

## Venice – Unique Splendour & Romance

The district of San Marco epitomises most people's image of Venice. It is in this area, enclosed by the lower loop of the Grand Canal, that many of the famous attractions of the city are concentrated. Among the highlights are, of course, Piazza San Marco (St Mark's Square), perhaps the best known plaza in Europe, where you can easily spend a full day exploring the interiors of the Basilica di San Marco, Doge's palace and Museo Correr. For the most spectacular views of the city, take the lift to the top of the 300 foot tall Campanile, before relaxing with a drink at one of the outdoor cafes – perhaps Harry's bar, which since the 1930's has been a favourite drinking spot with writers and artists including Hemingway, Byron and Proust.

The Rialto Bridge, which spans the Grand Canal and is the oldest bridge in Venice, offers scenic views of the Grand Canal as well as the opportunity to do a spot of shopping – souvenirs, glassware and jewellery are all on sale here. If you are an early riser, head to the bustling Rialto Markets where you can purchase local produce. Another bridge that should not be missed is the Bridge of Sighs, which connects Doge's Palace with prison cells, and is so named because of the sighs made by prisoners as they were led across it.

But there is much more to Venice than San Marco. The fashionably understated Dorsoduro district of Venice boasts some of the city's finest architecture and is located on the opposite side of the Grand Canal. Free from the crowds that cram the streets of San Marco, the visitor will find art in abundance here. Among the attractions are the Gallena dell' Accademia, which exhibits Venetian paintings from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection: the most important museum in Italy for European and American art of the first half of the 20th century. Other highlights of this district include the Santa Maria della Salute, the Ca' Rezzonico and the Campo Santa Margherita, which is lined with lively bars and cafes, making it a popular evening venue for locals and visitors alike.

Other interesting destinations include the island of Murano, which is a must for admirers of the world famous Venetian glass. Here you can visit a factory and watch as some ornate pieces of glassware are being produced, before visiting the numerous shops that sell such goods; and for those travelling during the summer months, why not save a day at the end of your holiday to visit the Lido Island. This is a quiet area with beautiful villas and wonderful beaches.

Venice hosts numerous festivals and events throughout the year and the best known is undoubtedly the Venice Carnival, which usually takes place between mid February and early March. The festivities are spread over 12 days, with the main events taking place during the middle weekend. During this time Venice is packed with partygoers and tourists, as parades weave through the streets and performers entertain the crowds. If you get a chance to visit Venice during this time, you will have an unforgettable experience.

### Getting There

Fly direct from the UK to either Venice airport with, amongst others, Ryanair, BA or Alitalia. Then take the public ferry across the lagoon to the city, or book one of our private motor launches.

### Combine With

The Lakes to the west, the countryside of Tuscany, or coast of Le Marche, both to the south.

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**Venice is unique. Its breathtaking splendour strikes you immediately as you approach by boat across the Lagoon. Venice is a city of romance, rich in architecture and culture and whether you are on a short city break or are visiting as part of a longer holiday, it will not disappoint. Central Venice is built on a network of 118 islands and has over 150 canals, the largest and best known of which is the Grand Canal. A trip down this main water thoroughfare is an ideal way to get your bearings and take in Venice's great renaissance palaces and baroque and gothic churches and taken in a gondola, this trip completes one of the great Venetian experiences.**

**Our Recommended Hotel in Venice**  
**The Deco House**

