

## 西 湖

西湖原是江海之一湾，三面环山，一面濒市。因位于杭州市的西面，故称西湖。

西湖在古代是与钱塘江相通的浅海湾，北面的宝石山和南面的吴山是环抱这个海湾湾口的两个岬角，后来由于潮汐冲击，泥沙在湾口两个岬角间逐渐淤积起来，形成钱塘江与西湖之间的一片冲积平原。海湾与钱塘江隔开，原来的海湾变成一个泻湖。此湖承受山泉活水冲洗，经历代人工疏浚治理，始演变成为举世闻名的西湖。

西湖的历史主要是一部淤塞和疏浚的历史。西湖乃天造地设，然沧海桑田，屡受淤塞，故西湖也是挖出来的。历朝历代疏浚和治理西湖，不仅为了观光游览，当时更为重要的在于为民提供饮用的淡水和农田灌溉用水，于民生计，息息相关。明代学者田汝成曾说：“西湖开浚之绩，古今尤著者，白居易、苏子瞻、杨温甫三公而已。”清代又有阮元，他们为疏浚西湖，尽心竭力，作出了卓越的贡献。湖中的苏、白二堤与杨公堤，小瀛洲、湖心亭、阮公墩人工三岛，就是疏浚西湖的历史见证。

唐代诗人白居易，担任杭州刺史三年，致力于开拓西湖，政绩昭然，有德于民，在他任满离杭时，州民拥至湖滨含泪为他送行，他在题为《别州民》的诗中写道：

耆老遮归路， 壶浆满别筵。  
甘棠无一树， 那得泪潸然！  
税重多贫户， 农饥足旱田。  
唯留一湖水， 与汝救凶年。

自 1999 年底至 2003 年 3 月止，西湖又经历了一次 20 世纪 50 年代以来最大规模的疏浚，共疏浚湖底淤泥 340 万立方米，使西湖平均水深由 1.65 米达到 2.27 米，西湖水面由 5.6 平方千米拓展到 6.5 平方千米。

西湖三面环山 西南和南面有龙井山、理安山、南高峰、烟霞岭、大慈山、灵石山、南屏山、凤凰山、吴山 总称南山。北面有灵隐山、北高峰、仙姑山、栖霞岭、宝石山等，总称北山。山的高度都未超过 400 米 峰奇石秀 林泉洞壑幽美；注入西湖的主要溪流有金沙港、龙泓涧、长桥溪。调节西湖水位的出水口有圣塘闸、涌金闸等处。现又由白塔岭泵站引入钱塘江水经净化处理后再流入西湖，增加出水口，使得西湖水由原来一年一换变成一月一换，能见度由原来的不足 60 厘米提升到 120 厘米。

西湖旧时称为钱塘湖，北宋诗人苏东坡在诗中别出心裁地把西湖比作古代佳人西施，所以又称西子湖。西湖四时之景，无不可爱，有赏之不尽的四季风光和无数的历史文化古迹。苏东坡说得好：

西湖天下景， 游者无愚贤。  
深浅随所得， 谁能识其全！

到了南宋，宫廷画院画师在西湖山水画上题写画

名 出现了“ 西湖十景 ”名称。到了清朝 康熙皇帝巡游杭州 御笔书写西湖十景碑文 刻上石碑 竖在亭子里“ 西湖十景 ” 便成经典。

1985年，由杭州市园文局牵头，发起新景点新景名的评选活动 选出“ 宝石流霞 ”等“ 新西湖十景 ”。近几年来，加大西湖开发力度，复建了许多新的景点，如环湖南岸景区，雷峰塔、杨公堤、湖西新景区，湖滨二至六公园的改造，北山路的改造等。西湖如锦上添花，更加妩媚可爱 年年岁岁 无限诗情画意。

## The West Lake

The West Lake was a lagoon converted from a small bay. Because it is located in the west of Hangzhou, it is called the West Lake. There are hills around the lake on three sides, and the city proper lies just by the lake on one side.

