



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



stevebrownd50

Venice Lite

Venice, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: The lion's share of St. Mark's visitors are in Venice for just one day and then move on to other sites in Italy. When I brought my parents and my aunt to Venice from Florence for the day we saw the sights but experienced very little. The city has so much to offer from opera to art and film exhibitions. This one day trip is posted with a request: treat Venice nicely. The six hour tourist may do more to damage this city than rising waters and it is my hope that your day in Venice may inspire you to return for a longer stay in the future.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Venice

DAY NOTE: I remember seeing a 60 Minutes interview with the mayor of Venice a number of years back. He was being interviewed because of his negative ad campaign targeted at curtailing, what I call, the six hour tourist. An image of a young girl with arms extended and completely covered in pigeons was part of the ad. For a city that survives, at least in part, on tourism it seemed a strange initiative. The mayor wanted to encourage people to come and stay in Venice longer in order to truly know the city, and to spend more money. A day guest spends very little money and leaves a lot of garbage for the city to clean up. Venice is a proud and beautiful city and it welcomes its visitors with open arms. As a six hour tourist you can do your part to get to know the city and leave it like you found it. Once you arrive in Venice, exit the train station and take the street to the left. Continue on through the winding streets following the signs for San Marco. Before you arrive to San Marco visit the Ponte Rialto. At San Marco you should visit the church, the campanile and one of the museums associated with the church. Before breaking for lunch at the Osteria Alla Botte, take a look at the Palazzo Ducale and the Ponte dei Sospiri. Your afternoon should be spent taking a gondola ride and then wandering the side streets of Venice by foot and staying off the path that leads directly from the train station to San Marco. Visit the Chiesa di S. Maria Formosa and the Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Derelitti.



Ponte di Rialto

Historic Grand Canal Bridge



Piazza San Marco

World-Famous Piazza



San Marco Campanile

Panoramic view of the city



Basilica di San Marco - Pala d'Oro e Tesoro

Venetian-Byzantine goldsmiths



Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale)

Palace of Venetian Governors



Bridge of Sighs (Ponte dei Sospiri)

Legendary Bridge



Alla Botte

Osteria Outside the Usual Tourist Area



Chiesa di S. Maria Formosa

7th-century church



Santa Maria dei Derelitti

16th-century church

Day 1 - Venice

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: I remember seeing a 60 Minutes interview with the mayor of Venice a number of years back. He was being interviewed because of his negative ad campaign targeted at curtailing, what I call, the six hour tourist. An image of a young girl with arms extended and completely covered in pigeons was part of the ad. For a city that survives, at least in part, on tourism it seemed a strange initiative. The mayor wanted to encourage people to come and stay in Venice longer in order to truly know the city, and to spend more money. A day guest spends very little money and leaves a lot of garbage for the city to clean up. Venice is a proud and beautiful city and it welcomes its visitors with open arms. As a six hour tourist you can do your part to get to know the city and leave it like you found it. Once you arrive in Venice, exit the train station and take the street to the left. Continue on through the winding streets following the signs for San Marco. Before you arrive to San Marco visit the Ponte Rialto. At San Marco you should visit the church, the campanile and one of the museums associated with the church. Before breaking for lunch at the Osteria Alla Botte, take a look at the Palazzo Ducale and the Ponte dei Sospiri. Your afternoon should be spent taking a gondola ride and then wandering the side streets of Venice by foot and staying off the path that leads directly from the train station to San Marco. Visit the Chiesa di S. Maria Formosa and the Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Derelitti.

contact:

<http://www.turismovenetia.it/eng/dynalay.asp>

location:

Ruga degli Orefici (Rialto)
Venice 30125

hours:

24 hrs daily

1 Ponte di Rialto

DESCRIPTION: Ponte di Rialto is Venice's most famous bridge arching over the Grande Canal, known as a commercial area of the city with the busy Rialto Market nearby, filled with bright colored fruits, vegetables and fish (only open in the morning), and souvenir shops lined up and down the bridge itself. After its construction in 1591, the Rialto Bridge remained as the only bridge connecting the two sides of "the fish" called Venice for almost 300 years. The Ponte di Rialto is perfect for shopping or strolling along with gelato in hand while gazing off the bridge at the passing gondoliers and boats, and postcard perfect shots of the orange buildings & green water against the pink sky at sunset. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

