

World66's guide to Venice

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Venice

Maybe you expect *Venice* to be one dazzling, romantic, fairytale-like labyrinth of canals, alleys, picturesque houses and impressive squares and buildings. Well, you are right then (although it is also dirty, run down and rather smelly in the summer heat). The best thing to do is wander around and get lost for at least a day. Roam the winding streets and the various piazzas and see the melting pot of architectural styles. When you are interested in Venetian painting, you can bathe in the collections of paintings from artists such as Titian and members of the school of Murano. The Galleria di Palazzo Cini, for instance, houses the private art collection of Vittorio Cini, the wealthiest Venetian art collector of this century. His collection includes paintings from the Tuscan Renaissance and the school of Ferrara. Find your own musical inspiration in this city, whether by seeing a Venetian Opera composed by Monteverdi (the Titian of Music), visiting Campo Bandiera e Moro (the birthplace of Vivaldi) or listen to baroque music played (on a 18th century organ) in the Santa Maria Della Favaon at the Sunday mass.

Be like Marco Polo, who was born here (or in Corcula), but instead of defying seas, defy the canals (177) and bridges (400) by gondola. This will introduce you to the dubious character of the water. On the one hand, it contributes to the charm of Venice. Houses had to be built on piles and had to be small and close to one another in order to use the ground as effectively as possible. On the other hand, it was and still is its worst enemy: the fundamentals of a lot of buildings are slowly eaten away by the destructive impact of the lasting exposure to water. Motorboats and the disposal of chemical waste in the water increase the decline of this former metropolis which already went down several centimetres. Pessimists believe that, during the next 50 years, Venice will slowly turn into a new Atlantis when radical improvements are not forth-coming.

Central Venice, which consists in total of 118 islands, is divided into six districts or *sestiere*. This division might make it easier for you to get a grip on the city's structure. Best known to everyone is the sestiere of *San Marco*. This district is the busiest and the most expensive one. A lot of tourists do not even come outside the boundaries of this district, which houses the main sights. Piazza San Marco will exercise your imagination, the same way it made Napoleon sigh that it was the most beautiful salon of Europe, which deserves to have the sky as its ceiling. Most festivities and celebrations took place here. When entering the piazza from the western side, you will see on your right the Procuratie Nuove (the palace of Procurators) and the Campanile. It took 240 years to build this clock-tower, and former lighthouse, which received its spire not until the late Gothic from the state's architect, Bartomeo Bon. On your left, you will find the old palace of procurators, the Procuratie Vecchie, and the Torro dell'Orologio, also a clock-tower but not as high as the Campanile. Straight on, you will see the Basilica di San Marco. On the right side, you see the palace of the doges, Palazzo Ducale, which leads on to the Piazzetta, the square leading to the Piazza. Ponte dei Sospori, the Bridge of Sighs, links the religious and governmental face to the dark criminal one.

The northern part of Venice is called *Cannaregio* and is a mixture of hustle and bustle on the one hand and urban relaxation on the other hand. It is said that the world's first Ghetto came into being here. The Jewish population from the city was forced to move here, because it was easier for the Christians to seal off this area in order to prevent Jews from roaming the streets at night. You can find the museum of Jewish history in this district.

On the east, San Marco is bordered by the sestiere of *Castello*. If the Piazza San Marco would not exist, the Campo San Zanipolo would be the most impressive square in Venice. South of San Marco, across the question-mark formed Canal Grande, lies *Dorsoduro*. It is a shame that a lot of people do not cross the canal, or rather, do not get out of their gondola, because this area offers great sights of architecture and fine

collections of both classical and modern art. The Galleria dell'Accademia is a must!

North of this area is the sestieri of **San Polo**, closing off the district in between **Santa Croce**. San Polo is the business and bank zone of Venice. Whenever you feel like shopping, go to the Rialto area which is situated in this district. It is packed with shops full of clothing, shoes, Venetian masks, and other gadgets.

Beyond the central grouping of islands you'll find Lido, Murano, Burano, Torcelli and San Michele. **Lido** is much more modern than the rest of Venice and is a stark contrast to Venice itself – Piazza San Marco is a 15min. boat shuttle trip. Lido is also and mostly a summer beach resort, separating the Lagoon from the Adriatic Sea. Architecture is nineteenth century and later (mostly, much later) Automobiles are permitted as are bicycles both of which are banned in the rest of Venice.

Murano is where glass making was moved when it caused one too many fires. It has hundreds of shops and glass factories that sell a wide range of items from really bad "modern" glass clowns and sailboats to exquisite jewelry made from tiny glass beads. Avoid the "tours" to Murano which will lock you into the worst shops. Just take the regular Murano Vaporato from the stop just beyond St. Mark's Square. Don't miss the church with its blown glass chandeliers donated by the locals.

Burano is most known for its lace making (but much of the lace sold is no longer handmade there) and its very colourful buildings. **Torcello** was the first of the Venetian islands to be inhabited. It's almost uninhabited now but it does have a 12th century church and a great restaurant.

Finally, but not to be missed, is **San Michele**, the cemetery island. Definitely worth some time.

Venice – History

The Republic of Venice was founded in the ninth century when the Venetians prevented the Franks from abducting this island. Venice was, however, not distinctive in any way yet. Whether it was a theft or a cheap bargain, the arrival of the body of the saint Evangelist Mark by the eleventh doge changed everything. No saint without a legend and the legend was established very soon. When St. Mark set foot on the lagoon island, he was welcomed by an angel who told him that on the very spot where he was standing, an impressive city would come into being. After the arrival of the body – the bones of St. Mark were buried in the Basilica di San Marco, Venice prospered and could no longer be ignored on the world-stage.

