



# Zhèjiāng

POPULATION: 47 MILLION

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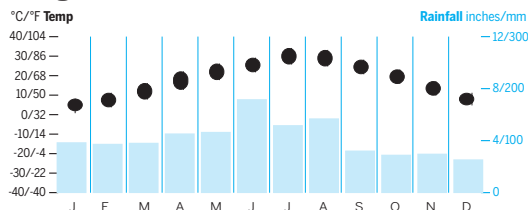
## Why Go?

Zhèjiāng's prized drawcard is its good-looking and much-visited capital, Hángzhōu. But while Hángzhōu – a quick trip down from Shànghǎi – is in a league of its own, Zhèjiāng's other sights demonstrate the sheer variety of the small and wealthy coastal province. With arched bridges and charming canal scenes, the small water towns of Wūzhèn and Nánxún typify the lushly watered northern Zhèjiāng (浙江) with its sparkling web of rivers and canals. The Buddhist island of Pǔtuóshān is the best-known of the thousands of islands dotting a ragged and fragmented shoreline.

Southern Zhèjiāng is, however, a region of wild beauty, with jagged mountain peaks and rocky, unspoiled valleys. The charming villages of Yántóucūn, Fúróngcūn, Cāngpōcūn and other settlements along the stunning Nánxījiāng form a great introduction. Zhèjiāng's rural aspect furthermore comes to the fore in the less-visited ancient villages of Guòdòng and Yúyuán outside Wūyì.

## When to Go

### Hángzhōu



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

**Late September–mid-November** Steal a march on winter and escape the sapping summer.



## Zhèjiāng Highlights

- 1** Grab a bike and make a leisurely circuit of Hángzhōu's splendid **West Lake** (p235)
- 2** Escape to the small village charms and pastoral allure of **Guōdòng** (p252)
- 3** Take a boat to **Pǔtuóshān** (p253) to explore its Buddhist mysteries
- 4** Village-hop through the sparkling **Nánxījiāng** (p258) valley outside Wènzhōu
- 5** Discover Zhèjiāng's picturesque canal town culture at **Wūzhèn** (p246)

## History

By the 7th and 8th centuries Hángzhōu, Níngbō and Shàoxīng had emerged as three of China's most important trading centres and ports. Fertile Zhèjiāng was part of the great southern granary from which food was shipped to the depleted areas of the north via the Grand Canal (Dà Yùnhé), which commences here. Growth accelerated when the Song dynasty moved court to Hángzhōu in the 12th century after invasion from the north. Due to intense cultivation, northern Zhèjiāng has lost most of its natural vegetation and is now a flat, featureless plain.

## Climate

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

## Language

Zhèjiāng residents speak a variation of the Wu dialect, also spoken in Shànghǎi and Jiāngsū. As the dialect changes from city to city, Mandarin is also widely used.

### **i** Getting There & Away

Zhèjiāng is very well connected to the rest of the country by plane, train and bus. The provincial capital Hángzhōu is effortlessly reached by train or bus from Shànghǎi, and serves as a useful first stop in Zhèjiāng. Hángzhōu, Pútuóshān and Wènzhōu are all served by nearby airports.

### **i** Getting Around

The province is quite small and getting around is straightforward. Travelling by train is fast and efficient but buses (and boats) will be needed for some destinations; flying to the larger cities is also possible.

## PRICE INDICATORS

The following price indicators are used in this chapter:

### Sleeping

\$	less than Y200
\$\$	Y200 to Y500
\$\$\$	more than Y500

### Eating

\$	less than Y40
\$\$	Y40 to Y100
\$\$\$	more than Y100

## Hángzhōu

杭州

☑0571 / POP 6.16 MILLION

One of China's most revered tourist drawcards, Hángzhōu's dreamy West Lake panoramas and fabulously green and hilly environs can easily lull you into long sojourns. Eulogised by poets and applauded by emperors, the lake has intoxicated the Chinese imagination for aeons. Religiously cleaned by armies of street sweepers and litter collectors, its scenic vistas draw you into a classical Chinese watercolour of willow-lined banks, ancient pagodas, mist-covered hills and the occasional *shikùmén* building and old *lilòng* alleyway. Despite vast tourist cohorts, West Lake is a delight to explore, either on foot or by bike. You'll need about three days to fully savour the picturesque Jiāngnán ('south of the Yangzi River') ambience, but the inclination is to take root – like one of the lakeside's lilting willows – and stay put.

## History

Hángzhōu's history dates to the start of the Qin dynasty (221 BC). Marco Polo passed through in the 13th century, calling Hángzhōu Kinsai and noting in astonishment that Hángzhōu had a circumference of 100 miles while its waters were vaulted by 12,000 bridges.

Hángzhōu flourished after being linked with the Grand Canal in AD 610 but fully prospered after the Song dynasty was overthrown by the invading Jurchen, who captured the Song capital Kāifēng, along with the emperor and the leaders of the imperial court, in 1126. The remnants of the Song court fled south, finally settling in Hángzhōu and establishing it as the capital of the Southern Song dynasty. Hángzhōu's wooden buildings made fire a perennial hazard; among major conflagrations, the great fire of 1237 reduced some 30,000 residences to piles of smoking carbon.

When the Mongols swept into China they established their court in Běijīng, but Hángzhōu retained its status as a prosperous commercial city. With 10 city gates by Ming times, Hángzhōu took a hammering from Taiping rebels, who besieged the city in 1861 and captured it; two years later the imperial armies reclaimed it. 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; much of what can be seen in Hángzhōu today is of fairly recent construction.

## 👁 Sights & Activities

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

### West Lake

LAKE

(西湖; Xīhú) The saccharine Chinese tourist brochure hyperbole extolling West Lake is almost justified in its cloying accolades. The very definition of classical beauty in China, West Lake continues to mesmerise and methodical prettification has worked a cunning magic. Pagoda-topped hills rise over willow-lined waters as boats drift slowly through a vignette of leisurely charm. With history heavily repackaged, it's not that authentic – not by a long shot – but it's still a grade-A cover version of classical China.

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.

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

Connected to the northern shores by the Bai Causeway is **Gūshān Island** (孤山岛; Gūshān Dǎo), the largest island in the lake and the location of the **Zhèjiāng Provincial Museum** (浙江省博物馆; Zhèjiāng Shěng Bówùguǎn; 25 Gushan Lu; admission free, audioguide Y10; ☎8.30am-4.30pm Tue-Sun), **Zhōngshān Park** (中山公园; Zhōngshān Gōngyuán) and the Lóuwàilóu Restaurant (p243). 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** (西泠印社; Xīlíng Yīnshè), dedicated to the ancient art of carving the name seals (chops) that serve as personal signatures.

In the northwest is the lovely **Qūyuàn Garden** (曲院风荷; Qūyuàn Fēnghé), a collection of gardens spread out over numerous islets and renowned for their fragrant spring lotus blossoms. Near **Xīlíng Bridge** (Xīlíng Qiáo) is the tomb of **Su Xiaoxiao** (苏小小墓; 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.

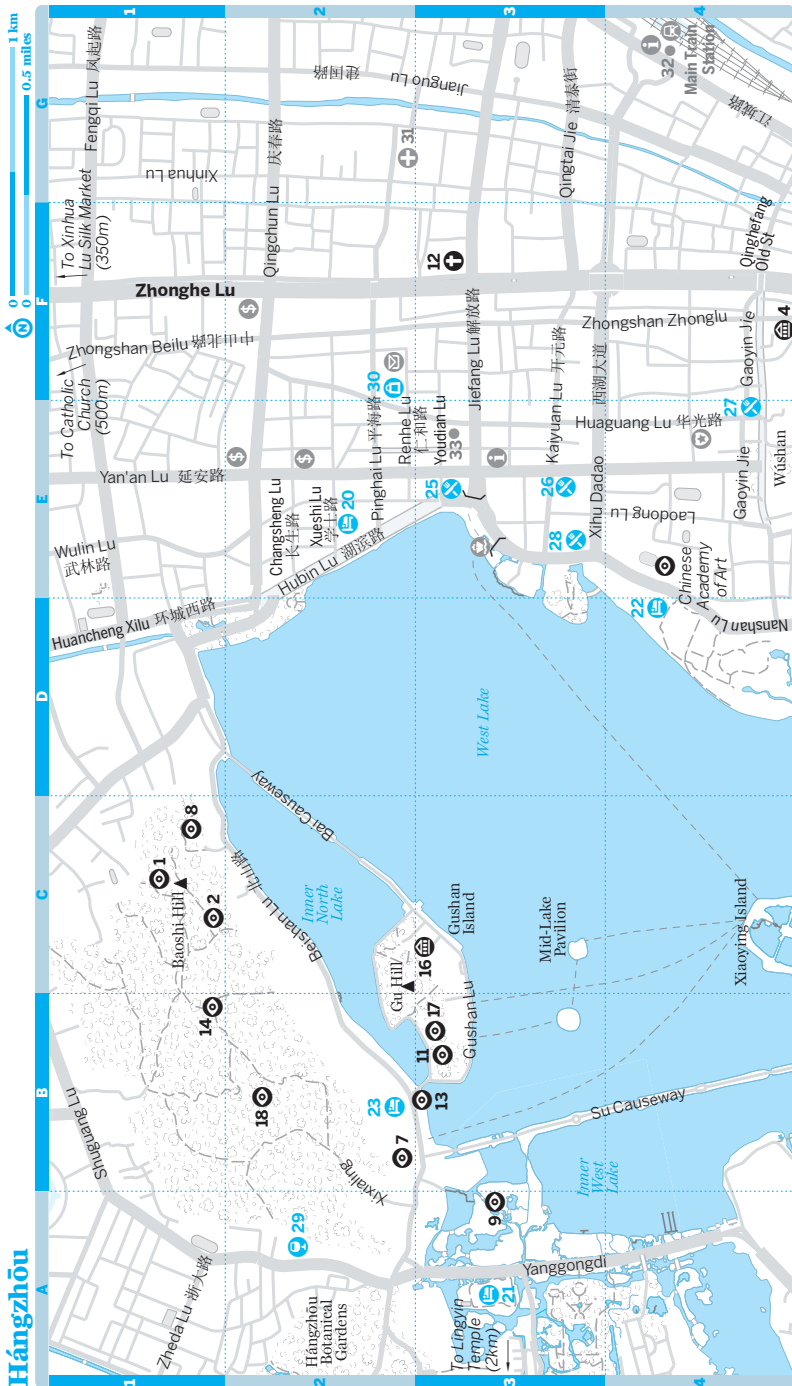
The smaller island in the lake is **Xiǎoyíng Island** (小瀛洲; Xiǎoyíng Zhōu), where you can look over at **Three Pools Mirroring the Moon** (三潭印月; Sāntán Yīnyuè), three small towers in the water on the south side of the island; each has five holes that release shafts of candlelight on the night of the mid-autumn festival. From Lesser Yíngzhōu Island, you can gaze over to **Red Carp Pond** (花港观鱼; Huāgǎng Guānyú), home to a few thousand red carp.

