

AN INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLER PROMOTION

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WILD AMERICA

Yearning to explore the best of Canada and the US but not sure where to start? Nexus Holidays has created an epic adventure that encompasses the best of both these wildly beautiful countries.

you'll explore its public market, a foodie haven for locals and visitors alike.

Across the border, the US's famous landmarks such as the Big Apple, Hollywood and Las Vegas make it a coveted holiday destination. But look beyond the obvious and you'll find incredible diversity with natural and man-made beauty, unique cuisine, and a multitude of experiences for adventure seekers, nature lovers and culture vultures alike. Think cool, hip neighbourhoods; historical towns with old-world architecture; and breathtaking national parks and wide, open landscapes.

Once you cross over into the US you'll board a luxurious ship for a cruise around Alaska's glaciers and Inside Passage, witnessing some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. You'll also explore the world's first national park, Yellowstone, along with four other remarkable US national parks, colossal Hoover Dam, and the inimitable Grand Canyon, before concluding at the neon city of Las Vegas.

No other tour encompasses such impressive natural beauty and diverse experiences as this.

A kaleidoscope of scenic splendour, diverse cultures, intriguing history, and buzzing cityscapes, Nexus Holidays' 21-day Best of the Canadian Rockies, Alaska Cruise & USA National Parks (from \$6999 per person including airfares) tour is all of this and more.

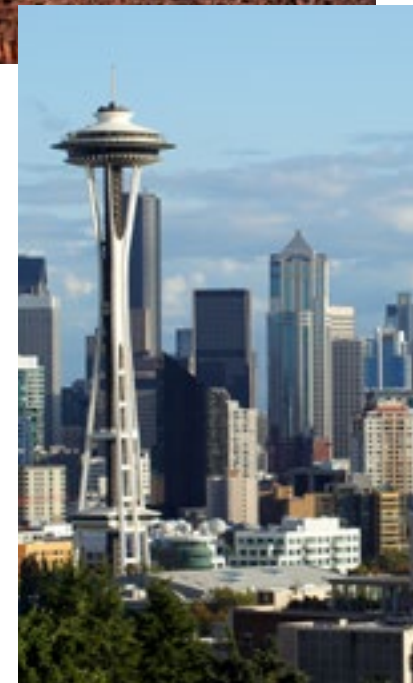
This fantastic itinerary starts in Canada, a natural wonderland known for its soaring snow-capped mountains, glacier-fed turquoise lakes, and infinite prairies. But beyond its aesthetic beauty you'll find cosmopolitan cities; historic coastal villages; some of the best ski resorts in the world; and remote provinces that feel like the final frontier.

Canada nestles its way into the hearts of Australians with friendly familiarity, yet excites with a diverse cultural landscape of First Nations communities, French heritage and American influences, which add a large dose of flavour both figuratively and literally.

You'll visit Canada's iconic Banff National Park and tranquil Lake Louise, also known as the Jewel of the Rockies. You'll take in Jasper National Park, the largest in the Canadian Rockies blessed with stunning glaciers, lakes and mountain peaks, and spot grizzlies on an optional river cruise to Grizzly Bear Valley. Your Canadian adventure ends at Vancouver's Granville Island, where



FROM TOP: America's breathtaking Grand Canyon at sunset; The US is famous for its big cities – admire the view from the Seattle Space Needle; Lake Louise in Banff, replete with gorgeous lakeside cabin. **OPPOSITE:** Cruising through Alaska's stunning glaciers is an unforgettable experience.



PARK LIFE

Naturalists will be delighted by this itinerary, which covers these seven national parks across Canada and the US.

Banff National Park, Canadian Rockies

At just under 665,000 hectares, this NP has soaring mountains, lakes (including famous Lake Louise), large caves and more than a thousand glaciers. **WILDLIFE SPOTTING** – elk, caribou, mountain goat, bison, coyotes, lynx, black bear, grizzly bear, red fox and more.

Jasper National Park, Canadian Rockies

More than one million hectares and Canada's largest NP, Jasper has mountains, valleys, forests, alpine meadows, lakes, rivers and glaciers, as well as mineral-rich Miette Hot Springs and Maligne Canyon, which is home to thundering waterfalls. **WILDLIFE SPOTTING** – moose, elk, coyotes, rare woodland caribou, grizzly bears, black bears and more.

Yellowstone National Park, USA

Described as 'otherworldly', Yellowstone was declared the world's first national park in 1872. At 899,100 hectares, it sits on top of a dormant volcano and is blessed with more colourful hot springs, mudpots and geysers than anywhere else on Earth. **WILDLIFE SPOTTING** – buffalo, grizzly bears, wolves, badgers, otters, coyotes, mountain lions and more.

Grand Teton National Park, USA

Spread over 125,453 hectares, Grand Teton has old homesteads and cattle ranches hidden among mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers and forest dotted with wildflowers. **WILDLIFE SPOTTING** – elk, beaver, coyotes, bison, moose, bald eagles and more.

