VENICE
CITY, REPUBLIC & EMPIRE

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 6, 2017
TOUR LEADER: DR NICK GORDON
OVERVIEW

Venice is a city with a unique history, rich in art and local traditions. Most visitors to the city stay only a few days and see only the main sites – enough time to admire the beauty, but insufficient to truly understand this great city. Much more time is required to unravel and fully appreciate the complex history, society and culture of a city that ruled a Mediterranean trade empire for more than 1,000 years.

This 15-day journey gives you the chance to explore Venice in a way that few tourists do. Walking and boat tours each day explore Venice’s development from the 6th to the 20th century, the city’s pivotal role as an economic and cultural link between Europe and the East, the significance of shipping and the navy as well as the painting, architecture and music that makes Venice a famous centre of culture. Day trips to Ravenna, Padua and the Renaissance villas of Palladio complete the picture, showing how the city’s influence extended to the terraferma.

Accommodation is in a carefully selected four-star hotel in central Venice, Al Codega. This family-run hotel has just 21 rooms. It is located in a ‘corte sconta’; a hidden courtyard just a few minutes from St Mark’s Square. It is close to an array of cafes, small restaurants and practical shops for a long stay tour, such as supermarkets and chemists.

The journey has been scheduled for late October 2017, when the weather is still mild but the summer tourist hordes have departed – ideal conditions for cultural travel. As well as structured visits and background lectures, sufficient free time has been included in the itinerary for individual sightseeing and relaxation. All participants will have a pass to the city’s transport system, allowing you to roam at leisure.

This tour is a repeat of the highly successful tours Academy Travel has offered each year since 2006.

YOUR TOUR LEADER

Dr Nick Gordon holds a University Medal and a PhD in History from the University of Sydney. He lectures regularly on art and history for Sydney University’s Nicholson Museum and Centre for Continuing Education, and has taught European history at universities in Sydney for 10 years. His knowledge of and passion for art have developed from both academic research and his practice as an artist. He has led tours for Academy Travel since 2007, and travels to Venice regularly for work and pleasure.

“Nick was a wonderful tour leader. He possessed a wide ranging knowledge of Venice, covering all aspects as detailed in the programme. He has a very pleasing personality. I enjoyed his morning lectures and his way of presenting information”. Tour participant on Venice: City, Republic and Empire, 2015.

“Loved the itinerary – good mix of cultural sites and activities. Nick was an excellent tour leader who took care of our group. He shared his expertise and enthusiasm with us in a friendly and unassuming way, answering our questions and providing further information when asked.” Tour participant on Venice: City, Republic and Empire, 2015.
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

MAGICAL VENICE
Enjoy staying in central Venice at a time of year when the streets and laneways of the most unique of cities are less cluttered with tourists.

SPECTACULAR MOSAICS
From the UNESCO World Heritage listed Roman and Byzantine mosaics at Ravenna, to the medieval and Renaissance mosaics in St Marks and Torcello.

PADUA, PALLADIO AND RAVENNA
Explore the unique heritage of the area, seeing some of the finest art and architecture from antiquity to the Renaissance.

PRIVATE VISIT OF ST MARKS
See the splendour of St Marks, the private chapel of the Doges, lit up at night on a private, after-hours tour.

THE ART AND HISTORY OF VENICE
Discover the rich history of Venice and its Empire, and understand the culture that produced some of the greatest artists and writers of the Renaissance, such as Bellini, Titian and Tiepolo.
VENICE AND ITS OTHERS

It is well known that Venice was a city of island communities, but less well known that Venice was also home to many ethnic communities, including Germans, Jews, Dalmatians, Greeks and Cretans. These communities, while not considered Venetians, played important roles in Venice’s commercial empire and the government of Venice sought to maintain strong relationships with them.

