



NEW EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAMS LAUNCH IN NANJING AND SUZHOU

Travelers can become students of the world with specialized tours

NEW YORK, NEW YORK –FEBRUARY 28, 2018 – Now more than ever, travelers are seeking enriching and educational experiences when visiting new destinations, and China offers a wealth of opportunities to bring knowledge home as a souvenir.

[Nanjing](#), an educational hub and home to more than 50 universities, is recognized as one of China’s four great ancient capitals, and travelers interested in diving deep into the country’s history will be greatly rewarded. Nanjing served as the capital of 10 Chinese dynasties and regimes over 1,800 years, notably the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1421) and The Republic of China (1927 - 1937 and 1945 – 1949). Travelers can visit Ming Dynasty-era historical sites including preserved sections of the City Wall and the Presidential Palace (which was utilized as the headquarters for the Republic of China’s Kuomintang government from 1946-1949), both located in the central downtown area. On Purple Mountain, the Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty and the Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the father of the Republic of China, can be visited in pristine natural surroundings. Those studying Buddhism should not miss Niushoushan Cultural Park, a centuries-old sacred site that was recently transformed with the erection of an opulent subterranean palace built six floors underground.

In [Suzhou](#), an ancient center of culture and heritage, provides visitors with the chance to delve into more than 2,500 years of history. Known as the “Venice of China,” Suzhou’s moniker comes from the many canals and waterways that crisscross the city, including the Grand Canal which is the longest manmade waterway in the world and boasts than 58 historically significant sites along its route. A city shaped by centuries of scholars and intellectuals, Suzhou has made its mark on Chinese culture, giving birth to classical art forms such as Kun Opera, Pintan storytelling, and silk making techniques that can be studied in depth today. Students of architecture will revel in works of Suzhou native I.M. Pei, the Pritzker Prize-winning architect responsible for designing the Suzhou Museum. Suzhou is also an ideal place to get a sense for true Chinese culture by simply strolling Shantang Street, an ancient riverside pedestrian road lined with shops, teahouses, and market vendors, or visiting the historic Tongli Water Town.

Both Suzhou and Nanjing offer something for everyone - from kids to graduate students to travelers of all ages seeking to expand their horizons or hone their language skills. Here are some of the experiences to consider, including several new programs for 2018:

For Kids

NEW [Lotus Travel’s](#) new 14-day, seven-city **Culture Camp** is designed to expose American children of Chinese descent to their home country’s heritage and ancient history. In Nanjing, participants will get a dose of history at the Nanjing Museum, the Presidential Palace, and the Mausoleum of Sun Yat-Sen. They will also have the opportunity to learn how to make local delicacies like dumplings and wonton before sampling other local food in the homes of Chinese families. In Suzhou, the group will visit the Lingering Garden, Humble Administrator’s Garden, the ancient city gate at Panmen, and the No. 1 Silk Factory. They

will also experience a local opera performance. Tours start at US\$2,550, based upon double occupancy. More information on the itinerary and 2018 departures is available [here](#).

Kids will also enjoy the **Imperial Examination Experience** at Nanjing's Jiangnan Imperial Examination Hall Museum where they can step into the shoes of an ancient Chinese civil servant. During the three-hour Imperial Examination Experience, participants dress in traditional attire and learn to create Chinese calligraphy with a brush pen and make thread-bound books to take home as a souvenir. They will walk away having experienced a glimpse of what ancient Chinese life was really like in past dynasties.

For Graduate Students

The [Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies](#) (HNC) is celebrating its 30th year of providing bilingual education and tradition graduates who contribute to Sin-global relations across a variety of fields. An educational collaboration between the Johns Hopkins University and Nanjing University, HNC is located on the downtown campus of Nanjing University. Chinese and international students live and learn international relations together in a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to free and open academic exploration and intellectual dialogue. HNC students can choose from an array of courses in six concentrations and may pursue one of three different graduate level programs. More information is available [here](#).

For Summers Abroad

Spending an extending period of time in a country is an excellent way to become fully immersed in its culture, language, and people, and millennial-friendly tour operator [G Adventures](#) offers a 28-day program that is low on cost but high on experience. From ancient villages to bustling metropolises, the Ultimate China on a Shoestring Budget tour is equal parts educational and social, combining the country's top sights with fun-filled activities and nightlife. A full day in Suzhou gives participants the opportunity to explore the "Venice of the East" at the exquisite Master of the Nets garden during the day and let loose like the locals with a private room karaoke session at night. Prices start at US\$2,124. A full itinerary and departure information is available [here](#).