<http://www.turismovenetia.it/eng/dynalay.asp>

location:

St. Mark's Square
Venice 30124

hours:

24 hrs

2 Piazza San Marco

DESCRIPTION: Encased in a trapezoidal shape by the Basilica di San Marco, the Palazzo Ducale, Museo Correr, and the Torre dell'Orologio, your first view of the breathtaking Piazza San Marco will never be forgotten. Popular with photo snapping tourists and children chasing and feeding the pigeons, Piazza San Marco, or St. Mark's Square, is the biggest (at 175 meters long) and liveliest square in the center of Venice. Expensive restaurants and shops line this square which hosts many of the city's festivals (Carnival in February, for one) and concerts. Also enclosed within the square is the San Marco Campanile with the Palazzo dei Prigioni and the Bridge of Sighs just a few steps away. As one of the main attractions of Venice, it is not to be missed! Basilica di San Marco © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: (+39) 041 241 3817
fax: +39 041 270 8334
<http://www.basilicasanmarco.it/ita/index.bsm>

location:

San Marco 328
Venice 30124

hours:

Oct1-Mar31: daily
9.45a-4.30p; Apr1-Sep31
daily: 9.45a-5p

3 San Marco Campanile

DESCRIPTION: Located in the very same Piazza San Marco, for which it is named after, the San Marco Campanile, or St. Mark's Bell tower, soars 98.5 meters high with spectacular panoramic views of the orange rooftops of Venice and on a clear day, the snow-capped Alps seem at your very fingertips. After paying at the entrance, one of the biggest elevators you'll find in Italy (a normal sized elevator for Americans) swiftly brings you up the San Marco Campanile to the observatory area where wind speeds seem to increase exponentially. Originally constructed in 1173, the San Marco Campanile has had many varied functions throughout the years such as a lighthouse for incoming ships on the lagoon, a means of tying up prisoners for torture during Medieval times, and an observatory for Galileo to demonstrate his telescope in 1609. After suddenly collapsing in 1902, the San Marco Campanile was reconstructed from its remaining base, a collection of marble sculpted storyboards called La Loggetta, and has been firmly standing since its re-inauguration in 1912. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +39 41 522 5205

location:

Piazza San Marco
Venice 30124

hours:

NNov-Mar, M-F 9.45a-4.30p,
Apr-Oct, M-F 9.45a-5.30p,
Weekends, Holidays 2p-4p

4 Basilica di San Marco - Pala d'Oro e Tesoro

DESCRIPTION: It is not known for certain who made the mid-14th-century Golden Altar Piece. It is a masterpiece of engraving that uses Byzantine ancient enamels, which originate from the pillage of Byzantium in 1204. The Treasure of San Marco should not be missed. A large part was melted down to mint money, but what remains can satisfy the curiosity of even the most demanding visitor, from an artistic and historic point of view. It can be accessed directly from the basilica. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +39 041 271 5911
fax: +39 041 528 5028
<http://www.museciviviceneziani.it/frame.asp>

location:

San Marco 1
Venice 30124

hours:

Nov-Mar Daily 9a-5p; Apr-Oct
Daily 9a-7p

5 Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale)

DESCRIPTION: Located next to the Basilica di San Marco, the Doge's Palace has been the symbol of Venice's political life and public administration for hundreds of years. The building has been continuously evolving into its present form since 1340, even though its foundations date back to the early Middle Ages (10th century). Considered a masterpiece of the gothic style, it has been destroyed many times, most notably during the fire of 1106. It was rebuilt by Barbarossa in 1177 and modified over the time by the different Dogi reigning in Venice. More than a palace, the Palazzo Ducale is an extensive infrastructure, comprising the apartments of the doge (often used as an exhibition space), the government quarters and the palace of justice. When visiting the palace, many parts are worth the detour. In the Museo dell'Opera, you'll see the remaining pieces of the building's medieval facades as well as a collection of sculptures dating from the 14th and 15th Centuries. Before heading towards the Doge's apartments, you'll enter the magnificent courtyard. Take some time to walk alongside the Loggias to enjoy the various angles of the Palazzo. In addition to the Institutional Chambers and the Prisons, take some time



