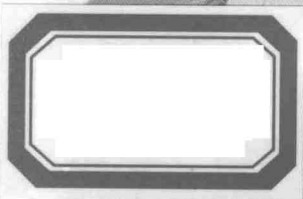
The background of the cover is a scenic photograph of a traditional Chinese water town. In the foreground on the left, there is a pavilion with a dark, ornate roof and a wooden railing overlooking a calm river. The river flows through the center of the town, reflecting the sky and the buildings. In the distance, a stone bridge with multiple arches spans across the river. The buildings along the riverbank have traditional white walls and dark roofs. The sky is a mix of blue and green, suggesting a clear day with some light clouds.

A Guide Hangzhou

杭州英语导游

张建融 杨志超 / 著

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Preface

It is a distinct privilege for us to introduce this book to you.

This is a fruit of our tour guiding experience, our love for the tourism industry. It expresses our enthusiastic work.

The book is for English tour guides, and appropriate material for testing of national tour guides of Zhejiang Province. This is the second edition.

Hangzhou is a pearl in southeast China with its abundant natural beauty.

With the rapid development of tourism in recent years, modern facilities and improved services have been provided for domestic and international tourists.

Visitors from other parts of the world exceeded 2.54 million in 2011. Indeed, Hangzhou has become a famous scenic city for tourists from all over the world.

As international tour guides, we are exceedingly pleased to publish this second edition guide book.

It provides the most practical, useful, and comprehensive guidance information on beautiful Hangzhou to friends from various parts of the world, overseas Chinese and compatriots

from Hong Kong and Macao.

We hereby express our thanks to our best friend, an Israeli English teacher, Tami Newman, for her excellent work in improving and revising the first edition, and our thanks to another two American English teachers, Monica Anne Pauperas and Diana Uyen Mai La, for checking the final draft of the second edition.

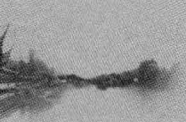
Zhang Jianrong

Yang Zhichao

2012. 7

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Part I

On-the-way Guide

1. The Welcome Speech

From the Airport to the Shangri-la Hotel

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. On behalf of my travel agency, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you. Welcome to Hangzhou.

Shall we introduce ourselves to you? This is Mr. Wang, our driver; I'm Li, your local guide. Both of us will try our best to make your stay in Hangzhou as enjoyable, pleasurable and memorable as possible. If you have any suggestions and comments, please feel free to let us know.

You may have noticed the airport you've just arrived at is a brand-new one, Xiaoshan International Airport, a first-class airport, which started operating at the end of 2000. There are daily flights to Hong Kong and Macao, and international passenger air routes to southeastern Asian, European and American countries. There are international cargo routes between Hangzhou and Japan and air routes between Hangzhou and 47 major cities and resorts; we now have 160 air routes linking Hangzhou with 106 cities and regions. An 18-kilometers expressway is specially built to link the airport with downtown,

and it takes about 45 minutes to get into the city. Now I'd like to take this opportunity to say a few words about our city.

Hangzhou lies on the lower reaches of the Qiantang River and at the Southern Terminal of the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal. It is a major city located in the Yangtze River Delta and a major transportation center for the southeast part of China. Hangzhou is also well-known as a historical, cultural and tourist city.

Hangzhou is the capital city of Zhejiang Province, and the city covers a total area of 3,068 square kilometers with a population of 6 million. It lies in a sub-tropical zone with a mild climate and four distinctive seasons. The yearly average temperature is 15~18 degrees Centigrade, the highest being 38~40 degrees Centigrade in July and August and the lowest being 5~7 degrees Centigrade in January and February. The yearly rainfall amounts to 1500 millimetres.

Do you know why the city is named Hangzhou? The name of the city dates back to the first dynasty of China, the Xia Dynasty. A great emperor, Da Yu, or known as Yu the Great, was so great that he succeeded in controlling the floods by cutting channels to drain the water to the sea. After doing so, he wanted to inspect and reward some of his officials for their great contribution in flood control. On his way to them, he moored his boat here, on a vast body of water at that time. In order to mark this trip, the emperor named this place Yu Hang. Yu is the name of the emperor and Hang means boat.

During the Sui Dynasty, about 1,400 years ago, the name of Yu Hang was changed into Hangzhou. Hang means boat or

sail, and Zhou means the city or the place. So the name of this city—Hangzhou means the city that is only accessible by boat. That was true a long time ago but now you can easily come to Hangzhou by air, train, bus, boat and even by bicycle.

