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Districts

Venice is made of different parts. The most famous is the area comprising the 118 islands in the main districts of Cannaregio, San Polo, San Marco and Lido di Venezia where the main monuments and sights are. Other islands include Murano, Torcello, San Francesco del Deserto and Burano, but there are several more too. Lastly, there is the more industrial mainland (but still part of Venice municipality), which is linked to Venice by a 5 kilometers bridge. There are 220.000 inhabitants, in Venice less than 60.000

- Venice Lido - the island of tranquillity, a beach district just 10 minutes by boat from San Marco, and where the Venice International Airport is located
- Mestre - a town on the mainland

Understand

History

The **Most Serene Republic of Venice** dates back to 827, when a Byzantine dukedom moved its seat to what is now known as Venice. The republic following 970 years prospered on trade and under the rule of a Roman-style Senate headed by the **Doge**. Alas, in 1797 Napoleon, a blow from which the city never recovered. The city was soon merged into Austria-Hungary, then partitioned between Austria and a nascent Italy, but the glory days of Venice are long gone.

Climate

The summer may be the worst time to visit: it's sometimes very hot, the canals sometimes stink (in the most literal sense), and there are more tourists than usual. Spring and fall are probably best, a compromise between the weather (around 15°C in March) and the tourist load. That said, if you've never been to Venice, it's better to go in summer than not to go at all. The weather in other cities are far worse in summer -- Venice has no cars, hence no smog.

Acqua alta (high water) has become a fact of life in Venice. The lagoon water level occasionally rises above the level of the canals, flooding them. This will happen several times a year, usually in the colder months. *Acqua alta* usually lasts a couple of days. Many walkways in side alleys ready to be pulled out when *acqua alta* hits. When the city begins to flood, sirens will sound to warn businesses. If you speak fluent Italiano, tune into news programs since their predictions of the times the flood begins is quite accurate. There is a spot.

You can get an *acqua alta* map at the tourist offices either at the railway station or St Marks. This will show you the approximate areas of various flood alerts. There is also a tide measuring station at the Rialto vaporetto piers.

Get in

Because Venice is on a lagoon, the water plays a crucial role in transportation. The most popular way to approach Venice is by vaporetto.

By plane

The closest airport is **Marco Polo** (VCE), on the mainland near Mestre (a more typical Italian city, without Venice's unique atmosphere). **Aeroporto di Venezia-Mestre** (VBE), located 25 km (16 mi) from Venice, is relatively smaller but becoming increasingly busy as the main domestic airport.

Transavia budget flights.

Both airports have bus connections with Venice (Piazzale Roma), Mestre, Padua and other towns. ATVO 'pullman' coaches from Treviso to co-incide with flights. Marco Polo airport runs a shuttle bus (or just turn left and walk 10 minutes) to the Alilaguna water-bus jetty, where 10 gets you a leisurely 1-hour boat trip to San Marco via Murano, Lido and the Arsenal (6) to Fondamente Nuove which takes only half an hour. Alternatively you can travel in style (and much faster) by hiring a taxi for about 80.

By train

Trains from the mainland run through Mestre to the Venezia - Santa Lucia train station on the west side of Venice (don't be confused with Venezia Mestre which is the last stop on the mainland!). From the station district, water buses (vaporetti) take you to hotels or other locations on the islands (or you can walk). Direct trains to Venice are available from many international cities including Budapest, Zagreb & Ljubljana.

By car

Cars arrive on the far western edge of Venice, but remain parked at the entrance to the city (Piazzale Roma or Tronchetto park.) There are no roads past this point -- and never were, even before cars. Car parking is expensive here and the better alternative is to use the car parks on the mainland (terra ferma) and catch a vaporetto, train or bus into Venice. Park at Piazzale Roma station, and catch a train to Venezia S.Lucia; there are many trains, it is very near (8-10 minutes) and quite cheap. Best starting point to visit Venice.

However drivers going to the Lido can use the car ferry from Tronchetto (vaporetto 17 - frequencies vary), right hand side of Libertà into the city.

By rental car

Most of the major rental car companies have outlets at Piazzale Roma, at the edge of the city. These are on the ground level parking stations. When you are dropping off your car, you need to find street parking and then walk to the rental car office. Do not park in the parking station! There is a vaporetto stop across the road from the parking station.

