

Tour
Information



Venetian Art and Culture





Travel

Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Italy.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Email: consolato.londra@esteri.it Website:

http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



Tickets

British Airways is a ticketless airline and your booking is held under your name and a reference number. Included with your itinerary there is an e-ticket, which will quote a flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. **Online check-in is not available for this booking.**

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25 cm and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20 cm.

Please contact the airline for further information.

<http://www.britishairways.com>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Transfers

On arrival in Venice, transfer by coach and people mover to Piazzale Roma and onwards the short distance (200 metres) on foot to Carlton Hotel.

Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

Carlton Grand Canal, Venice

The traditional four-star Carlton enjoys a wonderful setting overlooking the Grand Canal, close to Piazzale Roma. Facilities at this stylish and well-run hotel include a restaurant (La Cupola), bar and very comfortable bedrooms, decorated in the Venetian style of the 1700s, with private bath/shower, hairdryer, TV, telephone, minibar, wi-fi and safe. Unfortunately, rooms at the Carlton Grand Canal do not include coffee/tea making facilities, so we recommend you bring a travel kettle if required.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:
<http://www.carltongrandcanal.com/>



Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces.

With a long history of trade and cultural exchange, Venice boasts a diverse and varied cuisine: spices from Asia, *Baccalà* (salted cod) from the Baltic, fish from the lagoon, and fresh vegetables (artichokes, beans, endives) from the islands.

Due to Venice's location on the sea, you will find an abundance of seafood – *Moleche* (small green crabs), *Bisato* (eel), *Gò* or *Goby*, *Sardelle* (sardines), *Seppie* (cuttlefish), and *Caparossoli* (clams) – simply seasoned with olive oil, vinegar, garlic and herbs, and of course the well-known *Baccalà Mantecato* (creamed cod).

Polenta, traditionally a food of the poor, is a hugely popular staple in Venice and accompanies many dishes, such as *Polenta e schie* (polenta with small shrimps from the lagoon). Gnocchi and rice are also frequently used, such as the simple yet delicious *Risi e bisi* (pea and pancetta risotto). Perhaps surprisingly for an Italian city, Venice's only typical pasta is *Bigoli* (fresh, thick spaghetti), often served with an anchovy and onion sauce (*Bigoli in salsa*).

When it comes to meat, Venice is most famous for its excellent duck and its *Fegato alla veneziana* (Venetian style liver).

Typical Venetian desserts include *Tiramisù*, *Frittelle* (sweet fried dumplings), *Baicoli* (dry biscuits, often dipped in coffee or *Zabaione*, custard dessert), and *Zaleti* (polenta based cookies).

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* is requested.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality.

In the Veneto wine producing region, the northern part, with its cooler climate mainly grows *Garganega* grapes, used for the famous dry white *Soave* wines. The Adriatic coast is renowned for producing the excellent *Valpolicella*, *Amarone* and *Bardolino* reds.

Venice's most famous drink is a *Spritz* – an aperitif made with *Prosecco*, a dash of bitter liqueur (*Campari*, *Select*, *Aperol*), and sparkling water, topped with ice cubes, an olive or a slice of lemon or orange. This traditional Austrian drink is a heritage of the Habsburg domination over Northern Italy. The locally produced *Prosecco* is also used in the famous *Bellini* cocktail – 1/3 of peach nectar and 2/3 of the delicious, sweet, sparkling *Prosecco*.

Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – is included on 2 evenings at the Hotel restaurant



Destination

Capital of a rich and dominant Maritime Republic, late 15th century Venice became a flourishing centre for the arts, with numerous Venetians investing their considerable wealth on commissions by artists such as Bellini, Giorgione, Titian and Tintoretto. The power and prosperity of the Republic and its political institutions had a direct influence on the development of the Venetian School, and it is these links, and the Venetian Republic's rich artistic heritage, that you will explore on this wonderful tour with art historian, Dr. Peter Higginson

Places of interest included in the tour:

Venice

Venice is unique – a floating museum on a labyrinth of canals that offers stunning vistas at every turn. With singing gondoliers, calm water of the canals reflecting the beautiful buildings and lights, breathtaking architecture and art, this enchanting city embodies a magical and romantic atmosphere. It is a city with a rich artistic heritage too, inextricably linked to the power and prosperity of its commercial and political institutions.

For more information about Venice please visit:
<http://www.venice-tourism.com/en/visit-venice.html>

Palazzo Ducale

The extraordinary *Doge's Palace* is one of Venice's many landmarks, built in the 14th century, on the site of a former ducal palace. This stunning edifice was destroyed, rebuilt and restored numerous times throughout the centuries, with significant Renaissance and Mannerist additions to the original Venetian Gothic foundations. Used by various administrative and cultural institutions after the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797, it was converted into a museum in 1923.

For more information please visit:
<http://palazzoducale.visitmuve.it/en/home/>

Gallerie dell'Accademia

The main gallery of pre-19th century Venetian art, the collections here include paintings by Veronese, Tintoretto, Mantegna, Titian, Bellini, and Giorgione.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.gallerieaccademia.org/?lang=en>

Church of Santa Maria della Salute

Dedicated to Saint Mary of Health, Longhena's extravagant Baroque Church was built in the 17th century following an outbreak of plague, which killed almost a third of the population. Located on the Grand Canal, near the *Piazza San Marco*, the church's magnificent dome became emblematic of the city's skyline and inspired many artists, including Sargent and Turner.

Church of San Marco

One of Venice's best known churches, it is a splendid example of Italian-Byzantine architecture. Located on the *Piazza San Marco*, it is connected to the Doge's Palace and was originally the Doge's chapel. The symbol of Venice's wealth and power, its opulent design, rich decoration and golden mosaics have earned it the name of 'Chiesa d'Oro' (Church of Gold).

