

UNESCO VENICE



Practical Information booklet



This document is intended for the general guidance and practical information of visitors, new staff, interns, and volunteers. It provides practical information about Venice, its transportation system, lodging, eating, and basic tips useful when visiting or living in the city



Waterways The classical Venetian boat is the gondola, although it is now mostly used for tourists, or for weddings, funerals, or other ceremonies. Motorised waterbuses (vaporetti) ply regular routes along the major canals and between the city's islands. Gondolas still in common use by Venetians are the traghetto, foot passenger boats crossing the Grand Canal at certain points without bridges.

High waters Acqua Alta is the term for the exceptional tide peaks that occur periodically in the northern Adriatic Sea. The peaks reach their maximum in the Venetian Lagoon, where they cause partial flooding of Venice and Chioggia. The phenomenon occurs mainly between autumn and spring.

Transportation

Public transportation

Azienda Consorzio Trasporti Veneziano (ACTV) is the name of the public transport system in Venice. It combines both land transportation, with buses, and canal travel, with water buses (vaporetti). In total, there are 25 routes which connect the city. Water taxis are faster but quite expensive.

Airports

Venice is served by the newly rebuilt Marco Polo International Airport. The airport is on the mainland; the water taxis or Alilaguna waterbuses to Venice are a 7-minute walk from the terminals. Treviso Airport, 20 km from Venice, is also a Venice gateway.

Trains

Venice is serviced by regional and national trains (St. Lucia station). Distance from Italian cities (Rome 4 hours away; Milan 2,5 hours; Padua 20 minutes). The station is a few steps away from vaporetti stops.

Taxi Services

Water taxis are the fastest - and most expensive way - to reach the centre of Venice from the Airport. Be aware of water taxi touts who will charge you a good deal more than the official fare.

Regular taxis (cab) run 24 hours a day from the airport to the Piazzale Roma terminal in Venice.

links & contacts

Venice International airport

www.veniceairport.it

Alilaguna Shuttle Service

www.alilaguna.com
tel. +39 041 5416555

Water taxi

Cooperativa Motoscafi
tel. +39 041 541-5084

Regular taxi

Radio Taxi service
tel. +39041 936-222

Trenitalia (train)

www.trenitalia.it

ACT

www.actv.it



Climate

A visit to Venice in winter can be a great experience but you should be prepared for cold weather and for high water (acqua alta). Being by the sea, Venice rarely suffers from frost and an average temperature in mid November is about 10 degrees

Eating

Venice is full of restaurants, featuring the cuisine of the Veneto. For years Venice was the crossroads of the trading of spices between Europe and the Orient. Specialties include fish with polenta, risotto with cuttlefish ink sauce, sardines on a bed of browned onions, pine nuts and raisins, scallops, spider crabs.

Lodging

Venice has a large choice of hotels from expensive to less expensive ones. Contact VeneziaSi for accomodation in Venice during the period of your stay.



Associazione Alberghiera VeneziaSi Srl.

fax: +39 041 522-1242

Call Center tel +39 041 522-2264

Everyday from 8. a.m. to 9 p.m.

Toll free number : 199 173 309

info@veneziasì.it

Museums

There is a museum pass available for some of Venice's best known museums. It does not include all of them. It is already worthwhile buying it if you intend to visit the two museums at Saint Marc Square: The Doge's Palace and Correr Museum.

Churches

Some churches ought to be visited when coming to Venice : Saint Mark's Basilica (Basilica di San Marco), Piazza San Marco; San Giovanni e Paolo (San Zanipolo); Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari; and Santa Maria dei Miracoli. Some restoration works were financed by the UNESCO - Private Committees Joint Programme for the Safeguarding of Venice.

Outdoor Sights

There are places that should not be missed like the Rialto market and the Rialto Bridge (Italian: Ponte di Rialto) or San Polo, the smallest sestiere. At the Zattere, a long and sunny walk along the Giudecca canal. stopping by the Squero (Venetian for small ship yard) across the canal near San Trovaso Church.

Visiting Venice

Getting around

There are two means of getting around Venice - by foot or by boat. This means that it can take a long time to get from one location to another - no matter how close they appear on a map.

On foot Venice is very compact, so you are never very far from the yellow signs that give directions to the key points of the city. You need to allow at least 35 minutes to cross the city from North to South on foot.

By water The vaporetti or water buses provide an entertaining form of public transport, although most journeys within the city can usually be covered more quickly on foot.

Venice

Venice (Italian: Venezia) is a city in northern Italy, the capital of the region Veneto, with a population of 271,367 (census estimate 1 January 2004). Together with Padua, the city is included in the Padua-Venice Metropolitan Area (population 1,600,000). The city historically was the capital of an independent nation. Venice has been known as the "La Dominante", "Serenissima", "Queen of the Adriatic", "City of Water", "City of Bridges", "City of Canals" and "The Amsterdam of the South". Luigi Barzini, writing in The New York Times, described it as "undoubtedly the most beautiful city built by man". Venice has also been described by the Times Online as being one of Europe's most romantic cities.

City, Lagoon & Adriatic

The city stretches across 117 small islands in the marshy Venetian Lagoon along the Adriatic Sea in northeast Italy. The saltwater lagoon stretches along the shoreline between the mouths of the Po (south) and the Piave (north) Rivers. The population estimate of 272,000 inhabitants includes the population of the whole Comune of Venezia; around 60,000 in the historic city of Venice (Centro storico); 176,000 in Terraferma (the Mainland), mostly in the large frazione of Mestre and Marghera; and 31,000 live on other islands in the lagoon.

