

yóu tour

游

Rolling with

ZHEJIANG



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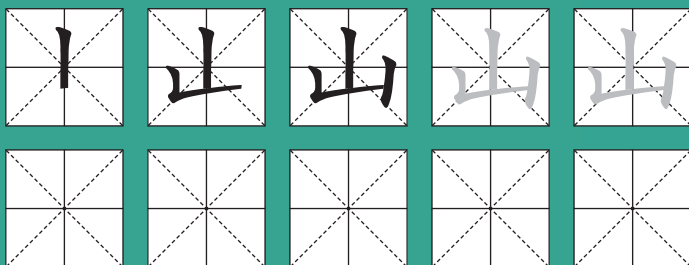
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1

山

shān
MOUNTAIN



VOCABULARY

| | | |
|-----|-----------|--------------------|
| 普陀山 | Pǔtuóshān | Mount Putuo |
| 爬山 | páshān | mountain-climbing |
| 山顶 | shāndǐng | summit |
| 假山 | jiǎshān | artificial rockery |
| 山楂 | shānzhā | haw berries |
| 山路 | shānlù | mountain path |
| 山泉 | shānquán | mountain spring |
| 山洞 | shāndòng | cave |

DIALOGUE

A: Let's go mountain-climbing for our vacation.

Jiàqī zánmen qù páshān ba!

假期咱们去爬山吧!

B: Great! I've heard the Tiantai Mountains are gorgeous. Let's go there!

Hǎo a, zǎo jiù tīngshuō Tiāntáishān hěn měi, jiù qù nàr ba.

好啊, 早就听说天台山很美, 就去那儿吧。

A: Did you see the rockery at the gate of the hotel?

Nǐ kàndào jiǔdiàn ménkǒu de jiǎshān le ma?

你看到酒店门口的假山了吗?

B: Yes, the fountain on the rockery is also interesting!

Wǒ kàndào le. jiǎshān shang de pùbù yě hěn yǒu yìsi!

我看到了。假山上的瀑布也很有意思!

A: Excuse me, how far is the park entrance?

Shīfu, qǐngwèn dào gōngyuán ménkǒu hái yǒu duō yuǎn?

师傅, 请问到公园门口还有多远?

B: Not far. You can see it after turning left at the end of this mountain path.

Bù yuǎn, guò le zhè duàn shānlù zuǒguǎi jiùnéng kàndào le.

不远, 过了这段山路左拐就能看到了。

A: How can we make better-tasting West Lake Longjing tea?

Xīhú Lóngjǐng zěnmē chōngpào gèng hǎo hē?

西湖龙井怎么冲泡更好喝?

B: I've heard it tastes better if you use mountain spring water.

Tīngshuō yòng shānquánshuǐ pàochá gèng xiāngtián.

听说用山泉水泡茶更香甜。



IDIOM

开门见山 kāimén-jiànshān
Come straight to the point

ORIGIN



Oracle Bone Script



Bronze Script



Seal Script



Regular Script

First appearing over 3,000 years ago in oracle bone inscriptions, the earliest form of Chinese characters, the character 山 was a pictogram resembling three aligned mountains. It was later simplified into three vertical lines, and evolved into its current form. The vast land of China is abundant with hills and mountains. Mount Putuo in Zhejiang province is highly recommended for its picturesque scenery, and for being one of the Four Sacred Mountains of Chinese Buddhism.

■ Poets on the Peak: Tiantai Mountains

It was the Tang dynasty (618 - 907), a golden age of ancient Chinese literary culture, and the Tiantai Mountains (天台山) were all the rage among Daoists, Buddhists, and eccentrics.

Poets, monks, hermits, artists, and scholars flocked to the mountain range in eastern Zhejiang, where it was almost a rite of passage for literati to visit the misted peaks and caves. The poet Yuan Zhen (元稹) wrote of an encounter with another poet, “We met, and spoke again of going to Tiantai.” In total, poets of the era left 1,200 poems chronicling Tiantai’s majestic and mysterious landscape.

Luckily for visitors today, Zhejiang province has begun the “Path of Poetry,” a project that retraces the region’s ancient poetic culture. The proposition is almost like a scavenger hunt, knowing that cave-dwelling hermits like Hanshan (寒山)—who later became a patron saint to Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder, and the American Beats—have scrawled hundreds of verses directly onto Tiantai’s cliffs, in line with Daoist principles of namelessness and impermanence.

Modern historian An Zuchao calls Tiantai the “rich ore” of Tang poetry. As a former history teacher,

he took his students to visit the sites of ancient poems, including Li Bai’s Tianmu Mountains (天目山), which are a northern extension of the Tiantais. In “Ascending Mount Tianmu In A Dream,” the poet wrote, “My path twisted through a thousand crags...Below me, a bottomless void of blue...My heart was seized by fear and wonder.”

After 30 years of research, An sorted through all 50,000 surviving Tang poems to publish the anthology *Tang Poetry of Tiantai* in 2018, concluding that a mind-boggling ratio of one in 44 poems from the Tang dynasty refers to the Tiantai Mountains. “I want to render the poetic culture of Tiantai visible, to make people yearn for it,” An told a county newspaper upon his book’s publication.

The place to begin one’s explorations of Tiantai is Guoqing Temple (国清寺), one of China’s most important Buddhist establishments. It is a sprawling complex on the high slopes of a mountainous ravine, consisting of over 600 temples, halls, and gardens organized along five axes. The Guoqing Temple was founded in 598, and rebuilt in the Qing dynasty (1616 - 1911).

The temple is legendary in Buddhist history for birthing the

eponymous Tiantai (Tendai) sect of Mahayana Buddhism. For centuries, devotees from across East Asia gathered at the temple to seek the dharma and brought the lessons back to their own countries, seeding new branches of Buddhism in Japan in the 7th century and Korea in the 11th century.

Among Guoqing's cultural treasures are stone carvings, scriptures, calligraphy and paintings, wood carvings, jade ornaments, Buddha statues, and ancient scrolls in Sanskrit. Strolling through the stone courtyards, practicing monks in yellow-gray robes shuffle past in what is still an active site of worship, nearly a millennium and a half after it was founded.

The Guoqing Temple's kitchen is said to be the former home of poet Hanshan's companion Shide (拾得).

Together, Hanshan and Shide were said to have reveled in the ravines near the temple, flouting strict meditation schedules to find pure ecstasy in nature. Later painters would draw them with ragged clothes and disheveled hair, laughing wholeheartedly. Notable nearby sites include the Shiliang Waterfall (石梁飞瀑) and Hanshan Lake (寒山湖).

Visitors today can follow in the footsteps of hundreds of literary eccentrics and luminaries in the Tiantai Mountains. While none have found the exact location of Hanshan's cave dwelling on "Cold Mountain," where he lived for over 30 years, the poet himself offered a crucial clue: "Men ask the way to Cold Mountain," goes one of Hanshan's verses. "If your heart was like mine, you'd get it and be right here."



PEAK EXPERIENCE: FIVE OTHER ZHEJIANG MOUNTAINS

Mogan Mountains

Every summer, China's rich and famous flee to the Mogan Mountains' (莫干山) lush, cool valleys, home to 127 square kilometers of bamboo forests—as well as over 200 villas belonging to Chinese and international celebrities. Both Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-shek have stayed here.

Mount Putuo

One of Chinese Buddhism's Four Sacred Mountains, Mount Putuo (普陀山) of the Zhoushan Islands is home to over 30 major temples, including the historic Puji (普济寺), Fayu (法雨寺), and Huiji Temples (慧济寺). Millions of devotees gather at Mount Putuo every year to celebrate the birthday of the bodhisattva Guanyin.

Jianglang Mountains

The Ming dynasty (1368 – 1644) geographer Xu Xiake (徐霞客) described the Jianglang Mountains' (江郎山) peculiar and majestic *danxia* (丹霞) rock formations as “odd,” “rugged,” and “mysterious” in his three trips to the



area; some call them “skyscrapers planted in the clouds” today. In 2010, the Jianglang were inscribed as a World Heritage Site.

Tianmu Mountains

The Tianmu Mountains (天目山), whose name literally translates to “eye of heaven,” receive their title from two ponds on a pair of twin peaks, which reflect the sky in an eternal, unblinking gaze. Named a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Tianmu's habitat of wild ginkgo trees, along with 2,000 others species of flora, are home to over 50 endangered or protected species, including the clouded

leopard and black muntjac deer.