Venice became the first and the biggest trading power in the world. That is, the world before the great expeditions during the fifteenth and the sixteenth century. At the beginning of the sixteenth century, the Portuguese arrived in the Indies and the Venetians had to face the loss of their monopoly of spices. However, the tendency to self-idolizing fed the urge to find a new alternative: art flourished as never before. At the same time that Venice had to face the end of its trading status, it reached its artistic pinnacle, both in architecture and painting.

The Venetians decided to maintain the 'chaotic' form of the city. Until the Renaissance, Venice gained its own distinctive character by colouring the city with marble, red brick and using all sorts of architectural elements the Venetians imported and adjusted from elsewhere in Italy or collected during travels abroad. Gothic and

Roman–Byzantium architecture gave way to the Renaissance and its most important architect, Jacopo Sansovino, halfway during the fifteenth century. He and his pupils put their mark on the city before the Renaissance was overwhelmed by the exuberant style of the Baroque, the style which contributed heavily to the Venice you are experiencing this day. In 1866, Venice became part of the kingdom of Italy. Twentieth century Venice mainly exists because of its visitors and their presence at the yearly local and international events, such as the 'Film–festival of Venice' and the 'Mostra Biennale Internazionale d'Arta Moderna', the latter offering an overview of modern painting and sculpture.

Venice – Accommodation

The problem with Venice is that, when it comes down to accommodation, it does not really matter when you go there. At any time of year, it will be touristy, so be prepared to pay a price for it as well. However, accommodation is still available in all sorts of categories, ranging from cheap to absurd high prices. We have put accommodation in three categories, namely, cheap, middle and first class as you can find out for yourself.

all

Villa Albertina

The Villa Albertina is a charming hotel managed in a personalized and familiar way. The aristocratic, 100 years old building, completely renovated, offers 10 comfortable rooms and 1 spacious Suite. Thanks to its romantic atmosphere and quiet location, Villa Albertina is the ideal place for an unforgettable stay

[Book
this hotel](#)

BOOKINGS

Al Teatro B&B

A very small B&B (3 rooms) that is in a great location. Just behind the Teatro de Fenice, it is located in a typical old Venetian building. Run by a young couple (the wife's family has lived in the building for generations...). The beds are very comfortable, the rooms are spacious, the bathrooms are modern and clean. When Venice was underwater, they lent us very nice galoshes. Breakfast was delicious. Highly recommended!

zipcode: 30124 Venezia
 email: info@bedandbreakfastalteatro.it
 address: Fondamenta della Fenice
 CostOfDoubleForANight: \$100+ Euro
 url: www.bedandbreakfastalteatro.it
 tel: 041–5204271

Geat Reiter

Hotel Geat Reiter is located at a central position in Venice – Lido. By boat just 10 minutes away from St. Mark's Square. Boats leave every 10 minutes 24/24 hours a day. Boat stations to / from St. Mark's Square

located at 200 meters

[Book
this hotel](#)
[BOOKINGS](#)

Messner

The hotel is centrally located. It offers comfortable rooms with private facilities, telephone, TV sat and air conditioning, modern dining-room, typical garden and good cuisine.

[Book
this hotel](#)
[BOOKINGS](#)

Stella Alpine Edelweiss

Nice hotel situated in the historical center, just 5 minutes from the train station

[Book
this hotel](#)
[BOOKINGS](#)

Albergo Bonvecchiati

Splendid central location, between St. Marks Square and Rialto Bridge, few steps away from the Ducal palace, the famous basilica and the bell. All important museums and art galleries at walking distance! 86 rooms with modern comfort and Antique furniture. Room rates:

between 130,- (middle season) and 250,- (high season) per night a single room.

Standard double room: 175,- (middle season) until 300,- (high season) per night.

Superior double room: newly decorated and with great view of Venice, with private bathroom between 210,- (middle season) and ITL 340,- (high season) per night.

Triple room: between 235,- (middle season) and 390,- (high season) per night.

Rate per room including breakfast, service and taxes

address: Piazza san Marco 4488, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) [BOOKINGS](#)

Albergo San Marco

Anyone looking for a comfortable, welcoming hotel that does not expect its guests to have to walk there – either to get back in the evening or when they leave in the morning – is onto the ideal solution. 56 rooms housed in a traditional and charming Venetian building.

address: Calle dei Fabbri 877, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Ambassador Tre Rose

The Hotel Ambassador enjoys an ideal location just behind St. Mark's Square, only a few steps from the main attraction and the most elegant and exclusives shops. Nearby all the connections to the rail station, car terminal, airport. 36 rooms, three star quality.

address: Piazza San Marco 905, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

American

Intimate Hotel with 28 rooms situated in residential area steps away from St. Mark's Square – Academy of fine Arts – Peggy Guggenheim Foundation, the Cà Rezzonico Palace (18th century), Palazzo Grassi.

address: Via San Vio 628 (Accademia), Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Savoia e Jolanda

A few steps from St. Mark's square, the Hotel Savoia & Jolanda is beautifully located on the Riva degli Schiavoni, the best position of Venice, in a recently renovated 19th century building with a stunning view of the lagoon.

address: Riva degli Schiavoni 4187, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Albergo La Meridiana

Hotel La meridiana has 35 rooms, all with bathroom, TV, sat, minibar, a large garden and a comfortable living room. The hotel itself is located in Lido, surrounded by green.

address: Via Lepanto 45, Venezia – Lido

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Giardinetto

Hotel Giardinetto was completely renovated in 1999. The view of the hotel is overlooking St. Mark's Lagoon. Boat stations to/from St. Mark's Square are located in the same square as where the hotel is located. Hotel directly reachable by car, catching a ferry boat line which leaves every 40 minutes. Free public parking area available in the vicinity. 14 nice rooms (three star quality). Good prices for a maximum of comfort: double about 115,-, single 100,-.

