



ACADEMY
TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

VENICE

CITY, REPUBLIC & EMPIRE

OVERVIEW

Unpack your bags to explore the history, art and architecture of the city that once ruled the Mediterranean.

Discover Venice's unique history, rich art collections and local traditions on this 15-day residential tour, with Dr Eireann Marshall. Most visitors stay only long enough to see the city's main sites – sufficient to admire their beauty, but not to truly understand the complexity and innovation of a culture that dominated the Mediterranean for over 1,000 years.

Explore Venice as few tourists do, on daily walking and boat tours that survey its history, role as a hinge between East and West, and outstanding painting, architecture and music. On day trips to Ravenna, Padua and the Palladian villas of the Veneto, understand how the city's influence extended to the terra firma and shaped its modern aspect.

The experience is rounded out by free time for individual sightseeing and relaxation, with an unlimited pass to Venice's transport system, and expert background lectures.



TOUR LEADER

Dr Eireann Marshall is an Honorary Research Associate and Associate Lecturer with the Open University. With her vast lecturing and guiding experience, Eireann has in depth knowledge of Italy and will be accompanied by a trained tour manager for the duration of the tour.

TOUR DATES

April 3-17, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$10,620 per person, twin share
\$2,390 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Venice (14 nights)

INCLUSIONS

14 nights' accommodation in the centrally located 4-star Hotel Al Codega. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All breakfasts and 5 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts at 2.00pm on Wednesday 3 April, at Venice's Marco Polo airport. The tour ends at 12.00pm on Wednesday 17 April, at Venice's Marco Polo airport.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Wednesday 3 April

Arrive Venice, orientation

Flights with Qatar and Emirates arrive in Venice in the mid-afternoon. A transfer to the hotel by water taxi is available for those arriving with these flights. After check-in there will be an orientation stroll of the district around our hotel followed by an early, light dinner in a local restaurant. (D)

Thursday 4 April

Venice and the lagoon

Today we gain a sense of the geography of the Venetian lagoon and the city's appearance in its earliest days. We travel by ferry to the peaceful lagoon islands of Burano and Torcello. On Torcello we view the 6th-century basilica with its mosaics and Byzantine decorations, as well as the small museum of the Venetian lagoon. We then enjoy a relaxed welcome lunch at the legendary Locanda Cipriani on Torcello before returning to our hotel for an evening talk. (B, L)

Friday 5 April

San Marco and the Trading Empire

This morning we take a vaporetto to the Castello district, where Venice's historic Arsenale is located, and we track the growth of the trading empire and shipping industry which developed to support it. We continue on to the district which has been the centre of Venice's Adriatic and Greek communities for centuries. These communities helped maintain Venice's stranglehold on the Eastern Mediterranean and left important monuments to their status in the city, including the only cycle of Carpaccio paintings still in situ. At the icon museum of San Giorgio dei Greci, we admire the significant collection of works created by Venetian, Cretan and Cypriot artists, and at the church of San Zaccaria, the extraordinary altarpiece by Giovanni Bellini. After a break for lunch, we visit the Scuola degli Schiavoni, the Slavic confraternal headquarters with a wonderful cycle of paintings by Carpaccio. This evening we have a private viewing of St Mark's, so that we can enjoy the spectacular mosaics lit up without the bustle of the usual crowds. (B)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Private visit of St Mark's

See the splendour of St Mark's, the private chapel of the Doges, lit up at night and truly understand the splendid effect of kilos of glittering gold and luminous marble on a private, after-hours tour.

Venice's glittering Byzantine past

Delight in world-class Byzantine mosaics, from a full day in Ravenna to Venice's earliest history in gold on peaceful Torcello.

Outstanding medieval and Renaissance art

Admire Giotto's superlative frescoes in Padua's Scrovegni Chapel and Venetian masterpieces by Carpaccio, Bellini, Titian and Veronese in lesser-known churches and palaces.

Palladio and the terrafirma

Discover the World Heritage-listed country villas, townhouses and churches of Andrea Palladio, his harmonious contribution to Renaissance Venice, Vicenza and the Veneto countryside.

Venice's modern revival

Appreciate how Peggy Guggenheim, the Biennale and an impressive roll-call of patrons and artists have created Venice's modern reputation as a global art market.



