

# Venice

## Eguide

Venice, located in northern Italy, surrounds a lagoon and built on over one hundred islands. The attractions include historic buildings, galleries, winding streets, canals, piazzas, churches and monasteries. The main sights are close to the square at San Marco.

At very high tides the water level can flood the streets and squares. At that time raised walkways are used. Water is the main form of transportation to and around Venice.

Venice was formed in the 9th Century and prospered when St Mark arrived and his bones were buried in Basilica di San Marco. Venetians merchants benefited from the Crusades and used their power to force the Crusaders to attack rival traders in Constantinople.

Napoleon conquered Venice in 1797. In 1866, Venice became part of Italy. It is now one of Italy's most popular tourist's destinations, due to its romantic canals, very old churches and beautiful palazzi.

Without doubt one of the most fascinating, romantic main streets in the world is The Grand Canal.

It snakes along for 3.5km and has more than 100 palazzi lining it. One of the busiest waterways, it is full of colour and excitement.

## Venice Places

### Cannaregio

Cannaregio is the gateway to Venice and is the most populated with Venetian residents. The Santa Lucia Railway Station can be found here as well as the famous Jewish Ghetto.

### San Marco

The city centre of Venice and at the centre of that is Piazza San Marco, commonly known as St Marks Square. San Marco is a haven for tourists to Venice, especially the central square, Piazza San Marco, where the Basilica di San Marco dominates.

### Castello

Found to the east, Castello is the largest district. Some of the fanciest hotels in Venice can be found here. A walk along the classy Riva degli Schiavoni is a must here, as it is bordered by the Grand Canal and is one of Venice's favourite promenades.

### Dorsoduro

This is the more quieter and quaint district of Venice. It is the least populated and is full of old homes and churches. Due to it being home to the university it comes alive at night with funky bars and trendy cafes, and is a popular spot for young people.

### Santa Croce

This is the most industrialized of the districts, and is on the opposite side of the Grand Canal. Not invaded by as many tourists but, it does have some lovely palazzi.

### Burano

A small village known for the lace it produces. The houses are brightly coloured to make it easy for the fishermen returning from the sea at the end of the day to spot their house.



### San Polo

This district is known most for the very popular Rialto Markets, and is the centre for business, banking and shopping. San Polo is the smallest district and at its heart is the oldest church in Venice, San Giacomo di Rialto. To get here you need to cross the Grand Canal at the Ponte di Rialto (Rialto Bridge).

### Ghetto

In 1516 all Jews were forced to live in one area the Getto Novo which was surrounded by water. The ghetto was cramped and forced the Jews to build upwards and led to some of the first sky scrapers some being 7 floors. Now there is a Jewish Museum here and three Synagogues.

### Parco Savorgnan

There are not many parks in Venice, so this is a good one to visit hidden away in the city. There is a playground, trees to sit under and picnic areas.

### Torcello

A contrast to the other parts of Venice an island with monuments and older buildings many of which date to the period 7 13th Century. Venice's first cathedral the Cathedral di Santa Maria Assunta was built on the island in the 7th Century.

### Lido

This is the best place to go to escape Venice's summer heat; it has a resort feel, with many hotels, street cafes and promenades.

You can catch a ferry and spend the day on the beach. There are pay beaches here or free beaches further out. These beaches are safe and good for family play and swimming.

### Murano

Most of the glass and crystal making that Venice is famous for goes on at Murano. There is a crystal museum here called Museo Vetrario that displays some beautiful glass pieces.

Glass blowing displays are given at most factories and the showrooms are full of glass ware and crystal that is for sale.

### Piazza San Marco

St. Mark's Square is a major draw card for visitors to Venice. On the piazza is the Basilica di San Marco, the Campanile a tower which good views, the Torro dell'Orologio, the Palazzo Ducale and more.

However, be prepared for crowds and not just the human variety, the pigeons like to mingle with the tourists and they are not camera shy.