address: Piazzale Santa Maria Elisabetta 3, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Helvetia Hotel

Hotel Helvetia is situated in the center of the beautiful island of Lido, convenient to the beach and stations boats to Venice (St. Marks), a 10 minutes drive by boat. Our hotel is located on the main street, the boat

stations are very close and boats run to and from Venice day and night.

address: Gran Viale, 4, Venice – Lido

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Hotel Canal & Walter

Hotel Canal & Walter is a characteristic family run hotel housed in a 18th century Venetian palace with a romantic garden and a beautiful view of the Canal Grande. 33 rooms.

address: S.Croce 553–240 , Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Hotel Kette

Hotel completely renovated fully conditioned, lifts, cozy bar. Only a two minutes walk from San Marco square and near the Opera house La Fenice, on a typical venetian canal. All rooms with marble bathrooms, telephone, fridge bar, sat TV safe and hair dryer.

address: San Marco 2053, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Geat Villa Parco

The hotel is situated just a few steps from the landing stage of the Lido Casino, or gaming house, and also from the Palace which houses both conferences and the Cinema Festival and, naturally, from one of the world's finest beaches.

address: Lido Via Rodi 1, Venice – Lido

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Top Hotel Quattro Fontane

One of the most romantic hotels in Venice, built in the style of a villa. The hotel is located on a beautiful location, the island of Lido di Venezia, opposite to Venice. 58 rooms.

address: Via Quattro Fontane 16, Lido di Venezia

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Tintoretto

Even if completely dipped in the wonderful atmosphere of a typical Venetian campiello, Tintoretto Hotel is situated two passes away from the Casino and not more far than ten minutes from the rail station and the famous Ponte di Rialto. The hotel, fully renewed, can count on a large number of rooms, agreeably and simply furnished, all provided of bathroom, phone–set, television and air conditioning. Only 17 rooms, cosy atmosphere, three star quality.

address: Cannaregio Santa Fosca 2316, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

San Zulian

Recently restored the San Zulian, in the heart of the city, halfway between Saint Mark and Rialto, offers its guests the opportunity of enjoying the different aspects of Venice. Refinement and familiarity combined with a Venetian atmosphere and an international style. 22 rooms.

address: San Marco 535, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Palazzo San Giorgio degli Schavioni

The Palazzo San Giorgio degli Schiavoni close to the famous Scuola of the same name, housing paintings by Carpaccio, in a quiet quarter of the historical center of Venice, offers its guests the possibility to choose the type of accommodations that suits them better. All Hotel rooms and apartments have air conditioning, color TV, direct phone, safe and hairdryer in the bathrooms.

address: Fondamenta dei Furlani 3288, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Ca' del Borgo

Ca' del Borgo, a prestigious building from the XVIII Century, offers its guest all the charm of its historical setting combined with every modern comfort. This welcoming and prestigious Residence is the ideal place for Meetings, Press Conferences, Ceremonies and Exhibitions.

address: Piazza delle Erbe 8, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Best Western Hotel Bologna

Located in front of the Mestre Venice Train Station. Close to highway entrances to Padova–Milano–Bologna and Treviso–Udine–Trieste. Frequent and easy public transportation to Venice. The tradition of a prestigious hotel

address: Via Piave 214, Mestre–Venezia

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Hotel Concordia

The only Hotel in Venice overlooking St. Mark's Square. Absolutely best location in town for terminal, shopping, excursions and major cultural and theatrical attractions. Open all year round. Completely renovated and fully air-conditioned. The traditional hospitality of a family-run hotel. Personalized service. Ideal for individual clients

address: Calle Larga san marco 367, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

San Marco Palace

Any great city scatters its attractions about, but there is always a nucleus where business meet pleasure, where local landmarks are appropriated by international tourism. In Venice this lies in one of the most romantic place of the city, St. Mark's Square. Here it is where you will find a small hotel of great character and charm,

The San Marco, opened February 1999 but already well-known. 28 rooms.

address: Piazza San Marco 875, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Villa Mabapa

A typical Villa from the 1930s forms the main body of the Hotel, which is completed by two other buildings,

address: Riviera San Nicolo'16, Venice

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Venezia

In central Mestre it is tradition to stay at the Hotel Venezia. The hotel has 100 elegant rooms and the charming restaurant Giardino Veneziano and offers comfortable accommodation and fine dining to hotel guests

address: Via Teatro Vecchio 5, Venice – Mestre

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Ostella Venezia

With a view towards San Marco, this is a perfectly located hostel. Registration starts at 2PM. However, if you find the sign 'full', they still might be able to put you up in a local school where the desks have been replaced by camp-beds. Curfew at 11:30PM.

address: Fondamentalla della Zitella, Guidecca 86

tel: +39 (0)41 – 523.8211

Casa Gerotto Calederan

This middle class hotel has a dormitory as well.

address: Campo S. Geremia 283, Cannaregio

tel: +39 (0)41 – 715.361

Casa Gerotto Calederan

Close to the train station. Dormitory available as well.

address: Campo S. Geremia 283, Cannaregio

tel: +39 (0)41 – 715.361

Domus Cavanis

Good place but do not expect any romantic adventures at night: separate rooms for women and men in this Catholic hostel. Open mid-June until the end of September.

address: Rio Terra Foscarini, Dorsoduro 912

tel: +39 (0)41 – 528.7374

Domus Civica

Women travellers are the only ones who can find a place to sleep here June, July, September and October. Make sure you get in before 11:30PM, otherwise you will have to sleep on the porch outside.

address: Calle Campazzo, San Polo 3082

tel: +39 (0)41 – 721.103

Hotel Caneva

Hotel Caneva is a simple hotel with very basic rooms. However, the location is great only a 4 minute walk to the Rialto bridge (and only one bridge to cross). I paid 90 Euros in May 2003 (100 Euros if using credit card).