Bryce Canyon National Park, USA

It's relatively small at 14,500 hectares but packs a punch: Bryce Canyon NP is a series of spectacular canyons, the most famous of these featuring the largest collection of hoodoos (odd-shaped rock pillars) in the world. **WILDLIFE SPOTTING** – peregrine falcon, pronghorn, mountain lion, great basin rattlesnake and more.

Zion National Park, USA

This 50,000-hectare park boasts colourful canyons, striking desert, the windy Virgin River and waterfalls. **WILDLIFE SPOTTING** – mountain lions, bighorn sheep, bobcat, beavers, ringtail cat, peregrine falcon, Californian condor and more.

Grand Canyon National Park, USA

No introduction is needed for this world famous natural wonder, which stretches 446 kilometres long, 29 kilometres wide and 1.6 kilometres deep. **WILDLIFE SPOTTING** – mule deer, bison, hog-nosed skunk, mountain lion, California condor, elk and more.

Taking in Europe's most iconic and spectacular destinations, from Switzerland's jewel of Lucerne to the labyrinthine canals of Venice, has never been easier with Nexus Holidays.

Euro adventures

It's one of those life experiences that you'll never forget; a journey through a continent so varied in culture, cuisine, landscape and architecture that one day you could be in a tiny Swiss village with flower-covered stone houses and the next you're in the fashion capital of the world, Milan.

The only drawback is making the mind-boggling decision of where to go – seemingly there is an endless choice of places to see, and usually so little time. Enter Nexus Holidays and its 25-day Grand Tour of Europe (from \$5999 per person including airfares). This brilliant itinerary takes in the best bits of Europe with renowned destinations you'll already have on your to-do list, as well as some lesser-known gems that you might not know about but should. Here, we've rounded up the best of this tour, country by country.

FRANCE

Places you'll know... First stop: Paris, the City of Lights. Here you can visit the Montmartre district, an area known for its creative inhabitants. Of course, no visit to Paris is complete without visiting the Eiffel Tower; you'll also see the city from the River Seine on a cruise and have a free day to spend as you wish.

Other places you'll go... You'll see some of the prettiest towns in France including the small medieval town of Noyers; Beaune, the centre of the

winemaking region of Bourgogne; and World Heritage-listed Lyon.

SWITZERLAND

Places you'll know... Switzerland's second largest city, Geneva, is a sight to behold on the shores of Lake Geneva. Next you'll travel to the culturally vibrant financial hub, Zurich, where you'll take a boat ride on Zurich Lake. You'll then spend an afternoon in picture-perfect Lucerne, nestled at the foot of the Alps.

Other places you'll go... You'll take a cable car up to the village of Grindelwald, which is surrounded by spectacular mountainscapes. You'll also visit the tiny village of Burglen where legendary

character William Tell was born; Lugano a town with a Swiss-Mediterranean culture; and the sweet town of Morcote with flower-covered stone houses.

ITALY

Places you'll know... Fashion capital of the world Milan is your first Italian stop, followed by the town of Pisa where you'll view its famous leaning tower. Rome is an absolute must; enjoy a tour of the Eternal City with a visit to the Vatican and the extraordinary, ancient Colosseum. You'll witness breathtaking landscapes as you head to Tuscany and the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, Florence. Discover the city on a tour including its enclosed bridge Ponte Vecchio and

Piazza del Duomo. Next on the agenda is the magical city of Venice, where you'll explore incredible waterways and Byzantine architecture by vaporetto (a waterbus).

Other places you'll go... Verona, the city of Romeo and Juliet, where a 14th-century building with a small balcony is said to be Juliet's house.

GERMANY

Places you'll know... You'll explore the historic and diverse city of Frankfurt and board a cruise of the mighty Rhine River. Cologne will amaze you with its architecture, spanning ancient Roman, Gothic, avant-garde and postmodern.

Other places you'll go... The picturesque village of Lauf, which has a busy market square, and the Bavarian city of Wurzburg, now a busy university city.

THE NETHERLANDS

Places you'll know... The canal city of Amsterdam is famous for its Red Light District, but you'll also see Dam Platz, the town square, its pretty parks, and witness the technique of cutting diamonds at a local workshop.

Other places you'll go... The neighbourhood of Zaanse Schans is a museum of windmills, green wooden houses, along with interactive visits such as clog, cheese and chocolate making. Then you'll head to the picturesque fishing village of Volendam, followed by Marken, where houses are built on stilts.



BUT THERE'S MORE...

Austria

The World Heritage-listed city of Salzburg – the place where Mozart lived – is on your itinerary, followed by Vienna, another of Europe's grand capitals, home to palaces, churches and prestigious museums.

Hungary

Your stay in Budapest, the Pearl of the Danube, includes a scenic tour and a Danube River Cruise of this unique city divided by the historic 'Buda' and new 'Pest'.

Slovakia

You'll see the Slovakian capital Bratislava, a city on the banks of the Danube River, dominated by an enormous castle, with a tree-lined Old Town and hilly parks.