By bus

The Piazzale Roma bus station is well served by vaporetti and water-taxis ... and of course, you can walk everywhere.

By boat

Ships arrive at the **Stazione Marittima** which is at the west end of the main islands, it is served by vaporetti and water taxis.

Get around

Venice is the World's only pedestrian city, is beautifully walkable, and the absence of cars makes it a particularly pleasant place to visit and standing all day can be exhausting too ... acclimatize yourself. The Rialto islands - the 'main' part of Venice - are all connected from one end to the other in about an hour.

If you want to get around a bit more quickly, there are numerous vaporetti (water buses) and water taxis. The vaporetti are the best way to get around, even if the service route map changes frequently. If you are going to be in Venice for a few days visiting, it is worth taking more vaporetti than to get private water taxis. If you want to have a romantic ride along the canals, take a gondola ride.

ACTV runs the vaporetti and other public transport services both in the lagoon and on the terra firma. 1 day, 3 day and 7 day cards are available, in two variations (Blue and Orange). The basic Blue cards provide unlimited travel on the ACTV travel services (vaporetti and buses), free use of the AMAV staffed toilets and discounted tickets for some museums. The Orange card also provides free access to museums (those covered by the Museum Card). Note that neither card includes the Alilaguna water-bus which serve the islands; you pay a surcharge. A 'Junior' version of both cards are also available at a slightly reduced rate for those between 5 and 18 years old. The cards are extremely useful since the basic fare for one vaporetto journey is typically 5.00 whereas 1 day Blue cards cost 12.00 and 3 day 25.00 (prices correct April 2007). There are cheaper 1 and 3 day ACTV travel tickets available (12 and 25) but these offer no discounts or other goodies (like a free map and case) which come with the Venice Cards. Discounts on many services are available for the under 30 or by buying online, it pays to look around.

Otherwise, take a walk! The city is not that big, and you can walk from one end to the other in a few hours. But it would be a shame not to discover every path in the city. Along the way you will discover marvelous art, superb architecture and breathtaking views.

See

Churches

- Saint Mark's Basilica is located on **Piazza San Marco** and is one of the highlights of a visit to Venice. As with most churches in Venice, you must be dressed appropriately to be allowed in; this means no short skirts or bare shoulders. Filming and photography is forbidden without advance notice. The visit within the basilica last ten minutes. Waiting for entry into the basilica can last upto five or so hours.

alata.it to reserve your visit. Reserving is free of charge.

- San Giovanni e Paolo (San Zanipolo in Venetian dialect): a fine, huge Dominican church with the tombs of many Doges, the fine Renaissance facade of the Scuola San Marco and an equestrian statue of the mercenary (condottiere) captain Testa di Ferro with his testicles (coglioni in Italian - it's a lousy pun) on his coat of arms!
- Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari - the big friary church, with fine monuments and paintings.
- Santa Maria dei Miracoli - a perfect jewel box church, simple in form but ornamented with fine exterior marble facings.

Museums

- Ca' Pesaro
 - Ca' Rezzonico
 - Clock tower (Torre dell'Orologio)
 - Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale)
 - Galleria dell'Accademia di Venezia
 - Galleria Giorgio Franchetti alla Ca' d'Oro
 - Glass Museum (Museo del Vetro)
 - Goldoni's House (Casa Goldoni)
- While racially and ethnic neighborhoods had existed prior to the Venetian Ghetto, Venice's ghetto was the first (the Venetian word for the Iron Foundry that was on the site previously) and "ghetto" eventually came to mean any neighborhood of a single ethnic/racial group. Today, Jewish life is still very active in the ghetto, and elsewhere in Venice, and is home to the Jewish community. Visiting the ghetto on Saturdays (the Jewish Sabbath) will prove very fruitless because all shops, restaurants, and other Jewish places will be closed.
- Lace Museum (Museo del Merletto)
- The Peggy Guggenheim Museum offers a personal collection of modern art collected by Peggy Guggenheim. Peggy was a modern artist Max Ernst, and funded a number of his contemporaries. The gallery includes a sculpture garden and works by Pablo Picasso, Tanguy, Duchamp, Pollock, Dali, and Mondrian.
- Museo d'Arte Orientale
 - Museo Fortuny
 - Museum Correr
 - Museum of Greek Icons
 - Natural History Museum
 - Naval History Museum (Museo Storico Navale)
 - Palazzo Grassi
 - Palazzo Mocenigo
 - Scala Contarini del Bovaro
 - Scuola Grande di S. Rocco

Outdoor sights, piazzas, bridges, canals

- Don't miss the **Rialto** market and the **Rialto Bridge** (Italian: *Ponte di Rialto*) on San Polo, the smallest sestiere. The Rialto is Venice's most recognizable icon and has a history that spans over 800 years. Today's Rialto Bridge was completed in 1681, replacing a wooden bridge that collapsed in 1524.

