

**VENICE CITY GUIDE**

*“The Floating City,,*



## VENICE

Venice, Italy, is known by several names, one of which is the 'Floating City'. This is due to the fact that the city of Venice consists of 118 small islands connected by numerous canals and bridges. Yet, the buildings in Venice were not built directly on the islands. Instead, they were built upon wooden platforms that were supported by wooden stakes driven into the ground.



### Tourist office & information

In Venice there are plenty of tourist information offices visitors can turn to in order to learn about the tourist essentials of the city. The 7 offices run by the tourist authority of the province of Venice (namely, APT Venezia) are located both in Venice (the lagoon) and in its mainland surroundings, in key areas like San Marco, the airport or Piazzale Roma. Tourist Information Office at Piazza San Marco 041-5226356/5298730 . Tourist Information Office at the Santa Lucia Train Station in Venice 041-719078. Tourist Information Office on the Lido, at Viale Santa Maria Elisabetta, Gran Viale S.M. Elisabetta, 6/a, 041-5265721/5298720

### Transportation

If you are staying in Venice and the weather is nice, tour Venice on foot. Being located on a collection of islands in the middle of a lagoon, there are times where you will need to use water transportation to get from one place to another. Venice has a very efficient public transportation service run by the public company ACTV, based mainly on various sized "vaporetto" boats. Vaporetto lines run on a schedule and guarantee essential connections to outlying islands such as the Lido, Giudecca, Murano, Burano, Torcello and others throughout the entire night as well. A single, one hour vaporetto trip in one direction costs €7.50 for any visitor aged 6 years and over. A person in a wheelchair and their carer/caretaker can travel for €1.50 per trip. The transport passes listed below are good for all for most all normal ACTV vaporetto (water bus) services around the Venetian lagoon, including out to Murano, Burano, Torcello, Giudecca and the Lido, and ACTV urban bus services in Mestre, such as to Marco Polo airport, and on the Lido.

### Taxi

Water taxis are the limousines of Venice: With their spacious leather-upholstered cabins, open-air seating in the stern, and private captains to chauffeur you up the Grand Canal or on a high-speed run between the airport and your hotel, they offer an experience that you won't forget in a hurry. Still, water taxis can hold up to 10 people.. Water taxis are also faster than public airport transportation, since you don't have to transfer to a vaporetto or walk a long way to your hotel when you arrive in the city.

### Florence Airport

The nearest airport to Venice in northeast Italy, Venice Marco Polo Airport is named after Italian explorer Marco Polo, who was born in the city..It is a small airport, with a single runway. In 1990, the airport was named after Florence native Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian merchant and cartographer.

### Driving Time from Venice city centre to:

Venice city centre about 30 minutes by boat up to Cornoldi dock  
 Venice Lido about 30 minutes by boat  
 Venice Mestre (mainland) about 20 minutes driving  
 Verona city centre about 1 hour and 20 minutes driving  
 Valdobbiadene aera (Prosecco road) about 1 hour and 40 minutes driving  
 Milan about 2 hours and 40 minutes driving OR 2 hours and 30 minutes by train  
 Florence about 2 hours and 30 minutes driving OR 2 hours and 10 minutes by train  
 Rome about 5 hours driving OR 4 hours by train



## NOT TO BE MISSED



### *Doge's Palace*

The Doge's Palace, or Palazzo Ducale, is one of the top attractions in Venice. This gorgeous Gothic gem on Saint Mark's Square was the residence of the Doge, the erstwhile ruler of Venice, and the headquarters of the Venetian Republic, a city state that existed more than 1,000 years. Learn more about the interesting history of the Doge's Palace. Since 1923, the Doge's Palace has been a museum. With its elaborate exterior and interior architecture, grand halls, and priceless paintings by Venetian masters such as Titian and Tintoretto, the Doge's Palace is also one of the top museums in Venice.



### *Gondola*

Venice gondola rides are without doubt the number one must-do experience in Venice. Gliding through serene waters, while serenaded by your gondolier, against the stunning backdrop of Baroque buildings is an experience you won't soon forget. The gondola is a traditional, flat-bottomed Venetian rowing boat, well suited to the conditions of the Venetian lagoon. For centuries the gondola was the chief means of transportation and most common watercraft within Venice. It is propelled by a gondolier. In modern times the iconic boats still have a role in public transport, serving as ferries over the Grand Canal. Their primary role today, however, is to carry tourists on rides at fixed rates



### *The Island*

The islands lying to the north of Venice Murano, Burano and Torcello are the places to visit when the throng of tourists in the main part of the city becomes too oppressive; Murano has been a glass-producing centre for hundreds of years, while Burano was once renowned for its lace work. The islands in the section of the lagoon to the south of the city, enclosed by the Lido and Pellestrina, are scattered over a larger expanse of water than the northern lagoon, but the nearer islands notably San Giorgio Maggiore, La Giudecca and San Lazzaro are the more interesting ones.