To maintain good relationships with these groups, the Venetian state offered them a level of protection. When a Dominican friar began preaching that Greek Orthodox Christians were heretics – which was the official line of the papacy – the head of the Greek Orthodox community complained to the Doge. The Dominican preacher was summoned and expelled from the city, along with the papal legate who defended him. It was better policy to offend the Pope than the people who provided connections and insider knowledge of the Orthodox world, where the most important ports in the Venetian Empire were. Later, when a parish priest refused to marry two German Protestants, the Patriarch of Grado – the highest religious authority in Venice – turned up and officiated their marriage himself. The mines of southern Germany and Austria were the source of the gold and silver the Venetians had used to maintain the balance of trade.

The Venetian state, however, sought to control social order by permitting some of these groups to live only in certain areas. The Jews were obliged to live on the island of the Ghetto and German and Turkish merchants were obliged to live in fondachi – buildings that were part warehouse, part apartment block. Other groups were less restricted, such as the Dalmatians, Greeks, Cretans and Cypriots who tended, nonetheless, to congregate in a district just five minutes from St Marks Square, which remains the Greek Orthodox part of the town to this day.

The Dalmatian community who lived here had a particularly close relationship with the Venetian state. In the 15th century, in recognition of their importance they were permitted to form their own scuola – a lay religious organisation that played a visible role in civic life. Its leaders also provided an important line of back door communication between the Venetian state and the communities it governed.

The scuola commissioned Vittore Carpaccio to paint their meeting hall, and the works he made are some of his most recognisable – St Augustine in his study and St Jerome and the lion, for example. These are the only works of Carpaccio still in their original location - you can understand their context better than if they were in a museum.

They are the only ones that haven’t been removed because in 1797 the head of the community raised the concerns of his community with Napoleon. Napoleon had no issue with taking what he wanted from Venice, or elsewhere, but he himself decreed that these works were to be protected in their original location. Dalmatia was one of the gateways to eastern and central Europe, and Napoleon was seeking potential allies for his designs on the Austrian Empire.
**MONDAY 23 OCTOBER**
**ARRIVE VENICE, ORIENTATION**
Emirates flight arrives into Venice in the mid afternoon. A transfer to the hotel by water taxi is available for those arriving with this flight. 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)

**TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER**
**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 (B, L)

**WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER**
**SAN MARCO AND THE TRADING EMPIRE**
This morning we take a vaporetto to the Castello district, where Venice’s historic Arsenale is located, and the museum that tracks the growth of Venice’s trading empire and shipping industry which developed to support the empire. After a lunch break, we visit 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 have left important monuments to their status in the city, including the only cycle of Carpaccio paintings still in situ. We continue on to the icon museum, with its significant collection of works created by Venetian, Cretans and Cypriot artists, and the church of San Zaccharia, with its extraordinary altarpiece by Giovanni Bellini. This evening we have a private viewing of St Marks, so that we can enjoy the spectacular mosaics lit up without the hustle of the usual crowds. (B)

**THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER**
**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 and Mausoleum of Theodoric and the Neonian baptistery. (B)
FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER
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 fifteenth-century merchant’s palace on the Grand Canal, which is now a museum. The later afternoon and evening are at leisure. (B, L)

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER
PADUA
We spend the day exploring the nearby town of Padua, a prosperous town 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 frescoed medieval Palazzo della Ragione and of course Giotto’s extraordinary fresco cycle in the Scrovegni Chapel, undertaken in the early 1300s. (B)

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER
THE ISLANDS OF ST LAZARUS 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. The afternoon is at leisure. We meet in the early evening for a talk on the Venetian State and its art. (B)

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER
STATE SPONSORED ART
This morning we visit we visit the tombs of Venice’s doges at Santi Giovanni e Paolo and Verocchio’s magnificent equestrian statue of Bartolomeo Colleoni. We then take a private 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. 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 there is a talk on painting in Renaissance Venice. (B)

