



Day Trips from Shànghǎi

Hángzhōu p179

Hángzhōu's gorgeous and placid West Lake sits comfortably among China's top sights.

Sūzhōu p187

China's best-known water town, Sūzhōu is a rewarding bundle of classical gardens, canals, bridges, silk, temples and fab museums.

Tónglǐ p193

One of Jiāngsū's best-looking water towns, with a racy museum dedicated to China's erotic culture.

Zhūjiājiao p194

Quaint canalside town within Shànghǎi municipality, dotted with temples, ancient bridges and pinched lanes.

Zhōuzhuāng p195

Lovely traditional architecture, charming back alleys and bridges make this small Jiāngsū town an eye-catching diversion.

Shěshān p197

Divine views and an imposing hilltop Catholic church, accessible on the metro from Shànghǎi city centre.

Hángzhōu

Explore

The dreamy West Lake panoramas and fabulously green and hilly environs of Hángzhōu (杭州), the former Southern Song dynasty capital, have been eulogised by poets and applauded by emperors. Religiously cleansed by armies of street sweepers and litter collectors, Hángzhōu's scenic vistas draw you into a classical Chinese vignette of willow-lined banks, ancient pagodas, mist-covered hills, wooden boats, smoky temples, flaming sunsets and shimmering evening waters.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** West Lake (p183)
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Green Tea Restaurant (p184)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Maya Bar (p185)

Top Tip

Hop aboard Hángzhōu's excellent public bicycle-hire network to cycle around West Lake and beyond. See p184 for more info. For more info on the town, click on www.more-hangzhou.com and www.gotohz.com.

Getting There & Away

Bus Frequent buses (¥68, two hours, regularly from 6.40am to 7.20pm) run from Shànghǎi South Long-Distance Bus Station to Hángzhōu's main bus station (客运中心站; *kèyùn zhōngxīn zhàn*) at Jiǔbǎo, north bus station and south bus station. Hángzhōu's main bus station is linked to the centre of town by metro line 1 (¥5). Buses (¥68) also run to Hángzhōu from Shànghǎi Long-Distance Bus Station, north of Shànghǎi Railway Station. Hourly buses (¥85, two hours) also run to Hángzhōu from Hóngqiáo International Airport long-distance bus station and six buses daily (¥100) leave from Pǔdōng International Airport.

Train The best way to go. Very regular G-class trains (1st/2nd class ¥124/78, one hour, 6.38am to 9.31pm) to Hángzhōu depart from Shànghǎi Hóngqiáo Railway Station in Shànghǎi's west. The last G-class train back to Shànghǎi Hóngqiáo Railway Station is at 8.48pm. There are also four G-class trains (1st/2nd-class ¥148/93, 1½

hours) daily to Hángzhōu from Shànghǎi Railway Station and frequent slower trains (¥29; 2½ hours) from Shànghǎi South Railway Station to Hángzhōu.

Getting Around

Metro Hángzhōu's new metro line 1 (tickets ¥2 to ¥7; line 1 first/last train 6.06am/11.32pm) runs from the southeast of town, through the main train station, the east side of West Lake and on to the east train station, Jiǔbǎo bus station and the northeast of town.

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area code** 0571
- ➔ **Location** 170km from Shànghǎi
- ➔ **Tourist Office** (杭州旅游咨询服务中心; Hángzhōu Lǚyóu Zīxún Fúwù Zhōngxīn; 0571 8797 8123; Léifēng Pagoda, Nanshan Lu; ☎8am-5pm)



SIGHTS

LÍNGYÍN TEMPLE

BUDDHIST

(灵隐寺; Lǐngyín Sì; Lingyin Lu; 灵隐路; grounds ¥35, grounds & temple ¥65; ☎7am-5pm) Hángzhōu's most famous Buddhist temple, Lǐngyín Temple was built in AD 326, but has been destroyed and restored no fewer than 16 times. During the Five Dynasties (AD 907-960) about 3000 monks lived here. The Hall of the Four Heavenly Kings is astonishing, with its four vast guardians and an ornate cabinet housing Milefo (the future Buddha). The **Great Hall** contains a magnificent 20m-high statue of Siddhartha Gautama (Sakyamuni), sculpted from 24 blocks of camphor wood in 1956 and based on a Tang-dynasty original.

Behind the giant statue is a startling montage of Guanyin surrounded by 150 small figures, including multiple *luòhàn* (arhat), in a variety of poses. The earlier hall collapsed in 1949, crushing the Buddhist statues within, so it was rebuilt and the statue conceived. The Hall of the Medicine Buddha is beyond.

The walk up to the temple skirts the flanks of Fēilái Peak (*Fēilái Fēng*; Peak Flying from Afar), magically transported here from India according to legend. The Buddhist carvings (all 470 of them) lining the riverbanks and hillsides and tucked away