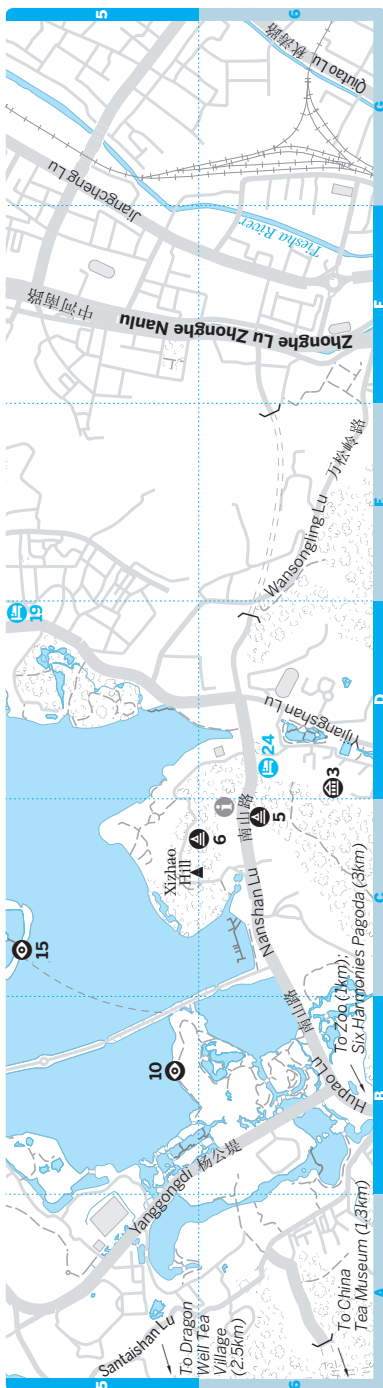
**Cruise boats** (游船; yóuchuán; incl entry to Three Pools adult/child Y45/22.50; ☎7am-4.45pm) shuttle frequently from four points (Hubin Park, Red Carp Pond, Zhōngshān Park and the Mausoleum of General Yue Fei) to the Mid-Lake Pavilion (Húxīn Tíng) and Xiǎoyíng Island (Xiǎoyíng Zhōu). Trips take one and a half hours and depart every 20 minutes. Alternatively, hire one of the six-person boats (小船; xiǎo chuán; Y80 per person or Y160 per boat) rowed by boatmen. Look for them across from the Overseas Chinese Hotel or along the causeways. Paddle boats (Y15 per 30 minutes, Y200 deposit) on the Bai Causeway are also available for hire.

Impromptu opera singing and other cultural activities may suddenly kick off around the lake and if the weather's fine, don't forget to earmark the east shore for sunset-over-West-Lake photos. Walking around West Lake at night is also gorgeous and very romantic, with loads of benches and seats facing the still waters.

**Buggies** (☎8am-6.30pm) speed around West Lake; just raise your hand to flag one down. A complete circuit is Y40, otherwise Y10 takes you to the next stop. Tourist buses Y1 and Y2 also run around West Lake.

## Hángzhōu



**Mausoleum of General Yue Fei** TEMPLE

(岳庙; Yuè Fēi Mù; Beishan Lu; admission Y25; ☉7am-6pm) Commander of the southern Song armies, General Yue Fei (1103–42) led a series of successful battles against Jurchen invaders from the north in the 12th century. 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.

**Léifēng Pagoda** PAGODA

(雷峰塔; Léifēng Tǎ Jīngqū; admission Y40; ☉7.30am-9pm Mar-Nov, 8am-5.30pm Dec-Feb) Topped with a golden spire, the eye-catching Léifēng Pagoda can be climbed for fine views of the lake. The original pagoda, built in AD 977, collapsed in 1924. During renovations in 2001, Buddhist scriptures written on silk were discovered in the foundations, along with other treasures.

**Jingcí Temple** BUDDHIST TEMPLE

(淨慈寺; Jingcí Sì; admission Y10; ☉6am-5.30pm) The serene Chan (Zen) Jingcí Temple was originally built in AD 954 and is now fully restored. The splendid first hall is home to the massive and foreboding Heavenly Kings and a magnificent red-and-gold case encapsulating Milefo and Weituo. The main hall – the **Great Treasure Hall** – contains a simply vast seated effigy of Sakyamuni. Hunt down the awesome **1000-arm Guanyin** (千手观音) in the Guanyin Pavilion with her huge fan of arms. The temple's enormous bronze bell is struck 108 times for prosperity on the eve of the Lunar New Year.

**Língyīn Temple** BUDDHIST TEMPLE

(灵隐寺; Língyīn Sì; Lingyin Lu; grounds Y35, grounds & temple Y65; ☉7am-5pm) Hángzhōu's most famous Buddhist temple, Língyīn Temple was built in AD 326. Due to episodes of war and calamity, it has been destroyed and restored no fewer than 16 times.

The main **temple buildings** are restorations of Qing-dynasty structures. Behind the Hall of the Four Heavenly Guardians stands the Great Hall and 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 150 small figures, which charts the journey of 53 children on the road to Buddhahood.

## Hángzhōu

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During the time of the Five Dynasties (907–60) about 3000 monks lived in the temple.

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** lining the riverbanks and hillsides, all 470 of them, date from the 10th to 14th centuries. To get a close-up view of the best carvings, including the famed 'laughing' Maitreya Buddha, follow the paths along the far (east) side of the stream.

Behind Língyīn Temple is the **Northern Peak** (Bēi Gāofēng), which can be scaled by cable car (up/down Y30/40). From the summit there are sweeping views across the lake and city.

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.

Qīnghéfāng Old Street SHOPPING STREET

At the south end of Zhongshan Zhonglu is this fun and fascinating bustling pedestrian street (清河坊历史文化街; Qīnghéfāng Lìshǐ Wénhuà Jiē), with makeshift puppet theatres, teahouses and curio stalls. Chomp

on a chewy *nánsòng dìngshèng gāo* (南宋定胜糕; southern Song dingsheng cake, Y1.50), or a *guicài jiānbǐng* (鬼菜煎饼; Chinese burrito; Y3), pick up a hand-carved stone teapot (Y29) or a box of *lóngxūtáng* (龙须糖; dragon whiskers sweets; Y10 a box) and grab some ginseng or silk. It's also the home of several traditional medicine shops, including the **Húqīngyú Táng Chinese Medicine Museum** (中药博物馆; Zhōngyào Bówùguǎn; 95 Dajing Gang; admission Y10; ☎8.30am–5pm), which is an actual dispensary and clinic.

## SOUTH OF WEST LAKE

The hills south of West Lake are a prime spot for walkers, cyclists and green-tea connoisseurs.

**FREE** **China Silk Museum** MUSEUM  
 (中国丝绸博物馆; Zhōngguó Sīchóu Bówùguǎn; 73-1 Yuhuangshan Lu; audioguide Y100; ☎8.30am–4.30pm) Close to the lake,

this museum has good displays of silk samples, and exhibits explain (in English) the history and processes of silk production.

**FREE China Tea Museum** MUSEUM  
(中国茶叶博物馆; Zhōngguó Cháyè Bówùguǎn; Longjing Lu; ☎8.30am-4.30pm Tue-Sun) 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 – 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 one of Hángzhōu's most famous teas at the **Dragon Well Tea Village** (龙井问茶; Lóngjīng Wènchá; ☎8am-5.30pm), near the first pass. Tourist bus Y3 will take you to the museum and the village.

**Six Harmonies Pagoda** PAGODA  
(六和塔; Liùhé Tǎ; 16 Zhijiang Lu; grounds Y20, grounds & pagoda Y30; ☎6am-6.30pm) 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, 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 that thunders up Qiántáng River (see p245). Behind the pagoda stretches a charming walk, through terraces dotted with sculptures, bells, shrines and inscriptions. Take bus K4 from Nanshan Lu.

## OTHER SIGHTS

Hidden away behind sheet-metal gates, the blue-and-white **Catholic Church** (天主堂; Tiānzhǔ Táng; 415 Zhongshan Beilu; admission free) is a lovely old building, with a compassionate effigy of Mary above the door. Knock on the gate and the gatekeeper may let you in. Chinese-built, the brick Protestant **Si-Cheng Church** (思澄堂; Sīchéng Táng; 132 Jiefang Lu; admission free) is a more Chinese-style church, with a loyal and welcoming congregation; if it looks shut, try the entrance along Jueyuansi Alley (觉苑寺巷) down the east side of the church.

## 👉 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 Information Centre.

## ★ Festivals & Events

The **International Qiántáng River Tide-Observing Festival** every autumn in Yánguān, outside Hángzhōu, is a top event. See p245 for more details.

## 🛏 Sleeping

Hángzhōu's hotels have expanded in recent years across all budgets; youth hostels are now plentiful. Book well ahead in the summer months, at weekends and during the busy holiday periods. Look out for 住宿 and 客房 signs (meaning 'rooms available'), which identify cheap guesthouses which may take foreigners.

**TOP CHOICE** **Mingtown Youth Hostel** HOSTEL \$  
(明堂杭州国际青年旅社; Míngtáng Hángzhōu Guójí Qīngnián Lúshè; ☎8791 8948; 101-11 Nanshan Lu; 南山路101-11号; dm/s Y50/180, d Y130-240; 📶📶) With its handy lakeside location, this friendly hostel is often booked out so reserve well ahead. It offers ticket booking, internet access, and rents bikes and camping gear.

**TOP CHOICE** **West Lake Youth Hostel** HOSTEL \$  
(杭州过客青年旅社; Hángzhōu Guòkè Qīngnián Lúshè; ☎8702 7027; www.westlakehos tel.com; 62-3 Nanshan Lu; 南山路62-3号; dm Y45-50, s/d Y160/200; 📶📶) Tucked away among the trees and foliage east of Jingci Temple, with pleasant rooms and comfy lounge-bar area (Tstingtao Y10) hung with lanterns, this place enjoys both character and a sense of seclusion; reserve ahead. Take bus K4 from Yanan Nanlu and get off at the Chángqiáo (长桥) stop.

**Crystal Orange Hotel** HOTEL \$\$\$  
(桔字水晶酒店; Júzi Shuǐjīng Jiǔdiàn; ☎2887 8988; www.orangehotel.com; 122 Qingbo Jie; 清波街122号; tw/ste Y788/1388, discounts of 50%; 📶📶📶) Uncluttered and modern business hotel with a crisp and natty interior, Warhol prints in the lobby, glass lift and only four floors, but sadly no views of West Lake from the neat rooms.