Images left: the charming Rialto Markets; a detail from Giotto’s exquisite fresco cycle in the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua; and Palladio’s San Giorgio Maggiore
TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER
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. (B)

WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER
PALLADIO ON THE TERRAFIRMA

In the 16th century, amid declining trade, the Venetian aristocracy sought to recreate the life of the ancients in the countryside. We travel by coach to the mainland to enjoy a full day visiting some of Palladio’s fine country villas, all elegant variations in the classical style. We begin the day at the Villa Barbaro at Maser, where we will have an opportunity to taste the wines and sample local produce. We then continue to Vicenza, with its important civic buildings by Palladio, and the Villa Capra or La Rotonda, Palladio’s celebrated centrally-planned pleasure villa. (B, L)

THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Today is free for you to relax or to explore some of Venice’s other sites independently. (B)

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER
MODERN ART IN VENICE

Venice in the twentieth century became an international centre of modern art. Today we visit the extraordinary Peggy Guggenheim Collection located in one of the heiress’s residences, the 18th century Palazzo Venier. The collection includes outstanding works by Dali, Kandinsky, Pollock, Magritte, Mondrian and Picasso. We continue to the 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. (B)

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER
ART AND LIFE IN THE BAROQUE – OPERA AT LA FENICE

We visit 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 lunch in the area before visiting the restored Palazzo Rezzonico, a lavish patrician’s palace from the 18th century. In the evening, subject to the season’s program, we attend an opera at La Fenice. (B)
SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER
GLASS IN VENICE

Venetian glass has been highly prized since the Middle Ages. This morning, we explore this art in Venice by visiting the exhibition of contemporary glasswork on display, which is part of the Venice Biennale, before continuing to Murano, whose fascinating history extends beyond glass making. The afternoon is at leisure, before we meet in the early evening for a farewell dinner. (B, D)

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER
DEPARTURE

Today we depart Venice. A group transfer by private launch to Venice’s Marco Polo airport is available for those taking the Emirates flight back to Australia via Dubai.

Images right: Pulcinella, by 18th-century Venetian artist Giandomenico Tiepolo; Venice’s historic opera house, La Fenice (The Phoenix), has well and truly risen from the ashes after the disastrous 1996 fire; and exquisite glass work in Murano

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

HOTEL AL CODEGA

Academy Travel has been using the charming Al Codega hotel 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 (a ‘corte’ in Venetian parlance) 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. Breakfasts are very good and there is a cosy bar to enjoy an evening drink. The hotel has free wifi. Staff at the hotel are friendly.

In the immediate environs of the hotel are countless cafes and simple restaurants, as well as some of Venice’s premier establishments. 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, fruit shops and chemists for more practical needs.

As you are staying in the hotel for 14 nights, you will quickly get a feel for the authentic local restaurants, the best coffee and gelato and other treats that elude most tourists.

The hotel’s website is www.hotelalcodega.com
TOUR PRICE
The tour price is $7,120 per person, twin share (land content only). The supplement for a single room is $1,760 per person. A non-refundable deposit of $500 per person is required to secure a place on the tour.

TOUR INCLUSIONS
 INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE
- 14 nights’ accommodation in the boutique, family run four-star Al Codega, minutes from St Mark’s Square
- All transfers and travel in Venice via water taxi and ferry
- Land excursions with private coach
- All entrance fees to sites included in itinerary
- All breakfasts
- Selected lunches and dinners in local restaurants as specified in the itinerary
- Services of a tour leader throughout the tour
- Background talks, site notes and onsite guidance, including local guides where required

NOT INCLUDED
- International air fares, taxes and surcharges (see below)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Expenses of a personal nature

AIR TRAVEL OPTIONS
The tour price quoted is for land content only. For this tour we recommend Emirates which offers flights into and out of Venice via Dubai from most Australian cities. Please contact us for further information on competitive Economy, Business and First Class airfares. Transfers between airport and hotel are included for all passengers booking their flights through Academy Travel. These may be group or individual transfers.