In the ancient time, the West Lake was a shallow bay opening into the Qiantang River, and the Precious Stone Hill in the north and the Wu Hill in the south encircled this bay by its mouth. Later the sediment accumulated gradually by the pounding of the ocean tides, the mouth of the bay was blocked and changed into land. Between the

Qiantang River and the West Lake, the bay left the river and formed a lagoon. This lake was washed by water flowing down from nearby mountains, dredged and managed by the local population from generation to generation. The West Lake has become a world-famous lake.

The history of the West Lake mainly is a history of the lake being silted and dredged. It was made by nature. But great changes took place in its long history. It was repeatedly dredged and silted up. Therefore the West Lake was also man-made. The aim of dredging and protecting the West Lake in all past dynasties was not only for sightseeing but, more importantly, for drinking water and the irrigation of farmland. The Ming Dynasty scholar Tian Rucheng said: "In terms of dredging the West Lake from ancient times to the present, the best achievements attribute to the three people: Bai Juyi, Su Dongpo and Yang Mengying." Together with Ruan Yuan in the Qing Dynasty, they did their best to dredge the West Lake and made outstanding contributions. The Bai Causeway, Su Causeway and Yang Gong Causeway, lesser Yingzhou Isle, Mid-Lake Pavilion, Ruan Gong Mound are all man-made and are historical evidence of the dredging of the West Lake.

In the Tang Dynasty, poet Bai Juyi had the West Lake dredged and made great contributions to the people of Hangzhou. When he completed his term of office as

governor and left Hangzhou, the local citizens saw him off to the lakeside with tears in their eyes. He wrote a poem entitled “Words Written at Parting with Citizens”, two lines from which read:

“What I left behind is a body of water,  
for you to tide over the year of famine.”

From December 1999 to March 2003, the West Lake experienced the largest scale dredge ever since the 1950s, and 3400 thousand cubic meters of silt in all was dredged from the bottom of the lake. The average depth of the lake water reached from 1.65 meters to 2.27 meters. The lake area increased from 5.6 square kilometers to 6.5 square kilometers.

The lake is surrounded by hills on three sides. In the south and southwest are Dragon Well Hill, Lian Hill, Southern Peak, Yanxia Ridge, Daci Hill, Lingshi Hill, Nanping Hill, Phoenix Hill, and Wu Hill. They are generally known as the Southern Hills. In the north, there are Lingyin Hill, Northern Peak, Fairy Hill, Qixia Ridge, Precious Stone Hill etc., generally known as the Northern Hills, less than 400 meters in altitude. Woods, springs and rock-caves are beautiful. The main brooks which flow into the West Lake include the Gold Sand Harbor, Longhong Brook, and Long Bridge Brook. The floodgates which adjust the water level of the lake are Shengtang

floodgate, Yongjin floodgate etc.. Now the water of Qiantang River is drawn into the West Lake by pumps near the White Pagoda Ridge after it is purified, increasing water outlet. Instead of once every year, the West Lake water is replenished once every month. Visibility has also increased from originally less than 60 centimeters to 120 centimeters now.

The West Lake used to be called Qiantang Lake in the old times. The poet Su Dongpo of the Northern Song Dynasty in his poem said: The West Lake is as beautiful as the ancient beauty Xi Zi. Therefore it is also called Xi Zi Lake. The West Lake always looks beautiful in all the four seasons. It offers countless historical and cultural sites. Su Dongpo said:

“The West Lake offers the best sight in the world,  
Whether the tourist is foolish or wise,  
He enjoys himself in a greater or lesser degree,  
Nobody can pretend to be a know-all.”

In the Southern Song Dynasty, the painters of the court wrote down on their landscape paintings the poetic names around the West Lake, and as a result, the Ten Views of the West Lake came into being. In the Qing Dynasty emperor Kangxi made a tour of Hangzhou. His inscriptions of the Ten Views of the West Lake were engraved on stone tablets standing in pavilions. The “Ten

Views of the West Lake” became classical versions.