**Grand Hyatt Regency** HOTEL \$  
(杭州凯悦酒店; Hángzhōu Kǎiyuè Jiǔdiàn; ☎8779 1234; www.hangzhou.regency.hyatt.com; 28 Hubin Lu; 湖滨路28号; s/d Y1800/1800, lake view Y2250/2250, discounts of 10-30%; 📶📶📶📶) The huge megacomplex of the Hyatt dominates the eastern lakeshore; in addition to international-standard rooms, the hotel offers five-star luxuries such as a



## WEST LAKE WALK

For a breathtaking trek into the hills above the lake, take Xixialing Lu (栖霞岭路; also called Qixialing Lu) just west of the Mausoleum of General Yue Fei. The road runs past the west wall of the temple before entering the shade of towering trees to climb stone steps. At **Ziyun Cave** (紫云洞; Ziyún Dòng), the road forks; take the right-hand fork towards **Baopu Taoist Temple** (Bàopǔ Dàoyuàn) 1km away and the **Baochu Pagoda** (保俶塔; Bǎochù Tǎ). At the top of the steps turn left and, passing the **Sunrise Terrace** (初阳台; Chūyáng Tái), again bear left. Down the steps bear right to the **Baopu Taoist Temple** (抱朴道院; Bàopǔ Dàoyuàn; admission Y5; ☺6am-5pm), whose first hall contains a statue of Guanyin (Buddhist goddess nonetheless) before a yin-yang diagram; an effigy of Taoist master Gehong (葛洪) – who once smelted cinnabar here – resides in the next hall, behind a fabulously carved altar decorated with figures. Return the way you came to continue east to the Baochu Pagoda and after hitting a confluence of three paths, take the middle track. Squeeze into a gap between some huge boulders and you will spot the Baochu Pagoda rising up ahead. Repeatedly restored, the seven-storey brick pagoda was last rebuilt in 1933, although its spire tumbled off in the 1990s. Continue on down and you will pass through a *páilou* – or decorative arch – erected during the Republic (with some of its characters scratched off) to a series of cliff-side Ming-dynasty effigies, all of which were vandalised in the tumultuous 1960s, apart from two effigies on the right which were left untouched. Bear right and head down to Beishan Lu (北山路), emerging from Baochutaqianshan Lu (保俶塔前山路).

swimming pool, sauna and health club, and wireless connection.

**Shangri-La Hotel**

HANGZHOU **\$\$\$**  
(杭州香格里拉饭店; Hángzhōu Xiānggéllǎ Fàndiàn; ☎8797 7951; www.shangri-la.com; 78 Beishan Lu; 北山路78号; d Y1650, with lake view Y2500, discounts of 30%; ☎@☺☺) Surrounded by forest on the north shore of the lake, this hotel enjoys a winning, picturesque location. The hotel has been around for a long time, so view rooms first, as quality varies. Wireless connection, swimming pool and health club.

**Mingtown Garden Hostel**

HANGZHOU **HOSTEL \$**  
(明堂湖中居旅社; Míngtáng Húzhōngjū Lǚshè; ☎8797 5883; fax 8796 8819; 4 Yanggongdi, Zhaogongdi Lu; 杨公堤赵公堤路4号; dm/s/d Y45/158/208; ☎@) Popular hostel attractively located on the west side of the lake. It's clean, well kept and very near the water; traditional styling and friendly staff.

**Eating**

Hángzhōu cuisine emphasises fresh, sweet flavours and makes good use of freshwater fish, especially eel and carp. Dishes to watch for include *dōngpō ròu* (东坡肉; braised pork), named after the Song-dynasty poet Su Dongpo, and *jiàohuā tóngjī* (叫花童鸡; chicken wrapped in lotus leaves and baked in clay), known in Eng-

lish as 'beggar's chicken'. Bamboo shoots are a local delicacy, especially in the spring when they're most tender. Hángzhōu's most popular restaurant street is Gao-yin Jie, parallel to Qīnghéfāng Old St. Hángzhōu's leafy answer to Shànghǎi's Xintiāndì, **Xīhú Tiāndì** (西湖天地; 147 Nanshan Lu) has an attractive panoply of smart cafes and restaurants.

**Grandma's Kitchen**

HANGZHOU **\$**  
(外婆家; Wàipójiā; 8 fl, Bldg B, Hangzhou Tower, Huancheng Beilu; mains Y6-55; ☺10.30am-2pm & 4-9pm; ☎) Highly popular with locals, this chain restaurant cooks up classic Hángzhōu favourites; try the *hóngshāo dōngpō ròu* (红烧东坡肉; braised pork). There are several other branches in town.

**Lǎomǎjiā Miànguǎn**

HANGZHOU **NOODLES \$**  
(老马家面馆; 232 Nanshan Lu; meals Y15; ☺7am-10.30pm) Simple, popular and unfussy Muslim restaurant stuffed into an old *shúkùnmén* tenement building with a handful of tables and spot-on *niúròu lāmìàn* (牛肉拉面; beef noodles; Y7) and super-scrummy *ròujiāmó* (肉夹馍; meat in a bun; Y5).

**Ajisen**

HANGZHOU **NOODLES \$**  
(味千拉面; Wèiqiān Lāmìàn; 10 Hubin Lu; meals Y20-30; ☺10am-11pm) The reading is high on the chilli-ometer for Ajisen's tasty noodles, but the West Lake perspective offers cool-

ing relief. Ajsen's photo menu makes ordering a breeze, there's free tea and busy, efficient staff. Pay up front.

**Lǎo Hángzhōu Fēngwèi** HANGZHOU \$\$  
(老杭州风味; 141 Gaoyin Jie; mains Y20; ☺11.30am-9pm) This local watering hole serves tasty home-style dishes, including *zāohuì biānsūn* (糟烩鞭笋; wine-braised bamboo shoots) and *dōngpō* pork. Make sure to try the *pópoqiāo túdòu bǐng* (婆婆敲土豆饼; crispy potato cakes with garlic and chilli).

**Lóuwàilóu Restaurant** HANGZHOU \$\$\$  
(楼外楼; Lóuwàilóu; 30 Gushan Lu; mains Y30-200; ☺10.30am-3.30pm & 4.30-8.45pm; 🍷) Founded in 1838, this is Hángzhōu's most famous restaurant. The local speciality is *xīhú cùyú* (西湖醋鱼; sweet and sour carp) and *dōngpō* pork, but there's a good choice of other well-priced standard dishes.

**Carrefour** SUPERMARKET \$  
(家乐福; Jiālèfú; 135 Yan'an Lu; 延安路135号; ☺9am-9pm) Can be found at the northwest corner of Yan'an Lu and Xihu Dadao.



## Drinking

For drinking, Shuguang Lu north of West Lake is the place; a brash clutch of lesser bars also operates opposite the China Academy of Art on Nanshan Lu (南山路). For a comprehensive list of Hángzhōu bars and restaurants, grab a copy of *More – Hangzhou Entertainment Guide* ([www.morehangzhou.com](http://www.morehangzhou.com)), available from bars and concierge desks at good hotels.

**Mingtong Youth Hostel** BAR  
(明堂杭州国际青年旅社; 101-11 Nanshan Lu; ☺7pm-1am) The hostel's lovely bar area is one of the most chilled-out spots in town, with comfy sofas, sensuous music, great atmosphere and a roof garden. Great range of brews, including Franziskaner Weissbier (Y32), or you can just sit back with a Tsingtao (Y18).

**1944 Bar** BAR  
(酒吧; 119 Shuguang Lu; ☺8pm-2.30am) Darkly lit, all-wood and brickwork bar, cluttered with assorted bar artefacts from animal horns to an unemployed dart board; popular with locals. Carlsberg Y22, Budweiser Y20.



## Shopping

Hángzhōu is famed for its tea, in particular *lóngjīng* green tea, as well as silk, fans

and, of all things, scissors. All of these crop up in the **Wúshān Lù night market** (吴山路夜市; Wúshān Lù Yèshì), now on Huixing Lu (惠兴路) between Youdian Lu (邮电路) and Renhe Lu (仁和路), where fake ceramics jostle with ancient pewter tobacco pipes, Chairman Mao memorabilia, silk shirts and pirated CDs. Qīnghéfāng Old St (see p240) has loads of possibilities, from Chinese tiger pillows to taichi swords.

**Xinhua Lu Silk Market** SILK  
(新华路市场丝绸市场; Sīchóu Shìchǎng; Xinhua Lu; ☺8am-5pm) For silk, try this string of silk shops strung out along the north of Xinhua Lu. Check out the **Ming-dynasty residence** (明宅; Míng Zhái; 227 Xinhua Lu), now a silk emporium.



## Information

### Internet Access

Twenty-four-hour internet cafes are in abundance around the train station (typically Y4 or Y5 per hr); look for the neon signs '网吧'.

### Internet Resources

**Hángzhōu City Travel Committee** ([www.gotohz.com](http://www.gotohz.com)) Current information on events, restaurants and entertainment venues around the city.

**Hángzhōu News** ([www.hangzhou.com.cn/eng/lish](http://www.hangzhou.com.cn/eng/lish)) News-oriented website with travel info.

**More Hángzhōu** ([www.morehangzhou.com](http://www.morehangzhou.com)) Handy website with restaurant, nightlife reviews, forums and classifieds

### Medical Services

**Zhèjiāng University First Affiliated Hospital** (浙江大学医学院附属第一医院; Zhèjiāng Dàxué Yīxuéyuàn Fùshǔ Dìyī Yīyuàn; 79 Qingchun Lu)

### Money

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 177 Laodong Lu) Offers currency exchange plus 24-hour ATM.

**HSBC** (汇丰银行; Huífēng Yínháng; cnr Qingchun Lu & Zhonghe Lu) Has a 24-hour ATM.

**Industrial & Commercial Bank of China** (工商银行; Gōngshāng Yínháng; 300 Yan'an Lu) Has a 24-hour ATM.

### Post

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; Renhe Lu) Close to West Lake.

### Public Security Bureau

**Public Security Bureau Exit & Entry Administration Service Center** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú Bàngzhèng Zhōngxīn; ☎8728 0600; 35 Huaguang Lu; ☺8.30am-noon & 2-5pm Mon-Fri) Can extend visas.

## Tourist Information

### Hángzhōu Tourist Information Centre

(杭州旅游咨询服务中心; Hángzhōu Lǚyóu Zìxún Fúwù Zhōngxīn; Hángzhōu train station) Provides basic travel info, free maps and tours. Other branches include one at Léifēng Pagoda and at 228 Yan'an Lu.

**Tourist Complaint Hotline** (☎8796 9691)

**Travellers Infoline** (☎96123) Helpful 24-hour information with English service from 6.30am to 9pm.

## **i** Getting There & Away

### Air

Hángzhōu has flights to all major Chinese cities (bar Shànghǎi) and international connections to Hong Kong, Macau, Tokyo, Singapore and other destinations. Several daily flights connect to Běijīng (Y1050) and Guǎngzhōu (Y960).

One place to book air tickets is at the **Civil Aviation Administration of China** (CAAC; 中国民航; Zhōngguó Mínháng; ☎8666 8666; 390 Tiychang Lu; ☀7.30am-8pm). Most hotels will also book flights, generally with a Y20 to Y30 service charge.

### Bus

All four bus stations are outside the city centre; tickets can be conveniently bought for all stations from the **bus ticket office** (长途汽车售票处; Chángtú Qìchē Shòupiàochù; ☀6.30am-5pm) right off the exit from Hángzhōu's main train station.

