



Zhèjiāng

POP 55 MILLION

Includes ➔

Hángzhōu	265
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Green Tea Restaurant (p271)
- ➔ Xiánhēng Jiǔdiàn (p289)
- ➔ Zǎozhìshù (p287)
- ➔ Gāngyǎgǒu (p288)
- ➔ Nan Fang Mi Zong (p273)

Best Places to Sleep

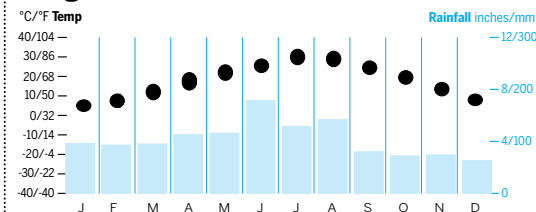
- ➔ Le Passage Mohkan Shan (p276)
- ➔ Four Seasons Hotel Hángzhōu (p271)
- ➔ Hofang International Youth Hostel (p271)
- ➔ Lǔxún Native Place (p289)

Why Go?

It's Hángzhōu, the handsome capital city, that lands Zhèjiāng (浙江) on many a traveller's itinerary. Home to picture-perfect landscapes of classical Chinese beauty (and just a short train ride from Shànghǎi), Hángzhōu is the obvious highlight. Yet the province offers so much more. There are water towns with spiderweb networks of canals and restored Ming and Qing dynasty merchants' homes (Wūzhèn and Nánxún), also in easy striking distance. Among the thousands of islands dotting a ragged and fragmented shoreline is the island of Pǔtuóshān, one of China's four most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites. More intrepid travellers can head west, where ancient villages retain their traditional architecture and bucolic charms. Meanwhile travellers looking for the opposite of intrepid can hole up in one of the stylish resorts nestled among the hillside bamboo groves and tea fields of naturally cool Mògànshān.

When to Go

Hángzhōu



Late Mar–early May Spring sees low humidity and vegetation turning a brilliant green.

Aug & Sep Flee the simmering lowland heat to the cooler heights of Mògànshān.

Late Sep–mid-Nov Steal a march on winter and evade the sapping summer in Hángzhōu.



Zhèjiāng Highlights

1 Hángzhōu (p265) Cycling around scenic West Lake, a reflecting pool for willow trees and traditional pavilions.

2 Pǔtuóshān (p284) Basking in the glow of the goddess of mercy on a sacred island.

3 Zhūgě (p281) Exploring the cobblestone alleys of an ancient village designed for maximum feng shui.

4 Mògǎnshān (p276) Trading urban landscapes for the lush forested ones of a 19th-century hill station.

5 Nánxún (p279) Strolling alongside the waterways of

Zhèjiāng's most charming canal town.

6 Tàishùn (p280) Riding through the countryside to discover China's best collection of antique covered bridges.

7 Sípíng (p283) Getting into the rhythms of village life with a homestay.