

## Venice Highlights



Venice is no doubt one of the most impressive cities in the whole world! This enjoyable walking tour will give guests the chance to discover the most important landmarks, the major beauties of this unique, one-of-a-kind city. Escorted by specialized local guides, guests will visit the **Doge's Palace** : residence of the Doges, former rulers of the city, and thus symbol of Venice's power, this stunning Palace boasts a striking array of masterpieces by great artists such as Titian, Tintoretto, Paolo Veronese and G. B. Tiepolo; the visit will also feature the magnificent, world – renowned, **Bridge of Sighs**, which connects the Palace to the ancient prisons. Guides will then lead

guests to discover the majestic, striking, **Saint Mark's Square**, known as the "largest living room in the world", **Saint Mark's Cathedral**, built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century according to the structure of a Greek cross in Byzantine and Western style, and extremely rich in elaborate marbles and mosaics.

### Remarks:

- Duration is about 2 hours
- Extensive walking
- No lecture inside the Basilica is allowed.

## Gondola Ride

An unforgettable experience, a romantic, splendid ride on board Venice's most characteristic means of transport : the Gondola! guests will delight in this one-of-a-kind, profoundly emotional journey, as they glide silently along the Grand Canal and picturesque inner canals, on board this extraordinary boat conducted by the famous *gondoliers*, clad in typical straw hats and sailor shirts,—singing the sweet melodies of Venetian traditional music .



### Remarks:

- Duration about 45 minutes

## Fascinating Venice

A charming visit "off-the-beaten-track" , featuring the less-renowned and most evocative, of Venice's sights...where time seems to have stopped centuries ago....

Specialized guides will lead guests through the intriguing, enchanting maze of quaint hidden squares, silent bridges and winding alleys, to discover "secret" sights and outstanding views from **Campo Santa Maria Formosa** and its marvelous palaces, and **Campo San Giovanni e Paolo**, its Gothic church and the equestrian statue by Verrocchio, to the "**El Million**" **Palace** where, according to legend, Marco Polo used to live! Finally, as a perfect "crescendo" end, the bustling **Rialto Bridge** lined by crafts shops and the **Church of San Salvatore** where guests delight in admiring Titian's extraordinary last paintings



### Remarks:

- Duration is about 2 hours
- Extensive walking

## Lagoon Islands



A splendid, leisurely cruise by boat, offering guests an enjoyable break from the lovely, but densely packed, streets of the city, to the charming Lagoon islands **Murano, Burano and Torcello**.

**Murano**, which, like Venice, comprises a cluster of small islands connected by bridges, is mainly celebrated as the center of the glassmaking industry since 1291, when the furnaces and glass craftsmen were moved from the city prompted by the risk of fire and the disagreeable effects of smoke .

Our specialised guides will lead guests across the Island, to reach one of the oldest glass-blowing factories, world-famous for the artistic Venetian glass-blowing art; guests will have the chance to learn all about the techniques and secrets of the creation of unique, original objects, and actually watch a professional glass-blower, as he takes a piece of incandescent glass, and, by huffing, puffing, twisting and blowing .... shapes it, almost miraculously, into anything that comes to his mind!

Guests will then proceed onto **Burano**, the most colourful and picturesque of the Lagoon islands, where everything seems to be in brightly coloured miniature : the canals, the bridges, the leaning tower, and the houses! Burano is renowned for its lace production and hand-made embroidery works, guests will be escorted through the vividly painted, vivacious streets and have the opportunity to admire the skilled islanders as they create striking handkerchiefs, shawls, table-linens, following the ancient, traditional techniques. Last stop will feature a brief visit to the third most important lagoon islands: **Torcello** . Once the Lagoon capital and one of the primary and most flourishing settlements in the Lagoon area. Nowadays Torcello is a "deserted" island with a population of only 60 people, boasting the remarkable centuries-old Venetian-Byzantine Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, the first Venice 's first cathedral founded in the 7th Century.

### Remarks:

- Duration about 4 hours

## Jewish Ghetto

An interesting itinerary which will lead guests to discover Venice's Jewish Ghetto, located in the north-western area of the city . Called "**Ghetto Nuovo**" by Venetians, it is historically known to be the very first ghetto in the world, and, as of today, the best preserved ; dating back to when Venetian Jews were confined to a walled area and obliged to wear distinctive red or yellow marks sewn onto their clothing and distinctive-looking hats..... the walls that once enclosed and confined the Ghetto were torn down long ago, but much remains of the past.....and memory, charm and history are present in the very air



The visit of this evocative area will commence at the **Jewish Museum**, opened in 1953 by the Jewish Community of Venice, it displays valuable vestments, sacred hangings, nuptial contracts, and silver wares of various manufacture and origin including interesting examples of Jewish ritual objects dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Guides will then escort guests through the charming ancient streets to visit the three most beautiful of Venice's five synagogues : the so-called "Scola Tedesca" – restored after the war with funds received from Germany - the Italian, the Spanish (the oldest continuously functioning synagogue in Europe), the Levantine- Oriental ( also known as the Turkish Synagogue) and the Scola Canton.

### Remarks:

- Duration is about 2 hours
- Extensive walking

## Full day tour to Verona

Verona is, no doubt, among the most beautiful of all Northern Italian cities, and it is certainly the most romantic, forever associated with the marvellous, tragic story of Romeo and Juliet, the world's most famous young lovers, immortalized by Shakespeare.

Historically, Verona reached the pinnacle of its influence and prestige, its golden age, in Medieval times under the reign of the despotic, cruel Scaligeri family, yet the city features a number of striking sights and some of Italy's most important ancient Roman relics.

So, apart from sighing below Juliet's legendary balcony - housed in a magnificent Gothic Palace - and similar sights, guests will delight in exploring this truly charming city, which features, among its most impressive landmarks the striking, majestic **Roman Arena** which, in ancient Roman times, accommodated about 25.000 spectators in its 44 tiers of seats, and still today, every summer, hosts one of the most prestigious opera seasons in Europe, as well as an important play season. Our specialized local guides will then lead guests to the charming, lively main square *Piazza delle Erbe* ("Herbs Square") former Roman forum, named after the daily grocery market.



At the end of the guided visit, guests will enjoy some time at leisure for shopping and browsing in the many and varied elegant stores and boutiques, and for a tasty lunch featuring local delicacies.

### Remarks:

- Duration about 9 hours
- Extensive walking