Byzantine mosaics at Ravenna

Saturday 6 April **Venice and the East**

Today we travel to Ravenna, the Byzantine capital of Italy in the 5th-8th centuries. It is in Ravenna, after the fall of the Roman Empire, that the Byzantine visual style of gold-ground mosaics first developed. Here we view the UNESCO World Heritage-listed churches of Sant'Apollinare in Classe, San Vitale, and Sant'Apollinare Nuovo. We also examine evidence of the Gothic kingdom in Italy in the late 5th and early 6th century, including the Palace of Theodoric and the Neonian baptistry. (B)

Sunday 7 April **State-Sponsored Art**

This morning we take a guided tour of the Doge's Palace, whose layout reflects the complex structure of the Venetian government itself. The palace is decorated with large canvases by Tintoretto, Veronese and others. We then continue to visit the tombs of Venice's doges at Santi Giovanni e Paolo and Verrocchio's magnificent equestrian statue of Bartolomeo Colleoni. In the afternoon, there is the option of visiting the Museo Correr, with its collection of artefacts relating to the history of Venice and a number of significant works by Bellini, Antonello da Messina and Canova. This evening we hope to attend a performance at the historic Fenice theatre (subject to the season's program). (B)



Arsenale, depicted here by Canaletto

Monday 8 April **Venetian Fine Art**

This morning we visit the Galleria dell'Accademia, the main gallery of Venetian painting from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, displaying important works by Bellini, Carpaccio, Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, Tiepolo and others. After a break for lunch, we visit the church of the Frari, with its outstanding collection of painting and sculpture, including Titian's Assumption of the Virgin, and Tintoretto's virtuoso performance in the nearby Scuola di San Rocco. The evening is at leisure after a talk in our hotel. (B)

Tuesday 9 April **Merchants of Venice**

This morning we visit the Rialto Markets, once Europe's premier trade and finance hub, and take a private tour of Venice's ghetto district and its synagogues. The Jews of Venice played an important role in the city and the ghetto has a fascinating history. After enjoying lunch together at Osteria da Rioba, a typical Venetian trattoria, we visit the Ca' d'Oro, a 15th-century merchant's palace on the Grand Canal, which is now a museum. The later afternoon is at leisure, with an early evening talk in our hotel. (B, L)



Colourful houses of Burano



Giotto's frescoes in Padua's Scrovegni Chapel

Wednesday 10 April

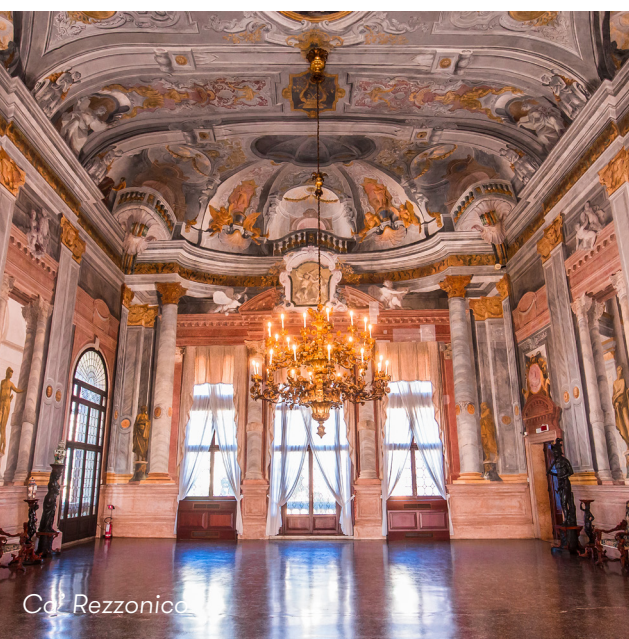
Padua

We spend the day exploring the nearby town of Padua, a prosperous centre since the Middle Ages whose university was the intellectual base of Venetian society. Highlights of the day include the flourishing produce markets, our guided visit to the anatomy theatre at the university, the monumental medieval Palazzo della Ragione and of course Giotto's extraordinary fresco cycle in the Scrovegni Chapel, undertaken in the early 1300s. (B)