Directions: Rialto stop, walk up Larga Mazzini, 2nd left on Aprile; 1st right C. Stagneri; over the bridge; walk to the right of the church; hotel just at the next corner.

address: Church Fava 30122 Castello 5515

tel: 522 8118

url: www.hotelcaneva.com

Locanda Leon Bianco ***

This hotel is situated between the vaporetto stops Rialto and Ca d'Oro. Good location with restaurants near by. Our room, #5 (November 2001), was very large with twin beds, sitting area with a small round table and 2 chairs in the center, a huge Venetian glass chandelier above the table, a decent size bathroom with toilet, bidet, sink, tiny shower with doors; hair dryer; ample storage space, and an armoire. The floor was marble, probably the original marble when the building was built. Our room faced the side canal, which was noisy at night. They also have rooms facing the Grande Canal.

DIRECTIONS: Catch the public boat no.1 and get off at the Ca' d'Oro stop. From the landing stage go to the right on Strada Nuova until the first bridge, cross it and turn right again.

November 2001: 210,000 Lire per night with taxes, no breakfast; 230,000 Lire per night with taxes and breakfast served in the room; Credit cards not accepted.

email: info@leonbianco.it

address: Cannaregio 5629, 30131 Venice

CostOfDoubleForANight: 180 to 200 Euros

tel: 39-041-523-3572

costofdoubleforanight: 180 to 200 Euros

url: www.leonbianco.it

ALLOGGLA ALLA SCALA

Small (six rooms) hotel but one of the cheapest near Piazza San Marco.

address: Calla della Colonne 4394, San Marco

tel: +39 (0)41 – 520.0430

Ai Do Mori

Nice and friendly atmosphere in this hotel nearby Piazza San Marco.

address: Calla Larga S. Marco 658, San Marco

tel: +39 (0)41 528

Antico Capon

Situated in the student area.

address: Campo S. Margherita 3004, Dorsoduro

tel: +39 (0)41 – 528.5292

Casa Gerotto Calederan

Close to the train station. Dormitory available as well.

address: Campo S. Geremia 283, Cannaregio

tel: +39 (0)41 – 715.361

Tulip Inn Scandinavia

166 rooms, 1 bars, 2 banquet rooms, radio, hair dryer, direct dial, television, mini bar, air conditioning, baby sitter. Rooms from 60,- to 280,-Nett.

address: San Marco Mercerie 760, 30124 Venice

url: www.asiatravelmart.com

E Jolanda

80 rooms, 1 bars, direct dial, television, air conditioning, baby sitter. Rooms from 68,- to 270,- Nett.

address: 4187 Riva Degli Schiavoni, I-30122 Venice

url: www.asiatravelmart.com

Gritti Palace

93 rooms, 1 bars, 2 banquet rooms, radio, hair dryer, direct dial, television, mini bar, air conditioning, beauty parlour

Rooms from US\$ 386.68 to 715.86 Nett

City center.

address: Campo Santa Maria Del Goglio 2467, 30124 Venice

url: www.asiatravelmart.com

Canaletto

20 rooms, hair dryer, direct dial, television, mini bar, air conditioning

Rooms from 68,- to 215,- Nett

City center.

address: Castello 5487 San Lio, 30122 Venice

url: www.asiatravelmart.com

Splendid Suisse

166 rooms, 1 bars, 2 banquet rooms, radio, hair dryer, direct dial, television, mini bar, air conditioning, baby sitter

Rooms from US\$ 104.76 to 402.43 Nett

City center.

address: San Marco Mercerie 760, 30124 Venice

url: www.asiatravelmart.com

Kette

62 rooms, hair dryer, direct dial, television, mini bar, air conditioning

Rooms from US\$ 108.43 to 234.43 Nett

City center.

web site link www.hotelkette.com

url: www.asiatravelmart.com

Gabrielli Sandwirth

105 rooms, 1 bars, 2 banquet rooms, hair dryer, direct dial, television, mini bar, air conditioning, baby sitter

Rooms from US\$ 145.71 to 385.11 Nett

City center.

address: Riva Degli Schiavoni 4110, 30122 Venice

url: www.asiatravelmart.com

Marina di Venezia

Open from april until september, minimum stay is 3 nights.

address: Via Montello 6

tel: +39 (0)41 530 0955

Miramare

Open from march until october.

address: Lungomare Dante Alighieri 29

tel: +39 (0)41 966 150

Venice – Sights

Venice in itself is the main attraction. Strolling along the winding streets and the canals, sitting at a terrace with a proper cup of coffee (the sun also rises nicely in Venice, Hemingway must have thought), a glass of wine or 'Grappa' and breathing in the atmosphere of this dazzling city. Along the *Canal Grande* are various Palazzos, churches and monasteries, most of them accessible to the public. The main sights are centred at and around the Piazza San Marco. Besides presenting an abundance of impressive architectural diversity, several buildings also house museums and/or galleries. Do not forget to cross the canal to have a look at the gallery of the Accademia, which has a fine and varied collection of Venetian painting.

all

Basilica di San Marco

This astonishing cathedral was finished in 1094. The dark inside has been covered up under the spell of an enormous amount of relics, brought along from all over the world and also houses one of the most revered religious images of Venice, the icon of the Madonna of Nicopeia. Golden mosaics line every inch of the ceiling, while flames behind red candle holders flicker in the lamps. The Byzantine influence is evident especially on the outside facade and domes.

address: Piazza di San Marco

openings: Mon–Sat 9:45am–5:30pm, Sundays 3–5:30pm.

tel: +39 (0)41 – 5225205

Palazzo Ducale

This palace housed Venice's former governmental departments. It dates from the early ninth century, but the earliest recoverable traces are from around the 1340s. The main entrance of the palace, the Porta della Carta, is one of the most bombastic Gothic works in Venice.

address: Piazza di San Marco, next to the Basilica

openings: daily, summer 9am–7pm; winter 9am–5pm.