For the past hundreds and thousands of years, Hangzhou has been known for its natural scenery. A renowned old Chinese saying goes like *Above is paradise, below is Suzhou and Hangzhou*. Since Hangzhou is regarded as a paradise, you may ask what the best thing in Hangzhou is. Well, I would say, the best is a lake, the West Lake, a pearl in the paradise.

The circumference of the West Lake is dotted with “The Top Ten Views”. Five of them are named after the four seasons. In spring, you can walk in “The Spring Dawn on the Su Causeway”; during the hot summer days, you can enjoy the “The Lotus Breeze at Crooked Courtyard”; on a autumn moon lit night, you may go to “The Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake” and “Three Pools Mirroring the Moon” to see the moon with its reflections in the water; in winter, when snow comes, you may as well take some wonderful photos of the “Melting Snow over the Broken Bridge”. The other five views are Viewing the Gold Fish in the Flower Harbor Park, Orioles Singing in the Weeping Willows, the Leifeng Pagoda at Sunset, the Night Bell Ringing at Nanping, and Two Peaks Piercing through the Sky. Tomorrow you'll get the chance to have a taste of these highlights.

Hangzhou is not only famous for its lake and gardens, but it is also rich in historical and cultural relics. It's one of the seven ancient capital cities of China, the other six are Beijing, Xi'an,

Nanjing, Kaifeng, Xianyang and Luoyang. Being is over 2,200 years old, Hangzhou's roots can be traced back to 221 B.C. during the Qin Dynasty when the First Emperor unified the whole country and set up 36 prefectures. At that time, Hangzhou was nothing but a small county in China.

Not until the Sui Dynasty about 1,400 years ago, when the Grand Canal was dug in 605 AD, did the City of Hangzhou come into existence. The Grand Canal starts from Beijing and extends all the way down to Hangzhou. Its total length is 1,794 kilometers crossing five major rivers in China from north to South. They are Hai River, Huai River, Yellow River, Yangtze River and Qiantang River in Hangzhou. After the Grand Canal was finished, Hangzhou became the key link between north and south, making it a prosperous commercial city from the ancient times. It was already one of China's "three major trading ports" as far back as the Sui and Tang Dynasties over a thousand years ago. At that time, the Qiantang River and the Grand Canal were lined up for about 10 kilometers with cargo vessels and the main streets of the city were flanked with 30,000 shops and restaurants, with a superb collection of varied goods. Hangzhou silk, praised as the "flower of oriental art", was designated as a tributary gift for the imperial court, and also a luxurious product for overseas market. It was the *Louis Vuitton* at that time. The famous "silk road on the sea" started here. Foreign merchants also brought their specialties with them and opened business centers in Hangzhou. For more than a thousand years, a great variety of commodities both from home and abroad were traded

here. With an abundance of commodities and prosperous goods of all kinds, Hangzhou became a well-known “shopping heaven”.

The city rose to the height of its splendor during the 10th to 13th centuries when it was made the capital of the Wuyue Kingdom in the Five Dynasties Period about 1,000 years ago and again during the Southern Song Dynasty about 800 years ago, this city reached its heyday during the Southern Song Dynasty. Marco Polo, a famous Italian traveler made a trip to Hangzhou and he was so carried away by its beauty that in his book, he described Hangzhou as the most beautiful and elegant city in the whole world.

This description of Marco Polo's made Hangzhou famous overseas. So it was silk production. So you can image, some 800 years ago, how these beautiful silks, fine soft satins and fantastic brocades that traveled to European countries through the famous Silk Route, caught the fancy of westerners.

OK, so much for Chinese history. Now look at both sides of the road and you'll be impressed by the country views. Please note that few farmers are working on the farmland, and there is no rice and wheat growing in the field. Also please take a look at those beautiful buildings and villas. How do they manage? I can explain this one by one. Unlike the farmers in the remote mountain areas, the farmers here grow some cash products, such as green vegetables, flower seedlings and bonsai trees; they don't need to work on the land from dawn till dark. These cash products give them a better living, so they can afford to build nice houses and villas. Usually one family lives in a villa or

a house. How many people is that? Usually a family has three generations; it will be 5 or 6 people involving the grandparents, the parents and one or two kids.

Yes, you're right. One child for one family is the Chinese family policy, which started in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In the city, one couple is allowed to have only one child, whether it is a boy or a girl; however, if their child dies in an accident or from a disease, or is mentally or physically disabled, the couple has another chance.