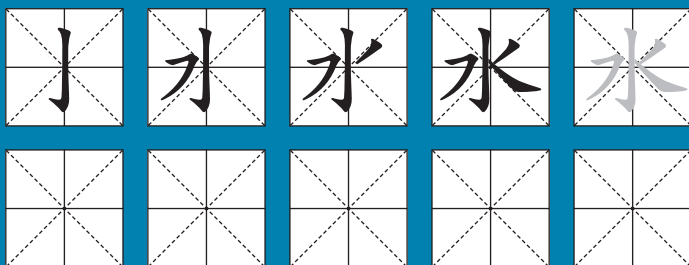
Fengyang Mountains

Hikers may enjoy the trek up Huangmaojian (黄茅尖) of the Fengyang Mountains (凤阳山), the highest peak of the Yangtze River Delta at 1,929 meters. What the trail lacks in difficulty, it rewards in scenery—beginning in a forest of thousand-year-old trees, and ascending into windswept grasslands that bloom into swaths of azaleas in the spring. Viewed from the peak, the sunrise and sunset often drape the surrounding mountains in a sea of golden clouds.

2

水

shuǐ
WATER



VOCABULARY

| | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------------|
| 水果 | shuǐguǒ | fruit |
| 热水 | rèshuǐ | hot water |
| 泪水 | lèishuǐ | tear |
| 喝水 | hēshuǐ | drink water |
| 水墨画 | shuǐmòhuà | ink wash painting |
| 浇水 | jiāoshuǐ | pour water |
| 潜水 | qiánshuǐ | dive |
| 水晶 | shuǐjīng | crystal |

DIALOGUE

A: Let's go and buy some fruit.
Zánmen mǎi diǎn shuǐguǒ ba.
咱们买点水果吧。

B: OK, we can go to the supermarket near the hotel.
Hǎo a, jiǔdiàn fùjìn yǒu chāoshì, kěyǐ qù kànkàn.

好啊，酒店附近有超市，
可以去看看。

A: Oh no, I've forgotten to water
the flowers.
Āiyā, wǒ wàng le gěi huā
jiāoshuǐ le!
哎呀，我忘了给花浇水了！

B: Don't worry, these flowers
only need to be watered every
two weeks.
Méishì, bù xūyào měitiān jiāoshuǐ,
bàn gè yuè jiāo yí cì jiùxíng.

没事，不需要每天浇水，半
个月浇一次就行。

A: I'm going to buy something
to drink. Would you like
anything?
Wǒ qù mǎi yǐnliào, nǐ xiǎng hē
shénme?
我去买饮料，你想喝什么？

B: No, thank you. I'll just drink
water.
Xièxie, búyòng le. Wǒ hēshuǐ
jiù xíng.
谢谢，不用了。我喝水
就行。

A: Why are you crying?
Nǐ zěnmē kū le?
你怎么哭了？

B: I've been moved to tears by
the love story of the White
Snake and Xu Xian!
Zhè shì gǎndòng de lèishuǐ,
Bái Niángzǐ hé Xǔ Xiān de
àiqíng gùshi tài gǎnrén le!
这是感动的泪水，白娘子和
许仙的爱情故事太感人了！



IDIOM

五湖四海 wǔhú-sìhǎi

Five lakes and four seas,
all over the world

ORIGIN

Oracle Bone Script

Bronze Script

Seal Script

Regular Script

The oracle bone script of this character consists of a curve with two shorter strokes on each side. The water radical 氵, representing three drops of water, is used to form many water-related characters, such as 河 (hé, river), 湖 (hú, lake), and 海 (hǎi, sea). West Lake, one of Zhejiang's best-known scenic spots, is the romantic and legendary site of the love story between scholar Xu Xian and the demon Bai Suzhen, or White Snake.

■ West Lake: The Literary Lake

Hangzhou's West Lake (西湖) has been an inspiration to poets, painters, and novelists for centuries. The pristine 49-square-kilometer UNESCO World Heritage Site is dotted with pagodas, temples, bridges, and islands (both natural and human-made)—and steeped in mythology, legend, and history.

West Lake's profile first began to rise during the Sui dynasty (581 - 618), when various waterways across China were connected into what became known as the Grand Canal, with Hangzhou and West Lake as its southernmost terminus.

The real golden age of West Lake, however, began during the Southern Song dynasty (1127 - 1279), when Hangzhou, then known as Lin'an, was made the capital by Emperor Gaozong of Song. Emperor Gaozong devoted much of his time to planning the architecture and landscaping of the imperial city. The artistically talented emperor oversaw the construction of some of Hangzhou's most magnificent palaces, which were said to have had such masterful aesthetics that they came to define Southern Song architecture.

As the capital city, Lin'an attracted talented scholars, writers, and artists, giving rise to many lake-

themed *shanshui* (山水) landscape paintings. Painters and poets strove to capture the beauty of the lake and express the harmonies of humans and nature.

During this period, records began to refer to the Ten Scenes of West Lake (西湖十景). Rather than tourist destinations, these scenes are rooted in a 12th-century aesthetic tradition that inspired some of the best literature and art in Chinese civilization.

The first of the Ten Scenes is "Spring Dawn at Su Causeway (苏堤春晓)," a pedestrian walkway across the lake named after 11th century poet and official Su Shi (苏轼). As governor of Hangzhou, Su ordered West Lake dredged to create the causeway, employing more than 200,000 workers. In so doing, Su set Hangzhou apart from other cities across China and the world for its advanced urbanization—a balanced blend of nature and city life.

Despite the cultural vitality of Lin'an during the Southern Song, the city's place as a great Chinese capital ended with the arrival of Kublai Khan's army in 1276. But the dynasty left a legacy of architecture, poetry, and culture that endures to this day. It was this conquered empire that Marco Polo



visited. The newly installed Yuan government attributed the fall of the Southern Song to the state of West Lake, which had fallen into disrepair.

It wasn't until 1503 in the Ming dynasty (1368 - 1644) that an official named Yang Mengying (杨孟瑛) would save the lake. Yang carried out a large-scale dredging and renovation project for West Lake and nearby scenic

sites. The famous Su Causeway was strengthened and widened, and adorned with willow and peach trees. Another causeway was built parallel to Su's, named "Yanggong Causeway" (杨公堤) or "Lord Yang's Causeway" after Yang Mengying. Today, you can take this 3.4-kilometer trail through the major and minor attractions by the lake.

The Ten Scenes, which had



slipped out of historical memory with the fall of the Southern Song, came bubbling back to the surface four centuries later when the Kangxi Emperor of the Qing dynasty (1616 - 1911) took an interest in and rejuvenated the lake with his works of calligraphy, and marked each of the ten scenic spots with inscriptions. His grandson, the Qianlong Emperor, also wrote a poem for each of the ten sites.

Visitors today can visit iconic scenes such as the “Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake” (平湖秋月) and the “Glowing Leifeng Pagoda” (雷峰夕照, beneath which the legendary White Snake is said to be trapped).

Now, prosperous and well-maintained once more, West Lake has re-emerged as one of China’s most important cultural and historic centers, and one of its most popular tourist destinations to boot.

■ Flowing North to South: The Grand Canal

The four *baxia* guarding the main arch of Gongchen Bridge (拱宸桥), statues of the sons of the formidable Dragon Emperor in Chinese mythology, look a bit nervous.

This is natural, considering these stone statues' function is to stop ships from hitting the bridge while heading in and out of Hangzhou via the Grand Canal. For centuries, the *baxia* have seen the flow of trade pass to and from one of the greatest cities in ancient China.

The Grand Canal was once the heart of the global economy. Stretching nearly 1,800 kilometers from Beijing to Zhejiang province, the Grand Canal was arguably the main contributor to the integration of southern and northern China more than 1,400 years ago. Wherever it flowed, it brought prosperity and communication, with Hangzhou as its most vital nexus.

The Grand Canal, in fact, made Hangzhou. Before 605, Hangzhou was an obscure town with a population of 15,000. When the Grand Canal was completed in 610, Hangzhou burgeoned into a cosmopolitan metropolis. By the middle of the Tang dynasty (618 - 907) in the eighth century, Hangzhou already had over 30,000

shops, and the ships mooring in the canal stretched on for more than ten kilometers.

Departing from the Wulin Square Boat Terminal (武林门码头), the 30-minute Grand Canal boat trip to the Gongchen Bridge shows the ebb of history along this waterway. Modern glass towers line this stretch of the canal today, interspersed with small pagodas.

The first sections of the Grand Canal were dug in the fifth century BCE in northern China. Its southern terminus in Hangzhou, however, was not completed until a thousand years later during the Sui dynasty (581 - 618). Known for his cruelty, Emperor Yang of Sui forced millions of workers to complete 2,000

kilometers of the canal in just four years, with four workers in ten reportedly dying from the intense labor.

In the 1280s, Marco Polo visited the Grand Canal at Hangzhou:

“There runs a very large canal, on the bank of which towards the squares are built great houses of stone,” the Venetian traveler remarked. “In each of the squares is held a market three days in the week, frequented by 40,000 or 50,000 persons, who bring thither for sale every possible necessity of life.”