Palazzo Giustinian Lolin

tel: +39 (0)41 – 786711

Palazzo Labia

address: Cannaregio
openings: Wed–Thru–Fri, 3pm–4pm
tel: +39 (0)41 – 5242812

Palazzo Grassi

address: San Marco
tel: +39 (0)41 5231680

Palazzo Pisani

tel: +39 (0)41–5285343

Palazzo Mocenigo Gambara

tel: +39 (0)41 – 5228400

Palazzo Soranza Piovene

tel: +39 (0)41 – 720250

Basilica di S.Maria Gloriosa dei Frari

This basilica houses an extraordinary art collection of the period between the 14th and the 18th century.

address: San Polo 3072
tel: +39 (0)41 5222637

Basilica dei S. Giovanni e Paolo

Pantheon of doges and an astonishing collection of Venetian painting and sculpture.

address: Castello 6363
tel: +39 (0)41 5237510

Basilica del Redentore

The architect of this basilica, Andrea Palladio, left his architectural touch all over the place. He also made the chiesa di S. Giorgio Maggiore.

address: Giudecca 195
tel: +39 (0)41 5231415

Chiesa dei Carmini

In this solemn Gothic church, you can find great Renaissance works.

address: Dorsoduro 917
tel: +39 (0)41 5226553

Chiesa di San Giacomo di Rialto

This is the oldest church to be found in Venice.

Chiesa di Santa Maria della Pietà'

This church of the Pietas was the one Vivaldi frequently visited. The inside shows several several frescoes by Tiepolo.

Chiesa di S. Zaccaria

According to insiders' information: one of the most charming churches of Venice.

tel: +39 (0)41 5221257

Ponte dei Sospiri (Bridge of Sighs)

Leaving the Palazzo, you will soon find your way to the Ponte dei Sospiri which leads towards the prisons. The name of the bridge refers to the sighing of the prisoners when looking at the water and the world of freedom outside their barred windows. When you follow the route over water, you will end up at the Pozzi, the cells for the real tough prisoners.

Piazza San Marco

This spacious square remains impressive to every visitor. Whether is packed with tourists, or nearly deserted in the early morning hours, this is one of sights you want print on your retina for the rest of your life. The piazza houses, besides the Basilica di San Marco, the Campanile (the 99 metres high tower which offers some excellent views of the city), the Torro dell'Orologio, the Palazzo Ducale and other architectural beauties.

Collezione Peggy Guggenheim

The private collection of Peggy Guggenheim's modernist favourites, such as Malevich and De Chirico, is accessible to the public in this unfinished Palazzo.

address: S. Gregorio 701, Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, Dorsoduro
openings: 11am–6pm, closed on Tuesdays. Entr. L10000. Reduction L5000.
tel: +39 (0)41 5206288

Scuola Grande di San Rocco

Over fifty major works by Tintoretto are exhibited in this sixteenth– century building.

address: San Polo, San Rocco
openings: Apr–Oct: daily 9am–5.30pm / Dec–Feb: Mon–Fri 10am–1pm, Sat. and Sun. 10am–4pm / Mar–Nov daily 10am–4pm.
tel: +39 (0)41 5234864

Museo della Comunita' Ebraica

The Museum of the Jewish Community gives an overview of the history of the Jews in Italy from the Middle Ages throughout the Renaissance.

address: Cannaregio 2902/b
openings: daily 10am–5:30pm. Closed on Saturdays. L4000

tel: +39 (0)41 – 715359

Galleria dell'Accademia

Although the Accademia is often left out of the visitor's schedule, it would be a shame to miss this collection of Venetian paintings. The gallery exhibits an impressive specialist collection of Venetian painting from the fourteenth until the eighteenth century.

address: Accademia, Dorsodura district

openings: daily 9am–2pm, Tues–Thurs 9am–7pm, entrance 6,20

tel: +39 (0)41 5222247

Musea Archeologico

The museum, which has a collection of Greek and Roman sculpture, is situated, together with the Libreria Sansoviniana, in one of the most impressive Renaissance buildings Sansovino created in Venice.

address: Piazza San Marco 52

openings: daily 10am–2pm

tel: +39 (0)41 5222247

Museo d'Arte Moderna

address: Santa Croce, Ca' Pesaro

openings: 10am–4pm, closed on Mondays, L5000.

tel: +39 (0)41 721127

Museo Di Storia Naturale

National History Museum

address: Santa Croce 1730

openings: 9am–1pm, closed on Monday. L5000, with reduction, L3000

tel: +39 (0)41 – 5240885

Museo Correr

Go there if you are intensely intrigued by the history aspects of Venice. The museum exhibits a huge collection of coins, weapons, paintings etc. Entrance fee: 4.50; with reduction 2.75.

address: Ala Napoleonica, Piazza San Marco

openings: during summer 9am–7pm, during winter
9am–5pm.

tel: +39 (0)41 – 5225625

Venice – Getting Around

To explore the city is by foot and the second best way is also by foot. Besides giving you the opportunity to

roam the narrow streets and the piazzas, it is the quickest way too: you can cross the city in approximately an hour. Sometimes it might be quicker to take a short-cut across the water instead of following the bends of the bridges and alleys. One way of doing this is taking the vaporetto, or waterbus. They leave frequently and cover important parts of the city. The tickets, which can be purchased at the landing stages and at shops which show the ACTV sign, costs about 5,- (valid for one hour) . If you plan to use the vaporetto more often, it might be an idea to buy a 24-hour ticket (10,50) or a three-day pass (22,-).

