

## The unmissable: Piazza San Marco and the Golden Basilica



### Description:

After an introduction to St. Mark's Square, the sumptuous theater of the city's past and present splendor, visit the inimitable St. Mark's Basilica, with its magnificent gold mosaics and a walk to the Rialto Bridge.

## The magnificent stage of Venice: St. Mark's square and the golden basilica.

### Itinerary of the guided tour:

Piazza San Marco has always been a sumptuous theater of past and present city splendor, protected by the silent majesty of the famous Campanile. A visit to the inimitable Basilica of San Marco, with its thousands of square meters of gold mosaics and the sacred atmosphere of oriental inspiration alone is worth a trip to Venice.

We usually always recommend including the Pala d'Oro in your visit, which in addition to being a magnificent work of art, also offers the opportunity to stop for a few minutes behind Marco's tomb to allow the guide to tell you stories and anecdotes. The visit can also continue in the Cathedral Museum which includes the mythical bronze horses, stolen by the Venetians during

the IV Crusade; from the top of the museum, you can admire the golden mosaics up close and from there you can also access the panoramic terrace on St. Mark's Square.

We also suggest completing this orientation visit with a walk along calli, campi and campielli to deepen some of the aspects of the history of Venice, its culture and its civilization. There will be time to take pictures and to talk about everyday life and what it means to live today in a city as special as Venice.

By opening the visual map opposite, you will see two itineraries that both end at the foot of the Rialto Bridge, in the heart of the commercial soul and cosmopolitan nature of the city: these are just a couple of proposals, for more ideas see Walks in Venice

But each route can of course be customized and combined with other guided tours such as a visit to the Doge's Palace, perhaps with the secret itineraries or a boat tour along the Grand Canal.

Duration: about 2 hours (Church + Doge's Palace or Church + walk or Church + boat ride.

Notes: The skip-the-line service at the Church of San Marco is available only from April 1st to October 31st and costs € 2 per person; in the event of high water or special events, privileged entry may not be guaranteed.

On some days the Church may be closed without notice for reasons of worship.

It is mandatory to wear appropriate clothing upon entering a sacred place (shoulders and legs covered). We inform you that it is not possible to enter the church with backpacks or very bulky bags (free deposit available)

The itinerary of the walk is however customizable.

Walks in Venice: craftsmanship, flavors,  
history and legends.



*©Lopeznight, Steve Rocco 2014*





## Description

A walk is what it takes to get to the heart of Venice, a fascinating labyrinth where every place whisper stories and legends. An opportunity to talk about civilization and art but also about the less obvious aspects of daily life in Venice, such as the culinary tradition and craftsmanship.

Wandering through the calli, browsing through the markets, visiting an artisan's shop, fantasizing about how people lived in the past, spying on a courtyard through a keyhole, peeking into a church, drinking a shadow in a bacàro, following in the footsteps of a famous person, photograph a breathtaking view: discover Venice as you want!

Much has been said about the dark side of the lagoon city, about its labyrinthine and mysterious image: following an itinerary that retraces some of the most intriguing stories is certainly an alternative way to discover Venice.

The paths can be different, in various districts of the city, to discover the places linked to ancient legends, to terrible facts of blood and to ghost stories that hover over some famous monuments, but above all on the "courtyards", the most hidden corners and evocative of the city.

### **Itinerary of the guided tour:**

After an introduction to St. Mark's Square and a guided tour of the magnificent St. Mark's Basilica, we continue with a walk along the calli, campi and campielli to learn more about some of the aspects of the history of Venice, its culture and its civilization. There will be time to take pictures and to talk about everyday life and what it means to live today in a city as special as Venice.

This tour is dedicated to the most complete and complete customization and can take the turn most congenial to you. The walk can also include more than one district, as well as the entrance to a museum or to one or more churches in Venice, it can be enriched by the visit of a mask atelier, to retrace the splendor of the Carnival, of a squero, where still the symbol of the city, the gondola, is manufactured, or it can include a stop in one of the bacari still frequented by the locals for the ritual of the mythical "cichéti" (Venetian tapas) and the very famous "ombre". Along the path between streets, popular architecture, campi, campielli and Venetian courts, that is to say the most typical and lesser-known places that only an Authorized Tourist Guide can help you discover, excluding the Marciana area, here are just a few examples of unmissable monuments:

#### **YELLOW Itinerary: San Polo**

This itinerary includes: the Rialto market; the ancient area of the Castelletto; the magnificent Gothic Frari Basilica, a treasure trove of works of art such as the Pesaro Altarpiece by Giovanni Bellini, the Assumption by Tiziano and the statue of Giovanni Battista by Donatello; the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, the grandiose seat of the brotherhood celebrated by the genius of Tintoretto; the Church of San Pantalon, with the largest canvas in the world; the lively Campo Santa Margherita.