The Hangzhou Parks Administration initiated the activity of choosing new names for the scenic spots in 1985. The Precious Stone Hill Floating in Rosy Clouds and others were decided on for the “Ten New Views of the West Lake”. In recent years big efforts have been made to vigorously develop the West Lake. Many old scenic spots were restored, such scenic areas on the southern bank around the lake as Leifeng Pagoda, Yang Gong Causeway and so on. The scenic area west of the lake and the lake-side parks, ranging from the 2nd Park to the 6th Park for example, have all been rebuilt along with the reconstruction of Beishan Road, making the West Lake more attractive, like a painting full of poetic grace.



西湖远眺      West Lake viewed at a distance



送别白居易（群雕）      Farewell to Bai Juyi the poet-governor

## 断桥残雪

西湖有三怪：断桥桥不断，孤山山不孤，长桥桥不长。

断桥为单桥洞拱形桥，长 8.8 米，宽 8.6 米，位于白堤的东端，从白堤的来路到此而断，因而得名。桥处在北里湖与外西湖的分界点上，一端跨着北山路，另一端接通白堤。每当冬末春初，积雪未消，春水初生，拱桥倒映，滢朗生姿。桥堍东北的亭内置有“断桥残雪”御笔石碑。

“十里西湖意，都来到断桥。”断桥不仅景色优美，更因杭州著名的爱情故事《白蛇传》而名扬天下。

传说峨眉山上两个蛇仙，白蛇和青蛇，她们化身为两个美女，名白素贞和青儿，来到西湖游览。白娘子和许仙公子第一次在断桥边相遇，即一见钟情，坠入爱河，并结良缘。但佛门法海和尚认出白娘子是蛇的化身，将她收入化缘的钵中，埋葬此钵，并建雷峰塔于其上，把她囚禁在塔下。

这个民间故事已经搬上舞台，“台上小世界，人生大舞台。”世代有多少真实爱情故事在西湖演绎，西湖是爱情大舞台，断桥是一座扯不断的爱情的桥。

断桥的桥名，原本不带丝毫恶意，但一说到断桥，常使人联想到《白蛇传》中的断桥相会这一缠绵悱恻的爱

情故事，清人余一淳写了一首冤了桥名的情诗：

女郎送别断桥西，  
不忍轻分掩袖啼。  
归家只恨桥名恶，  
愿得成双似两堤。

断桥——西湖众多桥梁中最为著名的古桥，它记载了历史，记下了湖山美景，也记住了人间纯真的爱情。

## Melting Snow at Broken Bridge

There are three strange things about the West Lake: the Broken Bridge is not broken, the Long Bridge is quite short and the Solitary Hill does not stand solitary.

The Broken Bridge is a single-vaulted bridge, 8.8 meters long and 8.6 meters wide, located east of the Bai Causeway, which comes to a sudden stop here, hence it is called Broken Bridge. It serves as a boundary line between North Inner Lake and Outer West Lake. One end spans the Beishan Road and the other opens into the Bai Causeway. In late winter or early spring, snow does not melt at the bridge, and early spring water has come. The bridge is reflected in the lake water, a most beautiful

scene. To its northeast is a pavilion which houses a stone tablet with the imperial inscription: "Melting Snow Over the Broken Bridge."

The Broken Bridge is famous not only for its scenery, but also for its beautiful legend of Lady White Snake. It became an important place in Hangzhou's most famous love story.

It is said that there were two snake fairies on Mount E-Mei, the White Snake and the Green Snake. They changed themselves into two beautiful women named Bai Suzhen and Qing-er. One day they came to the West Lake for sight-seeing. Bai Suzhen met a young man Xu Xian for the first time at the Broken Bridge, and soon they fell in love and got married. But a Buddhist monk named Fa Hai recognized the woman as a snake, put her into a begging bowl, and then buried it under Leifeng Pagoda to prevent her from escaping.