The Canale Grande can be crossed by traghetto, a gondala used for efficiency purposes. It is the cheapest way to get into a gondola (40 cents only!). The tragehetto is marked with a green signpost.

If you feel like doing the canals the touristy way, you can hire a gondola for 50 minutes for the price of 60,-. Prices go up after sunset and make sure you confirm the price before sitting back and watching the gondoliere do all the work for you. A little bargaining might help.

Venice – Getting There

Flights to Venice arrive at the Marco Polo Airport on the eastern edge of the lagoon. From there, you take an ACTV bus nr. 5 to the city centre, which leaves every 30 minutes. Other, more expensive, options are the ATVO buses or waterbuses.

When you enter by train, you will arrive at the Santa Lucia train station.

If you are arriving by car, which is not advisable, you can park either at the Piazzale Roma car park or on Tronchetto (an artificial island). Be prepared to queue for a long time and a steep price.

Venice – Festivals & Events

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Carnival

At the end of February, beginning of March, the traditional Venetian Carnival takes place. Dressed up in historical costumes, wearing intriguing black masks and aristocratic capes, Venetians will be celebrating either at official balls or with everyone else in the streets. They also play beautiful music to comfort the enjoying persons.

Film Festival of Venice

Yearly film festival held in summer. For detailed information check the film festival webpage

Mostra Biennale Internazionale d'Arte Moderne

International exhibition of modern art. To know more check the Biennale webpage

Venice – Practical Information

Hospital:

Ospedale Civili Riunti di Venezia, Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo, Tel 041 – 523 0000

Police:

the "Questura" is on Via Nicoldi 24, Marghera, Tel. 041 – 271 5511

Post offices:

Main office: Fondaco dei Tedeschi (near Rialto Bridge), open: Mon – Sat 8.15am–7pm.

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Venice Tourist office

Here you can catch information about accommodation, free city maps and public transport timetables. Other tourist offices are at the train station, at the airport and at San Marco 71.

address: Casino da Caffè, at end of Giardinetti Reali

openings: daily from 9:40am–3:30pm

Venice – Eating Out

Venice is unique. It is, however, unique to all, approximately 22 million visitors that pay a visit to the city every year and it especially the tourism that makes Venice flourish these days. The Venetians know this and you are about to find out soon as well. Especially in the high season and around Piazza San Marco, you will have to pay a lot for food (and accommodation) which certainly does not always mean good value.

The question of which kind of pasta or pizza is probably more mind-boggling than the question of where to eat it: Venice is packed with restaurants and trattorie – simpler eating places, but mostly good quality. Besides these, you can find the so-called rosticcerie, the Italian variety of a snackbar where they serve plates of good food for a good price. These are usually packed with youngsters during lunch-time. Besides the well-known pastas and pizzas, a lot of places serve dishes containing fish finished off with polenta, a corn-based basis of various meals. Try at least once simple though tasteful traditional dishes such as risi e bisi (rice with peas and ham). Venice is, of course, also famous for its pasticcerie. Sweets, cakes and ice-creams in all sorts and sizes are a must for both locals and tourists.

Of course you will find some international restaurants as well, but as everybody knows, Italy is a food paradise and we strictly recommend the local cuisine.

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Iguana

Mexican specialties and beer, different "posadas", concerts every now and then.

address: Cannaregio, 2515 , Venezia

tel: +39 (0)41-713561

Sahara

Bar and restaurant with Arabic flair, enjoy the dishes, the flavours and the music of the orient.

address: Cannaregio 3020, Venezia

openinghours: every evening (no lunch)

Antico Martini

The "Antico Martini" is an elegant restaurant with service on the terrace, at the Campo San Fantin which also houses the la Fenice theatre. It has rooms for private parties. Authentic Venetian atmosphere, tastefully decorated with antiques. Special room for non-smokers and choice of Vegetarain menus. All major credit cards accepted.

Liz Strauli: I'm not a veggie myself, but my son and daughter-in-law both are, and found they had even less choice in this restaurant than in the average Venetian trattoria (which is also much cheaper and less pretentious). Not only that, but the pumpkin soup my son ordered was clearly made with ham stock, though the waiter denied it.

address: Campo San Fantin, S. Marco 1983 – 30124 Venezia

openinghours: Closed Tue (all day) and Wed lunchtime.

tel: + 39 – 041 5237027 or 041 5224121

url: www.anticomartini.com

Chat qui rit

address: San Marco 1131, Venezia

openinghours: closed on sat

tel: 041 – 5220593

Caffè Florian

This is probably the most renowned coffee shop in the world. Set under the arcades of the Procuratie Nuove in St. Marks Square, Venice, the Caffè Florian may rightfully claim to be one of the city's symbols. Opened on 29 December 1720 by Floriano Francesconi under the name Venezia Trionfante, or Triumphant Venice, it soon became known by its patrons as "Florians".

E-mail: info@caffeflorian.com

Caffe Florian Webpage

address: Piazza San Marco – Venice, Italy

tel: +39 041 5205641

Harry's Dolci

Bar and Pasticceria with peaceful view on the Canal, with outdoors tables facing the Giudecca Canal. The patisserie is open from 10:30 am to 11 pm. Bar open from Wed–Mon noon – 3pm and 7 – 10:30pm. More info

openinghours: Closed Nov–Mar 30. Reservations recommended, especially Sat–Sun.