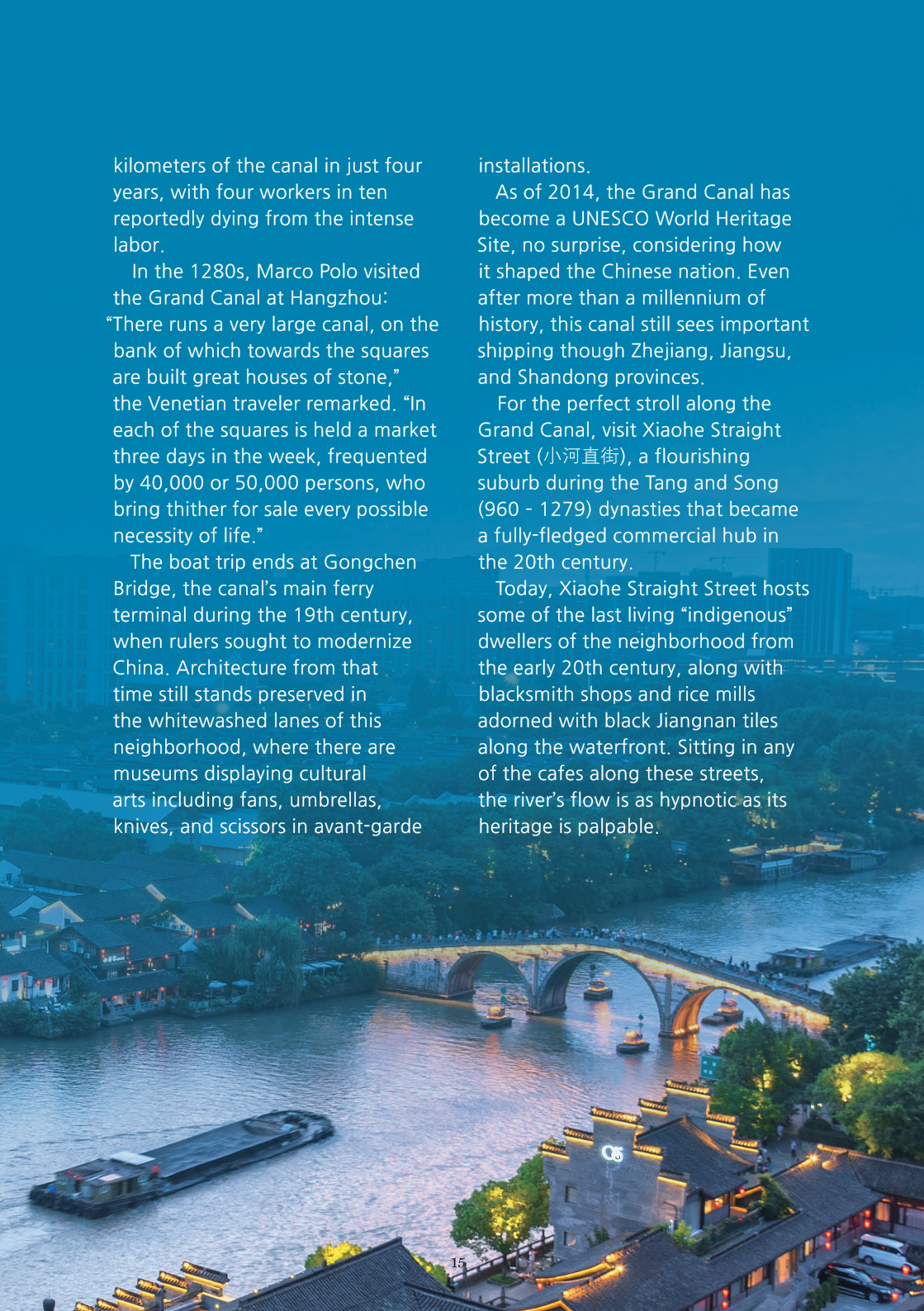
The boat trip ends at Gongchen Bridge, the canal's main ferry terminal during the 19th century, when rulers sought to modernize China. Architecture from that time still stands preserved in the whitewashed lanes of this neighborhood, where there are museums displaying cultural arts including fans, umbrellas, knives, and scissors in avant-garde

installations.

As of 2014, the Grand Canal has become a UNESCO World Heritage Site, no surprise, considering how it shaped the Chinese nation. Even after more than a millennium of history, this canal still sees important shipping though Zhejiang, Jiangsu, and Shandong provinces.

For the perfect stroll along the Grand Canal, visit Xiaohe Straight Street (小河直街), a flourishing suburb during the Tang and Song (960 - 1279) dynasties that became a fully-fledged commercial hub in the 20th century.

Today, Xiaohe Straight Street hosts some of the last living “indigenous” dwellers of the neighborhood from the early 20th century, along with blacksmith shops and rice mills adorned with black Jiangnan tiles along the waterfront. Sitting in any of the cafes along these streets, the river's flow is as hypnotic as its heritage is palpable.





■ Rolling with Zhejiang's Rivers

Often described as roaring like thunder and resembling tens of thousands of horses galloping forward, the tidal bores of the Qiantang River (钱塘江) have been attracting tourists from all over China from the seventh century till today. Qiantang is the name of the lower reaches of a longer river running from central China to the East China Sea, and refers specifically to the section that flows from central Hangzhou to Hangzhou Bay. Its ancient name, the Zhejiang River, or “the tortuous river,” gave the province its current name.

The bell-shaped Hangzhou Bay, combined with tidal forces, is responsible for making the river tidal bores on Zhejiang’s “mother river,” some of the largest in the world. But in ancient times, the Qiantang tidal bores were believed to be caused by an evil river spirit. Legend

has it that in the ninth century, King Qian Liu of the Wuyue Kingdom led an army to the riverbank and shot 3,000 arrows into the tide, successfully defeating the spirit. Today, you will find the fearless ruler’s statue standing tall near King Qian’s Temple by Hangzhou’s West Lake, holding a bow and arrow, as if he is ready to defend the city again at any moment.

Upstream, the waterway is known as the tranquil Fuchun River (富春江). The beautiful mountain scenery along the riverbanks are famous, and inspired the seven-meter scroll painting “Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains” by the 14th century painter Huang Gongwang (黄公望), part of which is exhibited in the Zhejiang Provincial Museum (浙江省博物馆). Frustrated under the rule of Mongols, and nostalgic for Zhejiang’s glory days of the past, Huang found consolation depicting nature.

BY THE SEA

Zhoushan Islands

Served by a network of ferries, Zhoushan (舟山) is made up of 1,390 islands ranging from hipster haunts like Dongji Island (东极岛), setting of the 2014 road trip movie *The Continent*, to the uninhabited Wuzhishan Islands (五峙山列岛), a bird sanctuary. Also part of the archipelago are Mount Putuo, one of the sacred mountains of Chinese Buddhism, and Zhujiajian Island (朱家尖岛), whose beaches hold the indie East Sea Music Festival every autumn.

Shengshan Island

Claiming to be China's easternmost isle, Shengshan (嵊山岛) is home to Houtouwán (后头湾村), a village being reclaimed by nature after its residents all migrated to more convenient islands. It is part of the Shengshan Archipelago, a more rugged cousin of the nearby Zhoushan Islands dotted with remote fishing villages and a rustic beauty.

Dongtou Red Rock Beach

Photographers flock to Red Rock Beach (红石滩), located in an island district of Wenzhou, to capture the iconic shot of sea spray rising like morning mist on the jagged reefs at high tide. The boulders get their rust-like color from microorganisms, appearing especially bright at sunrise and sunset.

Shipu Fishing Harbor

One of Zhejiang's biggest fishing ports, Shipu (石浦) of Xiangshan county, Ningbo, holds a street market every night where fresh seafood can be sampled on-site. Adjacent to this is a 600-year-old town with ancient temples, a city wall, and black-tiled architecture typical of the Yangtze River region.

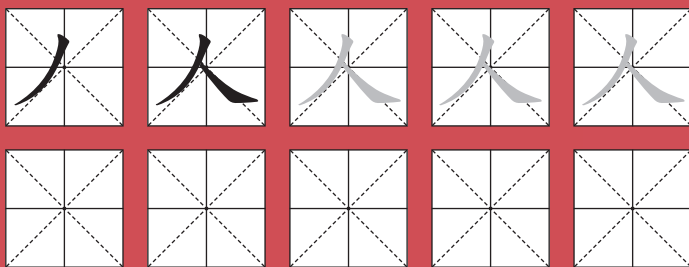


3

人

rén

PEOPLE



VOCABULARY

| | | |
|-----|----------|-----------------|
| 家人 | jiārén | family member |
| 诗人 | shīrén | poet |
| 好人 | hǎorén | nice person |
| 人才 | réncái | talented person |
| 迷人 | mírén | fascinating |
| 人工 | réngōng | manmade |
| 机器人 | jīqìrén | robot |
| 人生 | rénshēng | life |

DIALOGUE

A: This street is so crowded!

Zhè tiáo jiē shàng zhēnshì
rénshān-rénhǎi!

这条街上真是人山人海!

B: It's the busiest commercial
street in Hangzhou.

Zhè shì Hángzhōu zuì fánhuá
de shāngyèjiē ma.

这是杭州最繁华的
商业街嘛。

A: Excuse me, sir. Is this your
passport?