The folktale was moved onto the theatrical stage. "The stage is a small world while life is a great stage." So many love stories in real life have taken place at the West Lake from generation to generation, and the West Lake is a great stage for love. The Broken Bridge is a lovers' bridge which will never be broken.

Being "broken" in Broken Bridge does not mean any evil, but speaking of the Broken Bridge, one cannot but

associate it with the tragic story of “Meeting on Broken Bridge”. The Qing Dynasty man of letters Yu Yichun wrote a love poem in which this bridge is wronged:

“A girl sees off her lover to the Broken Bridge,  
Weeping along and unable to bid him farewell,  
Getting home she comes to hate the evil name of the  
bridge,

Wishing to get wed as the two causeways did.

The Broken Bridge is a most famous ancient bridge among the many bridges around the West Lake. It is a recorded history and has the beautiful views of the lake and hills to offer apart from the genuine human love on earth.



断桥碑亭

The stele pavilion at Broken Bridge



断桥残雪

Melting Snow at Broken Bridge

## 平湖秋月

平湖秋月位于白堤西端，孤山东南隅，是一处拥有亭台楼阁、曲桥假山、临水平台的景色妩媚的滨湖景点。早在唐代，这里就以建有望湖亭而闻名。南宋和元代，望湖亭被道教庙宇和佛教寺院取代，后又改成龙王堂。到清康熙三十八年（1699），拆龙王堂改建成御书楼。楼前的临水平台成为赏月胜地，尤以皓月当空、清辉如泻的秋夜，湖平如镜，景色最佳。为此，这楼重新命名为平湖秋月，又在其旁建亭，内置御笔石碑。前人石治棠有联语云：

万顷湖平长似镜，  
四时月好最宜秋。

民国八年（1919），英籍犹太富商哈同向当时浙江督军杨善德购得御书楼西侧 4,000 平方米土地，修建私家花园，俗称“罗苑（即哈同之妻罗加陵的别墅）”。后被当时国民政府收归国有。1928 年罗苑成为国立艺术院校舍的一部分，1959 年拆除高墙，与平湖秋月连成一片，改建成八角亭、四面厅、湖天一碧楼，扩建临水平台，增植花木，使平湖秋月成为最受人喜爱的观光去处。

## Autumn Moon Over the Calm Lake

Situated at the west end of Bai Causeway and south-east corner of the Solitary Hill, Autumn Moon Over the Calm Lake is an attractive lakeside scenic spot with pavilions, zigzag bridges, rockeries, water-hemmed terraces, and trees and flowers. Early in the Tang Dynasty, there stood a building known as the Lake View Pavilion, which was replaced by a Taoist temple and Buddhist monastery during the Southern Song and Yuan Dynasties, and later turned into the Dragon King's Temple. In the 38th year of the reign of Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty (1699) the temple was remodeled into the Imperial Book Pavilion. Built in front of it was a water-hemmed terrace, which was acknowledged as one of the best places to look at the moon, especially on a mid-autumn moonlit night. For this, the pavilion was renamed Autumn Moon Over the Calm Lake. Another pavilion was built nearby, and housed the stone tablet with the imperial inscription. Shi Zhitang once wrote a couplet:

“The vast, calm lake is as bright as a mirror,  
All the year round the moon is brightest in autumn.”

In the 8th year of the Republic of China (1919), Silas Auron Hardoon, a Jewish millionaire of English nationality, purchased 4000 square meters of land west of the Imperial Book Pavilion from Yang Shande, the then army chief of Zhejiang province. He built a private garden there, locally known as the Luo's Garden after his wife's surname. Later it was taken by the government of the Republic of China, and the garden became part of the National Art College in 1928. In 1959, its walls were torn down to become one with Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake. The whole place was rebuilt into an octagonal pavilion, Quadrangle Hall and the Blue Sky Tower, had the water-hemmed terrace enlarged, trees and flowers planted, changing the park into a favorite place for sightseers.



平湖秋月      Autumn Moon over the Calm Lake