wcities

to see the great collection of weapons and armaments in the Armoury. © NileGuide

contact:
<http://www.museiciviviciveneziani.it/frame.asp>

location:
San Marco
Venice 30124

hours:
24 hrs

6 Bridge of Sighs (Ponte dei Sospiri)

DESCRIPTION: Legends, passions, hopes and despair form the emotional history of the ever famous Ponte dei Sospiri, or Bridge of Sighs, a must see for every visitor to Venice. Connecting the Palazzo delle Prigioni (Palazzo of the Prisoners) and the Palazzo Ducale (Doge's Palace), the Bridge of Sighs is where prisoners going from their trial and conviction in the Doge's Palace, would look across the bridge at their last glimpse of freedom before entering the prison and let out a sigh. Over the years it has gained a more hopeful outlook being known as the bridge where if two lovers kiss under it, most likely in a romantic gondola, their love will last. To "walk the last walk" over the Bridge of Sighs, you will need to take a tour of the Palazzo Ducale or Palazzo delle Prigioni. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:
tel: 39 41 1520 9775
http://www.allabotte.it/sala_rionioni_eng.htm

location:
5482 Sestiere San Marco
Venice 30124

hours:
We to Mo from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM, We to Mo from 06:00 PM to 10:00 PM

7 Alla Botte

DESCRIPTION: This osteria is usually full of Venetians and a few of the more intrepid tourists who have escaped from the more normal tourist areas. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +39 41 523 4645
<http://www.turismovenezia.it/eng/dynalay.asp>

location:
Campo Santa Maria Formosa
Venice 30122

8 Chiesa di S. Maria Formosa

DESCRIPTION: This church was rebuilt at the end of the 15th century, in accordance with a plan by Codussi. It is believed to be one of the churches that was originally commissioned by the Bishop of Oderzo in the 7th century. © wcities.com



wcities

location:

Salizzada Santi Giovanni e
Paolo
Venice 30123

hours:

Su 10a-5p , M-Sa 1p 5p



Santa Maria dei Derelitti

DESCRIPTION: Due to its location adjacent to a hospital, this church is also known as the 'Ospedaletto'. Slightly obscured by the narrow street on which it stands, the beautiful building dates back to the 17th century. Designed by B. Longhena, it was paid for by B. Cagnoni. Inside are several paintings thought to be by Tiepolo. © wcities.com



wcities

Venice Snapshot

Local Info

Connected by nearly 400 bridges over 117 bodies of land and with 150 winding canals to top it off, the City of Bridges is a myriad of waterways and cobblestone paths that will take you on an adorable journey through this fragment of Italy's unique history. Traffic-free streets give the city an amazing air of quiet sophistication, marked by plazas and extraordinary Catholic churches, it's no wonder Venice is one of Italy's most sought-after travel destinations.

Along the northeast coast of Italy, in the region of Veneto, the city of Venice is divided in half by what you might call "Main Street," a waterway known as the Grand Canal, a romantic lovers' paradise. Gondola taxis take visitors from one island to another, often tagging on a little singing for an extra buck or two. Still, the price is worth it as this is one of the most unique cities in the world which, despite huge influxes of tourists each year, maintains a sense of dignity and culture unlike any other.

Multi-colored marble pillars and onion-like domes are hardly comparable when it comes to the great basilicas of the world and St. Mark's Basilica is a classic. Floor-to-ceiling mosaics and numerous museums along the main plaza are not to be missed. Of course, feeding the pigeons and snapping photos against this majestic backdrop is an obligation for first timers.

Nearby at Murano Island you can take in the traditions of glass blowing with a demonstration performed by artisans who have been passing down the technique for generations. Beautiful hand-made jewelry and sculpture are also available for purchase for those who simply can't resist.

Further into the lagoon you'd best be advised to literally get lost. Part of the excitement of this city is exploration and the best way to do it is simply by walking. Cross bridges, peek into antique stores, stop off for some delicious gelato, and simply follow the winding paths. Few places in the world are built to such a human scale, allowing you to use your most basic means of transportation, your feet, to really appreciate the city.