Xiānsheng, zhè shì nín de
hùzhào ma?

先生，这是您的护照吗？

B: Yes, it's mine. Thank you.
You're such a nice person.

Shì wǒ de, xièxie nín, nín
zhēnshì ge hǎorén.

是我的，谢谢您，您真是个
好人。

A: How is the customer service of
that website?

Nàge wǎngzhàn kèfú
zěnmeyàng?

那个网站客服怎么样？

B: The human staff and robots
are all pretty good.

Réngōng kèfú hé jīqìrén kèfú
dōu búcuò.

人工客服和机器人客服都
不错。

A: Alibaba is recruiting new
talent.

Ālǐbābā gōngsī zhèngzài
zhāopìn réncai.

阿里巴巴公司正在招聘
人才。

B: I want to give it a try.

Wǒ yě xiǎng qù shì yí shì.

我也想去试一试。



IDIOM

人山人海 rénshān-rénhǎi

A crowd of people

ORIGIN

人

Oracle Bone Script

人

Bronze Script

人

Seal Script

人

Regular Script

Originating over 3,000 years ago, the oracle bone script of this character resembled a person standing upright with their arms by their side. Later, it evolved into the current form. Zhejiang province boasted of many talented people in various fields throughout history, including the Yuan dynasty (1206 – 1368) calligrapher Zhao Mengfu, the 20th century writer Lu Xun, scientist Tu Youyou, and entrepreneur Ma Yun.

■ Digital Paradise

The rags-to-riches story of Ma Yun (马云), or Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba, might not have happened if he had been born elsewhere: “Hangzhou is the Eden of Alibaba,” the legendary entrepreneur once wrote, “Without Hangzhou, there is no Alibaba.”

Hangzhou, the provincial capital of Zhejiang province, has become synonymous with Ma’s tech kingdom. It has served as a hub for China’s digital sector, and ridden the wave of innovation to become one of the country’s wealthiest cities. Hangzhou is now home to a host of technology companies that have followed Alibaba’s lead, including internet and gaming company NetEase, and Hikvision, the world’s largest supplier of surveillance cameras.

In 2018, Hangzhou’s municipal government unveiled a five-year plan to make the city the hub of the nation’s digital industry. The digital economy now accounts for over a quarter of Hangzhou’s GDP.

Hangzhou’s continued prosperity (the city saw 6.8 percent annual GDP growth in 2019) owes much to the house that Jack Ma built: Alibaba’s headquarters remain in the city. The sprawling campus, nestled amid the Xixi wetlands (西溪

湿地) region of Hangzhou, employs some 22,000 people and makes up the central nervous system of Ma’s e-commerce empire.

Ma’s own story continues to inspire countless of his fellow Zhejiang natives to embrace entrepreneurship, no matter where they start from. Born on September 10, 1964, to musician and folk storyteller parents, the young Ma began offering tours of Hangzhou to foreign visitors at age 13. For nine years, he would walk up the mossy paths to the Hangzhou Hotel—now the Shangri-La—and learn English in exchange for showing guests around this fairytale city.

After graduating from college with an English degree, as the now well-weathered Jack Ma legend goes, he was rejected for over 30 jobs, including one at Hangzhou’s first KFCs. In 1999, he launched Alibaba with 17 friends in his sparse Hangzhou flat. No one in the world could have known it then, but they were living and creating a new Hangzhou legend.

By 2014, as the company was about to take its IPO on the New York Stock Exchange and go supernova as NYSE: BABA, they had nearly 100 million users in over



20 countries with global online transactions exceeding one trillion RMB. Shattering all investment records with its IPO of 25 billion USD in September, the company continued to move at a mercurial pace—perhaps one of the fastest in the world, with ventures into entertainment, cinema, sports, and beyond.

In 2019, Alibaba saw revenue of over 70 billion USD and, despite the impact of Covid-19, the future

looks bright for the company as it continues to expand into cloud computing, AI, fintech and more. Ma, who stepped down as company chairman in 2020 to pursue philanthropic projects, wants Alibaba to last until the year 2101, so that he can say that his legacy has spanned three centuries.

But Ma and the company he built are unlikely to forget their Hangzhou roots. As Ma says, “It’s the city that made Alibaba.”

ALL IN THE ALI-FAMILY

Since its foundation in 1999, Alibaba has grown into one of the world's largest digital companies. Originally an online marketplace, Alibaba and its partner platforms have become ubiquitous parts of modern life in China, extending their reach into mobile payment, ride-hailing, digital currency, shared bikes, AI research, and more:

- **Alipay:** Launched in 2004, the mobile payment system allows consumers to make purchases with their

mobile phone using a QR code. The platform claimed 870 million users as of 2018, launched facial recognition payment in 2017, and developed a QR health code system to help contain the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020.

- **Taobao:** Taobao is the world's largest e-commerce platform, and the mobile app is ubiquitous on phones across China. Taobao provides consumer-to-consumer shopping, so anyone can set up an online store. Its "Single's Day" shopping festival falls

on November 11 every year, and saw sales of 268 billion RMB in 2019.

- **Freshippo:** Freshippo, or Hema, is the name given to Alibaba's "new retail" supermarkets. The aim is to offer a shopping experience that seamlessly combines online and offline elements. "Smart shopping" allows customers to order their groceries online or in store and have it delivered within 30 minutes, and order meat and seafood however they prefer—raw or cooked, or prepared to eat in store.





■ Canals, Culture, Computers

Around 80 kilometers north of the provincial capital, Hangzhou, the ancient water town of Wuzhen (乌镇) is a serene mix of stone bridges, Ming-era houses, and winding canals. Wuzhen has been named “Venice of the East,” and visitors can enjoy gentle boat trips along the town’s crisscrossing waterways.

But despite its ancient roots, Wuzhen is making a name for itself in more modern ways—as a hub for trendy art exhibitions and tech start-ups. Since 2014, Wuzhen has hosted the Chinese government-sponsored annual World Internet Conference (WIC), which has seen world leaders and tech bosses, including Apple CEO Tim Cook in 2017, meeting to discuss the future of the digital world.

There are also plans to make

Wuzhen the world’s first “5G smart town,” incorporating the technology into everything from firefighting to education. At the 2019 WIC, driverless buses using 5G technology were deployed to drive guests around town. These buses will be rolled out to serve an area of 110 square kilometers across the city in the future.

Wuzhen is also a major cultural center, as it was for much of Chinese history. Multiple art galleries house new exhibits regularly, including the Muxin Art Museum (木心美术馆), which showcases the work of legendary Wuzhen native Mu Xin. The annual Wuzhen Theater Festival is a celebration of both traditional and modern performing arts, and features an outdoor parade as part of the festivities.

■ The Crow's Blessing: Yiwu International Trade City

In the first century BCE, when Zhejiang was just a frontier, a poor young man named Yan Wu lived there with his father. One day, Yan found an injured crow by the side of the road, took it home, and nursed it back to health.

Years later, Yan's father died. As Yan was too poor to afford a funeral, he dug the grave himself. After three days and three nights, he collapsed from exhaustion and grief. Suddenly, a flock of crows appeared, and helped Yan dig the grave with their beaks. The story of the filial Yan and loyal birds spread all over the land, and the spot was dubbed Wushang (乌伤, "sorrow of

crows") or Wuxiao (乌孝, "filial piety of crows"), later changing to Yiwu (义乌, "righteousness of crows").

Though a flock of crows hardly seem like a good omen, fortune has continued to smile on Yiwu ever since. This mountainous region of central Zhejiang had always depended on trade due to a lack of arable land. The city's star really rose in 1982 when, after Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms, a wholesale market dating back to the 1700s was reopened, eventually becoming the Yiwu International Trade Market (义乌国际商贸城), the largest commodities market in the world.

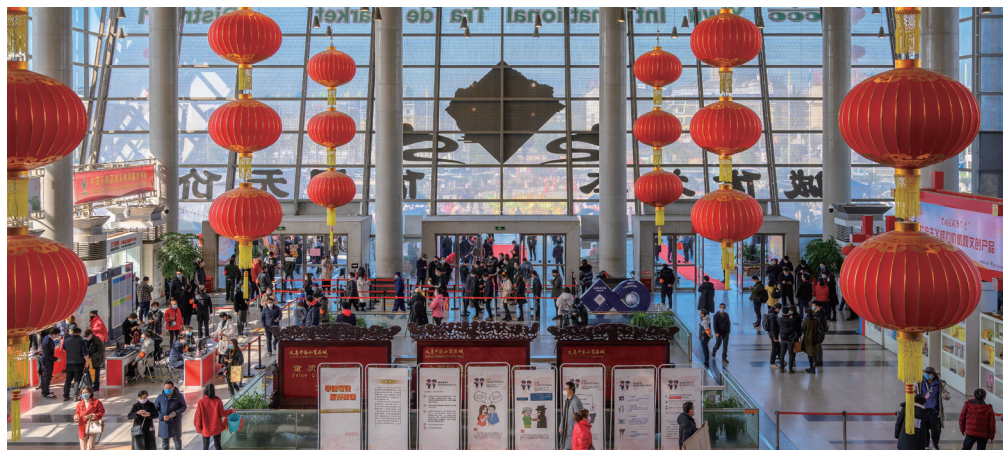


Today, Yiwu is a regional hub of light manufacturing and consumer goods trading, and it is still a destination for travelers from around the world. The three-square-kilometer market sees 200,000 visits per day, with importers hailing from Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. Some stay only long enough to stuff suitcases full of clothing and trinkets to sell back home, but around 13,000 permanent foreign residents have put down roots in the city as traders, business consultants, international school teachers, and small business owners.