For more information please visit:
<http://www.basilicasanmarco.it/eng/index.bsm>

Church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari

This Franciscan Church, built of brick in the Italian Gothic style in the 14th century, is quite plain and simple from the outside, but houses a wealth of art work, including Titian's magnificent *Assumption of the Virgin* and *Pesaro Madonna*.

For more information please visit (Italian only):
<http://www.basilicadeifrari.it/>

Scuola Grande di San Rocco

This *Scuola* (or confraternity house) was built in the 16th century for a group of wealthy Venetians, who commissioned Tintoretto (and his assistants) to conduct the entire interior decoration of the building. The master's superb paintings, in the *Sala Terrena*, *Sala Superiore* and *Sala dell'Albergo*, show the biblical story from Fall to Redemption.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.scuolagrandesanrocco.it/>

Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni

One of the city's major *Scuola* (confraternity), its walls are covered in magnificent paintings by Carpaccio. And it is now home to an art gallery.

Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

This tiny island is possibly best known for the *Church of San Giorgio Maggiore*, designed by Palladio in 1559. This Benedictine Church built in the classical Renaissance, features an eye-catching white marble façade and an imposing campanile. The 15th century bell-tower fell in 1771 and was rebuilt in a neo-classic style late 18th century.

Guidecca

This island is home to Palladio's masterpiece, the church *Il Redentore*, built in the 16th century as a votive church, in thanksgiving for deliverance of the city from an outbreak of plague. It contains a number of paintings, including work by Tintoretto, Veronese and Bassano.

Arsenale

Built in the 14th century, this ensemble of shipyards and armouries was the largest industrial complex of its time. Producing the majority of Venice's maritime trading vessels and naval fleet, it was responsible for the city's power, wealth and control of trade in the Mediterranean.

All transport within Venice is via vaporetto (waterbus) for which a three-day pass is included. There is some free time on your first day for exploring the city, for which an extra ticket may be required according to your choice of destination. Peter will have plenty of ideas to inspire you and will be on hand to offer advice and assistance.

A (longish) walk through the backstreets of the *Cannaregio district* to the *Ghetto* and the *church of Madonna dell'Orto* that houses works by Tintoretto is a delight. Or (time permitting) an excursion to one of the islands – particularly *Torcello* with its Byzantine church – is wonderful on a sunny day.

Your lecturer / Guide

Dr. Peter Higginson is a freelance lecturer at a number of London institutes. He specialises in the art and culture of early modern Europe, and the Modern period. His publications include works on art and society in 17th century Baroque Rome, as well as the patronage of Caravaggio. Peter has taught numerous university courses abroad in Rome, Florence, Venice, Paris, Madrid and Barcelona, and also has wide experience in leading cultural tours to different parts of Europe and the world, which at present include directing programmes in Rome, and the surrounding province of Lazio, Venice, Florence and Cuba.

He will deliver two lectures at the hotel before dinner on the first and second nights:

"Venezianità: the uniqueness of Venetian culture and its tradition"

"Art and the Venetian state: the scuole (charitable confraternities) and their role in the development of Venetian culture"

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Reading Suggestions

Guide Books

- Hugh Honour, *Companion Guide to Venice*, Woodbridge, 2001
- Alta Macadam, *The Blue Guide to Venice*, Somerset, London, 2007
- *Eye Witness Guide to Venice & the Veneto*, Dorling Kindersley, London, 1995
- Antonio Manno, *The Treasures of Venice*, White Star Publishers, Vercelli, 2008

Art and Architecture

- Norbert Huse & Wolfgang Wolters, *The Art of Renaissance Venice, Architecture, Sculpture and Painting, 1460-1590*, Chicago Univ. Press, 1993.
- Deborah Howard, *An Architectural History of Venice*, Yale Univ. Press, London, 2004.
- Patricia Fortini Brown, *Art an Life in Renaissance Venice*, Prentice Hall, London, 2005.
- Patricia Fortini Brown, *The Renaissance in Venice*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1997.
- Peter Humfrey, *Painting in Renaissance Venice*, Yale Univ. Press, London, 1996.

Historical Background

- Christopher Hibbert, *Venice: the Biography of a City*, Grafton, London, 1990.

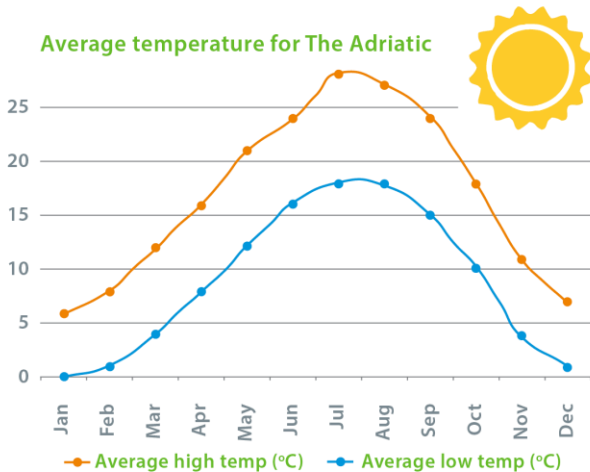
Henry James, *Italian Hours*, 1909.

Published at the end of his life, Henry James portrays his love of Italy through this series of essays, written over nearly four decades.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Venice at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Italian

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' Day (01 Nov); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable

form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops & Museums – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1230-1530. Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate general Milan

Via S. Paolo, 7

20121 Milan

Italy

Tel: +39 (0)6 4220 2431

Fax: +39 (0)2 8646 5081

Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230 and 1400-1600. Phone lines open 0900-1700. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +39 (0)6 4220 2431.

Travel Editions

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Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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