Each year for 40 days preceding Easter is the world-famous Carnevale, in which festivities dating back to 1162 crowd the streets and plazas with performers donning

costumes and masks that will delight your fantasies for years to come. Porcelain, leather, and feathers – these are things that dreams are made of, and Venice falls perfectly in line with these characteristics, a dream waiting to be explored.

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History

According to official historical accounts, one of the first important events in the history of Venice was the election of the first doge, a type of magistrate, by the Byzantines in 697. His name was Paoluccio Anafesto. The domination of Byzantium is much talked about but has little factual basis. However, the city was already established in 811 when it moved to the Rivoalto, which is now called Rialto, from the islands around Torcello and Malamocco. Agnello Partecipazio was the doge at this time. The remains of San Marco were brought to the city in 829, rescued by two fishermen.

The city had more or less taken on its current appearance by 1000, when it was governed by Pietro Tribun. The ordination of power took place in 1177, when Alessandro III met with the Emperor Federico, to negotiate relations between the papacy, the council and the empire. However, in 1204 the situation changed when, after providing ships and equipment for the fourth crusade, Venice first received help to re-conquer Zara. This unusual crusade started out to conquer Jerusalem, but ended up sharing out the remains of the Byzantine Empire; Venice won control of a huge part of the spoils. Thanks to a commercial policy that also set up a strict military stronghold, the territories became their rightful property.

The state evolved with the decree of the Great Council in 1297. This act only permitted citizens to participate in the Council if their ancestors had served on it. As a result the number of nobles in power increased which guaranteed, in theory, that they would continue to hold power even if a rival faction took over. As a result, political struggles were poisoned by many private feuds. According to Bartolo da Sassoferrato, although it is true that the nobility were not much respected by the people, they had more respect than in other cities which were governed in the same

way. The population mostly accepted their government, and, as there was such a large population, there were few internal divisions. The majority were reasonably well off, which meant that society was fairly stable.

Struggles with the Ligurian city of Genoa were a problem until a century later, in 1380, after the war of Chioggia. At this point it was no longer a military obstacle, and even though they now had control of the eastern routes only commercial rivalry remained.

Events that took place around the middle of the 15th Century would change the fate of the Mediterranean forever. The expansion on the mainland, and the conquest of a great part of Lombardy was the driving force in successive alliances to overthrow an overwhelming power, the first of which was the definitive fall of Constantinople to the Turks. The trade routes, which were the basis of the Italian states, became insecure, and mercantile trade started to decline. The final straw was the discovery of the American continent. The Mediterranean was on the brink of becoming a kind of lake under the threat of the Ottoman Empire. For many, it was the beginning of the end.

Although Venice had a somewhat overrated victory at Lepanto, Cyprus fell and the loss of Crete in 1669 was the ultimate insult. Thirty years later, Venice regained possession of Morea for a period of twenty years. The Turkish wars ended in 1718 with the overwhelming victory of the Turks. Venice then enjoyed its last century of freedom under the rule of the nobility; in 1797, Napoleon handed it to Austria, after feigned negotiations. In 1805 he returned to Venice and completed the domination of the city. The industrial structures were knocked down and the city became a shadow of its former self. In 1848-9, it was invaded again by the Hapsburgs, and in 1866, it was united with the Kingdom of Italy.

©

Hotel Insights

Venice attracts many different kinds of people, who come here for many different reasons. In comparison with other Italian cities, "hospitality" in Venice doesn't come cheap; this may be due to the romantic environment (Venice is known as one of

Venice Snapshot continued

world's "Cities of Love"), or the fact that because Venice has a very particular set up, transport and services are much more expensive, making the hotels more costly.

Venice is crowded throughout the year with tourists; a word of advice; however, if you visit during the Carnevale or the Film Festival, you need to book well in advance. If that doesn't ensure you a room, try the hotels in Treviso, Mestre or Padua.

San Marco

The hotels in this wonderful city have many different qualities: some have historical importance, some offer the best service and some have spawned Italian myths. Many lodgings in the vicinity of Piazza San Marco perfectly fit this category. The Bauer Hotel, the Westin Europa & Regina, the Hotel Gritti Palace and the Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal are some of the best.