Do

Ride a Vaporetto (Water Bus) down the Grand Canal right before sunset. The Vaporettos are inexpensive, but the views, the architecture, soft seaside sunlight, and a fascinating parade of Venetian watercraft.

Take a **Gondola** if you can afford it: it's expensive, but the *Gondoliere* maybe can decrease the price if you ask (but not too much...!). Make sure you reach an agreement on price and time before you start! A good tip with the Gondolieres is to bargain as you can, then say that it's still too much and walk away. Two or three of them will chase after you, one after the other, until the last. It's possible to knock 20-30 euros off the price.

If a gondola seems a little pricey the alternative is to cross the Grand Canal by traghetto. These only cost about 0.50 to use and have seen better days, they are stripped down and used as municipal ferries. In the 1950's there were as many as 100, but now there are only seven points to find them. However some only operate when people are going to and from work.

If you are looking for something to do, you can always shop. Venice is packed full of little stores in every corner and countless specialties are Carnival masks, glass, and marbled paper. Price can vary wildly, so it's a good idea to hold off buying

about the relative value of things. On Murano you can go see glass-making demonstrations! While going through Venice you can see the beauty of it all. Walk through the alley ways, and take the water taxi to different parts of the island, sometimes at night and watch people and tourists. It is wonderful. There are many museums and churches that are around the city to visit. They are a good thing to keep you busy throughout your visit.

The "Secret itineraries in Doge's Palace" worth a visit, take the visitor into the most secret and fascinating rooms in the book in advance. www.museicivici veneziani.it.

If you would like to have a guide to show up the highlights of Venice, you can choose between many offers. There are some focused on shopping or history or for art lovers, and many itineraries.

One tours site is www.aguideinvenice.com.

Learn

Venice is home to a major (and expanding) University, Ca' Foscari. There are possibly hundreds of smaller schools in the city.

Work

Venice still has some residents who work in non-tourism industries, but these are quite few today.

Buy

The city is well known for its artisans and artwork. Visitors are drawn to its glasswork and its decorative Carnival masks, a Venetian product. Masks are available at every single shop in Venice, and choosing the best one can be difficult, as there are many. One shop with a good quality stock and decent prices (the other great pitfall) is Traditional Mask.

Watch out also for the hand-made paper and the exquisite miniature buildings made by Moro. Watch out for fakes; Moro is the best.

Also, beware of fakes and "free" trips to neighboring Murano for its famous glass. (See article for details.)

Eat

Venice is packed with wonderful restaurants, featuring cuisine of the Veneto. Specialties include polenta, made with cornmeal, and cuttlefish ink sauce. Diners should however be aware that for every genuinely wonderful restaurant or trattoria, there are many others with food at inflated prices, especially in the most touristed streets around San Marco. Rule of thumb: if there's a waiter outside, it's probably best avoided.

One of Venice's trademark foods is cuttlefish and its ink. This intense black ink serves as a sauce and ingredient for polenta (rice), and pasta. These dishes are normally indicated by the Italian words "nella seppia" (in cuttlefish), "alla seppia" (with cuttlefish), "nero di seppia," (black of the cuttlefish). For example Polenta Nella Seppia is fried corn meal with the black ink of cuttlefish. In terms of intensity in color, the ink has a surprisingly mild taste.

Be careful when the prices are in a weight basis (typically 100 g). One dish can easily contain 400 g of fish, meat,... 4 times the price!

For fresh fruit (including chilled coconut!) watch out for the street market stalls.

To save money at lunch, eat standing up. Prices usually double as soon as you sit at a table.

If self-catering, the Rialto food markets are an absolute must for fruit, vegetables and cheese, but most of all for the huge amount of it fresh out of the lagoon and still moving!