The **east bus station** (汽车东站; Qìchē Dōngzhàn; 71 Genshan Xilu) is the most comprehensive, with frequent deluxe buses:

**Níngbō** Y52, two hours

**Shànghǎi** Y54, 2½ hours

**Shàoxīng** Y22, one hour

**Wūzhèn** Y25, one hour

Buses from the **south bus station** (汽车南站; Qìchē Nánzhàn; 407 Qiutao Lu):

**Níngbō** Y52, two hours

**Shàoxīng** Y24, one hour

**Wēnzhōu** Y140, 4½ hours

**Wūyì** Y59, six daily

From the **north bus station** (汽车北站; Qìchē Běizhàn; 766 Moganshan Lu):

**Běijīng** Y410, 15 hours, one daily (3.15pm)

**Nánjīng** Y120, four hours, every 30 minutes

**Wūkāng** Y15, 45 minutes

From Shànghǎi, buses leave frequently from Hángzhōu's **east bus station** (Y65, 2½ hours) from Shànghǎi's Hengfeng Rd bus station, the

Shànghǎi south bus station and the main long-distance bus station. Buses (Y85, two hours) to Hángzhōu also run every 30 minutes between 10am and 9pm from the Hóngqiáo airport long-distance bus station. Regular buses (Y100, three hours) also run to Hángzhōu from Shànghǎi's Pǔdōng International Airport long-distance bus station.

Buses for Huángshān (Y59 to Y88, six hours) leave from the **west bus station** (汽车西站; Qìchē Xīzhàn; 357 Tianmushan Lu).

### Train

Regular D-class express trains (Y54, 75 to 90 minutes) run daily to Hángzhōu from Shànghǎi South train station (Shànghǎi Nánzhàn); book weekend tickets in advance. The earliest train leaves Shànghǎi at 7.20am and the last is soon after 8pm. The last express train back to Shànghǎi South train station is at 8.40pm. Numerous other slow trains run between the two cities.

A handy evening express D-class train runs to Běijīng (soft seat/soft sleeper Y354/821, 11 hours, 8.15pm); book in advance. Z class and T class trains to Běijīng cost Y539 and take 13 hours.

Other trains from Hángzhōu:

**Guǎngzhōu** Y383, 16 to 23 hours

**Nánjīng** D-class hard/soft seat Y156/187, 4½ hours

**Xiàmén** D class Y309, 6½ hours

**Xī'ān** Y341, 19 to 23 hours

Trains from Hángzhōu's main train station also run to Wēnzhōu and east to Shàoxīng and Níngbō. Most trains heading north go via Shànghǎi.

Booking sleepers can be difficult at Hángzhōu train station, especially to Běijīng. Most hotels can do this for you for a service charge. A handy **train ticket office** (火车票售票处; Huǒchēpiào Shòupiàochù; Huansha Lu) can be found north of Jiefang Lu, just east of West Lake.

## **i** Getting Around

### To/From the Airport

Hángzhōu's airport is 30km from the city centre; taxi drivers ask around Y100 to Y130 for the trip. Shuttle buses (Y20, one hour) run every 15 minutes between 5.30am and 9pm from the CAAC office.

### Bicycle

You'll be tripping over bike-hire outfits around West Lake (Y5 to Y10 per hour); the city's public bicycle scheme is cheaper. Youth hostels also rent out bikes.

## Public transport

**BUS** Hángzhōu has a clean, efficient bus system and getting around is easy. 'Y' buses are tourist buses; 'K' is simply an abbreviation of 'kōngtiào' (air-con). Tickets are Y2 to Y5. Following are popular bus routes:

**Bus K7** Usefully connects the main train station to the western side of West Lake and Lingyin Temple.

**Tourist bus Y1** Circles West Lake in a return loop to Lingyin Temple.

**Tourist bus Y2** Goes from the main train station, along Beishan Lu and up to Lingyin Temple.

**Tourist bus Y3** Travels around West Lake to the China Silk Museum, China Tea Museum, Dragon Well Tea Village and the Southern Song-dynasty Guan Kiln.

**Bus K56** Travels from the east bus station to Yan'an Lu.

**Buses 15 & K15** Connects the north bus station to the northwest area of West Lake.

**Bus K95** Links Hángzhōu train station with the north bus station.

**Bus K518** Connects the east train station with the main train station, via the east bus station.

**METRO** The No 1 Line of Hángzhōu's new metro system is due to open by 2012 and will run through the main train station.

## Taxi

Metered Hyundai taxis are ubiquitous and start at Y10; figure on around Y20 to Y25 from the main train station (queues can be horrendous though) 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 sweep a wall of water up the narrow mouth of the Qiántáng River from Hángzhōu Bay (Hángzhōu Wǎn) at thundering speeds of up to 40km per hour.

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 Yānguān (盐官), a lovely ancient town about 38km northeast of Hángzhōu. The most popular viewing time is during the **Mid-Autumn Festival**, around the 18th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, when the **International Qiántáng River Tide Observing Festival** takes place. 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 Information Centre.

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. To reach Yānguān, take a bus from Hángzhōu's east bus station to Guōdiàn (郭店; Y14, one hour, 7am to 5.25pm) and change to local bus 109 (25 minutes).

### MÒGĀNSHĀN

莫干山

☑<sub>0572</sub>

A blessed release from the suffocating summer torpor roasting north Zhèjiāng, this delightful **hilltop resort** (admission Y80) was developed as a resort by 19th-century Europeans from Shànghǎi and Hángzhōu during the concession era, in the style of Lúshān and Jìgōngshān in Hénán. Refreshingly cool in summer and sometimes smothered in spectral fog, Mògānshān is famed for its scenic, forested views, towering bamboo and stone villa architecture; the mountain remains a weekend bolthole for expat *tàitai*'s (wives) fleeing the simmering lowland heat.

The best way to enjoy Mògānshān is just to wander the winding forest paths and stone steps, taking in some of the architecture en route. There's Shànghǎi gangster **Du Yuesheng's old villa** (杜月笙别墅; Dù Yuèshēng Biéshù) – now serving as a hotel – Chiang Kaishek's lodge, a couple of churches (375 Moganshan and 419 Moganshan) and many other villas linked (sometimes tenuously) with the rich and famous, including the **house** (毛主席下榻处; Máo Zhǔxí Xiàtàchù; 126 Moganshan) where Chairman Mao rested his chubby limbs.

Apart from the gaunt villa architecture, more recent construction has flung up less attractive villas made of more regular blocks; the genuine older villas are made of irregularly shaped stone. Sadly many of the original interiors have been ripped out, so much of the period charm is absent. Mock classical porticos have been bolted on to other villas in a clumsy Chinese interpretation of European style. The blue and red corrugated-iron roofing looks new, but is actually the original roofing material. Containing **Ta Mountain** (塔山; Tǎshān) in the northwest, the **Da Keng Scenic Area** (大坑景区; Dàkēng Jǐngqū) is great for rambling. You can pick up a Chinese map (Y4)

at your hotel for some sense of orientation, otherwise there are billboard maps dotted about.

The **main village** (Mògānshān Zhèn) is centred around **Yinshan Jie** (荫山街), where you will find the **China Post** (40 Moganshan; ☎8.30-11am & 1-4pm), a branch of the PSB (opposite the post office) and several hotels. For information on hikes or for suggestions for activities on Mògānshān, contact well-informed Mark Kitto, author of the riveting *China Cuckoo*, at Moganshan Lodge, but he may appreciate it if you bought a coffee.

### Sleeping

Mògānshān is full of hotels of varying quality, most housed in crumbling villas; room prices peak at weekends (Friday to Sunday). Don't expect to find any backpacker spots, but haggle your socks off to drive prices down; if you come off-season (eg early spring) you can expect good rates, but be warned that many hotels either shut up shop or close for renovation over the winter.

**TOP CHOICE** **Moganshan House 23** HOTEL \$\$\$ (莫干山杭疗23号; Mògānshān Hángliáo 23 Hào; ☎803 3822; 23 Moganshan; 莫干山23号; weekday/weekend d Y900/1200, family r Y1250/1500; 🍷🍷) This exquisitely restored villa hits the Mògānshān nail squarely on the head, bursting with period charm, from art-deco-style sinks, black-and-white-tiled bathroom floors, wooden floorboards, the original staircase to a lovely English kitchen. It's also kid friendly with a family room, baby chairs and swings in the garden. With only six rooms, book well in advance, especially for weekend stays. Breakfast included in room price.

**Naked Retreats** FARM HOUSES \$\$\$ (☎021 5465 9577; www.nakedretreats.cn; 329 Moganshan; 莫干山329号; per person weekday lodge/bungalow Y350/520, weekend Y450/750; 🍷) Naked Retreats is at the top of a gully below the village, offering a selection of eco-lodges, farm houses and bungalows enveloped in bamboo forest sleeping anything from a couple to a crowd; lovely views. Range of activities also organised, from biking to fishing, trekking, star gazing, yoga and massage. Note: phone calls only answered Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm. Rates are for a minimum double occupancy.

**Jiànquán Shānzhūāng** HOTEL \$\$ (剑泉山庄; ☎803 3607; 91 Moganshan; 莫干山91号; d Y480-680; 🍷) A cheap option sitting below the village.

### Eating

Yinshan Jie has a number of restaurants and hotels with restaurants.

**TOP CHOICE** **Moganshan Lodge** INTERNATIONAL \$\$ (马克的咖啡厅; Mǎkè de Kāféitíng; ☎803 3011; www.moganshanlodge.com; Songliang Shanzhuang, just off Yinshan Jie; ☎9am-11pm; 🍷) English Mògānshān resident Mark Kitto can cook up a treat, brew up a fine coffee and give you the low-down on Mògānshān's charms at this elegantly presented villa up some steps from Yinshan Jie.

### Getting There & Away

From Hángzhōu, buses leave from the north bus station to Wūkāng (武康; Y15, 40 minutes, every 30 minutes) from 6.20am to 7pm; in the other direction, buses run every 30 minutes from 6.30am till 7pm; note that Wūkāng is also known as Dèqīng (德清).

From Wūkāng minivans run to the top of Mògānshān for around Y50; a taxi will cost around Y70 to Y80. Buses from Shànghǎi run to Wūkāng (Y53, four hours) and leave from the old north bus station near Baoshan Rd metro, at 80 Gongxing Rd. Buses depart from Shànghǎi at 6.30am, 11.50am and 12.50pm; buses depart from Wūkāng for Shànghǎi at 6.30am, 7.40am, 1pm and 3.30pm. Buses also run between Shànghǎi north bus station and Wūkāng (Y60).

## Wūzhèn

乌镇

☎0573

With origins dating from the late Tang dynasty, Wūzhèn is a historic town that has been 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. An ambitious restoration project re-creates what Wūzhèn would have been like in the late Qing dynasty.