Dorsoduro

Are these places a little too pricey for you? There are accommodations with lower prices and bags of charm in this primarily residential part of the city: Pensione Seguso and Pensione La Calcina. These are great options if looking to stay near the museums and attractions.

Castello

Near these hotels is Venice's Youth Hostel. If this is full there are also hundreds of rooms to rent (popular with students), economical boarding houses and establishments run by religious orders e.g. Foresteria Valdese. If looking for more private accommodation without the curfew (even though there isn't much to do in Venice after 10p), the Hotel La Residenza can offer guests the chance to be close to all.

Lido

L'Hotel des Bains, in Lido, witnessed the disastrous love felt by a middle-aged Dirk Bogarde in the film *Death in Venice*? And then there's the Westin Excelsior, which has played host to numerous international screen stars during the annual Film Festival. If looking for more affordable accommodation away from the tourist-filled San Marco and the Rialto, but still close enough to all the sites and transportation, the Albergo Quattro Fontane is very popular during Film Festival season and during the summer months.

Outside the City

Still not found a place to suit you? More and more people are choosing to stay in Mestre, just across the lagoon, which is served by many buses and trains. If you choose to stay here, the sense of romance may decrease but so will the prices you pay, and rest assured, you'll find a wide choice of comfortable hotels.

If you don't mind the distance and you have a car, you could stay in Riviera del Brenta. There are several villas here, which have been transformed into princely residences. This area is also less expensive than Venice.

If you like camping then you have to go to Mestre, or Cavallino to pitch your tent or park your caravan. The sites here are well equipped and are linked to San Marco by motorboats.

©

Restaurants Insights

The restaurants in Venice offer a wide variety of cuisines, ranging from international fast food to five-star Italian dishes. Many of the specialties are seafood based, and there are excellent vegetables in-season from the gardens of the Isola di Sant'Erasmus. In autumn, look out for the Torbolino: an immature Pinot Nero whose arrival announces that winter is on its way.

For a light snack try an osteria or bar which serves *cicchetti* (meaning "a pick-me-up"), usually meatballs, fried vegetables, anchovies, olives and cured meats, or even a sandwich, whose delicious dough is made from the city water.

Rialto

There are many bars and osterie close to the Rialto Market, which serve fresh food—they are subject to a quality control, which is carried out daily by the local residents. Places like Da Pinto offer high-quality Venetian dishes that cater to locals and tourists alike. Venice loves to have a good drink, as does the whole of the Veneto region. There are many popular wine bars that have become real institutions. Unnamed house wines of varying quality can be found everywhere; to be sure of a good bouquet try Do Mori. A few years ago

the Da Fiore, also in this area, was named best restaurant in the world.

San Marco

A lot of Venice's top-quality gourmet restaurants can be found in San Marco, the most prestigious area of the city. Harry's Bar is a name to remember, as are Do Forni and Antico Pignolo. One of the other cafes located in the piazza, famous for its coffees, teas, desserts and light lunches, Caffè Florian looks out onto the piazza and offers an exquisite, unforgettable experience.

Cannaregio, Santa Croce & San Polo

Situated near Piazzale Roma and the University, off the tourist trail, Campo Santa Margherita is always reasonable. This area consists predominantly of pubs, bakeries, gelaterie (ice cream shops) and pizzerias, which cater for a mostly student clientèle. In summer it's the only area that stays open until late at night, much against the will of the elderly population in this district. This is also the "artistic" quarter, where actors, directors, architects, designers and a range of other artistic types hang out. Antico Dolo is one of the most popular eateries that can be found in these districts.

©

Nightlife Insights

Venice is quite a sleepy city, especially when you compare it to other major cities of the world. There are several reasons for this. The first is the high average age of its citizens is one of the highest in Italy. The second is the relative difficulty getting around. This is not a place for cars and other private means of transport, and a boat ride is not really ideal for an evening out. Finally, there is a lack of space for new development in Venice.

