

# 7 Hangzhou & the 2010 Shanghai Expo

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## HANGZHOU PAVILION



In 2010, the expressway linking Hangzhou and Shanghai will be completed, which will mean a travel time of only 30 minutes between the two cities, and a merging of their transport links.

Also in 2010, the World Expo is being held in Shanghai; and because of Hangzhou's 5000 years of civic history, its beautiful and elegant natural scenery, unique urban character and powerful economy, the 2010 Expo is setting up a 'Hangzhou Pavilion'. The Hangzhou Pavilion is located in the central district's B1 hall, and has a display area of 399 square meters.

The Hangzhou pavilion is part of the 'Urban Best Practice Area', where over 40 of the world's cities have displays, exhibiting experiences and ideas that will illuminate the lives of people from around the world. The world-famous 'water city' of Venice is among them, and this time Hangzhou, with its renowned 'West Lake', is also employing 'water' as its main theme.

The theme of the Hangzhou pavilion is 'led by the five waters'. The 'five waters' refers to a river, a lake, a canal, a sea and a brook.

"Hangzhou does not only have West Lake, it also has Xixi, the Grand Canal and the Qiantang River, the 5,000 years of civilisation in Hangzhou is a history that is 'born from water, raised by water, made prosperous by water, made famous by water, and made strong by water'. So, Hangzhou has a wealth of experience in water control that can be shown to the people of the world, and this is the Hangzhou experience – led by the five waters, comprehensively controlled, creating a quality Hangzhou."

For the audience searching for the fragrance of lotus blossom, their first sight of the Hangzhou pavilion is a dazzling, translucent display, like a bright pearl that has fallen from the heavens. Under closer inspection, this crystal becomes a huge city-ark with billowing sails, sailing forth from the skyline, atop an azure sea filled with fish, with a traditional south China tune playing in the air, and finally, the Qiantang tidal bore rushes past the audience's feet, onto the canvas and down the large waterfall.

In order to allow the audience to experi-

## HANGZHOU BASICS

ence the totality of Hangzhou's beauty, artists have designed a 25-minute tour of the Hangzhou pavilion that incorporates tastes, smells, sights, sounds and touch, all steeped in the culture of the city.

Upon entering the exhibition hall, the audience is presented with a 'water paradise', which not only exhibits Hangzhou's various achievements in water control, but also the urban character of the city that relies on water living, and the genteel life of the city's residents. Strolling around the pavilion, the gentle fragrance of lotus and osmanthus flowers is brought out by the rising watery mist. Visitors are also accompanied by the low chirp of insects, birdsong, the low rhythm of the brook and the welcome roar of the tide. One can taste tea and spring-

water, look at the waters and listen to the tide, accompanied by traditional Chinese music.

After every performance, lotus leaves are unfurled, and lotus blossom fills the floor, making the audience think they are in a pavilion on West Lake itself.

If after watching all this you feel an attachment to Hangzhou, you can take a part of Hangzhou back with you. The entire pavilion is crafted from transparent 'Five waters bricks', the bottle shape of which evokes the city's ancient wells. The bricks include information about the expo and the 'five waters' of Hangzhou, and each visitor can take one home with them, to remind them of Hangzhou and their experience at the expo.