### Sights

Wūzhèn is tiny and it's possible to see everything in a couple hours. Most people come here on a day trip 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

0572

buildings. You pay an exorbitant entrance fee at the **main gate** (入口; rùkǒu; Daqiao Lu; through ticket Y150; ☀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; Sānbái Jiǔfāng), an actual distillery churning out a pungent rice wine ripe for the sampling. Next door, the **Blue Prints Workshop** (藍印花布作坊; Lán Yīnhuābù 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). 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 **Huìyuán Pawn House** (匯源當舖; Huìyuán Dàngpù) was once a famous pawnshop that eventually expanded to branches in Shanghai. It has been left intact, and despite the lack of English captions the spartan decor gives a Dickensian feel to the place.

One of the best reasons to visit Wūzhèn is for the regular live performances of local **Flower Drum opera** (Huāgǔ xì) held throughout the day in the village square, and shadow puppet shows (*piyǐngxì*) 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 (Y80 per person) for a ride down the canal.

## **i** Getting There & Away

From Hángzhōu, buses run from the east bus station to Wūzhèn (Y26, 1½ hours) leaving every hour or so from 6.25am to 6.25pm.

From Shànghǎi, the easiest (but most expensive) way is to take a tour bus (Y165 return, ticket includes the entrance fee to Wūzhèn and a Chinese-speaking guide, 9am and 9.30am, two hours) from Shànghǎi Stadium. A cheaper option is to take a bus from Shànghǎi's south bus station (Y46).

Minibuses (Y10) connect Wūzhèn with the canal town of Nánxún.

Nestled on the border with Jiāngsū province, about 125km from Hángzhōu and only 20km from Wūzhèn, 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.

## **👁** Sight

Since **Nánxún** (adult/student through ticket Y100/50; ☀8am-5pm summer, to 4.30pm winter) isn't large, 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** (百間樓; 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** (小蓮庄; 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 **Jiāyè Library** (嘉業堂藏書樓; Jiāyètáng Cángshūlóu), once one of the largest private libraries in southeast China. It was home to over 30,000 books, some dating back to the Tang dynasty. 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** (張石銘旧宅; 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 dynasty. 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 rockeries. 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.

### **i** Getting There & Away

Buses leave hourly from Hángzhōu's north bus stations for Nánxún (Y39, 10 daily). Buses (Y10) also link Nánxún and Wúzhèn. Regular buses (Y43, 2½ hours, 6am to 7.30pm) run from Shànghǎi south station, and from Sūzhōu's south bus station from 7am to 5.50pm.

Nánxún has two bus stations: the **Tà'ān Lù station** (Tà'ān Lù chēzhàn) and another **station** by the expressway (*nánxún qìchēzhàn*). Both stations have buses from 5.50am to 5pm:

**Shànghǎi** Y30 to Y50, 2½ hours

**Sūzhōu** Y21, one hour

## Shào xīng

绍兴

☎0575 / POP 4.3 MILLION

With its winding canals, arched bridges and antiquated homesteads, Shào xīng is a large water town 67km southeast of Hángzhōu. Being more spread out and developed, Shào xīng has less of the concise canal-side magic of the smaller water towns, but a stay is worthwhile, especially for excursions out of town. Shào xīng is known to all Chinese for its *huángjiǔ* (yellow wine), a warming spirit often used in cooking. Computer hacking is apparently another famous local industry: international newspaper reports in 2010 identified Shào xīng as *the* hacking capital of China.

### History

Capital of the Yue kingdom from 770 to 211 BC, Shào xīng was a flourishing administra-



tive and agricultural centre for much of its history. The town has also been the birthplace of many influential and colourful figures, including mythical 'flood tamer' the Great Yu, painter and dramatist Xu Wei, female revolutionary hero Qiu Jin and Lu Xun, China's first great modern novelist.

### **i** Sights

Wandering Shào xīng's more historic lanes is charming and restful. The area around Jishan Jie (戴山街), the vegetation-covered **Tīshān Bridge** (Tīshān Qiáo) and the **Jièzhū Temple** (Jièzhū Sì), just north of Shengli Donglu and east of Jiefang Beilu, is a typically charming zone of mouldering old low-rise whitewashed houses, shops and residences. Nearby Xiaoshan Jie (萧山街) is also a picture, stuffed with goods for sale from old shops and locals sitting out on bamboo stools in front of crumbling canal-side dwellings.

## Shàoxīng

### 📍 Sights

- 1 Dàshàn Pagoda.....A2
- 2 Jièzhū Temple.....B1
- 3 Lu Xun Ancestral Residence.....B3  
Lu Xun Memorial Hall.....(see 4)
- 4 Lu Xun's Former Residence.....B3
- 5 Qiu Jin's Former Residence.....A4
- 6 Statue of Qiu Jin.....B2
- 7 Tashan Park.....A4
- 8 Tīshān Bridge.....B1  
Tourist Center Ticket Office.....(see 3)
- 9 Xu Wei's Studio.....A3  
Yellow Rice Museum.....(see 4)
- 10 Yingtiān Pagoda.....A4
- 11 Zhēnshén Church.....B2

### 🏠 Sleeping

- 12 Shàoxīng Hotel.....A2  
Shàoxīng International Youth  
Hostel.....(see 12)
- 13 Xiánhèng Hotel.....A4

### 🍴 Eating

- 14 Āpó Miànguǎn.....B3
- 15 Zhōujiā Shípīn.....B3

### 🛍 Shopping

- 16 Jiā Dan's Papercut Shop.....B3

### Lu Xun's Former Residence MUSEUM

(鲁迅故居; Lǚ Xùn Gùjū; 393 Lu Xun Zhonglu; ☎8.30am-5pm) Lu Xun (1881-1936), one of China's most mould-breaking and talented modern writers and author of such seminal works as *Diary of a Madman* and *Medicine*, was born in Shàoxīng and lived here until he went abroad to study. He later returned to China, but was forced to hide out in Shànghǎi's French Concession when the Kuomintang decided his books were too dangerous. His tomb is in Shànghǎi.

Sights linked to Lu Xun are clustered along Lu Xun Zhonglu, which these days is more like a carnival street in a permanent state of festivity and tourist mayhem. You can visit Lu Xun's Former Residence; the **Lu Xun Memorial Hall** (鲁迅纪念馆; Lǚ Xùn Jìniànguǎn; ☎8am-5pm), at the same location; and the **Lu Xun Ancestral Residence** (鲁迅祖居; Lǚxùn Zǔjū; 237 Lu Xun Zhonglu). Opposite is the **one-room school** (Sānwèi Shūwū) the writer attended as a young boy. The captions at the **Yellow Rice Wine Museum** (黄酒馆; Huángjiǔ Guǎn; Lu Xun Zhonglu; ☎8.30am-7.30pm) are all in Chinese. All

sights are free but you need to register by showing your passport at the **Tourist Centre Ticket Office** (免费领票处; Miǎnfèi Lǐngpiàochù; ☎8.30am-5pm).

### Ancestral Homes

MUSEUMS

The **studio** (青藤书屋; Qīngténg Shūwū; Qian-guan Xiang; admission Y5; ☎8am-4pm) of controversial Ming painter, poet and dramatist Xu Wei (1521-93) is off Renmin Xilu in a small alley. Born in Shàoxīng, 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 Shàoxīng, living in this study where he spent the remainder of his life painting and writing plays.

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.

**Qiu Jin's Former Residence** (秋瑾故居; Qiū Jīn Gùjū; 35 Hechang Tang; admission Y10; ☎8am-5pm) is where pioneering female 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. A memorial **statue of Qiu Jin** (秋瑾像; Qiūjīn Xiàng; Jiefang Beilu) stands near Fushan Hengjie.

### Yingtiān Pagoda

PAGODA

(应天塔; Yingtiān Tǎ) Rising up within **Tāshān Park** (Tāshān Gōngyuán; admission Y2) and originally part of a Song-dynasty temple, Yingtiān Pagoda stands gracefully on a hill overlooking modern-day Shàoxīng. Destroyed during the Taiping Rebellion (1850-64) and later rebuilt, the pagoda offers good views from the top.

### King Yu's Mausoleum

HISTORIC SITE

(大禹陵; Dà Yǔ Líng; admission Y50; ☎7.30am-5.30pm) According to legend, in 2205 BC the Great Yu 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. King Yu's Mausoleum is about 4km south-east of the city centre and is composed of a huge 24m-tall Main Hall, a Memorial Hall and Meridian Gate (Wū 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).

### OTHER SIGHTS

Sprouting a crop of saplings, the picturesque seven-storey **Dàshàn Pagoda** (大善塔; Dàshàn Tǎ) by City Sq (Chéngshì Guǎngchǎng) sadly cannot be climbed, even though steps lead up from its 2nd-floor portal. The brick Protestant **Zhēnshén Church** (真神堂; Zhēnshén Táng; 81 Dongjie) records a historic Christian presence in Shàoxīng. For a canal-borne perspective of Shàoxīng, you can hop on an expensive *wūpéng chuán* (乌篷船; narrow canal boat, Y50) for a 20-minute journey from the Lu Xun one-room school on Lu Xun Lu.

### ★ Festivals & Events

The **Orchid Pavilion Calligraphy Festival** is held each year on the third day of the third lunar month at the Orchid Pavilion (p251). Shàoxīng wine enjoys its own festival in autumn with the **Yellow Wine Festival** (Huángjiǔ Jié). Calligraphy exhibitions and contests are also held.

### 🛏 Sleeping

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

#### Shaoxing International Youth Hostel

HOSTEL \$

(绍兴国际青年旅社; Shàoxīng Guójī Qīngnián Lúshè; ☎8515 1780; 11 Huanshan Lu; 4- & 10-bed dm Y40, s/d Y120/160; ⓂⓂⓂ) Excellent hostel in a great location down leafy Huanshan Lu (next to the Shaoxing Hotel) with a very relaxing and cultured feel, this is the place to come in Shàoxīng. Rooms are clean and comfy; free internet.

#### Shàoxīng Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(绍兴饭店; Shàoxīng Fàndiàn; ☎515 5858; www.hotel-shaoxing.com; 9 Huanshan Lu; 环山路9号; d Y660-980, ste Y1280-9800; ⓂⓂⓂ) One of the nicest places to stay in town, this modern hotel has well-equipped, comfortable

rooms in several buildings surrounded by gardens. The restaurant has an excellent reputation. Discounts of 30% are typical.

#### Xiánhēng Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(威亨大酒店; Xiánhēng Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎806 8688; www.xianhengchina.com; 680 Jiefang Nanlu; 解放南路680号; s & d Y980, ste Y1680) Tall tower in the south of town with – apart from the fake bamboo rising over the lobby bar – an elegant interior and professional service.

### 🍴 Eating

The overpowering fumes of stinky tofu (臭豆腐; *chòu dòufu*) eye-wateringly waft down Shàoxīng's streets. The pungent snack tastes better than it smells.

#### Zhōujiā Shípīn

SNACKS \$

(周家食品; 25 Lu Xun Lu; snacks from Y5; ☎8.30am-5pm) Very popular and busy place for local specialities opposite Lu Xun's Former Residence; just look at what's on the corner and point, but try to aim for the lovely creamy tarts (奶油小攀; *nǎiyóu xiǎopān*; Y5). Friendly chefs may entice you in the direction of stinky tofu: tame its flavour with a shot of Shàoxīng rice wine (Y3).