As a supplier of consumer goods to around 206 countries and regions, Yiwu has a disproportionate influence on the world. It's known as China's "Christmas Village," as around 60 percent of the world's Christmas decorations are produced in some of the 600 factories and workshops surrounding the city, many of them dusted by red glitter all year round. The "Yiwu

Index," a price index that reflects commodities prices around the world, has also become a political bellwether—local business owners supposedly predicted Donald Trump's victory in the 2016 US Presidential Elections due to the sheer number of merchandise they shipped for his campaign.

Though the utilitarian Yiwu lacks the tourist cachet of its Zhejiang neighbors, visitors are often pleasantly surprised by its international vibe, with a plethora of foreign cuisines, vivid nightlife, and a cornucopia of languages spoken in some of its neighborhoods. The city is well-equipped to host foreign visitors, putting on around a dozen international trade exhibitions a year. The night market on Northern Chouzhou Road, with Middle Eastern traders smoking pipes and sampling delicacies in front of coffee shops by the sidewalk, is a unique sight found nowhere else in China.





■ It Takes a Village: Yucun's Eco-Transformation

Pan Chunlin had stopped wearing white shirts. It was the 1990s, and he was a loader at one of Yucun Village's (余村) mines. "If you go out in a white shirt in the morning, when you come home in the evening, all you can see are two eyeballs," he recalled to People.cn in 2020. "My mother said, 'don't buy light colored shirts. I won't wash them for you.'"

In the 1990s, Yucun villagers became the richest in their county by opening three quarries, three cement factories, a lime kiln, a paper factory, and a chemical factory. Pan recalls that 70 to 80 tractors came and went each day. But the streets and rivers were overflowing with smoke, dust, and sewage, and villagers grew sick.

In 2005, the village government, in what has been called a "miracle of ecological governance," decided to shut down the enterprises one after another, despite the immediate losses of profit. Their bold move caught the attention of Xi Jinping, then party secretary of Zhejiang province, who visited the village that year and coined the now-ubiquitous environmental protection slogan: "Green water and blue mountains are mountains of gold and silver."

Instead of selling the rocks, Yucun began selling the mountain—its lush natural beauty—to visitors. Today, tourists are greeted by a stunning panorama: a river running through the town, and green hills

rising behind it. Visitors can stay in farmhouses, pay homage to the village's ancient ginkgo tree, and admire fields of sunflowers. Yucun's nearby bamboo forests formed the backdrop of a thrilling scene in Ang Lee's Oscar-winning martial arts movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. In 2012, Yucun Village won the United Nations Habitat Award. In 2020, it was named one of China's "Beautiful Leisure Villages."

Nestled at the base of emerald hills and pools, Yucun represents a remarkable success of sustainable development. Fifteen years on, villagers have chosen to protect their environment and enjoy a higher quality of life than ever. And, jokes Pan, "Now, we can wear whatever we want."

FOUR MORE VILLAGES TO CHECK OUT

Hemu Village

With a history of four thousand years, the cobblestone streets and houses of Hemu village (和睦村) are home to a thriving pottery tradition. Ancient ceramics unearthed here continues to inspire today's village workshops and kilns, where visitors can take tours and even try their hand at the craft. The village's well-preserved



architecture includes a stone archway from the Ming dynasty (1368 – 1644), and old residences from the Qing dynasty (1616 – 1911) and early 20th century.

Jinxin Village

Jinxin, or “Gold Star” village (金心村), may have gotten its name from a thousand-year-old ginkgo tree in the village green. Teeming with natural beauty, the village also features a 500-meter-long avenue of tree arches hanging with red lanterns. The view of mist-shrouded mountains

rising from behind Majin Creek (马金溪) echoes scenes from classical Chinese painting.

Yuyuan Village

Yuyuan village (俞源村) is a “taichi and astrology” village, was designed by Liu Bowen (刘伯温), founding minister of the Ming dynasty, who based the architecture and landscape on a principle of astrology called the “Twenty-Eight Constellations of the Zodiac.” Ancient houses and bridges are exquisitely crafted and preserved in the village,

along with brick and stone carvings.

Xiaoruo Village

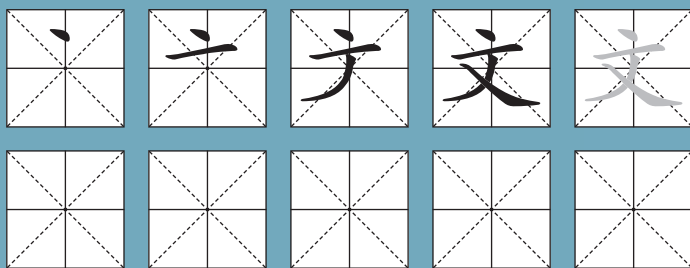
In 2017, the local government of Xiaoruo village (小箬村) had the colorful idea to paint the walls of the small fishing village in all shades of the rainbow: blue, pink, orange, and yellow. Since then, photographers and influencers have flocked to this “Rainbow Village,” or “China’s Santorini,” giving rise to coffee shops and milk tea stands among the quaint cobblestone paths overlooking the sea.



4

文

wén
CHARACTER,
TEXT



VOCABULARY

| | | |
|------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 文化 | wénhuà | culture |
| 文件 | wénjiàn | document |
| 中文 | Zhōngwén | Chinese language |
| 文物 | wénwù | cultural artifacts |
| 文房四宝 | wénfáng sì bǎo | “four stationery treasures” |
| 文静 | wénjìng | gentle |
| 论文 | lùnwén | thesis |
| 文章 | wénzhāng | essay |

DIALOGUE

A: What are you doing?

Nǐ zài máng shénme?

你在忙什么？

B: I'm working on the documents my colleagues sent me.

Wǒ zài chǔlǐ tóngshì fāgěi wǒ de wénjiàn.

我在处理同事发给我的文件。

A: Before traveling, you should learn about local customs at your destination.

Qù lǚyóu zhīqián, yào xiān liǎojiě fēngtǔ rénqíng.

去旅游之前，要先了解风土人情。

B: You're right. I'll search online for relevant articles.

Hǎode, wǒ qù wǎngshàng zhǎo yī zhāo xiāngguān de wénzhāng.

好的，我去网上找一找相关的文章。

A: Your Chinese is really good!

Nǐ de Zhōngwén zhēn hǎo!

你的中文真好！

B: Thank you. I've just passed the HSK Level 6 test.

Xièxie, wǒ gāng tōngguò le HSK liù jí.

谢谢，我刚通过了HSK六级。

A: My grandpa likes collecting writing brushes, ink, ink slabs, and paper, which are known as the "four stationery treasures."

Wǒ yéye xǐhuan shōucáng wéntáng sì bǎo, bǐ, mò, zhǐ, yàn.
我爷爷喜欢收藏文房四宝，
笔、墨、纸、砚。

B: Really? You can buy him a Huzhou writing brush as a present.

Zhēnde ma? Nǐ kěyǐ gěi yéye mǎi yī zhī húbǐ dàngzuò lǐwù.

真的吗？你可以给爷爷买一只湖笔当作礼物。



IDIOM

温文尔雅 wēnwén-ěryǎ

Gentle and cultivated

ORIGIN



Oracle Bone Script



Bronze Script



Seal Script



Regular Script

The oracle bone script of the character 文 resembled a standing person, with the upper part representing the head, followed by two outstretched arms, a pattern at the chest, and two legs. Later, the middle pattern was omitted, and the character evolved into the current form. Throughout Zhejiang's long history, the development of agriculture, architecture, textiles, and arts have been recorded in many rich volumes of text from ancient times to today.

■ Liangzhu Culture: A Story Etched in Jade

The claim that China has 5,000 years of history has taken on talismanic importance in mainstream discussions of Chinese history, though as with all ancient history, there are never simple answers. But arguably the most powerful argument in favor of the claim lies in Liangzhu (良渚), northwest of Hangzhou.

Liangzhu Culture was a Neolithic civilization that existed between 4,300 and 5,300 years ago in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River at the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs. The Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City (良渚古城遗址), a UNESCO World Heritage site, is believed to have been the economic and political center of the region. Palace foundations, altars, water conservancy projects, and jade artifacts all suggest a highly complex society.

