

2026 Summer Mandarin Immersion in Hangzhou
From June 20 to 28, 2026 (9 days)

Prerequisite: Open to current Grades 4 - 5 students

Program Description:

Hangzhou, once the capital of the **Song Dynasty**, is celebrated for its exquisite silk, premium tea, and refined traditions in cuisine, literature, and the arts. Renowned for its rich cultural heritage and the scenic beauty of West Lake, the city boasts a high standard of living and a sophisticated lifestyle. Hangzhou has hosted major international events, including the World Leisure Expo and the G20 Summit in 2016, as well as the Asian Games in 2023. Notably, **West Lake** is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, underscoring its global cultural significance.

We will visit the nearby **Puyuan Fashion Ancient Town**, located in Puyuan Town, Tongxiang City, Zhejiang Province. It blends classic Jiangnan water town style with modern fashion vibes. With ancient streets, rivers, and traditional architecture, it keeps the charm of old Puyuan while often holding fashion shows and related events. As a 5A-level scenic town spot, it's a great place for tourism and leisure, attracting visitors from everywhere.

Besides exploring Chinese culture, we will also visit the **Hangzhou Future Technology Experience Center**, which is built around Hangzhou's "Six Tech Dragons" enterprises. Opened on April 30, 2025, it is located in the Hangzhou Wensan Digital Life Block. The center features six interactive themes, including *the Robot Exhibition Area, Robot Training Ground, AI Large Models, BrainCo Tech, Robot 4S Test Field, and Black Myth: Wukong*. It displays humanoid robots from Unitree, quadruped robots from DeepRobotics, Brain-Computer Interface devices from BrainCo, and large models from DeepSeek, among others. Visitors can chat with virtual humans in real time, control on-screen balls using "mind power," experience the 3D-printed Golden Cudgel, feel the charm of the game in the Black Myth: Wukong experience space, and participate in AI Consumption Carnival activities, such as customized outfits and AI-generated art portraits.

From June 20 - 28, 2026 (9 days), this immersion trip, hosted by [Hangzhou Yangzheng Primary School](#), will enhance students' overall Mandarin proficiency through activities planned both inside and outside the classroom. During this trip, each HKIS student will be paired with a student from Hangzhou Yangzheng Primary School as their designated "learning buddy." The learning buddies will serve as school hosts, guides, and facilitators, providing our students with the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in Chinese culture and improve their conversational Putonghua skills. Mandarin will be the medium of instruction for all school subjects and activities during this immersion trip.

For accommodation, HKIS students will start with a three-day homestay to experience the local lifestyle. For the remainder of the trip, they will stay at the nearby 5-star hotel, **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Hangzhou East**. (杭州和达希尔顿逸林酒店).

While the main objective of the trip is to enhance the overall Mandarin proficiency of our HKIS students, the lesson plans and activities are carefully designed to be age-appropriate, student-

centered, and based on an experiential curriculum. This approach aims to foster and sustain the students' ongoing interest in both language and cultural learning. In the mornings, students will engage in academic studies at Hangzhou Yangzheng Primary School. In the afternoons, they will participate in various cultural experiences within the city of Hangzhou and nearby villages. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to listen to historical stories and visit legendary and historic landmarks in the area.

Host School at a Glance: Hangzhou Yangzheng Primary School is located in Hangzhou City and has been recognized for its academic excellence. The medium of instruction is Mandarin Chinese.

Learner Outcomes:

Students will:

- Enhance their oral proficiency in daily Putonghua practices both inside and outside the classroom.
- Gain insights into the Hangzhou community, its people, and its culture.
- Cultivate an appreciation for China, its people, and their global influence.
- Improve their ability to recognize Chinese characters.
- Acquire knowledge of Chinese games, crafts, sports, and recreational activities.
- Develop friendships with their learning buddies through interaction, engagement, and activities.
- Boost their self-confidence in verbal communication skills in Putonghua.
- Learn to be independent by managing their daily lives while away from home.
- Complete a considerable amount of oral and written assignments in Chinese as well as a personal journal to document their learning and reflections.

Methodology:

- Students will attend daily lessons at Hangzhou Yangzheng Primary School alongside their "learning buddies". Mandarin will be the medium of instruction for language, math, sports, music, and history classes.
- Students will actively participate in various school activities, all conducted in Putonghua.
- During daily excursions, students will have the opportunity to engage in conversational practice with local people while shopping, greeting, and asking questions or for directions.
- Two or three students will share a hotel room, teaching them responsibility for personal care and belongings. Most importantly, they will learn how to care for their HKIS roommates, fostering a sense of mutual support and consideration.

Assessment:

Each day, students will dedicate time to writing in their journals, allowing them to brainstorm their thoughts regarding their learning and capture reflections on their daily experiences.

Cost Includes:

Program Fee: **HKD \$18,730**

Inclusive of student materials, accommodation, meals, domestic travels, and airfare except transportation to and from Chek Lap Kok Airport and spending money.