#### Āpó Miànguǎn

NOODLES \$

(阿婆面馆; ☎8513 0826; 100 Lu Xun Zhonglu; meals Y20; ☎9am-11pm) With excellent noodle dishes and outside seating, order up the trademark Apo Noodles (Āpó Miàn; Y18), a steaming and filling bowl of noodles, carrots, greens, egg yolk, mushroom, shrimps and cabbage; down it with a glass of heart-warming and pink alcohol-infused *Nūer hùng* (Y28 to Y48).

#### Ajisen

NOODLES \$

(味千拉面; Wèiqiān Lāmìàn; meal Y30) Just south of the train station, next to a branch of the fast food chain Dicos.

### 🛍 Shopping

#### Jia Dan's Papercut Shop

PAPERCUTS

(佳丹剪纸社; Jiādān Jiǎnhuàshè; ☎8536 3376; 246 Luxun Guli; ☎8.30am-6pm) With prices starting at around Y17, Jia Dan sells some exquisite red and black traditional paper cuts; she also runs Chinese-language classes in paper-cutting.

### 📍 Information

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 9 Laodong Lu; ☎8.30am-5pm) Foreign exchange in major currencies; 24-hour ATM. There's also a branch at 472 Jiefang Beilu.

**China Post** (邮局; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; 1 Dongjie; ☎8am-5pm) Centrally located on the corner of Dongjie and Jiefang Beilu.

**Míngxīng Internet Cafe** (明星网吧; Míngxīng Wǎngbā; 121 Jiefang Beilu; per hr Y2)

**Net Bar** (Net Bar 网吧; Net Bar wǎngbā; per hr Y3) Opposite the train station.

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

**Shàoxīng Travel Guide** (www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/zhejiang/Shaoxing) Provides general background information on Shàoxīng.

## **i** Getting There & Away

All trains and buses travelling between Hángzhōu and Níngbō stop in Shàoxīng. Shàoxīng has three bus stations, the most useful is the **long-distance bus station** in the north-east of town:

**Hángzhōu** Y23, 45 minutes

**Níngbō** Y43, 1½ hours

**Shànghǎi** Y80, three hours

**Shěnjiāmén** Y85, three hours (for boats to Pútuóshān)

**Wēnzhōu** Y134

A ticket office for the long-distance bus station can be found in the train station. Buses also travel to most tourist cities in Jiāngsū.

## **i** 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 3 and bus 8 can get you to the long-distance bus station. Taxis are cheap, starting at Y5.

## Around Shàoxīng

### ORCHID PAVILION

兰亭

Considered by many Chinese to be one of Shàoxīng's 'must see' spots, this **site** (Lán Tíng; admission Y40; ☎7am-5pm) is where the famous calligrapher Wang Xizhi (AD 321-79) 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 stela with his calligraphy. A **calligraphy festival** is held yearly in March. The Orchid Pavilion is around 10km southwest of the city centre 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). An ancient settlement, 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. The Ming- and Qing-style stone houses and shops that line the canal front have seen little restoration; townsfolk gather along the canal to play mahjong, 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. Close to the entrance is a former **bank** (德康钱庄, *sùkǎng 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.

Riding on oilcloth-covered boats down the canal is fun; Y10 per person is a reasonable bargaining price.

Bus 118 from Shàoxīng's long-distance 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.

## Wǔyì

武义

☎0579

Located far inland, Wǔyì is itself an uninteresting city, but it is the gateway to the two villages of Yǔyuán and Guōdòng in the surrounding scenic hilly countryside. It is far preferable to spend the night in Guōdòng, which has so much more character and charm, but if you wish to stay in Wǔyì, hotels can be found near the long-distance bus station.

The **Hóngdá Hotel** (鸿达大酒店; Hóngdá Dàjiùdiàn; ☎8762-2001; d Y380, discounts of 60%; 星) has decent and spacious wood-floored rooms, although the hotel is a bit murky.

## **i** Information

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 71 Hushanxia Jie) In the south of town.

**Industrial & Commercial Bank of China** (工商银行; Gōngshāng Yínháng; Wuyang Lu) Has a 24hr ATM.

**Péngkè Wǎngbā** (朋客网吧; Jiefang Beijie; per hr ¥2.50; ☎24hr) For internet access.

## **i** Getting There & Away

### Bus

Buses run to and from Wǔyì's **main bus station** (客运中心; kèyùn zhōngxīn; ☎8851 5959) from Hángzhōu south bus station (Y76, six per day from 7.10am to 4.40pm), Níngbó (Y85, three per day) and Wénzhōu (8.30am).

### Train

Wǔyì is easy to reach by train from a number of destinations:

**Hángzhōu** seat/sleeper Y38/89, 3½ to four hours, seven daily

**Nánjīng** seat/sleeper Y94/188, 9½ to 13 hours, three daily

**Shànghǎi** hard seat/sleeper Y63/124, six hours

**Wēnzhōu** seat/sleeper Y38/79, four to five hours, 12 daily

## Around Wǔyì

### GUŌDŌNG

郭洞

Embraced by bamboo-clad hills and dating to the Song dynasty, this lovely old Zhéjiāng **village** (through ticket Y30) is miles away from it all south of Wǔyì. Exquisite in parts, Guōdòng offers ample opportunity for threading through ancient and cramped **Ming-dynasty lanes** with their even brickwork and mud-packed walls, past washer women, ancient wells and antique shops, and trekking in the surrounding scenery. Note the lovely brickwork along **Qingyuán Lù** (清源路), which is where you also find a small **church** (in a courtyard, next to 20 Qingyuan Lu). The **Ancestral Hall of the He Clan** (何氏宗祠; Héshì Zōngcí) is a huge affair at the heart of the village originally dating to the Ming dynasty. Also worth looking out for are the **Fanyu Hall** and the **Rènlán Hall** (纫兰堂; Rènlán Táng). If you have a fear of canines, note that Guōdòng has a large population of barking dogs.

Some homesteads are graced with Christian posters on their doors, while others are decorated with lovely poetic couplets

celebrating the rhythms of nature, such as '近山识鸟音、临水知鱼性' (Enter the mountains to know the sounds of birds, face the water to know the nature of fish). After you have explored the village, wander along **Lóngshān Lù** (龙山路) and up into the bamboo and woods in the hill above the village (admission included in ticket).

A highlight is the **Dawan Lake Scenic Area** (大弯湖景区; Dàwānhú Jǐngqū; Y5), a 30-minute walk out of the village (follow the signs) past the **Wenchang Pavilion** (文昌阁; Wénchāng Gé) and a vast, 600-year old fir tree. At the lake, cross over the dam and wander round the lake with its dark pine-green waters picturesquely surrounded by forests of bamboo.

It's well worth spending the night in Guōdòng (rather than Wǔyì) and the village has more character than Yúyuán. Near the bus drop-off is the **Guōdòng Kèzhàn** (郭洞客栈; ☎0579-8773 6077 or 139 5847 4997; d Y70; ☎) with large and pleasant rooms, with TV and shower. Another possibility is the **Guōdòng Bīnguǎn** (郭洞宾馆; ☎136 0572 8043). All hotels either have restaurants or can fix you a meal, but avoid being pushed towards *tǔjī* (free-range chicken) unless you really want it, as it is expensive. A small plate of *xiǎo xīyú* (小溪鱼; grilled river fish) should cost around Y18.

To reach Guōdòng, take bus 5 (Y1.50) to the **east bus station** (客运东站; kèyùn dōngzhàn) in Wǔyì and hop on a Guōdòng-bound bus (Y3, one hour, every 30 minutes) collecting passengers across the road. Returning to Wǔyì, the first/last bus from Guōdòng is at 6.30am/5.50pm.

### YÚYUÁN

俞源

A 20km trip through the glittering Zhèjiāng countryside from Wǔyì past mountains, fields of tea bushes, yellow and green bamboo, old bridges and fields of rape-seed brings you to the riverside village of Yúyuán. Surrounded by hills striated with fields, the **ancient village** (admission Y30) is famously based on the arrangement of the Taoist Taiji (twin fish) diagram, although this can be hard to discern for those without a definitive interest in feng shui.

Nonetheless, with its whitewashed residences, ancient halls, old doorways decorated with hanging red couplets, carved woodwork, cobbled lanes, crowing cocks and waddling geese, the village has an abundance of historic charm. Originally dating to 1374, the **Ancestral Hall of the**

**Yu Clan** (俞氏宗祠; Yúshì Zōngcí) is a lovely and unrestored collection of halls around a magnificently carved stage daubed at the rear with a conspicuous slogan from the Cultural Revolution. At the rear is the **Qǐn Táng** (寝堂) where the tablets of the ancestors resided. The hall once burned down and was rebuilt, a battalion camped in the hall in 1930 and it served as a grain storage depot in 1951. Also track down the **Ancestral Hall of the Li Clan** (李氏宗祠; Lǐshì Zōngcí), with its light well (*tiānjǐng*) courtyard and side halls bedecked with folk articles. Several of the village's old residences – many in need of restoration – are still occupied, such as **Dūnhòu Táng** (敦厚堂) and the **Xiàtài Lóu** (下态楼). Also look out for the lovely wood-fronted **Hóngbīn Lóu** (鸿宾楼) by the **Yín River** (银河; Yín Hé), the lovely **Jīngshēn Lóu** (精深楼), the ample **Yùhòu Táng** (裕后堂) – occupying 2560 sq metres – and the **Shēngyuǎn Táng** (声远堂; also called Liufeng Hall), one of the most ambitious and best-preserved of Yúyuán's halls. A fair amount of Yúyuán's feng shui charm has been irreversibly ruined by modern eyesore attachments thrown up willy-nilly and white-tile buildings with aluminium shuttering that viciously overlook old residences.

Next to a bridge by the river on the outskirts of Yúyuán, the lovely Taoist **Temple of the Cave Host** (洞主庙; Dòngzhǔ Miào) originally dates to the Northern Song and is seemingly one of the best preserved buildings in the village.

To reach Yúyuán, take a direct bus (Y4, 25 minutes, every 20 minutes, last bus 5.30pm) from the west bus station (西站; Xīzhàn) in Wǔyì. Bus 5 (Y1.50) runs between the main bus station in Wǔyì and the west bus station.

## Pǔtuóshān

0580

The lush and well-tended Buddhist island of Pǔtuóshān – the Zhōushān Archipelago's most famed isle – is the enchanting abode of Guanyin, the eternally compassionate Goddess of Mercy. One of China's four sacred Buddhist mountains, Pǔtuóshān is deeply permeated with the aura of the goddess and the devotion her worshippers bring to this gorgeous island. With its clean beaches and fresh air, it's a perfect retreat, but try to visit midweek, as the island is bombarded

by tourists come weekends. Spring can be fogged out with sporadic boat services, so phone ahead. Guanyin's three birthdays (19 February, 19 June and 19 September) are naturally celebrated with gusto across the island.