Czech Republic

One of Europe's most ornate cities, you'll see Prague Castle, the Old Palace, explore the winding alleyways to the Old Town Square, and enjoy a boat cruise along the river.

Belgium

You will take in Bruges, the Flemish 'little northern Venice', and Brussels, with its Grand Place and unique Atomium building.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: *If you haven't seen or climbed it yet now's the time; Venice's romantic Grand Canal; The spectacularly ornate skyline of Prague; Majestic Lucerne at dusk.*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: *The charming city of Suzhou, known for its canals, bridges and gardens; Terraced tea plantations on the shores of Taiwan's Sun Moon Lake; The spectacular Red Torii Gates at Fushimi Inari Shrine. OPPOSITE: Beijing's incredible Forbidden City.*

Exotic Asia is full of endless opportunities for exploration and Nexus Holidays' tours encompass all that is the...

BEST OF ASIA

China is an ancient and fabled country, filled with a dense history, compelling culture and a wealth of things to see and experience. But for many, the sheer size and diversity of China and its landscape can be an intimidating prospect, one best left for another time perhaps. Unless, that is, you are travelling with an expert in all things Chinese, one who knows exactly what to do and where to go to see the best bits all in one go... like Nexus. Its 24-day Best of Asia journey to China (as well as Japan and Taiwan) ticks off the big-name destinations such as Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai, as well as locations still largely being discovered by travellers such as Wuxi and Suzhou.

The itinerary includes plenty of must-do experiences that will enthrall both novices and return visitors, such as walking a section of the Great Wall, seeing the Forbidden City and Summer Palace in Beijing, and racing across the country at lightning speed aboard a bullet train to the dizzying heights and bright lights of Shanghai. And there is equal (if not more) appeal in taking a quiet moment by the tranquil West Lake in Hangzhou or strolling the breathtaking Chinese gardens in Suzhou. Another destination that travellers are looking for the inside track on right now, after years of overlooking it largely due to lack of knowledge, is Taiwan. The Taiwan aspect of Nexus's 24-day Best of Asia itinerary takes in

a comprehensive list of locations in the country: the capital Taipei, Kaohsiung, Kenting, Taitung, Hualien, Taroko. Activities during the six full days on the ground in Taiwan are varied and fascinating. From heading up the world's sixth tallest building, Taipei 101, to cruising across Sun Moon Lake, situated 762 metres above sea level in the lofty mountains of central Taiwan, to taking in views of Xuanguang Temple and Lalu Island as you relax on the lake's tranquil waters. The trip also includes heading to an Oolong tea farm before continuing south towards Kaohsiung and the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Memorial Centre. Completed in 2011, the Buddha Memorial Centre has enshrined an

actual relic of the Buddha, gifted by Tibetan Lama Kunga Dorje Rinpoche. Taiwan's myriad natural wonders are also covered. The East Coast National Scenic Area, known as 'Taiwan's last unspoiled land', stretches 170 kilometres down the east coast of the country and boasts breathtaking landforms such as Siao-ye-liou, 'little wild willow' geological formation, and San-sien-tai, Three Immortals Island. In between China and Taiwan, the tour takes in the equally fascinating country of Japan, from Tokyo's frenetic street scene to Osaka's amazing food culture to the elegance and history of Kyoto. The full Best of Asia itinerary costs from \$4999 per person (based on twin-share) and includes everything such as airfares, accommodation, daily breakfast, various dinners, bullet train ticket, and all sightseeing and entrance fees. And there are lots of optional extras to add that will really tailor the journey, including a handy stopover in Hong Kong.

GO AND GIVE

Given that it is a China specialist, it seems natural that Nexus Holidays should take an extra interest in this compelling and confounding country. The Nexus Hope Elementary School is a result of this focus, as well as allowing the tour operator to give back to a country that has given it so much.

Built in 2011 with the financial support of Nexus Holidays, the school is located in one of the poorest and most remote parts of China, within the city of Dingxi in Gansu province, and currently has 256 students spread across grades one to six.

Above and beyond just offering its students an education, a priceless gift, the school provides free nutritious, healthy breakfasts and lunch daily in the school canteen to all students, and free accommodation for up to 176 students. This greatly benefits some of the students who otherwise would have to travel up to 20 kilometres each day over rugged and treacherous mountainous roads to get to school.

Nexus Holidays' employees currently sponsor more than 200 students on a 1-1 basis, providing for their basic schooling necessities (costing CNY500, approximately \$100, a year), changing the lives of impoverished and struggling families in the entire community through financial support and education.

The children at the school endure hardship and adversity, but the school has brought optimism and resilience, as well as the hope of a brighter future to the children, their families and the community.

For this reason, US\$2 (approximately \$2.75) from every tour booking is contributed to the Nexus Education Fund, with more than six million Chinese yuan donated to building the Nexus Hope Elementary School so far. Extra funding is now being raised to build a proper sports ground, which is Nexus Holidays' next mission, continuing its commitment to its charity work and social responsibility.



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