Cannaregio

Besides, by nature Venetians do things differently. They enjoy entertaining friends in the privacy of their own homes. As a consequence, there are very few restaurants which stay open until late—to the point where going for something to eat after the cinema would be a major feat. It is only relatively recently that some restaurants with live music have reopened: *Il Paradiso perduto*, in the Misericordia district, is noted for its ambiance and its endless disputes with local residents.

Venice Snapshot continued

Dorsoduro & San Polo

Campo Santa Margherita in the summer is an exception to this rule. The presence of hundreds of students on break transforms the square into a pleasure pavilion, with restaurants, live music and extemporaneous art exhibitions. Amongst the most popular are those at Margaret Duchamp, the Caffè Rosso and Ai Sportivi. Another exception is during the Carnevale in February. In September, Campo San Polo houses an open-air cinema, where you can sit under the stars and watch recently films at the Biennale Cinema.

San Marco & Rialto

The opening seasons of the Teatro Goldoni, the operatic-symphonic Teatro La Fenice and the Malibrán) attempt to shift the winter-blues. For those who like a gamble, there are three Casinos: one on the Canal Grande, one in the Lido and the other in Mestre by the airport.

Lido

Finally, there is the Lido—an island that makes this waterlogged city go bathing-mad. But even here, whether you like it or not, the emphasis is on Thomas Mann, rather than Maracaibo. The beach is extremely beautiful, but where it is most beautiful, it is also the most expensive. Where the sand runs out, towards the Murazzi islands, the water is dirty and there are breakwaters.

Outside the City

In short, one will search in vain for nocturnal activities. There simply is not anything to do. However, if you really can't do without nightlife, you can drive to Piazzale Roma (a true Venetian would need a very good justification for doing so) and then on to Jesolo.

©

Things to Do Insights

A visit to Venice can last a few hours, many months, a few years or the rest of your life; it all depends on what you want to do. It's also possible to take tours to Venice that dwell more on the surrounding area, since the actual city is not that large.

Tour One: San Marco

The Basilica di San Marco at the heart of the city is a must see. There is little else

that illustrates the relationship between Venice and Byzantium so perfectly. The central plan of the basilica is a Greek cross with five large domes, one of which is at the extremity of the cross, and one at the crossing of the transept. The main façade looks out over the Piazza San Marco, with four portals that lead into the body of the church. There were originally five portals, but one, facing towards the Piazzetta, has been transformed into a large window. Immediately next to the church, and in perfect harmony with its neighbor is the Palazzo Ducale. Built as a simple castle, this has evolved into a symbol of Italian architecture and engineering from the proto-modern period. It is home to art works of exceptional importance, but unfortunately has also lost many pieces to fire at different times. On the other side of the Piazzetta is the National Marciana Library, which contains treasures of Renaissance wisdom that emerged in Venice when the city was relatively free of censorship. Many texts are marked as published in Argentina, but in reality they were the work of thousands of Venetian printers, who produced them in secret. In the Counter-Reformation, the activity of these printers helped to maintain a situation of free communication between different groups. The Museo Correr, which is part of the circuit of city museums, is also in Piazza San Marco. This museum is dedicated to the history and culture of the city, but also contains other exhibits. Under the Procuratie, and above the historic Caffè Florian, is the Museo Archeologico. The Greek community meets right behind San Marco, in the Chiesa di San Giorgio dei Greci church, which is adjacent to the museum of Byzantine Icons. In the Fondaco dei Tedeschi at the foot of the Rialto Bridge you will find the Post Office, while the National History Museum is located in the Fondaco dei Turchi.

Tour Two: Castello and Dorsoduro

The Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni was started in the secular tradition of the city by the Dalmati, who defended it strenuously until the fall of the Republic. It now holds the Carpaccio cycle, which is of exceptional importance.

Art lovers shouldn't miss the Gallerie dell'Accademia, by the bridge of the same name, which houses some treasures of Venetian painting dating from the height of its splendor in the 16th Century.

Tour Three: Cannaregio

Slightly off the traditional tourist route are sites belonging to ethnic and religious minorities. The secular tolerance of the Republic allowed the persecuted a place to live peacefully in Venice. The Island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni is the center of Armenian Diaspora culture, and there is the Moorat Raphael Palace, near San Sebastian. Venice can also boast the first ghetto in history. "Ghetto" is a Venetian word, derived from "getto," referring to the cast of foundries originally in the area, who moved away for security reasons. The word "getto" became "ghetto" since Jewish immigrants from Germany had difficulty pronouncing the Italian "g." A museum and synagogues can be visited here.