RED itinerary: Cannaregio

This itinerary includes: Campo Santa Maria Formosa; the House of Marco Polo; Camp of the Jesuits; the Great Sole of Mercy; the Gothic Church of the Madonna dell'Orto where Tintoretto rests, the Sacca della Misericordia with the Casino degli Spiriti, the Campo dei Mori; the Jewish Ghetto.

**PURPLE Itinerary: Dorsoduro**

This itinerary includes: La Scala del Bovolo, the Fenice Theater, Campo S.Stefano; the Accademia Bridge; the imposing Chiesa della Salute, conceived as the crown of the Virgin Mary who freed the Venetians from the plague of 1630, and the Punta della Dogana, an ancient duty collection point and now home to the famous foundation of contemporary art by François Pinault; the fondamenta delle Zattere with a splendid view of the Giudecca canal, with a “gianduiotto stop” in one of the favorite ice cream parlors of the Venetians; the squero di San Trovaso, where gondolas are still made; Campo Santa Margherita.

**GREEN Itinerary: Castello**

This itinerary includes: the Riva degli Schiavoni, the Church of San Zaccaria, a walk in the Arsenale area, forge of the mythical galleys of the fleet of the Serenissima; San Francesco della Vigna; the Basilica of Santi Giovanni e Paolo, the largest church in Venice, official pantheon, burial place of many Doges and famous personalities of our history; the Church of Miracles, an authentic jewel of early Renaissance architecture; the Rialto Bridge.

Duration: from 2 to 4 hours, or even more for the bravest: a lot depends on the itinerary set and the number of churches, museums and monuments that you want to visit inside.

Notes: Any entrance tickets or drinks must be paid on the spot. For more ideas see.

# The best of the Doge's Palace and the Bridge of Sighs







**Description:**

The rise of the Republic of Leo: a fascinating journey through the political heart of the Serenissima Republic, discovering the recipe for the long success of a state capable of guaranteeing social peace.

**Itinerary of the guided tour:**

The Doge's Palace, home of the Doge of Venice and seat of the Government of the Serenissima Republic, offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the history of the city, on its social organization and above all on the structures of the justice system.

Starting from the great court, with the Staircase of the Giants Mars and Neptune, we begin to reconstruct the history of this incredible building that was once a castle of which some traces remain, linked among other things to the ancient prisons, the Wells. You then enter through the magnificent Scala d'Oro to the Doge's Apartment, where the highest office in the state lived. The itinerary continues in the large institutional rooms decorated by the likes of Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese, where the various councils that administered the Republic met, such as the College and the Senate. We continue with justice in the Hall of the terrible Council of X which will give us the opportunity to talk about a very well-known character, Giacomo Casanova! If you are intrigued by ancient weapons, you cannot fail to visit the Armory. And finally, we will pass the famous Bridge of Sighs to explore the Prisons.

Duration: about 2 hours

Note: For the visit of the classic itinerary, for groups of 10 or more, the use of a whisper silencer device is mandatory (provided at the ticket office at the entrance, € 1 per person) without which the guide cannot give explanations.

This visit can be completed with the secret itineraries of the Doge's Palace and can be proposed in a version suitable for children, even in the form of a treasure hunt.

---

## Experiential tour: Venice through the cinema



## Description

This is an experience for those who want to discover Venice in a different way, for those looking for a guided tour led by an expert guide who can give interesting historical-artistic information but at the same time want to feel like the protagonist of an adventure, just like an actor. of the cinema.

An experiential tour to see some of the symbolic places of Venice but also some hidden corners.

This guided tour therefore includes some of the most famous places in Venice, such as Piazza San Marco and the Rialto Bridge but also the most hidden calli and squares immortalized by the eyes of the cameras in countless films such as Pane e Tulipani, Indiana Jones, The Tourist and various James Bond episodes.

Venice has been home to the International Film Exhibition since 1932 and has been chosen, since the dawn of the history of cinema, by important registers as a fascinating setting for many films.

The very scenic itinerary will give you the opportunity to talk about Venice but also about the genesis of the films that were shot here: news from the backstage, curiosities about the actors and crew, tricks to manage the practical and technical difficulties inherent in shooting a film in such a particular city.