In the countryside, this policy is more flexible. If a couple's first birth is a boy, they must be very happy because only boy can continue the family line in China. Also, boys are the main labor force on the farmland in the countryside. If a couple first gives birth to a girl, they will be happy, too, because five years later they can have another child if they want to. No matter whether the second birth is a boy or a girl, there will be no third chance to have another baby.

Traditionally, boys were more favored in China, but with the development of society and science, this is changing gradually. People don't care any more if the child is a boy or a girl. What is most important is to have a healthy and bright child.

The Qiantang River and the Bridges over It

Ladies and gentlemen, we are coming to the largest river in this province very soon. Please look to the front and you can see a big bridge, over the Qiantang River. The river is known for its spectacular tidal bore. Every fall around the Moon Festival

thousands of tourists and local residents are attracted to view this awesome natural phenomenon and experience the mighty power of nature. The waves come from the sea into the river surging upstream all the way to the end of the lower reaches of the river. You must come to see this someday.

The name Qiantang comes from the embankments on the river. Over a thousand years ago, Qian, the King of the Kingdom in this area had the embankments reinforced with wood stakes and piles of large stones to prevent the farmland from being washed away. Benefited from the project, the local people named the embankments Mr. Qian's Embankments' in Chinese, "Qian Shi Hai Tang". In short, "Qian Tang". Therefore, the lower section of the river with the embankments is named the "Qian Tang River".

This bridge was the third bridge built on the river, hence the name is "The Third Qiantang River Bridge". The first one was built shortly before the Japanese Invasion in 1937. But as soon as it was built, it was blown up by the engineer who designed it. Why? After the Chinese armies withdrew to the south bank of the river, the bridge was blown up to stop the Japanese invaders from pushing further south. It was rebuilt afterwards. We'll see it tomorrow when we go to visit the Six Harmonies Pagoda.

This bridge is a single-function one for automobiles only, while the first one is for both automobiles and trains. The second bridge is located to our right and is also for both automobiles and trains, but they run at the same level. The first one is a double-decker bridge, with the upper level for automobiles and

the lower one for trains.

There will be 10 bridges all together on the river because the city is further expanding to the other side of the river. The layout of the city will be very much like that of Shanghai, along the Huangpu River the city is being developed on both sides. In Hangzhou, we have the Qiantang River and the municipal government has decided to develop the city across the river, where the City Hall will soon be moved to the east side of the bridge on the northern bank.

Downtown

Now we've entered the downtown area. The city of Hangzhou can be roughly divided into three parts. The northern part is an industrial area, where you can find many factories, mostly of light industry. The southeastern part is the old town area, where you can still see many old small houses. The imperial palace of the Southern Song Dynasty was in this area. And, the southwestern part is the scenic area with the West Lake as its center.

Clothing Market

On your right side, we're passing by one of the biggest wholesale clothing market in China. Located in the Evergreen Village, it has been in existence for more than twenty years. Farmers in this village used to grow vegetables but now they are all doing business. Each day, the market attracts thousands of merchants from all over the country to purchase garments in bulk for retail.

Railway Station and Travel by Train

Please look to the left. Here you see the Railway Station, which is newly built. Hangzhou is the hub of rail transport in the southeast of China, from which seven railways radiate: Huhang (Shanghai-Hangzhou), Zhegan (Hangzhou-Nanchang), Xiaoyong (Xiaoshan-Ningbo), Xuanhang (Anhui's Xuancheng-Hangzhou), Jinwen (Jinhua-Wenzhou), Xinchang (Jiangsu's Xinyi-Zhejiang's Changxing), and Jinqian (Jinhua-Qiandaohu). Since the new Hangzhou Railway Station was put into use, it can handle 5,200 passengers per hour. With this new railway station, the city's railway capacity has been greatly improved.

As a result, the Chinese people are traveling more often than ever before, contributing a great deal to the country's economy. To further stimulate people's desire for spending money to boom the economy, the central government took a big step, designating two long holidays and three short holidays, namely the Chinese New Year, the National Day (Oct. 1), each a week long, the other three short holidays are three days long: the Clear and Bright Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival. That was started in the year 2010. Consequently, more people join in traveling and all tourist attractions are packed with big crowds during these holidays. Because it contributes greatly to the country's economy, they are called "Golden Weeks". However, it's advisable to avoid the "Golden Weeks" when traveling to China because of overcrowd of people.