La Boutique del Gelato

The best gelato in Europe is found here. Unfortunately, it's not the easiest place to find. Try getting hopelessly lost (which isn't hard to do in Venice) and you may just stumble across it. A word of warning, the proprietor is not unlike the soup nazi from *Seinfeld*.

address: San Lio by Campa Sta. Maria

Altanella

Good place to take your new Italian lover, or anyone else, if you want to make a lasting impression. Lovely terrace with nice views of the central canal. Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

address: Calle dell'Erbe, Guidecca

Rosticceria San Bartolomeo

The place to go if you want to have a good, quick and cheap full meal. Closed on Mondays The place to relax after a busy day– if you can get passed the popular bar at the beginning. Occasionally enriched by live music. Closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

address: Cassa della Bissa, San Marco

Al Cugnai

Make sure to be on time in this charming trattoria, because people might kill for a seat and meal after 8PM. Closed on Mondays.

address: Piscina del Forner, Dorsoduro

Paradiso Perduto (Lost paradise)

The place to relax after a busy day– if you can get passed the popular bar at the beginning. Occasionally enriched by live music. Closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

address: Fondamenta della Misericordia, Cannaregio

Ai Gondolieri

"Ai Gondolieri" is probably one of the best Venetian restaurant today, but its origin dates back to the first decades of the 20th century as the meeting place of the inhabitants and workers of that area. The restaurant was then a place where to eat a simple dish, drink a glass of wine and play cards. The current owner, Giovanni Trevisan, has restored and renewed the restaurant in 1987 and he has created a meeting place for culinary art and kind hospitality. The restaurant is in a quiet area of Venice very close to the Guggenheim Foundation and

the Academy Galleries. The restaurant has two rooms and a bar which is at the entrance, where you can still drink a glass of wine or an aperitif.

The Restaurant Ai Gondolieri is reachable on foot or by steamboat (line number 82 and/or line number 1). Get off at Academy bridge and walk for four minutes towards Peggy Guggenheim Collection. Closed on tuesday.

Note: Ai Gondolieri is a MEAT restaurant. There is no fish on the menu.

The prices are ex 4,80 coperto (cover charge). However for this price you get a nice welcome drink, some nibbles and good bread.

email: info@aigondolieri.com
address: Dorsoduro 366, 30123 Venezia
url: www.aigondolieri.com
tel: +39 (0)41 – 528 63 96

PriceOfMenu: 50,-

priceofmenu: 50,-

Alle Oche

This place offers a great variety of cheap pizzas.

address: Calle del Tintor, San Polo

Casa Mia

Popular pizzeria–trattoria. Closed on Tuesdays.

address: Calle dell'Oca, Castello

Cip Ciap

Take–away pizzas in all sorts and sizes and choose your own favourite spot to devour them. Closed on Thursdays.

address: Calle Mondo Nuovo, Castello

Antico Mola

Popular family–run restaurant. You get excellent food for a good price. Closed on Wednesdays.

address: Fondamenta degli Ormesini, Cannaregio

Ai Sportivi

Great, inexpensive pizza and pasta restaurant without a cover/service charge! (hard to find in Venice)

address: Dosoduro – Campo San Margarita

PriceOfMenu: pizza 6–10 euros

priceofmenu: pizza 6–10 euros

Bar da Ginos

Local cafe serving excellent sandwiches, pastries, and cappucinos for inexpensive prices. Very local atmosphere, should probably know Italian, or at least be able to point.

address: Dosoduro – close to Ai Cugni

PriceOfMenu: Sandwiches 1.50–4 euros

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Bar da Ginos

Local cafe serving excellent sandwiches, pastries, and cappucinos for inexpensive prices. Very local atmosphere, should probably know Italian, or at least be able to point.

address: Dosoduro – close to Ai Cugni

PriceOfMenu: Sandwiches 1.50–4 euros

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Alla Rivetta

Probably the best Italian food I had during my 4 months in the country. Fresh seafood, pasta, tiramisu...and wonderful, Italian gentlemen as waiters. A local hot spot, but also widely known to tourists, which makes for a permanently crowded dining room and lines that are often out the door.

PriceOfMenu: worth every penny – medium

address: Castello 4625, Ponte San Provolo

tel: 041 5287302

priceofmenu: worth every penny – medium

Venice – Internet Cafes

In Venice you'll find many cybercafés. We list a couple of them here but you'd better just walk around and you will see them everywhere.

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Net House

One of the biggest InternetcafÃ© chains in Italy with 60 PC flatscreen, fast access, bar, scanners and fax, laser printer, gaming night, web page design. Prices per hour: guests â‚¬ 9.–, int.stud. â‚¬ 6.–, minim. 15 min. Open 24 hours.

email: info@nethousecafes.com

address: Campo S.Stefano (2 min. from Accademia. San Marco)

url: www.nethousecafes.com

tel: +39 (0)41 2771190

The NetGate

Located near Campo San Rocco, large air conditioned rooms, friendly english, japanese and spanish speaking staff. 21 computers available, japanese write/read browser available. Multilingual webmail. open: 10 am to 10 pm.

email: info@thenetgate.it
address: Dorsoduro 3812/a Ca' Foscari near Campo S.Rocco
url: www.thenetgate.it
tel: +39 (0)41 2347967

Internet Point Pigafetta

price: 4.10 Euro per hour
email: info@infralogistica.it
hours: Mon–Sat 0700–1930
address: Contra Piazza Castello 15

Blue Billiard Club

address: TV
Via Girolamo da Treviso 5
12 PC, CDN 64 Kb

Bowling

5 PC

tel: 0444–563594
address: Via D'Annunzio 7
VI

Compro Cafe

Fast DSL connection. 4 computers with 17

price: \$5.00 per half hour...USD.Some special rates for the season.
tel: 941–408–8835
email: comprocafevenice@netscape.net
hours: 10am to 5pm Mon–Fri 11am to 2 pm Sat..call first
address: 1776 Tamiami Trail South
Venice, Florida 34293 United States
url: www.cafe-venice.com