---

## Experiential tour: The secret of the Palace







Are you looking for a Venice far from the crowds, where you can meet silent streets and the waters of the still canals? Do you want a light and sparkling tour like a game but also an experience that can leave you with something inside to take home?

Then you are ready to become one of the protagonists of a romantic and mysterious story, just like Venice.

An experiential tour to get to know the hidden Venice

You will discover the Dorsoduro district, the most loved by artists and writers. The stones of Venice will reveal their secrets to you. You will also have the opportunity to go further and get to know the soul of an aristocratic palace with its secret garden hidden behind long brick walls where you can cool off with an aperitif and, if you're lucky, maybe meet its hostess. Wonderful photos are guaranteed.

#### HISTORY

A researcher at the University of Venice engaged in the study of the life of a nineteenth-century archaeologist found among her papers a document in which the man reveals that a few years earlier he had taken possession of a precious object. Fortunately, he left us some clues. Do you want to help and join the researcher in the arduous task of finding the mysterious object?

#### DETAILS

- Duration: 2 / 2.5 hours
- Meeting place: Campo Santo Stefano at the statue of Niccolò Tommaseo
- Price: 160 + 25.00 euros per pax for access to the building, 15.00 euros for children
- Number of participants: up to 10 pax
- What is included: the guide, the palace with 1 aperitif per person and the material for the experience.

## Behind the scenes of the Doge's Palace: the secret itineraries





## **Description**

A fascinating journey through the intrigues and secrets of politics and justice in the ancient tower of the original castle, in the secret rooms and prisons, to follow in the footsteps of the famous Giacomo Casanova in his incredible escape from the leads.

## **The background of the politics of Venice: life in prisons and Giacomo Casanova's daring escape from the leads.**

Itinerary of the guided tour:

The Doge's Palace was not only the seat of the Government of the Serenissima Republic, but also the Palace of Justice which was administered in a rather modern and efficient way both in the institutional rooms (open to the public without limitations), and in the so-called secret part, which winds inside one of the ancient towers of the first ducal castle (accessible only by reservation).

The secret itineraries are a unique opportunity to integrate the visit of the institutional part of the Doge's Palace and have a more complete overview of the history, of Venetian civilization, of its social organization and above all the justice systems. It starts from the small door on the ground floor which leads to the Pozzi, the hardest cells where it was difficult to survive for a long time and then climbs a narrow and spartan staircase up to the offices where the state bureaucracy worked. The disturbing torture room precedes the entrance of the Piombi, the prison under the roof of the building, where the famous libertine Giacomo Casanova was detained. Before leaving the attic, you will have the opportunity to take a look at the incredible attic of the Sala del Maggior Consiglio and then go down and continue the institutional path with the Bridge of Sighs and the New Prisons.

This visit can also be offered in a version suitable for children.

Duration: about 2 hours including the institutional part.

Notes: For the secret part, reservations are required, and tickets must be purchased in advance in the manner that will be communicated to you.

The secret itineraries are not recommended for people with walking difficulties, pregnant women (there is no elevator), people suffering from dizziness or claustrophobia and are not allowed for children under 6 years old.

## **Tours and treasure hunts for families with children**





## **Description**

**If you are thinking of coming to Venice with the whole family and you would like it to be a fun but at the same time growing experience for your children, consider the idea of a private tour with the right guide!**

**Being both mothers, since we travel with our children, we have understood that in order not to ruin our holidays we need to adapt our cultural needs to the interests and rhythms of our children: which does not mean giving up visiting museums and monuments, but offering them to them in imaginative way!**

## **VENICE FROM ABOVE**

**Going up to the Campanile di San Marco on a beautiful day, we will be able to see the whole lagoon: the Paròn de Casa, is 100 meters high! We will be the tallest of all, the other bell towers will look like candles and people ants! Kids will love it!**

**And why not climb the beautiful Scala del Bovolo? Let's count the steps and observe the roofs of Venice together to spy on the secret life of the cats that walk on them!**

## **A TREASURE HUNT!**

**The Doge's Palace is a fantastic place for a treasure hunt, looking for clues to discover the solution of a puzzle... or how about a Quiz Tour through the streets and squares of Venice? You explore the idicati places to find the answers to the questions of the game ... A more "dynamic" way to visit Venice suitable also for the little ones?**

#### **VENICE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CAMERA**

**And for the older ones, why not browse the places where the most famous films have been shot such as Indiana Jones or Italian Job, Casino Royal or The Tourist. Discovering Venice through the cinema can be a fun experience: with the help of a tablet, we will compare the city of the screen with the real city and reveal the tricks and tweaks of the big screen!**

#### **THE MASKS AND THE ETERNAL CARNIVAL OF VENICE**

But the art is not only that of the great painters, architects and sculptors! Your children may feel inspired by Venice and want to express their creativity let's have fun learning how to decorate a mask! And while your children are busy with paints and brushes, parents can visit a nearby museum or church ...