For Art Aficionados

[Academic Arrangements Abroad](#) offers privileged access to extraordinary places with travel experiences led by renowned scholars. The Undiscovered China tour led by Claire Moore from the Metropolitan Museum of Art provides an unforgettable arts immersion. The itinerary visits Beijing's 798 District and Chang Di Art Zone, contemporary art galleries housed in former factories, and the terracotta warriors of Xi'an before heading to Suzhou to admire the I.M. Pei-designed Suzhou Museum and the Master of the Nets Garden, the inspiration for Astor Court at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Program rates begin at US\$13,995. More information is available [here](#).

For Tea Lovers

NEW New York City-based [Tea Drunk](#), purveyor of some of the world's most prized teas, has announced an unforgettable tea trip taking place April 23 – May 6 during the tea harvest season. The adventurous trip will highlight some of the most authentic rural and urban experiences in China. Participants will learn how tea is harvested and processed in a hands-on manner and will take part in a professionally designed curriculum on tea history, culture, and science. In Suzhou, the tour will take part in the harvest of Bi Luo Chun, one of China's most famous green teas. Pre-sale prices start at US\$5,000 and include lodging, ground transportation, group meals, classes and tours, and a selection of teas to take home. Complete information can be found [here](#).

For Groups

Custom-designed educational activities available for groups range from private musical performances in Suzhou's UNESCO World Heritage-designated classical gardens to behind-the-scenes tours of the Suzhou Silk Museum and lectures on Buddhism at Nanjing's sacred Nishou Mountain. For more information on

creating a customized VIP educational experience in these destinations, please contact suzhou@phgconsulting.com or nanjing@phgconsulting.com.

About Nanjing

Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu province in eastern China, situated in the Yangtze River Delta area 190 miles northwest of Shanghai. Recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, Nanjing has served as the capital city of 10 Chinese dynasties and regimes for a total of more than 1,800 years. A sophisticated metropolis and a modern center of history, education, and culture, Nanjing is home to some of the country's most significant historical attractions such as the Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum, The Presidential Palace, and a City Wall, which dates back more than 600 years. Popular attractions also include China's oldest public library and one of the country's first museums, the Nanjing Museum.

Nanjing is accessible by Nanjing Lukou International Airport (NKG) with daily flights from North America. Three train stations – Nanjing Railway Station, Nanjing South Railway Station, and Nanjing West Railway Station – connect Nanjing to all of China's major cities, including Beijing, which is a 3.5-hour ride via bullet train. Travelers coming from Shanghai can reach Nanjing in approximately 90 minutes by bullet train or three hours by car.

For more information on Nanjing, please visit www.GoToNanjing.com or follow the destination on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) @GoToNanjing.

About Suzhou

Suzhou, the "Venice of China," is known for its elegant stone bridges, canals, flowing water, and noteworthy architecture. Located in the center of the Yangtze River Delta, approximately 60 miles west of Shanghai, Suzhou is one of the oldest cities in the Yangtze Basin dating back more than 2,500 years. The city boasts the beautifully manicured Classical Gardens of Suzhou, nine of which have been collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as 11 destinations along the Grand Canal that have also been designated world cultural heritage sites.

Each year, millions of tourists travel to Suzhou to experience the destination's more than 400 attractions, ranging from pagodas and temples to historical districts and world-class museums. Suzhou is continually developing in areas like the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), which boasts five-star hotels, the iconic Lake Jinji, and Asia's largest Ferris Wheel.

Travel to Suzhou is easily accessible via three convenient area airports with non-stop flights from North America: Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA) offers bullet train service to Suzhou, which is approximately a 50-mile, 30-minute trip; Pudong International Airport (PVG) is approximately 65 miles from Suzhou, an hour and half drive; and Sunan Shuofang International Airport (WUX) is approximately 14 miles from Suzhou, a 30 minute drive.

For more information on Suzhou please visit www.TravelToSuzhou.com or follow the destination on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) @VisitSuzhou.

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