Hangzhou: The Pearl of the Immortals
Hangzhou, created out of dreams and desires...

Once upon a time, a fierceful and mighty dragon and a fiery-burning phoenix battled one another.

They fought over the most precious treasure: the pearl of the immortals.

Legend has it, that dragon and phoenix fought over three nights and three days. During the battle the pearl fell down to earth.

When the pearl touched the ground, earth itself started to tremble due to the wrath of the betrayed creatures and the people fled fearfully to their homes.

But when the wrath had blown past and the earth stopped trembling the locals beared witness to a supernatural view:

Where the pearl had touched the ground, there was no crater, no fire and no destruction, no, there was a lake, as tranquille, noble and beautiful as the soul of a god.

And that is, how the Westlake, Hangzhou's landmark, came into existence.

1. day: Shanghai - Hangzhou
Take the railway Shanghai – Hangzhou. Explore the Westlake, the most famous sweetwater lake in all of China. During a sightseeing trip around and over the lake you can enjoy the numerous and scenic views. Huagang park in the middle of the lake is always worth a visit. Afterwards you will visit Yufei temple, which is wordly renown for its cast-iron figurines.

In the afternoon, you can take an easy stroll through the antique-street Hefang Jie. Visiting the famous and traditional pharmacy, established 1874, you will be taught some of the secrets of Chinese medicine.

2. day: Hangzhou
Drive to Lingyin Si Monastery also known as the “Temple of Soul’s Sanctuary”. En route you can visit the Feilai Feng Grotto with its more than 400 Buddhistic statues and figurines.

In the temple, the hall of the 500 Louhan is the most impressive. The life-sized copperish figurines of the holy monks are the largest ones in the world.

Keep on driving towards the Well of the Running Tiger. The eponymous temple has been founded 1500 years ago.

To conclude your visit in Hangzhou, visit the pagoda of the six harmonies.

Enjoy the fascinating view over river Qiangtang.

3. day: Hangzhou - Shanghai
Hike through tea plantations in Meijiawu, an exhillerating sight.
Your hike will take you through thick bambooforests with some very beautiful scenic spots. You may enjoy your lunch in a Meijiawu farmhouse.

Transfer to trainstation.

THE FRIENDLY ADVICE:
Sit down on the shores of the lake and listen to the 1001 stories and legends, told by locals concerning their home. Wether you pity Xu Xian and his beloved white snake or witness the end of China’s most famous courtesan the stories will be told in front of an unforgettable panorama, are hearty and can thrill.

Be a child again.

Many couples travel to Hangzhou to celebrate their wedding. Participate in one, enjoy one of the most important moments of the local’s life and allow yourself to get carried away into the land of dreams and desires, of wishes and romanticism, because that is the heart and the soul of Hangzhou.

TRIPS AND JOURNEYS:
- visit Shanghai
- the mountains
- local bicycle rides
- Guizhou and Guilin

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