## Venice Art Galleries

### Galleria d'Arte Moderna

Also known as the Modern Art Gallery, this gallery can be found in the Ca' Pesaro building. It houses late 19th century art by Italian artists. A highlight is the Museo d'Arte Orientale, located upstairs, housing a collection of unusual art objects. *Fondamenta de Ca' Pesaro, Santa Croce (041 524 0695).*

### Gallerie Dell'Accademia

This former church houses art works from the 14th to the 18th Century. There are 21 rooms of impressive Venetian artworks by the cities most famous artists. *Campia della Carita, Dorsoduro 1050 (041 520 0345).*

### Palazzo Cini

The former residence of Vittorio Cini now housing an art collection. *Dorsoduro, 864, (S. Vio, Accademia), Venice (041 5210755).*

## Venice Churches

### Basilica di San Marco

Known as St Marks, this 'Church of Gold' is located on Piazza San Marco. Finished in 1094 and houses the icon of the Madonna of Nicopeia. Golden mosaics line the ceiling.

The Byzantine influence is evident in the facade and domes. It houses the remains of St Mark, the cities Patron Saint. *(041 522 5205)*

### Giorgio Maggiore

The only building on the San Giorgio Maggiore island and built in 1566 by Palladio. The façade with columns on high plinths was not built by Palladio but is based on his ideas. It faces the Baciona di San Marco. *Isola di S. Giorgio Maggiore, Venice (041 528 9900).*

### Galleria Franchetti

This gallery can be found in the magnificent Ca' d'Oro 15th century gothic building. Here you can view an impressive collection of paintings, bronzes and tapestries. There are views of the Grand Canal from the gallery balconies. *Calle di Ca' d'Oro, Cannaregio (041 523 8790).*

### Museo Correr

The art and history of Venice, displayed by 19th century artworks, books, documents and maps. *Piazza San Marco, San Marco, Venice (041 240 5211).*

### Scuola Grande di San Rocco

Here you can find the largest collection of Venetian painter Tintoretto.

There are some large masterpiece, religious works here that are very impressive, as well as ceiling art work. *Campo San Rocco, San Polo (041 523 4864).*

### Museo del Settecento

A collection of 18th Century art in the Ca' Rezzonico designed by Longhena. *Fondamenta Rezzonico, Dorsoduro (041 241 0100).*

### Palazzo Fortuny

Owned by an eccentric Spanish painter in the early 20th century, this mansion now houses his collection and other artists paintings.

Only opens for temporary exhibitions. *Campo San Benito, 3780 San Marco, Venice (041 520 0995).*

### Palazzo Venier dei Leoni

This gallery is home to the millionaire art collection of Peggy Guggenheim.

Many famous artists' works can be found here, a highlight is the unusual sculpture garden. *Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, Dorsodoro (041 240 5411).*



### Campanile di San Marco

In 1902, this bell tower dramatically collapsed it has since been rebuilt and is the tallest bell tower in Venice. *Piazza San Marco, Venice (041 522 4064).*

### Madonna dell'Orto

Famous for its miracle statue of the Virgin Mary, this 14th century church is mainly Gothic. *Campo della Madonna dell'Orto, Cannaregio.*

## Pala d'Oro e Tesoro

Famous for the 14th century Golden Altar Piece. *Piazza San Marco, Venice (041 522 5205)*

## Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari

This gothic church has an imposing facade and houses an art collection for the periods 14th and the 18th century.

The cities archives and history volumes are housed in the convent and oratory house here. *San Polo 3072 (041 522 2637)*.

## Santissimi Giovanni e Paolo

This church is huge in size, grandeur and history.

It was founded by the Dominicans in 1430, and highlights are it's beautiful stain glassed windows and paintings by Paolo Veronese. *Campo San Giovanni e Paolo, 6363 - Cannaregio, Venice (041 523 5913)*.

## San Giacomo di Rialto

The oldest church in Venice located at the centre of San Polo.

## Santa Maria Della Salute

This church was built by Longhena to honour the Virgin Mary, and is one of Venice's most outstanding buildings.

The interior is flooded with light and colour, using light from the windows in the dome and walls. *Campo della Salute, Dorsoduro (041 522 5558)*.