Budget

There's superb pizza by the (extremely large) slice in Campo Santa Margherita for approximately €1.80 a slice.

The "Brek" is a restaurant that offers a menu including main meal+drink+dessert by only €5. There is one near to rail station and Marco Polo airport, may be in other city places too.

Venetian snacks (cichetti) can be brilliantly inventive. Look for places (especially wine bars) popular with non-tourists. Prices are reasonable. Buy bread, cheese etc. at the markets. If you must buy water (Venice has excellent tap water) get it at the Bicchieri. Eat less, walk more.

Mid-range

- **Design Restaurant La Rivista**, Rio TerÃ Foscari (near *Accademia Bridge*) tel +39.041.2401425

- **Al Vecio Canton**, Castello 4738, Just 8 minutes from Piazza San Marco, this small and atmospheric restaurant/pizzeria. Famous for its traditional style pizza and seafood pasta, you will not only get it all at affordable prices (pizza from 5â,-/half litre), but you're also served by a most friendly and hearty staff. They top it off with a free home made lemon) at the end of your meal, just to make 100% sure you'll be coming back for more.

- **La Bitta**, Dorsudoro 2753A, calle lunga, san Barnaba, tel 523 0531. This busy but friendly restaurant is located in Dorsudoro, and attracts a mixture of locals and tourists. They have some excellent Italian dishes, which are reflected in a great selection of wines. Meals served 6:30PM-11PM, closed in August.

- **Gianni**, Zattere 918. tel +39 041.523 7210. This is a very friendly family restaurant overlooking the Guidecca Canal. pizzas and pastas. The wine selection is good with many available in a choice of 250 cL, 375 cL and 750 cL bottles. The food is delicious and surprisingly light. It is used by a lot of regulars, both local and returning tourists. They are closed on Wednesdays and during the Venice Festival.

- **Osteria alla Botte**, San Marco 5482, campo San Bartolomeo, tel 520 9775 . A bacaro not far from the main tourist area surprisingly quiet. Large square pictures of seafood decorate the walls, and friendly staff are swift and helpful. The food is delicious and there is a good wine selection provided. The prices are reasonable for Venice.

Splurge

Da Fiore, no longer Michellin starred, serves fish only.

Currently (1997)the only Michelin starred establishment is the 'M' restaurant of the Hotel Metropole (Riva degli Schiavoni)

- Historical place:

Restaurant La Caravella very near St. Mark's Square, known since the 60's has become a must if you would like to experience the Venetian atmosphere. Located at Campo San Marco 2398 Venice - phone +39.041.5208901

Drink

Although there are many fantastic bars in Venice, if you're planning a nighttime "pub crawl" you should plan a few stops, otherwise it's very easy to waste an hour wandering aimlessly in search of a watering hole that's actually open (especially on weekends).

There are two late-night drinking areas in Venice ... and Piazza San Marco is not one of them. Although it is very popular, it is not a late-night drinking area. People wandering around late. But the actual late night scene is in 1) **Campo Santa Margherita**, near the University and 2) in **Erbaria**, on the West side of the Rialto Bridge, where the main vegetable market is held during the day.

Try a "*Spritz*" (with either Campari, Select or Aperol), a typical drink loved by all Venetians, that's usually drunk while enjoying the view from the Rialto, is a good choice.

If you try the famous Veneto *Grappa*, be careful... it's almost pure alcohol!

The **Devils Forest Pub** is a traditional English style pub with a very fun atmosphere. It is located near the Rialto Bridge and near the Disney Store. Great, cold, pints!

There are two Irish pubs in Venice; one is located along the *Strada Nova* in Cannaregio, the other one is the **Inisharlagh** near Santa Maria Formosa.

The Bellini was invented in Harry's bar in Venice. It is a mix of white peach juice and Prosecco (the ubiquitous sparkling wine). Fermented at too low a temperature Prosecco develops amylic aromas (fruit drops), though these peaches are sweeter than does the more austere Champagne. Classic Bellinis should never be made with Champagne. Although expensive, a Bellini in Harry's bar is still much cheaper than on the terraces of similar '5-star' establishments in the city.

- **Pub Taverna L'Olandese Volante** Campo San Lio, Castello 5856 , Venezia, Ph. +39 041.5289349. This pub is far and away the best located between The Rialto Bridge and Saint Mark Square. During the summertime there are some tables outside where you can enjoy a drink after a day of wandering around this marvellous city. What is more, during the day pasta and other typical dishes are served.