### *Gran Canal*

The best way to take in the Grand Canal is on board a vaporetto. The canal may no longer be teeming with merchandise-laden cargo boats, but it is still the main thoroughfare of Venice, and only a little imagination is needed to understand its historical importance. The three and a half kilometre trip from the railway station to San Marco provides a superb introduction to the city, telling you more about the way Venice works and has always worked than any historical tome. Every family had to have a palazzo here, and this was not just for reasons of social snobbery. The palazzi are splendid but they were first and foremost solid commercial enterprises, and their designs are as practical as they are eye-catching.

## DISCOVERY VENICE:

### Venice food and wine

Immerse yourself in the rustic and genuine atmosphere that characterizes the wine bars and the osterie of the city ("bacari") and feel like a true Venetian! Sipping an aperitif or fine local wines, accompanied by the typical "cicchetti" (tasty snacks), the inhabitants of Venice and of the nearby mainland meet before dinner! Cuisine in Veneto may be divided into three main categories, based on geography: the coastal areas, the plains, and the mountains. The most common dish is polenta, which is cooked in various ways within the local cuisines of Veneto. Typical of many coastal areas serve mainly seafood dishes. In the plains it is very popular to serve grilled meat together with grilled polenta, potatoes or vegetables. Other popular dishes include risotto, rice cooked with many different kinds of food. Bigoli (a typical Venetian fresh pasta), fettuccine (hand-made noodles), ravioli and the similar tortelli and gnocchi (potatoes-made fresh pasta), are fresh and often hand-made pasta dishes served together with meat sauce often made with duck meat, sometimes together with mushrooms or peas, or simply with melted butter.

Cuisine from the mountain areas is mainly made of pork or game meat, with polenta, as well as mushrooms or cheeses (made by cow milk), and some dish from Austrian or Tyrolese tradition, such as canederli or strudel. A typical dish is casunziei, hand-made fresh pasta similar to ravioli.

### Shopping in Venice

Venice has perhaps the highest density of tourist tack anywhere in the world, but don't let that distract you.

Hidden among and beyond these souvenir emporia is a host of smaller, one-off shops where you'll find traditional food stuffs, traditional products and crafts and a traditionally genuine welcome from Venetians. Tourist-orientated shops are found along all the most-trafficked routes: the station, St Mark's and the Rialto offering wall-to-wall plastic gondolas, and glass animals made in the Far East.

There are inexpensive leather goods outlets galore, but the contents are made in China. For a truly rewarding Venetian shopping experience a length of marvellous fabric, some glass item produced before your eyes, a bottle of excellent prosecco you'll have to wander off the beaten track.

### Venice for Kids

Venice is magic. Venice with kids is perhaps not the same kind of magical as it might be with your one true love, but it is magic nonetheless. Here are 5 things you can do with your kids to make it unforgettable for them.

**Feed the birds.** Buy a handful of birdseed in Piazza San Marco and see how long it takes for pigeons to roost on your shoulders.

**Show them some magic.** Watch the transformation of hard glass rods to molten magic in the hands of glass artisans in Venice and the nearby island of Murano. Kids will be wowed by this process, so be sure you get to see some artisans in action.

**Navigate the human-sized maze that is Venice.** Venice is the perfect place to practice following a map. It's very compact, and even if you do get lost, you will soon find a sign on the walls pointing to the Rialto Bridge, Piazza San Marco, or Ferrovia (train station), and you can start fresh from there. Have the kids help you map a route, and see how well you can follow it.



**SPEAK AS VENETIAN DO:**

*Venetian*

Aver anda  
 Avri/àvri  
 Batera/bacteria  
 Baùco \*  
 Bèssi, petenee, schei  
 Bicièr  
 Bonigoeo  
 Cagaura  
 Caréga  
 Confusion/casin  
 Cossa ti gà  
 Da dove ti vièn  
 Far amor  
 Fio  
 Focoeàr  
 Fufignoto  
 Gnanca  
 In scarsèa  
 Momola  
 Onto bisonto  
 Penoni  
 Pesta/pestàr  
 Piàn  
 Pie  
 Pignatéa  
 Piseli/bisèi  
 Pochèto  
 Putanàe  
 Rumòr, rònsar, rumor  
 Queo del vero  
 Sbèssoea  
 Scravassa  
 Sio  
 Tacuin  
 Teròn  
 Tor in giro  
 Un pò/un fià  
 Vissin  
 Vecia \*  
 Vovi strapassai

*English*

To Appear as  
 Lips  
 A Group of Friends  
 Silly Man  
 Money  
 Glass  
 Navel  
 Meaningless thing  
 Chair  
 Mess  
 What's wrong?  
 Where are you from?  
 Beeing engaged  
 Sewing Thread  
 Fireplace  
 Scrambled Fabric  
 Not even  
 In the pocket  
 Flip/A beautiful young girl  
 Greasy  
 Barefoot/Walking barefoot  
 Step on  
 Slowly  
 Feet  
 Kettle  
 Green Pea  
 A little Bit  
 Useless thing  
 Buzzing  
 Glass worker  
 Chin  
 Pouring Down  
 Uncle  
 Wallet  
 Southern Italian Person  
 Mock  
 A bit/few  
 Near  
 Old lady  
 Scrambled eggs

**\* These terms can be rude so be careful using them!**