Tour Four: The Islands

Don't miss out on a visit to the islands, which are an integral part of the city's history. Torcello was one of the first to be settled; it was then abandoned as it became unhealthy. There is also Murano, home of blown glass, and Burano, an island of colour and lace. Venice is not just a city of stone, if you hire a boat (although you need to be very specific about the boat you want in a city surrounded by water!) you can cruise through areas of nature for hours in the northern lagoon near Burano. Sights to see include the Convento di San Francesco del Deserto and the valleys. Travelling southwards, you will come across Chioggia and the lagoon of Cason dei sette morti (Lagoon of the Seven Dead). Enjoy oases of fauna, archaeological areas, and hidden islands.

Tour Five: Outside the City

Once back on terra firma, you can visit Brenta and its river, or take in its beautiful villas. From Malcontenta up to Vicenza and the Villa Capra Valmarana, Padovan architectural influences are visible. Pop into Padua (10-30 minutes by train) if you want and visit the Specola observatory, which belonged to Galileo, who worked for Venice as a mathematician.

©

Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

Venice Snapshot continued

The Marco Polo Airport(VCE)(+39 41 260 6111/http://www.veniceairport.com) is tucked inland, seven miles north of Venice. Major airlines include:

Aer Lingus(+1 800 474 7424/http://www.aerlingus.com)

Aeroflot(+1 888 686 4949/http://www.aeroflot.ru/eng)

Air Canada(+1 888 247 2262/http://www.aircanada.com)

Air Dolomiti(+39 045 2886140/http://www.airdolomiti.it)

Air France(+1 800 871 1366/http://www.airfrance.com)

Alitalia(+1 800 223 5730/http://www.alitalia.com)

Alpi Eagles(+39 049 979 35 11/http://www.alpieagles.com)

BMI(+1 800 788 0555/ http://www.flybmi.com)

British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/http://www.ba.com)

Cathay Pacific(+1 800 231 0856/http://www.cathaypacific.com)

Delta(+1 800 221 1212/http://www.delta.com)

Easy Jet(+871 244 2366/http://www.easyjet.com)

Finnair(+1 800 950 5000/http://www.finnair.com)

Iberia(+1 800 772 4642/http://www.iberia.com)

Jet 2(+44 207 150 0374/http://www.jet2.com)

KLM(+1 800 374 7747/http://www.klm.nl)

Lufthansa(+1 800 645 3880/http://www.lufthansa.com)

Malev(+1 800 223 6884/http://www.malev.com)

My Air(+44 2073651597/http://www.myair.com)

Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/http://www.nwa.com)

Norwegian Air Shuttle(+47 21 49 00 15/http://www.norwegian.no)

Polish Airlines(+1 212 789 0970/http://www.lot.com)

SAS(+1 800 221 2350/http://www.flysas.com)

Sterling Airlines(+44 0870 787 8038/http://www.sterling.dk)

Swiss Airways(+1 877 359 7947/http://www.swiss.com)

TAP Portugal(+351 707 205 700/http://www.flytap.com)

Thomson Fly(+43 0192 89 598/http://www.thomsonfly.com)

United(+1 800 538 2929/ http://www.united.com)

US Airways(+1 800-622-1015/http://www.usairways.com)

Wind Jet(+39 899 65 65 05/http://www.volawindjet.it)

ATVO(+39 041 541 5180) Connects passengers between Marco Polo Airport and Piazzale Roma in Venice. Line 35-ATVO Air Terminal(blue buses) depart every 20-30 minutes and rides take about 20 minutes. Fares: EUR3 one-way, EUR5.50 roundtrip. Hours: 05:00-24:20.

ACTV(+39 041 541 5180) Line 5 departs every 30 minutes and lasts 20 minutes. Because its fares are cheaper these buses tend to be crammed with commuters, making it very cumbersome to carry and stow luggage. Fares: EUR 1. Hours: 04:05-11:10.