Sleep

Hotels in Venice are expensive. Some of the smaller hotels offer better rates.

Staying in a hotel on the Lido (15-20 minutes by Vaporetto) is a cheaper alternative to staying in Venice proper. The beach where tourists and Venetians alike go swimming during the summer months.

In the last few years holiday or short rentals apartments has increased in number and quality, now you can rent (nights) a Palazzo on Grand Canal as a little flat near Rialto.

Some Italians at the train station may approach you to find out if you need a room. While some of these people may be work for family members and will be able to negotiate a price for you. They will usually ask what your budget is and the owner will accept the price you suggested. Do not accept the offer if you think the situation is suspect or think you get a receipt for the transactions!

Note: if you're on a budget, are presentable, and you plan to stay in Venice for at least a few weeks, drop into the These are usually for 6-month / 1-year leases, but they often know people who are renting out apartments for somewhat

Super-budget

- Venice's only hostel is in Giudecca (which means a short boat ride to the rest of Venice). Just a bed: clean, cheap and

Budget

- **Ai Tolentini** Calle Amai, Santa Croce 197/G, 30135, Ph. +39 041.2759140 Fax +39 041.2753266. . Near Piazzale R Doubles from €65.

- **Ai Do Mori** S. Marco 658, 30124, Ph. +39 041.5204817 Fax +39 041.5205328. . As close as it gets to Piazza San Marco, 1 floor, so it still is really quiet at nights. Superclean and nice rooms, tv, aircon, very friendly staff. Doubles from €55, -/night

- **Al Campiello** Cannareggio 5619, Ph: +39 041.5285564 Fax: +39 041.5286861, . Located in an ancient Venetian palace is completely restored. Doubles starting from €80 (extra bed €20).

- **Alloggi Agli Artisti** Calle Priuli Cavalletti 99, Venice historical center, Italy. . Alloggi agli Artisti is a brand new hotel in 150 meters away from the main central Venice railway station (Santa Lucia). Guests can choose between rooms with hairdryer), and rooms with sharing bathroom on the floor (cheaper).

- **Alloggi La Gondola**, Calle del Forno 180 (*Follow the canale grande, after crossing the big station bridge turn west for 150 m*
- **Alloggi Calderan**, Campo san Geremia, Cannaregio 283, close to the railway station, bed in dorm 25 €, -.

- **Alloggi Santa Sofia** Cannaregio 4185, 30131 Venice. Tel. +39 041.2770997 fax +39 041.5206998. . The Alloggi Sa alternative to the pensions in Venice, and is an excellent starting point for a vacation in the unusual streets of Venice.

- **Antica Villa Graziella**, Via Coletti, 6 Marghera, 30175 Ph. +39 041.921655 Fax +39 041.921931 . Hotel Antica Villa Gr Venice, is in an ideal location to visit Venice and its mainland.

- **B&B Faronhof** Via Seriola Veneta sx, 51 Oriago di Mira, 30030. tel +39 041 428363, fax +39 041 563 1829. . (*Family run i center of Venice, offers free internet and bike hire*) €35-€58 for a double room (2 persons).

- **B&b Residenza Ai Giardini Venezia** Castello 747-748, 30100, Ph. +39 041.5232441 Fax +39 041 5239396. . Bed & Brea welcomes its guests in a charming atmosphere for an authentic Venetian experience, far from the throngs of tourists.

- **B&B Venezia**, via Degan 7, Venezia-Mestre . (10 minutes by city-bus from center of Venice). B&B is a young venet accommodation in a new structure made up of single and double bedrooms, all with private services, air conditioning, with infrared-control, safe-box that can hold a portable computer. From €40 per person/night.

- **Ca' del Pozzo**, Venice, Ph. +39 041.2413875 Fax +39 041.2443203 . Ca' del Pozzo is a brand new Bed & Break restructured in 2003 and situated in the characteristic Campo San Maurizio, a couple of steps from the famous La Fe minutes from St. Mark's Square.

- **Ca' Rialto**, Riva del Ferro, San Marco 5149 - Venice, Ph. +39.041.5209166 Fax +39.041.5238958 . Located in a build Canal and Rialto Bridge. Singles from €50, doubles from €60 (extra bed €30).