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS
For further information and to secure a place on this tour please contact Frederick Steyn at Academy Travel on 9235 0023 or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email frederick@academytravel.com.au

WEATHER ON TOUR
The tour takes place in the middle of autumn. Although the weather can be variable, it is a great time for ‘cultural travel’ as crowds are low. You should expect cool to mild weather throughout the trip, with a mix of sunshine, cloud, fog and some rain. Typically, daytime maximum temperatures range from 12 to 18 degrees, dropping to around 10 degrees at night. A warm coat, scarf and gloves are all recommended. Venice’s high water, the ‘aqua alta’ may occur during our stay, but it lasts just a few hours and will not affect our program.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TOUR
GRADE ONE ★
It is important both for you and for your fellow travellers that you are fit enough to be able to enjoy all the activities on this tour. To give you an indication of the level of physical fitness required to participate on our tours, we have given them a star grading. Academy Travel’s tours tend to feature extended walking tours and site visits, which require greater fitness than coach touring. We ask you instead to consider carefully your ability to meet the physical demands of the tour.

Participation criteria for this tour
This Grade One tour is appropriate for travellers in good health with good mobility. You should be able to comfortably participate in up to three hours of physical activity per day on most days, including walking at an easy pace, sometimes on uneven terrain, climbing stairs and standing in galleries.

You should be able to:
- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 2-3 kilometres at a moderate to slow pace with only short breaks
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- negotiate stairs and bridges
- get on and off a coach, ferry or boat with steep stairs unassisted
- move your luggage a short distance if required

A note for older travellers
If you are more than 80 years old, or have restricted mobility, it is likely that you will find this itinerary challenging. You may have to miss certain activities and may not get the full value of the tour. Before submitting your booking form, please contact Academy Travel to discuss your situation and the exact physical requirements of this tour. While we will do our best to reasonably accommodate the physical needs of all group members, we reserve the right to refuse bookings if we feel that the requirements of the tour are too demanding for you and/or if local conditions mean we cannot reasonably accommodate your condition.
ABOUT ACADEMY TRAVEL

Each year Academy Travel organises around 50 journeys to Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia and the Americas, each focusing on a distinctive historical, artistic or cultural theme. The aim of every Academy Travel journey is to combine the pleasures of independent travel with the benefits and shared enjoyment of a group. Academy Travel is an Australian-owned travel company, founded in 2004. The company’s staff includes both academic experts and travel professionals with over two decades’ industry experience. We also have our own office in Rome which organises our tours in Western Europe. This means we have direct control over the selection of hotels, restaurants, coaches and local guides, guaranteeing superior quality.

CAREFULLY PLANNED ITINERARIES

All itineraries feature a carefully thought out balance of walking tours, gallery and museum visits, scenic excursions, dining and performances.

LIKE-MINDED GROUPS

Share your journey with fellow travellers who are in tune with your way of seeing the world. A maximum of 20 participants – not too small and not too large – creates a convivial atmosphere.

LONG STAYS

Perhaps the most appealing feature of our program. No whistlestop tours, no 7.00am departures, day after day. In most destinations we enjoy three or four nights to really get to know the place.

SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

A private viewing of the Sistine Chapel or the Museum of Modern Art in New York? Tickets to a sold-out performance of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra? Many of our tours feature top-flight events not usually offered on group tours.

EXPERT TOUR LEADERS

Our tour leaders combine academic expertise with a genuine passion for the places you visit. Under their expert guidance you see rather than just look, hear rather than just listen and understand rather than just observe. Your travel experience is transformed.