## Sights

Images of Guanyin are ubiquitous and Pǔtuóshān's temples are all shrines for the merciful goddess. Besides the three main temples, you will stumble upon nunneries and monasteries everywhere, although several have been converted from their original purpose.

The central part of town is around Pǔjì Temple about 1km north of the ferry terminal. This is where many hotels are located. You can reach the central square by taking the roads leading east or west from the ferry terminal; either way takes about 20 minutes. Alternatively, minibuses from the ferry terminal run to Pǔjì Temple and to other points of the island.

The first thing you see as you approach the island by boat is a 33m-high glittering statue of Guanyin, the **Nánhǎi Guānyīn** (南海观音; admission Y6), overlooking the waves at the southernmost tip of the island.

An entrance fee (summer/winter Y160/140) is payable when you arrive; entry to some other sights is extra.

### Pǔjì Temple

TEMPLE

(普济禅寺; Pǔjì Sì; admission Y5; ☉5.30am-6pm) Fronted by large ponds and overlooked by towering camphor trees and Luòhàn pines, this temple stands by the main square and dates to at least the 17th century. Past chubby Milefo – the future Buddha – sitting in a red, gold and green burnished cabinet in the Hall of Heavenly Kings, throngs of worshippers stand with flaming incense in front of the stunning main hall. Buses leave from the west side of the temple to various points around the island. Built in 1334 is the nearby five-storey **Duōbǎo Pagoda** (多宝塔; Duōbǎo Tǎ; admission Y15).

### Fǎyǔ Temple

TEMPLE

(法雨禅寺; Fǎyǔ Chánsì; admission Y5; ☉5.30am-6pm) Colossal camphor trees and a huge ginkgo tree tower over this temple, where a vast glittering statue of Guanyin is seated in the main hall, flanked by rows of histrionic *luòhàn* (arhat) effigies. In the hall behind stands a 1000-arm Guanyin. Get to the temple by bus from the ferry terminal (Y6).

## 普陀山



### Fódǐng Mountain

(佛顶山; Fódǐng Shān; admission Y5) A fantastic, shaded half-hour climb can be made from Fāyū Temple to Fódǐng Mountain – Buddha's Summit Peak – the highest point on the island. This is also where you will find

### MOUNTAIN

the less elaborate **Huiji Temple** (慧济禅寺; Huiji Chánsi; admission Y5; ☉5.30am-6.30pm). In summer the climb is much cooler in the late afternoon; watch devout pilgrims and Buddhist nuns stop every three steps to either bow or kneel in supplication. The less

motivated take the **cable car** (one way/return Y30/50; ☎6.40am-5pm). The **Xiāngyún Pavilion** (祥云亭; Xiāngyún Tíng) is a pleasant spot for a breather.

## Beaches

BEACHES

Pūtuóshān's two large beaches, **One Hundred Step Beach** (百步沙; Bǎibùshā; ☎6am-6pm) and **One Thousand Step Beach** (千步沙; Qiānbùshā) on the east of the island are attractive and largely unspoilt, although periodically you may have to pay for access (admission Y15); swimming (May through August) is not permitted after 6pm.

## Caves

CAVES

**Fànyīn Cave** (梵音洞; Fànyīn 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 **Cháoyáng Cave** (朝阳洞; Cháoyáng Dòng; admission Y12), which overlooks the sea, is said to imitate the chanting of the Buddha. A fully fledged temple has been assembled around the small grotto of the **Guānyīn Old Cave** (观音古洞; Guānyīn Gǔdòng). Other natural wonders include the **Shàncái Cave** (善财洞; Shàncái Dòng; admission Y5), **Gǔfó Cave** (古佛洞; Gǔfó Dòng; admission Y5), **Xiānrén Cave** (仙人洞; Xiānrén Dòng; admission Y5) and **Xitiān Cave** (西天洞; Xitiān Dòng; admission Y5).

## Sleeping

Room prices are generally discounted from Sunday to Thursday; the prices given here refer to Friday and Saturday and holiday periods. As you get off the boat, you'll be greeted by hotel touts who can fix you up with a place to stay, but it pays to compare places and rooms. Several hotels have shuttle buses to and from the pier. For inexpensive rooms, try one of the cheap hotels that cluster along Meicen Lu in Xīshān Xīncūn (西山新村), a short walk over the hill to the west from the ferry terminal. Some hotels don't take foreigners, but others do (speaking Chinese helps); rooms go for around Y120/300 per weekday/weekend. Look for the characters '内有住宿', which means rooms are available.

## Pūtuóshān Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(普陀山大酒店; Pūtuóshān Dàjiùdiàn; ☎609 2828; www.putuoshanhotel.com; 93 Meicen Lu; 梅岑路93号; d Y1188-1288, ste Y1988; ☎☎) Backing onto a green hill, Pūtuóshān's best hotel

has a pleasant and uncluttered feel, with decent amenities and service to match. Midweek rooms are discounted to Y650.

## Sānshèngtáng Fàndiàn

HOTEL \$\$\$

(三圣堂饭店; ☎609 3688; 121 Miao Zhuang Yanlu; 妙庄严路121号; d Y720-980; ☎) Often full, this traditional-style place is attractively set off a small path near the Pūji Temple and is shaded by trees. Rooms generally go for around Y300 during slack times, but foreigners can be overcharged.

## Zhúxiāngjū Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(竹香居宾馆; Zhúxiāngjū Bīnguǎn; ☎669 8080; 20 Jinsha Lu; 金沙路20号; s/d Y1880/1680, seawiew d Y1880; ☎) Decked out with gold and occasional Buddhist ornaments, this pleasant hotel is just across the road from the sands of Gold Beach in a cove on the south of the island, with lovely sea views. The cheapest rooms are discounted to Y380 midweek. No English sign.

## Hǎitōng Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(海通宾馆; Hǎitōng Bīnguǎn; ☎609 2569; d Y680-780, t with seawiew Y980, midweek/week-end discounts of 60%/30%; ☎) Across the road as you exit the ferry terminal, this agreeable place has helpful staff and a tempting traditional feel.

## Eating

Pūtuóshān isn't famed for its food; what you get is generally brought in from the mainland and is expensive. Seafood is pretty much the staple. Some of the best places to eat are in the temples, where vegetarian meals are usually served at lunch and sometimes at breakfast and dinner for Y2 to Y10.

## Information

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; Meicen Lu; ☎8-11am & 2-5pm) Has Forex currency exchange. ATMs (24-hour) taking international cards are close by down the side of the block.

**China Mobile** (中国移动; Zhōngguó Yídòng; Meicen Lu) For mobile-phone SIM cards. Located near the banks.

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; 124 Meicen Lu) Southwest of Pūji Temple.

**Clinic** (诊所; Zhěnsuǒ; ☎609 3102; Meicen Lu) Situated behind the Bank of China.

**Industrial & Commercial Bank of China** (工商银行; Gōngháng; Meicen Lu; ☎8-11am & 2-5pm)

**Left-luggage office** (寄存处; jìcúnchù; per luggage piece Y4; ☎6.30am-5pm) At the ferry

terminal, this handy service allows you to ditch your bag and hunt for a room.

**Tourist Service Centre** (旅游咨询中心; Lúyóu Zìxún Zhōngxīn; ☎609 4921) Near Pǔjì Temple.

## **i** Getting There & Away

The nearest airport is Zhòushān (Pǔtuóshān) airport on the neighbouring island of Zhūjiājīan (朱家尖).

Regular boats link Pǔtuóshān and Zhūjiājīan. Pǔtuóshān can be reached by boat from either Níngbō or Shànghǎi; Níngbō is closer and offers more frequent services.

Fast ferries (Y73, first bus/boat around 6.20am/7.35am, last bus 3.10pm, every 30 minutes) for Pǔtuóshān leave Níngbō's **passenger ferry terminal** (lúnchuán mǎtǒu; ☎0574 2769 1132; 380 Zhongma Lu; ☀5.45am-4.15pm summer, 6.15am-4.15pm winter); the trip takes about 2½ hours, including the bus ride to the fast boat wharf outside Níngbō. From Pǔtuóshān to Níngbō boats leave every half-hour from 7.30am to 4.50pm. Note: buses and boats can be cancelled during fog (common in spring months). At the time of writing, the ticket office had moved 100m north up the road from its former address.

Buses (Y41, three hours, every 30 minutes) also run from the **north bus station** (qīchē běizhàn; ☎8735 5321; 122 Taodu Lu) in Níngbō to Shěnjiāmén (沈家门) on the island of Zhòushān (舟山岛), from where fast boats (Y19.5) run every 10 minutes for the short hop to Pǔtuóshān.

A nightly boat leaves Pǔtuóshān at 4.40pm for the 12-hour voyage to Shànghǎi's Wúsòng Wharf. Tickets cost Y109 to Y499, offering numerous grades of comfort; it's easy to upgrade once you're on board. From Shànghǎi, the boat leaves Wúsòng Wharf at 8pm, with an extra two services on Friday at 7.20pm and 8.40pm. To reach Wúsòng Wharf, take metro line 3 to Songbin Lu from where it's a 15-minute walk. Cross the eight-lane highway and follow the signs to the wharf. Bank on a 90-minute journey from People's Square.

A fast boat (Y258) departs Pǔtuóshān for the port of Xiǎo Yáng Shān (小洋山) south of Shànghǎi at 1pm, where passengers are then bussed to Nánpǔ Bridge; the whole trip takes four hours. The twice-daily bus/ferry from Shànghǎi to Pǔtuóshān departs from Xiǎo Yáng Shān; shuttle buses leave depart Nánpǔ Bridge in Shànghǎi at 7.20am and 8am to connect with them.

Tickets for both ferry and bus/ferry services are available at the **Huángpǔ Tourist Centre** (黄浦旅游集散中心; Huángpǔ Lúyóu Jìsàn Zhōngxīn; ☎6336 9051; 21 East Jinling Rd; 金陵东路21号; ☀9am-6pm).

You can also reach Shànghǎi by taking one of the **regular boats** to Shěnjiāmén and jumping on a bus (Y125, five hours, several departures daily); buses also run to Hángzhōu (Y90, frequent). Bus tickets are available from the **passenger ferry terminal ticket office** (☎609 1186), and the bus ticket office next to the Hǎitóng Hotel; another **bus ticket office** (☀8-10.40am & 1.20-4.15pm) can be found opposite the Pǔtuóshān Hotel.

## **i** Getting Around

Walking around Pǔtuóshān is the most relaxing option if you have time. If not, minibuses zip from the passenger ferry terminal to various points around the island, including Pǔjì Temple (Y5), One Thousand Step Beach (Y6), Fǎyǔ Temple (Y6), Fànyīn Cave (Y8) and the cable car station (Y10). There are more bus stations at Pǔjì Temple, Fǎyǔ Temple and other spots around the island serving the same and other destinations.

