎ 8825 1111 ext 886; fax 8825 8888; 1 Renmin Donglu; 人民东路1号; www.wzihotel.com; s/d Y530/780) This 26-story hotel is the classiest place in town, with discerningly furnished rooms and friendly English-speaking staff. Rooms are often discounted up to 30%.

Eating

Not surprisingly for a port, Wēnzhōu is known for its seafood, and there are numerous restaurants near the west bus station and the river. For traditional Wēnzhōu specialties such as fish noodles (鱼面, *yú miàn*) and fish cakes (鱼饼, *yú bǐng*), head to the 100 year-old **Wēnzhōu Míngdiàn** (195 Jiefang Jie; noodles Y8; ☎ 7am-late). Another good place to look for food is on Wuma Jie, a busy pedestrian street in the middle of town.

For reasonable Western food try **Cafe de Champs-Elysées** (Xiāngxiè Lìshè Xī Cāntīng; cnr Dayiqiao & Jiefang Jie; mains Y20-60, set meals Y38-48; ☎ 10.30am-9.30pm) with set meals and coffee. There's an extensive English menu.



INFORMATION		SLEEPING		Wēnzhōu Mingdiàn 温州名店..... 11 C2	
Bank of China 中国银行.....	1 C2	Jinwangjiao Seaview Hotel.....	7 B1		
Bank of China 中国银行.....	2 B2	金旺角海港大酒店.....	7 B1		
Post Office 邮电局.....	3 B2	Wenzhou Hotel 温州饭店.....	8 C2		
PSB 公安局.....	4 B2	Wenzhou International Hotel.....	9 C2		
Shengyi Internet Bar 盛艺网吧.....	5 C2	温州国际大酒店.....	9 C2		
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		EATING			
Maguo Temple 妈果寺.....	6 B2	Cafe de Champs-Elysées.....	10 C2		
		香榭丽舍餐厅.....	10 C2		
		TRANSPORT			
		CAAC 中国民航.....	12 D3		
		Jiangxin Ferry Terminal.....	13 B1		
		江心码头.....	13 B1		
		Train Ticket Booking Office.....	14 B2		
		火车预售票处.....	14 B2		
		West Bus Station.....	15 B2		
		汽车西站.....	15 B2		

Getting There & Away

AIR

Wēnzhōu's airport has good connections to other Chinese cities. Keep in mind that flights are often delayed or cancelled because of heavy fog. **CAAC** (Zhōngguó Mínháng; ☎ 8833 3197) is in the southeast section of town.

BUS

Wēnzhōu has several bus stations: the west bus station, the Xincheng bus station and the south bus station near the train station. Buses to Fúzhōu (Y227, 10 hours) leave from the south bus station. For long-haul destinations, you're better off taking the train. Frequent buses to Níngbō (Y116, 3½ hours)

and Hángzhōu (Y140, six hours) leave from the Xincheng bus station.

TRAIN

The train line from Wēnzhōu connects the city to Hángzhōu (Y112, eight hours), Shànghǎi (Y94, 9½ hours) and Běijīng (Y405, 30 hours). The train station is south of the city. Take bus 5 or 20 from Renmin Lu. Alternatively, a taxi to the train station will cost around Y20.

There's a **train ticket booking office** near the west bus station.

Getting Around

Wēnzhōu airport is 27km east of the city and taxis charge between Y100 and Y120 for the

trip. A bus goes from the CAAC for Y10. Taxis around the city centre start at Y10.

AROUND WĒNZHŌU

Jingning County 景宁县

In southern Zhèjiāng, close to the border of Fújiàn province, Jingning County (Jingning Xiàn) is a mountainous, undeveloped region full of rushing rivers and old villages. It's home to the She ethnic group and is the only autonomous national minority district in east China; the She make up about 10% of the Han-dominated population. Despite the large numbers of Chinese tour groups that descend on the area during holidays, the scenery and unspoiled countryside still make it an ideal place to visit.

Hèxī (鹤溪), in Jingning County, isn't much to get excited about. Get yourself on a minibus (Y3) and head out of town to Dàjūn, 13km away along the river. Here you'll be greeted by elderly women peddling beautiful embroidery;

they may claim it's handmade but don't be fooled (look for a factory tag on the back) and bargain hard.

From Dàjūn you can float back down the river (Xiǎo Xī) on bamboo rafts to the bridge near Hèxī. The trip takes two hours and costs a steep, but negotiable, Y300 per raft. Better yet, take a small boat to the other side of the river and hike around the hills. Chinese maps of the region are available at the Hèxī bus station.

It's possible to stay in Hèxī, though accommodation is basic. One of the better places that deals with foreigners is **Jingning Bingguǎn** (景宁宾馆; ☎ 581 0148; 85 Renmin Zhonglu; 人民中路85号; d Y238), which has tolerable rooms with 30% discounts.

To get to Hèxī, take a train from Wēnzhōu (Y34, two hours) or Hángzhōu (Y71, six hours) to the town of Lishuǐ. Then take bus 3 from the train station to Lishuǐ's old bus station (*lǎo chēzhàn*), where you can catch one of the frequent minibuses to Hèxī (Y20, 2½ hours).

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