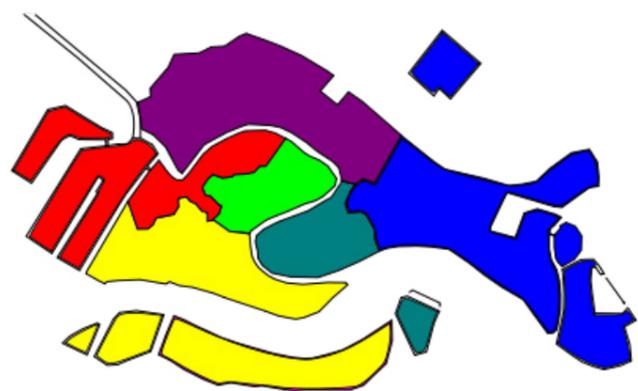
The city is divided into six areas or "sestieri". These are Cannaregio, San Polo, Dorsoduro (including the Giudecca and Isola Sacca Fisola), Santa Croce, San Marco (including San Giorgio Maggiore) and Castello (including San Pietro di Castello and Sant'Elena).

Other islands of the Venetian Lagoon do not form part of any of the sestieri, having historically enjoyed a considerable degree of autonomy.

Each house has a unique number in the district, from one to several thousand, generally numbered from one corner of the area to another, but not usually in a readily understandable manner.



Cannaregio Castello Dorsoduro San Marco San Polo Santa Croce



Travel guides

LONELY PLANET
lonelyplanet.com/italy/venice
WIKITRAVEL
wikitravel.org/en/Venice

Tourist Information Office

tel. +39 041 5298711 /01
Fax. +39 0415230399
e-mail: info@turismo.venezia.it
www.turismovenezia.it/

Venice card

Call centre

Free (from Italy) 899909090
Tel. +39 041 271-4747
e-mail: venicecard@venicecard.it
www.venicecard.it

Medical Services

First aid service

Tel. +39 041 529-4060

Health emergency

Tel. 118

Water Ambulance

Tel. +39 041 523-0000

Venice is one of the most interesting and lovely places in the world to visit and to live in. It is virtually the same as it was six hundred years ago, which adds to its fascinating character. There are some useful tips to know about. Our reception desk will be happy to give more details by mail (veniceoffice@unesco.org) and by phone (+39 041 260-1511).

Basic tips about living in or visiting Venice

Business hours

Offices are generally open Monday to Friday from 8.30 – 13.00; 14.30 – 18.00

Shopping hours

Shops are generally open from Monday to Saturday from 9.00 – 13.00 and from 15.30 – 19.30. Tourist shops and several others are open on Sundays

Banking hours

Monday to Friday (except Public holidays) 8.30 – 13.30 and 14.45 – 16.00

Currency exchange

The local currency is the Euro. Exchange booths are open during normal business hours.

Phone

The area code is 041. As anywhere in Italy, it is compulsory to dial the area code and the number also if you call from the city itself. If you call from abroad, dial +39041 before the number. If you call abroad from Venice, dial 00 first.

Internet

Venice has several internet cafes, but they are much more expensive than the rest of Europe with prices for an hour of access around €6. Wi-fi is only available at some of them.

Visas and Health Insurance

Visitors from the USA and EC only need a passport for a stay of up to 3 months. If you are travelling from elsewhere, please make sure that you check with the nearest Italian consulate about required documents.

Tipping

In Italy service is normally included at restaurants and bars. Always keep 0,50 cent coin/1 € note handing for porters, chambermaids and restaurants staff. Italian taxi drivers do not expect tips and there is no need to tip a gondolier.

Electricity

It operates on a 220-volt, 50 cycle alternating current. Some hotels offer 110-volt, 60-cycle alternating current to accommodate American appliances. Appliances that do not run on 220-volt, 50 -cycle current will require a converter.

Stay safe

Venice is considered a safe city. One can walk down the darkest calli (streets) in the middle of the night and feel completely safe. You have to take the habitual travellers precautions however.

Health

Chemists' shops (Italian: Farmacie) are all around the town. They are open 24hrs. a day / 7 days a week on a rotational base: outside the shop there's always the list of operating ones with time-table, address and phone number.



UNESCO Venice Office

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www.unesco.org/venice

Cannaregio Castello Dorsoduro San Marco San Polo Santa Croce



We are here : Castello 4930 (Salizada Zorzi)



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Note to the reader:

This document is intended for general guidance and practical information about the city of Venice which hosts our Office and details about the city, climate, lodging, eating, transportation, tips, etc. Please consult the Informationbooklet for information general information about the Office and its team, its activities, its premises and related meeting services.

Photo credits :

1 Gondolas/Wiki Furzheado; Venice as seen from the air / Wikipedia. 2 Saint Mark's Campanile/ Wiki ; Gondolas/ Wikitravel. 3 Ca Rezzonico/Wiki G. Lanting. 4 Sestieri di Venezia/Wiki G. Fasano; Ponte dei sospiri/ Wiki H. Sponner. 5 Saint Mark's basilica Domes/Wiki T. Nogoyi. 6 Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo/Wiki E. Kononova; Global Rotation showing Seasonal Landcover and Arctic Sea Ice /NASA courtesy.

Sources :

UNESCO, Wikipedia, Wikitravel



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