Alilaguna(+39 041 240 1701) The Blu line goes from Marco Polo Airport to San Marco. Rides last 60-75 minutes. Fares: EUR 12. Hours: 4:00-24:10.

Yellow taxis(+39 041 541 6363) are easy to locate outside the terminal. Rides last 15-20 minutes and generally cost EUR 40.

Water taxis, or motoscafi(+39 041 522 2303), can be found at the main dock just outside the airport's arrival hall to the left. Rides last 40 minutes and are expensive, starting at EUR 80 for two riders. Expect to pay supplements for baggage and groups exceeding four riders. Credit cards are not accepted.

Rental Car Companies

Avis(+1 800 831 2847/http://www.avis.com)

Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/http://www.hertz.com)

Europcar(+39 041 541 5654/http://www.europcar.com)

By Train

Italy's national train company, Trenitalia(http://www.trenitalia.com), serves Venice's Santa Lucia Station(+39 041 524 5346) daily. All trains to and from Santa Lucia stop at Mestre on the mainland.

By Bus

Italy lacks a national bus company, consequently independent bus lines only service their respective regions. If you travel cross-continent ride a Euroline(http://www.euroline.com) bus to Milan. From there, board an ATVO bus(+39 041 520 5530/http://www.atvo.it) to Venice's bus station at Piazzale Roma.

By Car

Autostrada 4(A4) originates in Trieste to the east and continues past Venice to Milan in the west. The Ponte della Libertà connects the mainland with Venice.

Getting Around

By Gondola

Gondolas, the symbol of Venice, are easy to locate but eye-popping expensive(a 50 minute ride starts at EUR 70). Make sure you agree to a price before boarding and don't be shy about haggling over the fare: most gondoliers initially ask for twice the going rate. Try to avoid low tide when rancid odors peak and, if possible, ride late afternoon or early evening when the Grand Canal's boat traffic significantly subsides. San Marco(+39 041 520 0685) and Rialto(+39 041 522 4904) are two of the more prominent gondola stands.

By Traghetto

If regular gondola fares exceed your budget consider boarding a traghetto. These two-man gondolas ferry people across the Grand Canal for only EUR 0.50. Rides last but a few minutes.

By Waterbus

ACTV's waterbuses, or vaporetti, offer several lines that cover the entire length of the Grand Canal. A 60 minute ticket costs EUR 6. Or opt for the popular 24-hour tourist ticket for EUR 15. Hours: 6:00-21:00, some run 24 hours. Spiffy looking powerboats known as motoscafi(+39 041 522 2303) offer quick maneuverability but

Venice Snapshot continued

charge a stiff price. For just a short ride across the Grand Canal they've been to known to charge as much as EUR 120.

By Foot

Walking is the best and most popular means for exploring Venice. There are no cars to dodge and Venice's 409 bridges make it possible to walk from end-to-end in 35 minutes.

By Car

Cars can cross the Ponte della Libertà (the small stretch of road that connects Venice with the mainland) but must then endure the impossible task of finding parking in one of Venice's two main garages. It is best to either park on the mainland in Mestre and cross on a bus or boat, or phone months in advance to reserve a parking spot. Call either Garage San Marco (+39 041 523 5101) or Isola Del Tronchetto (+39 041 520 7555).

By Bicycle

Bicycles are not permitted in Venice.
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Fun Facts

Venice

Country: Italy

Venice by the Numbers:

Population: 62,000; 1,600,000 Padova-Venice metro area

Land Area: 177 square miles

Average Annual Rainfall: 34 inches

Average January Temperature: 38 degrees F / 3 degrees C

Average July Temperature: 75 degrees F / 23 degrees C

Quick Facts:

Major Industry: Tourism

Electricity: 220 volts, 50 Hz; standard two-pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT+ 1

Country Dialing Code: 39

Area Code: 041

Did You Know?

Venice is built on 117 islands, features 150 canals and over 400 bridges.

Orientation:

Venice is situated in Italy's northeast corner known as the Veneto region, just off the coast in the Adriatic Sea. Trieste rests 97 miles to the east, Milan 165 to the west, and Rome 327 miles to the southwest.

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