Key relics are displayed at the Liangzhu Museum (良渚博物院), located in the adjacent Liangzhu New Town (良渚文化村). These range from pottery for daily use to ritual objects made of jade. A unique emblem was found carved in many jade artifacts; what it portrays is open to interpretation—some say it is a mask, others say it represents

a deity, or a man riding a tiger. Whatever the truth, experts tend to agree that this emblem denoted objects used by the chief of a society.

What happened to Liangzhu culture remains unknown, but its key aspect—its legacy of jade as an important marker of social status—has persisted throughout Chinese history, with jade continuing to be a prized possession even today.





■ Woven History: The Silk Culture of Zhejiang


At the exit of Hangzhou Railway Station, a slogan reads: “Travel to Hangzhou half for West Lake, half for silk.”

Besides the provincial capital, several other cities in Zhejiang, such as Shaoxing and Huzhou, have been major hubs for silk production for centuries, and display their heritage proudly for visitors today. Silk products are sold on every street corner in these cities, as well as at wholesale and retail markets like Hangzhou China Silk Town (杭州中国丝绸城). One can also visit China National Silk Museum (中国丝绸博物馆) in Hangzhou to learn about silk history and culture.

The silk history of Zhejiang

threads back over 4,200 years, as proven by the *chou* (绸) silk fabric unearthed at Qianshanyang Site (钱山漾遗址) south of the city of Huzhou. In the Spring and Autumn period (770 - 476 BCE), the State of Yue, which was centered around present-day Shaoxing, promoted the development of mulberry cultivation (to provide food for silkworms) as state policy. Xi Shi (西施), a renowned beauty of Yue, is said to have washed silk gauze, or *sha* (纱), by a river near her village in Gouwu county, now Shaoxing's Zhuji county.

In the Tang dynasty (618 - 907), many varieties of Zhejiang silk were sent as tributes to the imperial court. But Hangzhou silk might have been the most popular, for a folk saying



goes, “Hangzhou [silk] products are the best in the world.”

For shoppers today, it is important to know the difference between the more than 14 different types of silk. For instance, the most common weave, *chou*, is thin and soft, and is often made into dresses, blouses, or nightgowns. *Duan* (缎) is a little thicker, and is often brocaded and made into an autumn or winter qipao.

The most famous weave, though, is *hangluo* (杭罗), or Hangzhou *luo* silk. Using pure silkworm threads woven in an extremely complex pattern, the fabric is famed for being light and breathable, perfect for a summer *qipao*.

As the history of *luo* silk traces back at least to the Spring and Autumn period, the ancient technique of making *hangluo* was recognized as UNESCO Intangible World Cultural Heritage in 2009. If you are looking to take home a

bit of this culture, keep an eye out for the brand Fuxing Hangluo (福兴杭罗), produced by the Fuxing Silk Factory, which has always strived to hold on to traditional methods.

If you're particular about the color or dye, another important facet of silk production for millennia, Wensli (万事利) is a high-end brand that applies the latest technology and fashionable design to silk dyeing.

If you are looking for decoration rather than fashion, *zhijin* (织锦), or brocade, will definitely satisfy. This silk brocade was named after the patriotic textile tycoon Du Jinsheng (都锦生), who was active in the 1920s and 30s and invented the art of landscape “painting” on silk. You can find original hand-woven pieces of brocade in the Former Residence of Du Jinsheng (都锦生故居), a museum which displays designs of Du's invention in Maojiabu village (茅家埠村) by the western shore of West Lake.



■ Xi Shi and
Gou Jian:
The Beauty and
the King

In China, comparing a woman to Xi Shi is considered one of the greatest compliments to her appearance. One of the “Four Great Beauties” of ancient China, Xi Shi is believed to be based on a real woman from what is today’s Zhejiang. Her beauty and star-crossed romance made her a well-known tragic heroine, as well as a synonym for stunning good looks.

Shi Yiguang (施夷光) was born in Zhuluo Village (present-day Zhuji county) of the State of Yue, in the late Spring and Autumn period (770 - 476 BCE). She later became known under the honorifics Xi Shi, “Lady of the West,” and Xizi (西子), since she lived in the westernmost village of her area. Her charm has been praised in numerous literary works throughout history. When she washed clothes by the stream, it’s said her beauty would shame the fish into hiding under water. Her extraordinary ability gave rise to the first half of the idiom 沉鱼落雁 (chényú-luòyàn, to make fish sink and wild geese fall), indicating unparalleled beauty.

Xi Shi is remembered for her alleged role in the decades-long battle between the State of Yue and its neighbor, the State of Wu. In 494 BCE, Gou Jian (勾践), the King of Yue, was defeated by the Wu king Fu Chai (夫差), but managed to sue for peace by bribing a Wu minister. Three years later, Gou Jian, who was taken prisoner by Wu, was

released home to Yue after winning Fu Chai’s trust. He then selected a young woman, trained her in music and dance, and presented her to Fu Chai in order to bewitch him and allow Gou Jian to take his revenge. This woman was Xi Shi. The honey-trap worked: Fu Chai was so besotted with Xi Shi’s charms that he was distracted from governance, and spent lavishly on building palaces and other amusements for his lady.

Meanwhile, Gou Jian employed wise ministers and built up his own state. According to the legend, he slept on a pile of straw and tasted bile from a gall he hung in his room every morning to remind himself of his bitter humiliation. This gave rise to the idiom 卧薪尝胆 (wòxīn-chángdǎn, to sleep on firewood and taste gall), meaning to nurse a grudge or strengthen one’s resolve. In 473 BCE, Gou Jian finally destroyed the State of Wu and became the final, most powerful chief of the Spring and Autumn period.

After Wu’s fall, however, Xi Shi’s life is a mystery. Though many people choose to believe that she lived happily in seclusion with her lover Fan Li (范蠡), a former minister of Yue, some legends say that she was drowned by the people of Wu out of hatred, or by Gou Jian, who believed her dangerous beauty may bring the State of Yue down as it did in Wu.

■ Shaoxing: The Poetic Water Town

One sunny and breezy day in the late spring of 353, a party was in full swing with 40-some poets, scholars, and artists playing a drinking game by a river in Lanting, or the “Orchid Pavilion,” in the hilly southwestern suburb of Shaoxing. They floated cups of wine in the flow of the stream; when it’s stopped in front of a guest, he had to pick it up, drink, and compose a poem.

A total of 37 poems were written that day, but it was the foreword to the poetry collection by famed calligrapher Wang Xizhi (王羲之), titled “Preface to the Poems Collected from the Orchid Pavilion (《兰亭集序》),” that made this party one of the best known in Chinese literary history. In 324 immortal words, Wang described the event while expressing his passion for life. The work actually contained several characters Wang smeared off or revised, but the naturally-flowing strokes, a product of his outstanding skills and the inspiration of the moment, have led the “Preface” to be widely regarded as the best semi-cursive calligraphy work ever.

Today, visitors can go to the Lanting Scenic Area (兰亭风景区), an elegant garden complex on the former site of the party, which boasts a calligraphy museum, a

pavilion, and a pond, all surrounded by thick bamboo forests. In downtown Shaoxing—a world of alleyways, green canals, ancient bridges and graying whitewashed houses, one can also visit a number of scenic sites connected with Wang’s stories and anecdotes from his time there, such as the Bifei Alley (笔飞弄, “Pen-Flying Alley”) and the Tishan Bridge (题扇桥, “Fan-Writing Bridge”).

With over 2,500 years of history, Shaoxing is one of the oldest cities in China. It has long been



a center of culture, and home to countless literati, scholars, and social activists. To use Ming (1368 - 1644) scholar Yuan Hongdao's (袁宏道) words, "there are more celebrities in Shaoxing than fish in water."

Lu Xun (鲁迅), the sharp-tongued 20th century writer and "China's conscience," grew up in the mesmerizing Shaoxing countryside and put his childhood memories down in his widely-read story, "Village Drama (《社戏》)." Visitors can go to Lu Xun's Former Residence (鲁迅故里), a scenic complex featuring the author's ancestral home, his childhood garden, the Xianheng Restaurant (咸亨酒家) from his short story, a museum, and more. The

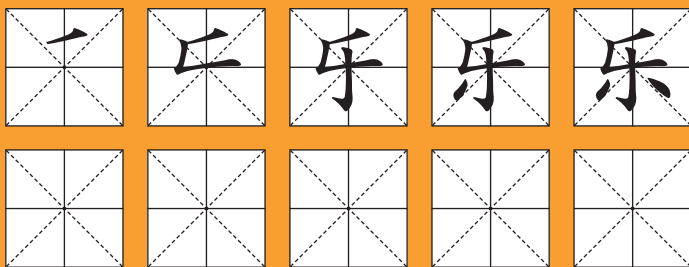
former homes of pioneering female rights activist poet Qiu Jin (秋瑾), and educator Cai Yuanpei (蔡元培), are also open for public tours in Shaoxing, and offer a glimpse into the life stories of these trailblazers and the nation's revolutionary past.

For romantics, Shaoxing represents the lost land "South of the Yangtze River," or Jiangnan (江南). In a literary sense, Jiangnan is an imagined world that exists in Chinese poetry, always associated with apricot blossoms, spring rain, stone bridges, and waterways. Shaoxing is a city that allows the idea of Jiangnan to run wild in people's imaginations with ancient bridges, black-canopy boats, and fragrant yellow wine.



5 乐

yuè / lè
MUSIC, HAPPY



VOCABULARY

| | | |
|----|--------|---------------------|
| 音乐 | yīnyuè | music |
| 民乐 | mínyuè | folk music |
| 乐曲 | yuèqǔ | musical composition |
| 乐器 | yuèqì | musical instrument |
| 欢乐 | huānlè | joy |
| 乐趣 | lèqù | fun |
| 乐观 | lèguān | optimistic |
| 娱乐 | yúlè | entertainment |



DIALOGUE

A: What sort of music do you like?

Nǐ xǐhuan nǎzhǒng lèixíng de
yīnyuè?

你喜欢哪种类型的音乐?

B: I like folk music and classical
music.

Wǒ xǐhuan mínyuè hé gǔdiǎn
yīnyuè.

我喜欢民乐和古典音乐。

A: It's raining; what if we can't get
back to the hotel?

Xiàyǔ le, zánmen huí bù liǎo
bīnguǎn zěnmé bàn?

下雨了，咱们回不了宾馆怎
么办?

B: Be optimistic. Maybe the rain
will stop after a while!

Lèguān yì diǎn, shuō bú dìng
yíhuìr yǔ jiù tíng le ne!

乐观一点，说不定一会儿雨
就停了呢!

A: Do you still want to go home?

Nǐ xiànzài hái xiǎng huíjiā ma?

你现在还想回家吗?

B: No, I'm too happy to feel
homesick.

Wǒ yǐjīng lèbùsīshǔ le.

我已经乐不思蜀了。

A: We've done nothing but eat and
amuse ourselves lately. Should
we get some exercise?

Zánmen zuìjìn zhěngtiān chīhē
wánlè, shì bú shì gāi yùndòng
le?

咱们最近整天吃喝玩乐，是
不是该运动了?

B: There's a gym in the hotel.
Let's go for a run!

Jiǔdiàn yǒu jiànshēnfáng, qù
pǎobù ba!

酒店有健身房，去跑步吧!



IDIOM

乐不思蜀 lèbùsīshǔ

Too delighted to be homesick

ORIGIN

Oracle Bone Script

Bronze Script

Seal Script

Regular Script

In oracle bone script, this character was both a pictograph and ideograph. It resembles a musical instrument with strings formed by silk threads, which was its original meaning. As music can bring people joy, the character later came to mean happiness, pronounced ㄌㄝˋ to differentiate it from the original ㄩㄝˋ. Life can be hard sometimes; fortunately, we can relax ourselves by listening to music or traveling. Zhejiang welcomes all visitors, and we hope you enjoy the stay here.

■ Foodies of Zhejiang

Diners used to the pungent aromas and masochistic amounts of spice in China's other culinary regions may find Zhejiang food a welcome change. Zhe cuisine, one of China's "Eight Major Culinary Traditions," places an emphasis on qualities such as freshness and respect for the food's natural richness and texture.

Known since ancient times as the "land of fish and rice," Zhejiang's fertile floodplains, verdant hills, and thousand-kilometer coastline are rich in biodiversity. Natural herbs, livestock raised on nutritious feed, and fish from rivers, lakes, and the sea are prominent in the local diet.

Zhe cuisine is divided into several regional schools including Ningbo cuisine, which makes good use of fresh seafood; Shaoxing cuisine, often flavored by the aromatic rice wine named after the city; Wenzhou cuisine, featuring more exotic seafood and almost imperceptible seasonings; and the cuisine of the provincial capital, Hangzhou, whose dishes use richer sauces and are steeped in Chinese history.

As the cultural heart of China from the 12th century onward, the Yangtze River Delta also became home to various Confucian scholars and nobles who brought their refined tastes to the region. Literati

such as Su Shi (苏轼), Li Yu (李漁), Lin Hong (林洪), and Yuan Mei (袁枚) became China's first food critics, and they all cultivated their taste buds in Zhejiang: carefully studying the natural flavors and textures used by local cooks, heaping praise on their restrained seasoning and presentation, and even rejecting cruel farming techniques.

Yuan Mei's *Suiyuan Cookbook* (《随园食单》) is perhaps the most widely-read ancient recipe book of its kind. Yuan never minced words when discussing his most hated enemy, the "mediocre cook": "Each food has a flavor of its own, and you can't mingle different flavors. I notice how mediocre cooks put chicken, duck, pork, and goose into one pot to stew...If these animals were aware of it, they





would be petitioning for the chef's punishment in hell," Yuan wrote. "Mediocre cooks always keep a pot of pork oil, and finish each dish with a spoonful, so as to make it greasy."

Yuan's definition of good food was all about balance, a principle still upheld by most Zhejiang dishes today: "Good food is rich and aromatic, but not greasy; fresh and natural, but not bland."

Dongpo pork

Su Shi was a respected 11th century poet and governor of Hangzhou, more popularly known for his pen name Dongpo Jushi (东坡居士).

He is credited as the inventor of "Dongpo pork" (东坡肉), a pan-fried chunk of fatty pork belly boiled on low heat with soy sauce, sugar, and Shaoxing wine. Su, a well-known gastronome, even wrote a poem on cooking pork: "Mild is the fire, shallow is the water, give it time, and it will be divine."

However, Su later swore off meat after serving a prison sentence. He wrote of his confinement, "I felt just like a fowl waiting in the kitchen...I can no longer bear to cause any living creature to suffer immeasurable fright and pain simply to please my palate."

FIVE ZHEJIANG DISHES

Longjing shrimp

Allegedly invented by the Qianlong Emperor of the Qing dynasty (1616 – 1911), Longjing Shrimp (龙井虾仁), a deceptively simple summer dish, is made by stir-frying the leaves of newly picked *longjing* tea with fresh river shrimp, leaving the shrimps white and the leaves green. In one bite, the smoothness of the shrimp contrasts with the slightly bitter taste and rougher texture of the leaves.

Sweet-and-sour West Lake carp

Sweet-and-sour West Lake carp (西湖醋鱼) dish brings together the light flavors of carp and the sweet-and-sour flavors for which Hangzhou cuisine is famous. In addition to a splash of Shaoxing wine, the dish also includes ginger, soy, vinegar, and sugar, which give it a full-bodied flavor.

Beggar's chicken

In bygone eras, lowly beggars in Hangzhou were said to have cooked chicken wrapped in mud and leaves over campfires.

Now a regular on lists of famous Zhe dishes, beggar's chicken (叫花鸡) consists of chicken wrapped in lotus leaf, with a dab of Shaoxing wine to give it extra flavor. The chicken is often stuffed with other tasty ingredients like shiitake mushrooms, and roasted in clay.

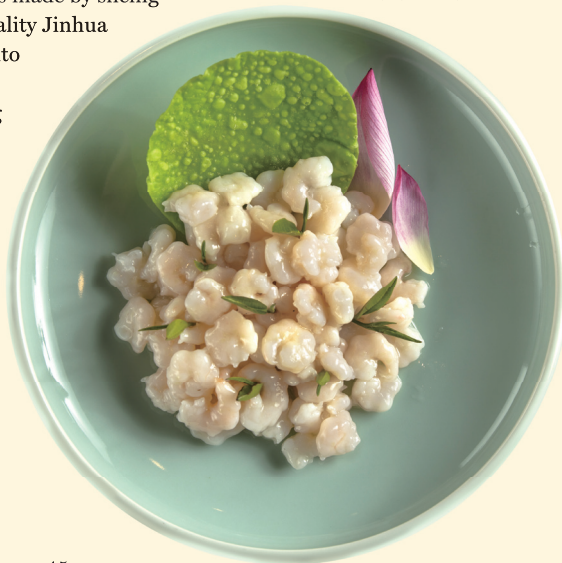
Jinhua ham

Jinhua ham (金华火腿), the eponymous charcuterie of Jinhua, central Zhejiang, was traditionally cured with sea salt each winter when temperatures dropped below 10 degrees Celsius. A classic dish called *painan* (排南, “southern line”) is made by slicing top quality Jinhua ham into cubes, leaving a thin layer

of fat on top. This is drizzled with a sauce made from sugar and Shaoxing wine, then steamed.

Braised bamboo shoots with zao

Braised bamboo shoots with zao (糟烩鞭笋) typically vegetarian dish is made by braising fresh bamboo shoots with *xiangzao* (香糟), the fragrant residue of distilled rice wine that has been left to ferment. Other vegetables (or meat) can be added according to the chef's preference, or the bamboo can be eaten itself, usually mixed with sesame oil.



