

# Hangzhou

## Geography and climate

Hangzhou is located in northern Zhejiang province, eastern China, at the southern end of the [Grand Canal of China](#), on the plain of the mid-lower reaches of the [Yangtze River](#) (Cháng Jiāng). The prefecture-level region of Hangzhou extends west to the border with the hilly-country Anhui Province, and east to the flat-land near [Hangzhou Bay](#). The city centre is built around the eastern and northern sides of the West Lake, just north of the [Qiantang River](#).

Hangzhou's climate is [Humid Subtropical](#) with four distinctive seasons. The average annual temperature in Hangzhou is 16.2°C (61.2°F). The summers are hot and humid, while winters are relatively cool and dry. In [July](#), the hottest month, the average temperature is approximately 33.8°C (92.8°F); in January the average temperature is about 3.6°C (38.5°F). Hangzhou receives an average annual rainfall of 1450 mm. In mid-summer, Hangzhou, along with other cities in [Zhejiang](#) province, suffers [typhoon](#) storms, but typhoons seldom strike it directly. Generally they make land along the southern coast of Zhejiang, and affect Hangzhou with strong winds and stormy rains.


<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/527120> click here to view pictures of Hangzhou

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg high °C	8	10	14	20	26	29	33	32	28	23	17	11
Avg low temperature °C	2	3	7	12	17	22	25	25	21	15	9	4

Source: [MSN Weather](#)

## Economy



 Tea plantation in Hangzhou.

Hangzhou's industries have traditionally been [textile](#), [silk](#) and [machinery](#), but [electronics](#) and other light [industries](#) are developing, especially since the start of the new open economy in [1992](#).

[Toshiba](#) has its only overseas production plant for laptop computers here.

[Wahaha](#), the nation's largest beverage company is headquartered in the city.

[Longjing tea](#) is produced on the outskirts of town at Longjing or Dragon Well. It is among the only remaining places where tea is still baked by hand and is said to produce one of the finest [green teas](#) in all of China, earning a spot in the [China Famous Tea](#) list.

The [GDP per capita](#) was ¥51,871 (ca. US\$6,505), [ranked](#) no. 8 among 659 Chinese cities.

The 2005 overall rank of Hangzhou among all the Chinese cities is No.5. In 2004, 2005, 2006 [Forbes](#) magazine ranked Hangzhou the number 1 city in China for business.

## Culture

The native residents of Hangzhou, like those of [Zhejiang](#) and southern [Jiangsu](#), speak a [Wu](#) dialect. However, the Wu dialect varies throughout the area where it is spoken, hence, Hangzhou's dialect differs from regions in southern Zhejiang and southern [Jiangsu](#). In addition, [Putonghua](#) (Mandarin) is also spoken.

Tea is an important part of Hangzhou's economy and culture. Hangzhou is best known for originating [Longjing](#), a famous variety of [green tea](#). Furthermore, there are many types of Longjing tea, the most famous being Xi Hu Long Jing. Known as the best type of Long Jing tea, Xi Hu Long Jing is grown near [Xi Hu](#) in Hangzhou, hence its name.<sup>[9]</sup>

In addition, Hangzhou is known for its artistic creations, such as [silk](#), [umbrellas](#), and Chinese hand-held folding [fans](#).