



## Venice is not alone in being able to showcase a grand selection of canals.

Who doesn't love Venice? The sheer idea of having canals instead of streets is just magical. But Venice is not alone in being able to showcase a grand selection of canals. Simply Google "Venice of the...north/south/east/west" and a plethora of cities will pop up. But to make a city a great canal city to visit, it has to have more to offer than mere canals: something special, unusual, something worthy of a trip, be it the sheer *number* of canals, the history behind them, the surroundings, or what has been done with them. So, here are a few contenders of the world's best canal cities to rival Venice.



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## Suzhou

**WHERE:** China

Suzhou lies along parts of the Grand Canal, or Jing-Hang Grand Canal (a UNESCO World Heritage site), and is the world's longest canal. The oldest parts of this canal date back to the fifth century BCE, and it stretches between Beijing and Hangzhou, over 1,115 miles. Suzhou itself has hundreds of smaller canals and waterways, all interspersed with some 69 private gardens dating back to more than 1,000 years and collectively listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Among many ancient structures alongside the canals, the most notable is probably the Pan Gate, listed as the world's only city gate that allowed access to the inner city via land and water.