In Collegio

12 PC

tel: 0368-3465966
address: via Petrarca 9
PD

King's

2 PC linea dedicata 33 kb

tel: 295700
address: Ple Cavedalis 1
Udine

Ludolandia

8 PC, 28 Kb

tel: 0432-42080
address: vle Volontari Libertà 4
UD

Ludoteca

8 PC

tel: 0432-25200
address: Via Paolo Sarpi
UD

Net House Internet Cafes

address: La Fontana
Velletri (RM)
url: www.nethousecafes.com

Netc@fé

6 PC, linea CDN 64 kb

tel: 0431-422224
address: Lignano Sabbiadoro C. Alisei 17

NetPointMorena

1 Mac available, free coffee

price: 5
tel: 3,90421E+11
email: morena@marconinet.it
address: via Bafile 221
jesolo lido – Venezia 30017 italy

url: www.marconinet.it

Nosenso

4 PC, 28 Kb

tel: 0432-46050

address: Via Cottonificio 47
UD

Planet

20 PC linea 64 kbps

tel: 0432/690613

email: [funny.net@funny.netanday.it](mailto:funnynet@funny.netanday.it)

address: Via Colloredo 90
Udine

YAHOO!!

address: Udine
6 PC, 64 Kb ISDN

Venice – Nightlife and Entertainment

It is most probable that you have less nights to spend in Venice than possibilities to go out. Theatres, cinemas, pubs and bars offer pleasure and diversion from dusk till dawn. Some of the greater discos are located outside around Mestre or Jesolo but even in the heart of Venice you will find small and cosy pubs or clubs. Pay attention to the fact that some of the discos have limited opening hours (mostly Wed & Sat, special summer opening hours).

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Torino@notte

Torino@notte is a music bar located just a three minutes walk away from Piazza San Marco. To check DJ's and concerts, have a look at their webpage.

address: Campo San Luca, San Marco 459

Marina Club

Neo-lounge atmosphere, disco with bar, restaurant and enoteca (!), opens at 8pm.

address: Jesolo Lido, Via Roma dx

tel: +39 (0)421.370645

Molo 5 – Molocinque

The Molocinque is more than only a disco: enjoy the restaurant and pizzeria lounge as well as the music of the 70's, live concerts or latin music.

To night Dott. Ros & the Specialists

W La Nina

address: Via dell'elettricità 8 Marghera
openinghours: Mon – Fri noon – 3pm and Wed – Sun 8pm – 4am
tel: 041.928538 or 0335.8190377

Il Muretto

Disco and Cocktail bar located in Jesolo, average prizes, for more info see their webpage

email: info@ilmuretto.net
address: Via Roma Destra 120/d, Jesolo
openinghours: 11pm – 4am, only Sat and summer Wed
tel: 042 – 1371310

Harry's Bar

This is the famous original, the home of the Carpaccio dish. The story is that the owner of Harry's bar, Arrigo Cipriani, loved the brightly colored paintings of the Venetian painter Carpaccio so much that he decided to create a dish in Carpaccio's honour.

Wafer-thin slices of raw meat, garnished with flakes of Parmesan cheese, finely sliced white truffle, olive oil, lemon juice and salt.

Beware: do not expect any Venetians to visit Harry's Bar. It's expensive and it's a place just for tourists.

Justin : Nice, but expensive. 5 Euro for tea. Better go for the Bellini's (champaign and peach I think) straight away if you can afford it.

email: harrys@gpnet.it
address: San Marco 1323, 30124 Venezia
tel: 041.5285777 R.A.

Capo Horn Pub

Pub & Bar located near Campo Santa Margherita, unexpensive and popular, snacks available.

email: capohornpub@2night.it
address: Dorsoduro 3740, Venezia
openinghours: daily (clodes only sunday morning)
tel: +39 (0)41 – 5242177

Antica Ruga Rialto

Bar and restaurant specialized in Irish beer (Guinness) and local dishes – a typical Venetian Cicchetteria.

address: San Polo 692, Venezia

openinghours: 18.30 – midnight

Simply Blonde

Popular pub with preferences in rock, blues, funk and reggae music.

address: Via Orsato 18, Marghera

openinghours: 6pm – 2am daily

tel: 041 – 928181

Green Pub

Expensive but very popular and sometimes overcrowded pub near Campo Santa Margherita.

address: Dorsoduro, 3053/a , Venezia

openinghours: every evening

tel: 041–5205976

Elbow Irish Pub

Cosy and very popular Irish pub. Unexpensive and snuggly.

address: Cannaregio 3847, Venezia

openinghours: every evening

tel: 041 5239930

Delizia Jazz Cafe

address: via Circonvallazione 1, Salzano (VE)

tel: 041 5745801

Cafe Blue

Laid-back bar where locals and tourists mix to create a fun atmosphere. Right next to it is Cafe Noir, another very similar bar, so most patrons hang out in the streets between the two, creating a unique atmosphere.

address: Dosoduro – past Campo San Margarita

Ai do Mori

Probably one of the best. It's a bit hard to find but it's just west of the market near Rialto bridge. It is the place where the market salesmen hang out and have their drinks.

They have many wines open and an enormous choice in small bites to eat.

address: Calle dei Do Mori

tel: 00 39 041 522 5401

Venice – Things to do

The main thing you should do in Venice is walk around and get lost in the many calle's (alleys) and capmpo's (squares). All parts of Venice are equelly beautiful so you'd better stay away from the crowded Piazza San Marco (St Mark's square) area.

Of course, taking a ride in a gondola is one of the main attractions of Venice but they tend to be very expensive (60 for 30 to 60 minutes). Bargaining might help though.

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Notes:
