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## These Canal Cities Are Giving Your Beach Vacation a Run for Its Money



With these canal cities, you get the benefits of a coastal trip and a city vacation in one.

By Stacy Leasca on May 06, 2019

In March, the Italian city of [Venice](#) began charging an entrance fee to all visitors looking to get in. The ancient city, first inhabited sometime around [the year 400](#), had simply had enough of the 25 million or so tourists floating through the canals each and every day. Now, just to [step foot in Venice](#) a visitor must pay a 3 Euro per person fee.

The move was understandable. After all, [overtourism](#) is a real problem for popular areas that come with rather real consequences for the locals. And that's why it's time to start exploring new places and spreading out our tourism dollars instead of all flocking to the same place.

For those dead set on a canal-centered vacation we have good news: There are plenty of other options in the world. Take, for example, [Suzhou](#), a canal city located just a short 30-minute bullet train ride away from Shanghai, often referred to as the "Venice of the East."

In Suzhou, visitors can meander through both the streets and the city's waterways. Hop on a boat and float past centuries-old homes, pagodas, and its 20 UNESCO World Heritage Site gardens and attractions.

Suzhou has 15 canals intersecting the city, some of which connect to the Grand Canal, the longest man-made waterway in the world. Riding through them is a serene experience that will give any visitor the quiet moment of reflection that travel calls for.

While the city is most certainly filled with old-world charm, there are plenty of modern luxuries to enjoy, like the newly opened [W Hotel Suzhou](#), and shopping districts where visitors will find both a great deal and the one high-priced item they may be looking for.

Want more? Here are nine other canal cities around the world waiting for you to explore.