Thursday 11 April

Free Day

Today is free for you to relax or to explore some of Venice's myriad of other sites independently. Your tour leader is happy to assist with advice. There is a talk in our hotel in the evening. (B)



Ca' Rezzonico

Friday 12 April

Art and Life in the Baroque

We begin with a visit to the Querini-Stampalia Museum, with a fine collection of Pietro Longhi and Gabriele Bella paintings that show us how Venetians lived from the Renaissance through to the Baroque. It also preserves a wonderful painting from the Bellini workshop. We break for a group lunch in the area before visiting the restored Ca' Rezzonico, a lavish patrician's palace from the 18th century. There is a talk this evening. (B, L)

Saturday 13 April

Palladio on the Terraferma

In the 16th century, amid declining trade, the Venetian aristocracy sought to recreate the life of the ancients in the countryside. We travel to the mainland today to enjoy a full day visiting some of Palladio's fine country villas, elegant variations in the classical style. We begin the day at the Villa Capra La Rotonda, Palladio's celebrated centrally-planned pleasure villa, then continue to the Villa Valmarana. We pause for lunch in Vicenza, with its important civic buildings by Palladio and enjoy a visit to the Teatro Olimpico, before moving on to the Villa Barbaro at Maser. We return to Venice in the early evening. (B)

Sunday 14 April

Modern Art in Venice

Venice in the 20th century became an international centre of modern art. Today we visit Ca' Pesaro, containing the city's collection of modern art, much of it collected at biennales from 1896 onwards. The collection includes works by Klimt, Chagall, Modigliani, the Italian Futurists and many others. After lunch, we continue on to the extraordinary Peggy Guggenheim Collection, located in one of the heiress's residences, the 18th-century Palazzo Venier. The collection includes outstanding works by Dalí, Kandinsky, Pollock, Magritte, Mondrian and Picasso. There is a talk in our hotel this evening. (B)



Church of San Giorgio Maggiore, designed by Palladio and built between 1566 and 1610

HOTELS

Venice, Hotel Al Codega

(14 nights)

Academy Travel has been using the charming Hotel Al Codega for many years now. It enjoys a perfect position in the centre of the city – minutes from major attractions yet on a quiet enclosed square with no through foot traffic and no noise from the canals or tourists.

The hotel is small, with just 21 rooms, meaning our group will occupy the majority of the rooms. Staff at the hotel are friendly. Breakfasts are very good and there is a cosy bar to enjoy an evening drink. The hotel has free wifi throughout.

Near the hotel are countless cafes and restaurants. La Fenice opera theatre and the church of San Vidal, where there are good concerts of baroque music almost every evening, are within easy walking distance. Venice's best shops are at your doorstep, but there are also supermarkets, delicatessens and chemists for more practical needs.

www.hotelalcodega.com

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade Two

This tour is physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-7 kilometres over the day at a moderate pace
- stand and slow walk for up to 90 minutes galleries and museums
- negotiate walking over uneven ground and over bridges
- walk up and down steps and slopes
- get on and off a coach or boat with steps unassisted
- move your luggage unassisted



Monday 15 April

Glass in Venice

Venetian glass has been highly prized since the Middle Ages. This morning, we explore this art in Venice by visiting Murano, whose fascinating history extends beyond glassmaking. The afternoon is at leisure, before an optional visit to the house and studio of a Venetian printmaker. (B)

Tuesday 16 April

The Islands of San Lazzaro and San Giorgio

This morning we travel to the island of San Lazzaro degli Armeni, where we visit the convent of the Armenian monks, a centre of learning and enlightenment for Venice for hundreds of years. Byron stayed on the island for a time, compiling an English-Armenian dictionary, and the monastery contains an eclectic collection including some very rare manuscripts. On our way back to Venice, we stop at the island of San Giorgio, home to a major Benedictine monastery since the early Middle Ages, and also Palladio's most magnificent church. We enjoy the panoramic view from the belltower before meeting in the early evening for a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Wednesday 17 April

Departure

Today we depart Venice. A group transfer by private launch to Venice's Marco Polo airport is available for those taking mid-afternoon flights back to Australia.



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Lucy Yeates** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

lucy@academytravel.com.au

 info@academytravel.com.au

 academytravel.com.au