## San Pietro di Castello

This impressive cathedral has been in Venice since 775, and is famous for its leaning bell tower. *Isola di San Pietro, Castello*.



## Santo Stefano

Built by the Hermits in the 13th century, and famous for its beautiful timber ceilings. *Campo Santo Stefano, Venice (041 522 2362)*.

## San Zaccaria

This Gothic church is located behind St Marks, and is filled with impressive works of religious art. *Campo San Zaccaria, Castello (041 522 1257)*.

## SS. Redentore

Designed by A Palladio in 1570 to mark the passing of the plague. It's stunning facade attracts many sightseers. *Campo del SS Redentore, Giudecca, Venice (0415 231 415)*.

## Venice Historic Buildings

### Palazzo Ducale

The palace dates from the ninth century and home to the doge and government departments. Noted for the two Gothic facades in white Istrian stone and pink marble.

### Palazzo Cini

The former residence of Vittorio Cini now housing an art collection. *Dorsoduro, 864, (S. Vio, Accademia), Venice (041 5210755)*.

## Palazzo Labia - Salone del Tiepolo

Built in the 17th century having three facades. *S. Geremia, Cannaregio, Venice (041 524 2812)*

## Ponte dei Sospiri (Bridge of Sighs)

The name of the bridge is due to the "sighing" of the prisoners looking at freedom from the bridge. Over the bridge are the Pozzi where the prisoners were held.

## Rialto Bridge

The bridge was completed in 1591 and linked Rialto with San Marco.



## Venice Museums

### Museo Civico Correr

This museum is a study and display of Venetian paintings from the 14th to 16th Centuries. Some famous masterpieces are located here, such as Madonna and Child, Crucifixion and Pieta. Other artefacts relating to art can be found here. *Procuratie Nuove, Piazza San Marco (041 240 5211)*.



### Museo Civico di Storia Naturale

Known as the Natural History Museum and is devoted to the natural sciences with fossils, minerals, dinosaur skeleton and a botanic collection.

A highlight is the aquarium, featuring Venetian coastal specimens. *Salizzata del Fondaco dei Turchi, Santa Croce, Venice (041 275 0206)*.

### Museo della Fondazione Querini Stampalia

Residence of the Querini-Stampalia family, this mansion displays furniture and art collected by the family. It gives an interesting insight into Venetian life. *Ponte Querini, Castello, Venice (041 271 1411)*.



### Museo del Settecento Veneziano

This mansion built in 1750, houses some original 18th century furniture pieces and artwork.

A highlight is the Salone da Ballo (ballroom), which is beautifully furnished and has views of the Grand Canal. *Fondamenta Rezzonico, Dorsoduro (041 241 0100)*.

### Museo Dipinti Sacri Bizantini - Istituto Ellenico

A collection of Byzantine icons from Greece and Venice. There is a large collection of religious artefacts dating back to the life of Jesus and Venetian Saints. *Castello, 3412, Venice (041 522 6581)*.

### Museo Orientale

Located on the top floor of the Modern Art Museum, this display covers oriental history and culture in the 17th and 18th centuries. The exhibits include Chinese porcelain, costumes, artwork and armory.

*C. a Pesareo, San Stae, Venice, (041 524 1173)*

### Museo Comunita Ebraica

Known as the Jewish Museum, it house artefacts relating to the Jewish history of Venice. Tours to the five Synagogues in Venice depart from here. *Campo di Ghetto, Nuovo, (041 715 359)*.

### Museo Storico Navale

This former grain silo covers four floors displaying the maritime history of Venice and Italy. There are barges, battleships and gondolas on display here. *Fondamenta dell' Arsenale, Castello, Venice (041 520 0276)*.

### Museo Vetrario Murano

Glass, chandeliers, vases, glasses and mirrors are all displayed here in grandeur; you can also see glass blowing and purchase some treasures. *Giustinian 8, (Settore Vetro antico, Fondamenta), Venice (041 739 586)*.

### Telcom Future Centre

A contrast to most Venice museums and looks forward to how we will be communicating in the future. *Campo San Salvador, San Marco 4826 (041 521 3200)*.



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