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION

With extensive printed tour materials, including detailed tour notes, destination guides, and daily programs, you’ll build up a coherent understanding of the country you’re visiting, not just a fragmented set of facts. These materials are also available in electronic format.
BOOKING FORM

A  YOUR DETAILS

PASSenger 1
Your title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr etc): Your full name (as it appears on your passport):

Preferred first name: Date of birth:

Postal Address:

State: Postcode:

Email:

Phone:
( )

Mobile:

Passport number: Expiry date:

Frequent flyer number(s) Seating (Aisle or window)

Name of next of kin (not travelling with you):

Relationship to You: Contact number of next of kin:

PASSenger 2
Your title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr etc): Your full name (as it appears on your passport):

Preferred first name: Date of birth:

Postal Address:

State: Postcode:

Email:

Phone:
( )

Mobile:

Passport number: Expiry date:

Frequent flyer number(s) Seating (Aisle or window)

Name of next of kin (not travelling with you):

Relationship to You: Contact number of next of kin:

PROOF OF IDENTITY Please provide a photocopy of the photo page of your passport together with this booking form.

ROOMING PREFERENCES I am travelling: on my own with a friend or family member. Name of friend or family member (if not passenger 2)

We would like: a room for sole occupancy a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room

B  YOUR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

MEAL REQUIREMENTS/ALLERGIES Please indicate below if you have any special dietary requirements. Appropriate meals will be requested for you on all flights and group meals based on this information.

PASSenger 1 I do not have any specific dietary requirements or allergies
I have the following specific dietary requirements/allergies

PASSenger 2 I do not have any specific dietary requirements or allergies
I have the following specific dietary requirements/allergies

MEDICAL CONDITIONS Please indicate below if you have any serious health issue that may affect your travel insurance coverage, your physical capacity to undertake some activities on tour or may otherwise need to be considered by the tour leader/manager during the tour.

PASSenger 1 I have no specific medical condition that Academy Travel needs to know about Academy Travel needs to know about the following medical condition(s)

PASSenger 2 I have no specific medical condition that Academy Travel needs to know about Academy Travel needs to know about the following medical condition(s)
C YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

- I would like Academy Travel to arrange air travel from Australia.
  - Economy Class
  - Business Class
- I will organise my own air travel.
- I am undecided about air travel. Please contact us to discuss the available options.
- I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences.
- Planned departure date: 
- I intend to take part in the extension tour offered in the itinerary (if applicable).

D YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF BOOKING CONDITIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW

DEPOSITS
A deposit of $500 per person is required to confirm your booking on a tour. Final payment of the tour fee, insurance and any additional travel will be due 60 days before departure.

CANCELLATION FEES
If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:
- More than 60 days before departure: $500
- 60-45 days before tour start: 25% of total amount due
- 44-15 days before tour start: 75% of total amount due
- 14 days or less before departure: 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be credited to another Academy Travel tour within 12 months of the original tour you booked.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR
We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Academy Travel requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. We offer a comprehensive policy with a reputable insurer if required.

PASSPORT AND VISA
A valid passport is required for all international travel. If you do not hold an Australian passport you may require a re-entry permit. Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia. We will advise you of all passport and visa requirements, but it is your responsibility to ensure that you meet passport and visa requirements before you depart.

E DEPOSIT PAYMENT

A non-refundable $500 deposit is required for each person listed on this booking form. Please indicate which method you have chosen to pay your deposit:

- Paid directly by cheque (Please make cheques payable to Academy Travel)
- Paid by credit card (Please complete details below)

MasterCard Visa American Express

Card Number: 
3 or 4 digit security code: 
Expiry date: 
Name on card: 

Amount: 
Date: 
Signature: 

F HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

Please select one or more where appropriate:

- I receive the Academy Travel Brochure/Newsletter/Emails
- I saw an advertisement in... please specify
- I attended a lecture at... please specify
- Browsing the internet
- A friend recommended Academy Travel
- Other... please specify

G SEND

Please send your completed booking form to:
Academy Travel
GPO Box 5057
Sydney NSW 2001
Or email: info@academytravel.com.au or fax it to (02) 9235 0123
Additional booking forms can be downloaded from our website:
academytravel.com.au