- **Casa Tanzi Appartements**, San Polo 1495, 30100, Tel. +39.041.2412550 Fax +39 041.2412550, .

- **Hotel Adriatico**, Lista di Spagna, Cannaregio 224, Venezia tel. +39 041.715176 fax +39 041.717275 . A typical Venetian old city centre, close to the railway station.

- **Hotel Al Ponte Mocenigo**, S. Croce 2063, 30135, tel. +39 041.5244797, fax. +39 041.2759420,

- **Hotel Al Vagon**, Cannaregio 5619, Venezia . The Hotel Vagon offers a restaurant, between the Rialto bridge and the heart of the historic town centre: during the spring time you can have a very romantic dinner along the canal. Single from 35â,-
- **Hotel Atlantide**, Calle della Misericordia 375/A , Venezia Ph. +39.041.716901 Fax +39.041.716994. The Hotel Atlantide is located near the station, just off Lista di Spagna. Easily accessed and found when arriving, it has clean and spacious rooms starting from 35â,-
- **Hotel Casa Boccassini**, Cannaregio 5295, 30131, Ph. +39.041.5229892 Fax +39.041.5236877. a typical Venetian building with all amenities, just a few minutes from the Rialto Bridge. Double rooms from 90 Euros.
- **Hotel CaSa Linger**, Fondamenta S. Antonin castello 3541. â,-22-40 per person/night.
- **Hotel Diana**, Calle Specchieri 449, 30124 , Venezia Ph. +39.041.5206911 Fax +39.041.5238763. The Hotel Diana, goes directly from the front entrance to Basilica San Marco. Excellent location to see the city, rooms start at around â,-35-45 per person
- **Hotel Giardinetto** Piazzale Santa Maria Elis, 3, Venice Lido. Hotel located 10 minutes by boat to/from Saint Mark's Square. Venice lagoon available. Reachable directly by car. 5 minutes to the famous Venice beach. 15 minutes to the main casino area. Cheapest prices for this hotel category. Completely restored in 1999. All rooms with. private bath/showers, central cond., Central Heating Syst., Safety box in room, Direct dial Phone, Hair Dryer.
- **Hotel Moderno**, Lista di Spagna, 154/B, 30121 , Venezia Ph. +39.041. 716679 Fax +39.041. 717421. The Hotel Moderno offers affordable rooms well placed to access the whole island by foot or public transport as it is next Santa Lucia train station. Rooms from around â,-30 per person per night.
- **Hotel Reiter** Gran Viale S. Maria Elisabetta 57/b, Venice Lido, Venice. The Hotel Reiter is a 2 Star Hotel in Venice. Located 10 minutes from/to Saint Mark's Square. 150 meters from the main boat station and shuttle boat to/from Venice Airport. Reachable directly by car. Next to the main Venetian Congress / Meeting area and Casino Palace. Most reasonably priced Hotel among 2 Star Hotels. Buffet Breakfast
- **Hotel Santa Lucia**, Calle della Misericordia, 358. Tel +39 041 715180 (*fax +39 041 710610, info@hotelslucia.com*) . At the old building, this hotel has some character and a homely feel to it. Also it is conveniently located very close to Venice Airport terminal, the vaporetto stop and the *Lista di Spagna* street. Singles/doubles from â,-40/50.
- **Hotel Serenissima**, Calle Goldoni 4486, San Marco 30124 , Venezia Ph. +39.041. 5200011 Fax +39.041. 5223292. The Hotel Serenissima is completely refurbished at the end of 2006 - beginning of 2007 and sits one minute walk from Piazza San Marco. Singles/doubles from around â,-30-35 per person per night.
- **Hotel Zecchini**, Lista di Spagna, 152, 30121 , Venezia Ph. +39.041. 715066 Fax +39.041. 715611. The Hotel Zecchini is located next to Santa Lucia train station, and is a cosy little hotel with competitively priced accommodation. Great location with views from â,-70 a night.
- **Hotel Villa Parco** Via Rodi 1, Venice Lido, Venice. Hotel Villa Parco is a 3 Star Hotel located 15 minutes by boat to the lagoon. Reachable directly by car, free private parking area. 100 meters from the famous Venice Beach; next to the Venetian Congress /Meeting area.
- **Locanda Gaffaro**, Dorsoduro 3589, 30123 Ph.+39.041.2750897 Fax +39.041.2750375 Locanda Gaffaro is located in the heart of Piazzale Roma. Doubles from around â,-100.
- **Locanda Sant'Anna**, C.te del Bianco, Castello 269 . Locanda Sant'Anna of Venice is located only 3 minutes from the train station providing a family atmosphere complete with modern comforts. Single from 35â,-, Double from 45â,-
- **Pensione Seguso Venice** , D.D.779, 30123, Venezia Ph. +39.041. 5286858 Fax +39.041. 5222340. The Pensione Seguso is an Italian Pensione with affordable accommodation overlooking the waterfront close to San Marco. A building and Hotel with spacious and light rooms start from â,-30 per person per night.
- **Relais agriturismo Ormesani** is located in San Liberale di Marcon, conveniently placed to access the highway junction (A4 Trieste â “ Torino, A27 Mestre â “ Belluno) and Venice airport 7km. Venice is 20 km. Treviso 25 km. and Jesolo beach 30 km. Agriturismo is near the historic center of Venice and the most famous cultural and tourist sites, such as Treviso and the Venetian lagoon. The train is the best way of arriving to Venice. Quarto d'Altino station is four and a half kilometers away. A train leaves from the historic center (Santa Lucia station faces the Grand Canal!) which brings you to the city in 30 minutes.
- **Residenza Laguna Venice** , S. Polo n.â° 1016, 30123, Venezia Ph. +39.041. 2960575 Fax +39.041. 2447441. The Residence is a B&B close to Ponte Rialto bridge with spacious and stylish rooms. Nice family run accommodation starting from â,-30 a