#### **VENICE SEEN FROM THE WATER**

But let's not forget that Venice is on the water and children usually love boating up and down the Grand Canal! Not necessarily with a private boat: for small families you can also use the bus, of course a boat-bus, the Vaporetto: we will discover Venice from the water, descending from time to time in some strategic points, where we will tell you some curious anecdotes today and yesterday to learn about the most interesting aspects of life in this "strange" aquatic city.

#### **THE LAGOON OF VENICE**

Not to mention an excursion to the islands of the Venice lagoon! On a beautiful day, a boat tour to discover the lagoon is ideal for children! We visit the cradle of the Venetian civilization: we go to find the cats of the green Torcello and we play hide and seek among the bushes and the ancient monuments; we walk among the colorful houses of Burano while I will tell you the legend of the origins of the art

of lace; let's have a cappatina in an ancient Murano glass factory and let an expert master explain some secrets of the miracle of glass ...

And if we want to give the children a half-day break from the "old stuff" take them to the Lido of Venice for a bike ride or, why not, to the beach for a swim !!!

**Discovering the lagoon: Murano, Burano and  
Torcello**





#### Description

A nice boat trip to explore a fascinating and unique environment, the lagoon: Murano, the island of blown glass, Burano a fishing village with colorful houses, Torcello, quiet and immersed in the lagoon. Our Venice would not even exist without its lagoon chosen as a safe and protected place, this extraordinary morphological ecosystem conditioned the choices of the Venetian state from the beginning, which tried to preserve its characteristics by saving it from its own destiny.

#### Itinerary:

The first stop of our tour includes a visit to the island of Murano, known above all for the incredible and mysterious art of blown glass, still today the main source of income for its inhabitants: we walk along the Fondamenta dei Vetrai, full of shops and factories to produce glass, cross the Grand Canal of Murano to finally visit the ancient Church of Santa Maria e Donato. Some factories can be visited for free and give the opportunity to witness live the creation of real works of art by the glass masters.

The second stop is Burano, the multicolored island, center of the production of ancient origins of lace and delicious typical biscuits called "bussolai".

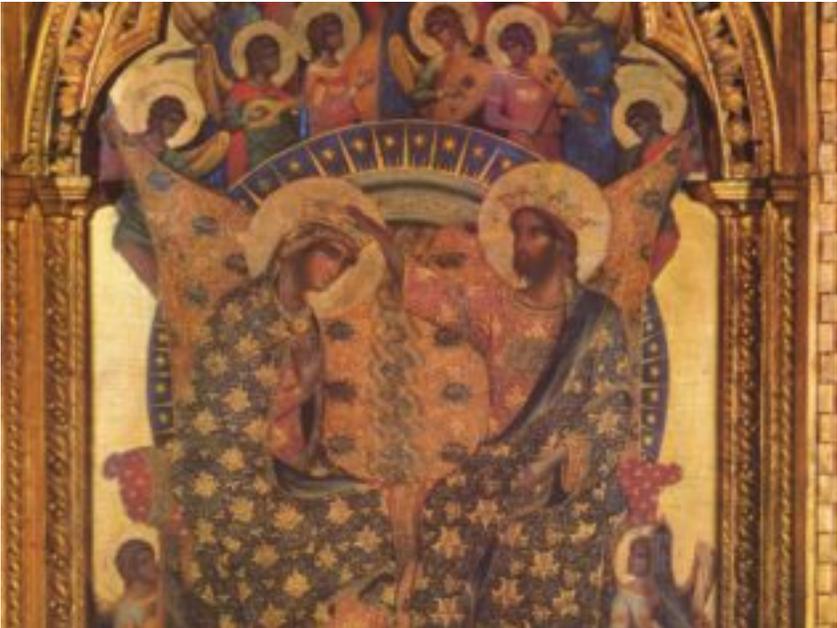
Finally, Torcello, which has the charm of deserted places where the suggestion of silence preserves the most ancient testimonies of Venetian civilization such as the first cathedral founded in Venice, Santa Maria Assunta (639 AD), and the church of Santa Fosca.