■ Longjing Legend

Every spring, in late March, the lush slopes of the West Lake region in Hangzhou come alive. Farmers in straw hats dot the tea fields, as the most precious Longjing must be picked in two short weeks before the Qingming Festival. Considered one of the finest types of green tea in China, West Lake Longjing, or “Dragon Well” tea, is known for its emerald color, sparrow tongue-shaped leaves, bittersweet taste, and rich aroma. An entire day’s

work by a skilled tea picker yields only half a kilogram of tea after processing, contributing to its high price. Plentiful rainfall, humid air, moderate climate, rich soil, and hilly lands make this area perfect for tea cultivation, which goes back at least 1,500 years.

The China National Tea Museum, Shuangfeng Branch (中国茶叶博物馆双峰馆区) on Longjing Road is a nice first stop to gather all your tea facts. It is surrounded by the tea



fields of Shuangfeng village (双峰村), one of the major tea producing communities of the region. Nearly all the families here are involved in the tea business, and visitors can see tea-makers processing the tender leaves in frying pans in their front yards.

The Longjing Temple (龙井寺), located in a village of the same name southwest of the West Lake, is where the Longjing legend began. The eponymous Dragon Well is located inside. It's said that, once upon a time, Hangzhou experienced a severe drought, but this well (井 jǐng) remained active. Local

people believed this was due to a dragon (龙 lóng) that lived inside, giving rise to the name "Longjing."

In Longjing village, you can drink authentic Shifeng Longjing (狮峰龙井), the most premium of the five varieties of the tea. If you want high quality Longjing to take home and don't mind a trip to the tea gardens, buying tea in farmers' houses is recommended. In several large tea producing areas like Meijiawu village (梅家坞村) and Longjing village, you can visit the fields, watch the tea-roasting process, and bring freshly-fried leaves home.





FIVE MORE ZHEJIANG BREWS

Dafo ("Big Buddha") Longjing

Dafo Longjing (大佛龙井) is the less-famous cousin to West Lake Longjing produced in the misty highlands of Xinchang county in southeastern Zhejiang. It is known for its long-lasting floral aroma.

Kaihua Longding

Grown in Kaihua county in northwestern Zhejiang, Kaihua Longding (开化龙顶) leaves produce a clear green color and stand vertical in the cup when brewed, giving rise to the

nickname "forest in the tea cup."

Huiming Tea

Huiming tea (惠明茶) is a product of the Jingning She Autonomous County in southwestern Zhejiang. It won a gold medal at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. The minority She people have been cultivating tea in the region since the ninth century.

Anji White Tea

White tea is made from dried or minimally

processed tea leaves that are not roasted over a fire, unlike green tea. Anji White tea (安吉白茶) from Anji county is high in amino acids, without the bitterness of green tea.

Songyang Silver Monkey

Said to resemble a monkey's paw when processed, due to its many spirals, the silvery leaves of Songyang Silver Monkey (松阳银猴) are harvested from the mountainous Songyang county in southwestern Zhejiang. It comes in both green and white varieties.

■ Yue Opera

In the late Qing dynasty (1616 - 1911), farmers in Zhejiang's Sheng county created a new type of performance that combined talking and singing in the local dialect. It was nicknamed *xiaogeban* (小歌班), or "small opera." Farmers acted out and sang the extraordinary events of the day, and legends of long ago.

At the turn of the 20th century, *xiaogeban* had spread to Shanghai, but its actors were initially sneered at by elitist local crowds for their rural origins. This sparked the birth of Yue opera (越剧), a formalized version of *xiaogeban* that absorbed influences from other operatic traditions and used elaborate sets, costumes, and musical arrangements.

Around this time, the art form added another crucial element: women. Influenced by the feminists in Shanghai, the romantic stories and soft melodies performed by women attracted bigger crowds. Thus, Yue opera became a female-dominated medium. Today, male roles in Yue opera are often taken by female performers.

Making friends with Yue opera actresses and buying beautiful costumes for them became a fashion among the high-class women of Shanghai. Artists from around the country would come to

craft scripts for this medium, the most well-known of which are *The Butterfly Lovers* (《梁祝》), *The Story of the Western Wing* (《西厢记》), and *Peach Blossom Fan* (《桃花扇》).

The Butterfly Lovers

It's a legend of love and learning: *The Butterfly Lovers*, or *Liang Zhu*, is one of the most well-known Chinese folk legends. Having been passed down for almost 1,700 years, the story has spawned countless films, plays, operas, and even a concerto. The Yue opera based on this tale, composed in the 1930s, sets the story in Zhejiang. It is one of the best-known versions of the story, as it was made into a hit movie in 1953.

The story begins with Zhu Yingtai (祝英台), the daughter of a wealthy family, gaining entry to a famous academy—since the Ming dynasty (1368 - 1644), this has been identified as the Wansong Academy (万松书院) in southeastern Hangzhou.

To enter this exclusive domain of men, Zhu disguises herself as a boy, and meets another student, Liang Shanbo (梁山伯). The two become fast friends, and over the course of three years of study, Zhu secretly falls in love with Liang. However, Zhu is suddenly summoned home.



Months pass, and Liang pays a visit to Zhu's home, where it is finally made clear that she is a woman; the two fall madly in love, pledging themselves to one another. But Zhu finds she is to be married off to a rich playboy: The news crushes Liang and his health begins to wane, eventually leading to his tragic death.

On Zhu's wedding day, a strong wind stops her marriage procession as it passes the spot where Liang is buried. She steps out of the sedan to pay her respects. At that moment, the ground opens, and Zhu plunges herself into Liang's grave. Two butterflies emerge and fly off in the wind, never again to be parted.

The Story of the Western Wing

Banned by the moral guardians of the Qing dynasty for its depiction

of a secret marriage, this romantic comedy by Yuan dynasty (1206 - 1368) playwright Wang Shifu (王实甫) tells the story of lovers Zhang Sheng (张生) and Cui Yingying (崔莺莺) as they woo each other with poetry and try to escape the meddling of Yingying's mother—oh, and a siege by bandits.

Peach Blossom Fan

Written by Qing dynasty playwright Kong Shangren (孔尚任), this tragic love story of young intellectual Hou Fangyu (侯方域) and courtesan Li Xiangjun (李香君) is set at the wane of the late Ming dynasty. They exchange a fan as a token of their love, but Hou is forced to flee the chaotic and corrupt imperial court, and a nefarious mandarin compels Li to marry another man.

SHAOXING OPERA AND WU OPERA

Along with Yue opera, Shaoxing opera (绍剧) and Wu opera (婺剧) make up the three major operas of Zhejiang. Shaoxing opera, with over 300 years of history and 400 works in its repertoire, is known for its powerful music and action-oriented plots. Some famous Shaoxing operas include

The Monkey King's Three Battles Against the White-Bone Demon (《孙悟空三打白骨精》), which was made into a movie in 1962, and *Battle of the Dragon and Tiger* (《龙虎斗》). The third of Zhejiang's three major operas, Wu opera, also known as Jinhua opera, originated from performances on village

stages. The actors wear makeup with a yellower tint compared to Peking opera, and are known for their acrobatic ability. One well-known work is *Broken Bridge* (《断桥》), based upon the *Legend of the White Snake* (《白蛇传》), in which performers walk with a difficult serpentine step.



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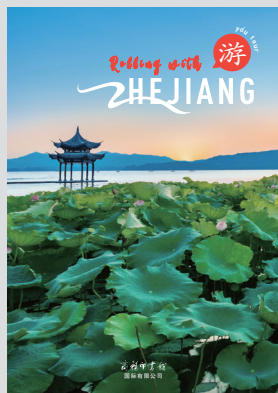
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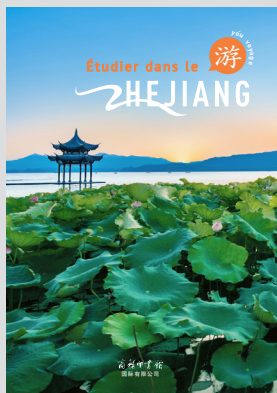
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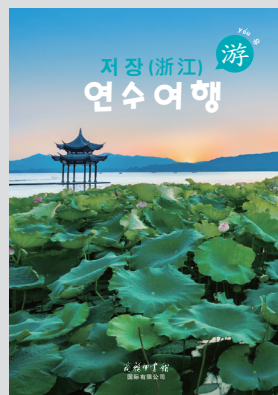
German



Russian



Japanese



Korean



With picturesque scenery that inspired classical ink paintings, as well as an intrepid spirit that gave birth to the largest e-commerce platform in the world, the renown of Zhejiang is timeless. As one of China's most diverse and economically vibrant provinces, it is the perfect first stop for anyone visiting, doing business, or studying in the country. This handbook delves into Zhejiang's eclectic charms

from Hangzhou's storied West Lake to Wuzhen, an ancient canal town that has become a world leader in 5G technology. Useful lessons on language, idioms, and historical trivia round out this guide and make Zhejiang a place for everyone—including you.



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