

# *Celebration* · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## 8 Day Hong Kong & Shanghai – Contemporary Art In China



**ESCORTED ITINERARY – PRE-SET DATES – NON-FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS**

## A Celebrity Escorted Tour

**Detailed Itinerary:** Included meals are shown with the letters B, L and D. 5180DBL

### *Thursday 28 March: Arrive*

Flights from most Australian cities arrive in Hong Kong in the late afternoon or early evening. We meet in the hotel for an introductory talk and then enjoy dinner. Overnight Hong Kong. (D)

### *Friday 29 March: Hong Kong and Art Basel*

Hong Kong's extraordinary history, from its early foundations, to its growth as the centre of British trade and finance in Asia and its transfer back to China almost twenty years ago, is

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evident everywhere. This morning we explore the island's history and culture through a tour of Central – originally Victoria City – whose architecture ranges from British Colonial through to stunning buildings designed by I.M. Pei and Norman Foster. After a break for lunch, we have a guided visit of Art Basel HK, at which well over 200 internationally respected commercial galleries, mostly from the Asia-Pacific, showcase their wares. After our guided visit, there is time for independent exploration, and you may want to visit some of the other sections of the fair, which are dedicated to large-scale sculptures and installations by international artists. Overnight Hong Kong. (B)

## *Saturday 30 March: Po Lin Monastery and Contemporary Art*

Despite its modernity, Hong Kong retains close links to its ancient culture. This morning we travel by coach to the Po Lin Monastery, a Buddhist temple founded by three monks in the early 20th century. The traditional Chinese Buddhist architecture of the temple is beautifully situated with views across the bay, over which gazes a 34-metre-high bronze Buddha. In the afternoon, we continue exploring the contemporary art on display in and around Art Basel, taking in a selection of the year's best offerings. Evening at leisure. Overnight Hong Kong. (B)

## *Sunday 31 March: To Shanghai*

This morning take the short flight to Shanghai. After checking into our hotel, we tour the Bund district. This district, where the British, American and French settled as their main point of contact with mainland China, gave Shanghai its reputation as the Paris of the East. After a group lunch, we explore the colonial architecture along the river front is well preserved, and it remains the most fashionable place to be seen in Shanghai, not least for the views it offers across the skyline of Pudong. Our tour concludes with a visit to Yu Garden, the private garden of Shanghai's 16<sup>th</sup>-century rulers, and today one of the best examples of Ming-era garden design. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Shanghai. (B, L)

## *Monday 1 April: Art and Architecture in Shanghai*

Shanghai's museums have collections befitting the cultural capital of one of the world's largest economies. After a talk in the hotel this morning, we visit the Shanghai Museum, whose collection of ancient art ranges from 10th-century bronzeware, to Ming dynasty furniture, and porcelain and lacquered wood from across the ages. After a break for lunch in the area, we visit the Aurora Museum, the private collection of the Aurora Group's chairman, housed in the company's headquarters which was designed by Tadao Ando. After our visit, we take an architecture tour of the Pudong, where teams of internationally acclaimed architects and engineers have given the city its new, futuristic landmarks, such as the twisting form of the 632-metre-high Shanghai Tower and the Pearl Radio Tower. In the late afternoon, there is the option

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of visiting the Rockbund Art Museum, a contemporary art gallery housed in what was originally the museum of the Royal Asiatic Society. Evening at leisure. Overnight Shanghai. (B)

### *Tuesday 2 April: Suzhou*

Today we visit Suzhou, the Shanghai region's most beautiful watertown. The town – sometimes called the Venice of the East – is famed for its well preserved traditional architecture and for its extensive canal systems, which were the main form of transport in trading centres along the Yangtze Delta. After touring the town, we have lunch in a traditional restaurant. In the afternoon, we visit some of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed gardens of Suzhou, which in addition to their beauty give insight into hundreds of years of Chinese garden design. Evening at leisure. Overnight Shanghai (B, L)

### *Wednesday 3 April: Contemporary Art in Shanghai*

Art has been central to Shanghai's growth as a modern cultural capital. Today we explore Shanghai's fantastic collections. In the morning we visit the China Art Museum, an extraordinary collection of modern and contemporary art. The core of the collection is the old Shanghai Art Museum, which rebranded in 2012 when it moved to the China Expo building – an impressive red structure that resembles a traditional Chinese crown. In the afternoon, we visit the nearby Power Station of Art, whose utilitarian architecture on the banks of the river have been transformed into an excellent venue for temporary exhibitions, followed by a visit to the West Bund Long museum. This museum contains part of the largest private art collection in China. We return to the hotel via M50 – a creative space housed inside a former cotton mill. After returning to the hotel, there is time to relax before we have a farewell meal in an excellent restaurant. Overnight Shanghai. (B, D)

### *Thursday 4 April: Departure*

The tour ends after breakfast in the hotel. If you have booked your international travel through Academy Travel, we will include a transfer for your outbound flights.

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## Celebrity Host: Dr Nick Gordon

Has a University Medal and a PhD in History and lectures on European art. Nick is also a practicing painter and brings this passion to the visual arts.

Dr Nick Gordon is a cultural historian and artist, with over 10 years of experience leading tours to Europe. He has strong interests in art, history, philosophy and architecture, from the ancient world to the present.

Nick holds a University Medal and PhD in history from the University of Sydney. He taught medieval and Renaissance history at the University of Sydney, the history of political thought at the University of Western Sydney, and architectural and Australian history elsewhere. He continues to teach at the Centre of Continuing Education, and gives occasional lectures on topics ranging from Classical Rome through to Australian and contemporary art. Nick has lead tours for Academy Travel since 2007, and designs study tours, residential tours and art-focussed tours, such as the Venice Biennale, Art Along the Rhine, Art Basel, and Amsterdam to Paris: Van Eyck to Van Gogh.

Nick is also an artist and his firsthand experience of art complements his academic expertise, through his knowledge of materials and the processes behind how an artwork is made, and his well-practiced eye for reading art.

We asked Nick, what do you enjoy most about tour leading?

*“One of the things I enjoy most about touring is helping people understand more about what they’re seeing. This happens through a combination of background lectures exploring different contexts, cultural commentary on the road, and especially by being able to explain what is going on in an artwork with the artwork in front of us.”*

*“The aim of all of this is to help people see more for themselves, independently, both on tour and beyond. Some of the best moments for me on tour are when this happens, and you get to be part of something bigger as people start adding their own knowledge and experience to what we’re looking at. It makes each experience unique.”*

**End of services.**

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**\*\* It is recommended that you consider adding additional days to your custom itinerary, in order to have a more comprehensive visit in each of the destinations contained within the itinerary. This short 8-day trip is a highlights trip and will only give you a brief overview of each destination.**

**Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548**

**Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!**