Duration: about 4 hours by private boat or 6/8 hours by public transport.

Notes: possibility to have lunch in a typical restaurant.

A perfect tour for a family with children! See also the Treasure Hunt in Murano: a story of espionage in the world of glass

Pearls of Venetian painting: Accademia





## **Description:**

In a city like Venice, immersed in a vibrant and evanescent atmosphere that blurs the contours and confuses the profiles, it is not surprising that its painters preferred to sacrifice the perfection of drawing in the name of color and light.

## **Color and light: the extraordinary adventure of tonal painting**

The guided tour:

The Accademia Galleries offer the opportunity to follow a fascinating itinerary through the centuries of the history of Venice painting. Starting from his links with the distant Byzantine art of the dawn, I will highlight his relations with the Florentine School in the fifteenth century, to understand the essence of the great Renaissance season of the great masters: the lyricism of the patriarchs Bellini and Giorgione, the fables of Carpaccio, the triumph of Tiziano's sensuality and color, Tintoretto's energy and passion, Veronese's elegance. The itinerary will be completed by the fascinating eighteenth-century season, interpreter of the magnificent decline of the Serenissima Republic: the protagonists will be artists such as Canaletto, who chose Venice as his favorite subject of his works, and Tiepolo, who revives nymphs and gods in a sensual world and devoid of drama with rhetorical grandeur.

Duration: about an hour and a half

Notes: reservations are required for groups.

Expansion works are currently underway, and some rooms may be closed.

## Venice from the water: boat tour along the Grand Canal





## Description

In Venice, past and present continue to meet like stones and water. At sunset or immersed in the fog, the city loses its clear boundaries: the iridescent image reflected by the water merges with the real Venice to become a vision, a dream.

## Itinerary:

Our journey begins along the Grand Canal, a large, inverted S-shaped snake that divides the city into two parts and which has always represented the main waterway: once upon a time, having a house along the "canalazzo" represents an important status symbol. This is why its banks are an uninterrupted series of sumptuous patrician residences, theaters of curious events and anecdotes related to famous people.

With a private boat you also have access to the minor canals - essential for penetrating the urban fabric and discovering characteristic corners and landscapes to photograph - and to the Giudecca Canal, the deepest and largest in the city, overlooked by the island of the same name. characterized by particular architectures as well as by the impressive Palladian facade of the Church of the Redentore.

The tour can extend to the smaller islands of the lagoon, such as San Lazzaro degli Armeni - a piece of the east in the lagoon, San Francesco del Deserto - home to the legendary convent founded by the Saint, Sant'Erasmo - the agricultural market of Venice, San Giorgio with the homonymous and beautiful Palladian church, and then again San Servolo, San Clemente, the Lido etc. Or you can combine the tour along the Grand Canal with that of the islands of the Venice Lagoon, Murano, Burano and Torcello.

If you want, you can book lunch in a typical restaurant for full day tours.

Duration: about 1 hour for the Grand Canal and the smaller canals in the city

Notes: The visit to some of the smaller islands must be booked in advance and requires an entrance ticket.

---

## **Guided tour of Venice with gondola ride**







## Description

A ride in the most romantic boat in the world, a symbol of the spirit of the Venetians and the love for their lagoon, is definitely an experience not to be missed. The gondola reflects in itself all the spirit of the Venetians and the love for their lagoon. A gondola tour is therefore the icing on the cake, the grand finale of a walk to discover Venice.

## Itinerary:

This tour begins with a beautiful walk that starts from the heart of the city at the foot of the Rialto bridge and includes the popular market - ancient economic and financial center of the Republic of Venice, the Cloister of the ancient convent of San Salvador, the beautiful Scala del Bovolo and the Gran Teatro la Fenice, one of the most important opera stages in the world risen twice from the flames like the mythological bird from which it takes its name. Finally, you will arrive near Piazza San Marco, from where one of the most suggestive itineraries to experience by gondola begins. The guide will help you with boarding and then let you enjoy the sensations of this absolutely unique experience in privacy.

Duration: 2 hours (of which about 35 minutes by gondola) Notes: For longer duration gondola tours it is necessary to make prior arrangements with the gondolier. the proposed guided tour itinerary is only a suggestion and can be changed at will. For more proposals, visit the page on walks in Venice: crafts, flavors, history and legends.