## Wēnzhōu

温州

☎0577 / POP 7.4 MILLION

A thriving and bustling seaport on the Zhèjiāng coastline, Wēnzhōu is trumpeted as one of China's economic success stories, built upon a solid manufacturing base. Strong business and historic ties to Europe and North America have given the city prosperity (and endless shoe factories) but little character. There's an abiding sense that something has been trampled underfoot: a proliferation of beggars sprawls in front of hand-written notes relating tales of personal tragedy while Wēnzhōu's money-making reputation (and pitiless economic environment) has lent the city a spiteful edge. There's no reason to hang about in town: get out to the lovely historic villages and surrounding scenery of the Nánxījiāng region.

## **i** Sights

**Jiāngxīn Island** (江心岛; Jiāngxīn Dǎo; adult/child Y20/10; ☀8am-10pm, 1st/last ticket 7.45am/8.30pm), in the middle of the **Ōu River** (Ōu Jiāng), is dotted with pagodas (including one capped with a tree), a lake, footbridges and a main temple. It's easily reached by ferry, included in the admission, from Jiāngxīn Pier (江心码头; Jiāngxīn Mǎtǒu) on Wangjiang Donglu. The river itself is more of an eyesore, with pungent Dickensian fumes wafting from its surface in patches.

Surrounded by high-rise residential blocks, the **Catholic Church** (周宅寺巷天主教堂; Zhōuzhái Sì Xiàng Tiānzǔ Jiàotáng) was moved to its present site in 1866 and rebuilt in 1888 after being burned down during the Opium War. Stripped of its pews and stained glass, the musty, whitewashed and mildewed interior has been damaged by rain penetration and neglect; climb up the stairs to the gallery above and the belfry.

The grey-brick **Chéngxī Christian Church** (城西基督教堂; Chéngxī Jīdū Jiàotáng; 107 Chengxi Jie) is decorated with Gothic arched windows.

Wēnzhōu's Buddhist 'xiāngkè' (incense-toting worshippers) head to **Miànguō Temple** (Miànguō Sì; admission Y3).

## Sleeping

Wēnzhōu is significantly lacking in budget options, although cheaper hotels can be found in the vicinity of the train station and Xinchéng bus station.

**Jīnwàngjiǎo Seaview Hotel** HOTEL \$\$ (金旺角海港大酒店; Jīnwàngjiǎo Hǎigǎng Dàjiūdiàn; ☎8803 8888; Wangjiang Lu; 望江路; s Y488, d Y498-568) Try to get a river-view room at this well-located, clean and well-kept hotel, otherwise the cheaper rooms are all south facing. Discounts bring the cheapest rooms here down to around Y280.

**Wēnzhōu International Hotel** HOTEL \$\$\$ (温州国际大酒店; Wēnzhōu Guójī Dàjiūdiàn; ☎8825 1111; www.wzihotel.com; 1 Renmin Donglu; 人民东路1号; s/d/ste Y530/780/1200, discounts of 30%) This 26-storey four-star hotel has a rather featureless interior, but rooms are comfortable and the English-speaking staff are friendly.

**Jiàoyù Hotel** HOTEL \$ (教育宾馆; Jiàoyù Bīnguǎn; ☎8822 7890; 32 Chan Jie; 蝉街32号; s/d/tr/ste Y228/228/248/288, discounts of 20%; 禁) Clean lower-rung business hotel with well-kept but rather smallish rooms with shower; central, convenient and friendly. No English sign.

## Eating

Wēnzhōu is well known for its seafood, with restaurants running along Jiefang Jie and by the river. Another good place to look for food is on Wuma Jie, a busy pedestrian shopping street in the middle of town.

## Chángren Huntun

(常人馄饨; 195 Jiefang Jie; noodles from Y5; ☎6am-11pm) Busy spot with a long history and clean interior; the *jīdàn miàn* (鸡蛋面; egg and noodles; Y5.50) is salty and tasty, the *xīhóngshì dāntāng* (西红柿蛋汤; egg and tomato soup; Y5) ample and filling.

## Information

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 129 Chan Jie; ☎9am-5pm) Changes travellers cheques and major currency. There's another branch on Lucheng Lu with an ATM.

**China Post** (Xinhe Jie; ☎8.30am-5.30pm) Next to the China Telecom office.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; cnr Jinxiu Lu & Jinqiao Lu) In the east of town.

**Púfā Internet Cafe** (浦发网吧; Púfā Wǎngbā; per hr Y4; ☎24hr)

**Xīngjiàn Internet Cafe** (星箭网吧; Xīngjiàn Wǎngbā; Renmin Donglu; per hr Y3; ☎24hr) Opposite Wēnzhōu International Hotel.

## 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. The **CAAC** (Zhōngguó Mínháng; ☎8833 3197) is in the southeast section of town.

### Bus

For long-haul destinations, you're better off taking the train. Wēnzhōu has several bus stations including the useful **Xīnnán bus station** near the old train station:

**Fúzhōu** Y135 to Y145, 4½ hours, frequent

**Nánjīng** Y170 to Y220, eight hours, five daily

**Shànghǎi** Y185, six hours, frequent

**Sūzhōu** Y318, seven hours, three daily

**Xiàmén** Y200, eight hours, three daily

The **Xīnchéng bus station** in the east of town also has buses:

**Hángzhōu** Y140, 4½ hours

**Níngbō** Y110, 3½ hours

**Shēnjiāmén** Y160, six hours, three daily

### Train

Wēnzhōu's colossal new **South train station** (南站; Nánzhàn) is out in the blighted suburbs. Take bus 15 (Y2, 45 minutes) from Renmin Lu, Miànguō Temple or Zhōngshān Park. Express trains, including high speed D-class trains:

**Běijīng** sleeper Y405, 28 hours

**Fúzhōu** Y92, 1½ to two hours

NOODLES \$



**Hángzhōu** 1st-/2nd-class seat Y130/156, three to five hours

**Níngbō** 1st-/2nd-class seat Y85/102, 1½ hours

**Shànghǎi South train station** 1st-/2nd-class seat Y188/225, 4½ to five hours

## **i** Getting Around

Wēnzhōu airport is 27km east of the city centre and taxis charge Y100 to Y120 for the trip. A bus goes from the CAAC to the airport for Y10. Taxis around the city centre start at Y10. A pedicab should cost around Y6 from Renmin Lu to the ōu River. Bus 32 links the train station and Xinchéng bus station.

## Around Wēnzhōu

### NÁNXIJIĀNG

楠溪江

The gorgeous river waters of the Nánxijiāng region, speckled with ancient, picturesque villages that lie clustered within easy reach of town, make for fantastic exploration.

### YÁNTÓUCŪN

岩头村

An enchanting system of waterways at its heart and backing onto green mountains, this ancient village is charming. The first thing to do is to find the **old town** (admission Y15), a settlement that originally dates to the end of the Five Dynasties. Covered, bow-shaped and red-lantern-hung **Lishui Jie** (丽水街) is a pleasingly cobbled curve of a street alongside a glistening stretch of water lined with willows. More of a wooden corridor, the street – several hundred metres in length – is lined with old shops, the occasional pavilion and water wheel.

Near Lishui Jie, the **Ancestral Hall** is a picture with a cobbled courtyard, stage and fine original woodwork. On the other side of the bridge at the end of Lishui Jie stands the smoky and vibrant Taoist **Tāhu' Temple** (Tāhu' Miào), facing an old stage.

With its belfry and small white interior, the **Catholic Church** (天主教堂; Tiānzhǔ Jiàotáng; 8 Heng Jie; 横街8号) is a sweet brick edifice. The whitewashed **Jesus Church** (耶稣教堂; Yēsū Jiàotáng; Qianyang Xiang), opposite No 7, is in a state of neglect.

There are not many places to stay in the old town, but the small and simple **guest-house** (☎6715 2602; 153 Lishui Jie; r Y60) is very attractively located, with clean rooms (common shower). Next door at No 155 is another small guesthouse.

The quickest way to reach Yántóucūn is to take a river ferry (Y1.50, the first boat

leaves at 5.50am, the last boat at 10.40pm, every 15 minutes) from the wharf from Wēnzhōu to Ōubēi; then hop on a waiting minibus to Yántóucūn (Y11, one hour). Alternatively, take bus 51 (Y3.50, one hour) from Wēnzhōu to Ōubēi and wait for the minibus to Yántóucūn, which runs along Luofu Dajie (罗浮大街). The last bus back from Yántóucūn to Ōubēi leaves at around 5pm, but check with the driver when you disembark.

### FÚRÓNGCŪN

芙蓉村

A short walk south along the road from Yántóucūn, this picturesque **village** (admission Y20) originally dates to the Tang dynasty. A considerable amount of history survives within the village, although much has been lost in recent decades.

Near the main gate to the village is the Ming-dynasty **Chen Clan Ancestral Hall** (陈氏大宗; Chénshì Dàzōng), liberally plastered in **Maoist slogans** (on the door posts). The slogan on the left of the door reads ‘毛泽东思想是我们的命根子’ (which translates as ‘Mao Zedong thought is the core of our life’), while the matching slogan to the right proclaims ‘毛主席是我们心中的红太阳’ (‘Chairman Mao is the red sun in our hearts’). Interestingly, Maoist slogans are also daubed on the supporting pillars in front of the shrine altar, where devotional couplets would normally hang.

The village pond lies further up the road; here water buffalo cool off in the water during summer, with their flaring nostrils just above the water line. Complete with desks and a portrait of Confucius, the nearby **Fúróng Academy of Classical Learning** (Fúróng Shūyuàn) stands nobly alongside a lovely bamboo grove.

If you want to spend the night, cross the courtyard opposite the academy to the road on the other side to find the **Dàwū Rénjiā Kèzhān** (大屋人家客栈; ☎0577 6715 2777, 8299 0002; r with bathroom Y100; 睡), a great old courtyard residence with marvellous rooms fashioned in wood, but phone ahead as it's often booked out.

### CĀNGPŌCŪN

苍坡村

A 20-minute trip by *sānlúnchē* (pedicab, Y5 to Y10) past rice fields brings you to this nearby ancient **village** (admission Y15) of cypresses, pavilions and old China charm. Enter the village through **Xī Gate** (溪门; Xīmén). Alongside the large **West Pond** (西池; Xīchí), the most impressive building is the unrestored **Li Family Ancestral**

**tral Shrine** (Lìshì Dàzōng), with its old stage. Ornamental gates lie dotted around the village, along with a substantial number of old courtyard residences. The small **Water-moon Hall** (水月堂; Shuǐyuè Táng) originally dated all the way back to 1124, but is a Qīng-dynasty restoration. Figure on around Y5 to 10 for a *sānlúnchē* trip from Yántóucūn to Cāngpōcūn and Y10 to 15 between Fúróngcūn and Cāngpōcūn.

#### OTHER VILLAGES

Other attractive settlements in the area that you can reach from Yántóucūn include **Péngxīcūn** (蓬溪村). To reach Péngxīcūn, get on a bus (Y2.50) to Hèshèng (鹤盛) from the Yántóucūn bus station on Xianqīng Lu (仙清路) and ask to get off at the drop-off, from where you can hop on a *sānlúnchē* (Y5) to the village. The historic village of **Línkēng** (林坑) can be reached by bus (Y9.50, four departures daily) from Yántóucūn.

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