Mid-range

- **Abbazia de luxe b&b**, Calle Priuli dei Cavalletti, Cannaregio 61, 30121, Tel. +39 041.2750254 Fax +39 041.717949, .
- **Alloggi al Mercante**, San Polo, 1770, 30123, Tel. +39 041.2750158 Fax +39 041.723284, . In the heart of Levantine V shops, only 5 minutes on foot from the Rialto Bridge and fifteen minutes from Piazza San Marco.
- **Antica Locanda Sturion** Calle dello Sturion, San Polo 679, Tel +39 041.5236243 Fax +39 041.5228378. Overlooking t Antica Locanda Sturion is in the heart of Venice: at Rialto, within view of the famous bridge and just minutes from all th celebrated sites.
- **Antico Casin Locanda** Corte Contarina, San Marco 1520/a, Tel +39-041.5207002 Fax +39-041.795122. (a refined exam among the hotels and the rooms for rent in Venice, located close to Saint Mark's Square."). Doubles from â,-90.
- **Antico Fiore Venice**, San Marco 3486, TÃ©l. +39.041.5227941 - Fax +39.041.2413879, . An eighteenth-century buildir restored.
- **Bisanzio Hotel** Riva Schiavoni, Calle della PietÃ , 3651 Castello , Tel +39 041.5203100 Fax +39 041.5204114 . Located b
- **Boutique hotel Venice La Corte**, Castello 6317, 30122, Tel. +39.041.2411300 Fax +39.041.2415982, . Venice boutique h
- **Ca' Amadi**, Cannaregio 5815, 30121, Tel. +39 041.5204682 Fax +39 041.5206701, . Ca' Amadi is situated at the hea Venice: extremely close to the famous Rialto Bridge and 10 minutes from Piazza San Marco.
- **Corte 1321** San Polo 1321, 30124 Venice, Ph. +39.041.5224923 Fax +39.041.0997849, . Double rooms from â,-100.
- **Domus Ciliota**, Calle delle Muneghe - S. Marco, . Just a 5-10 minute walk from San Marco's Square, this is a good bas hotel has over fifty clean, basic, air-conditioned rooms all with shower and WC. The reception is English speaking and i area for leaving baggage after you've checked out. Single rooms are â,-70-85 and doubles are â,-100-110 including bre
- **Hotel Alla Salute Da Cici** Salute 222, Fondamenta Ca' BalÃ , Venice Ph. +39 041.5235404 Fax +39 041.5222271. . A 16th throw from Piazza San Marco and easily reachable from the station and Piazzale Roma. Doubles from â,-80.
- **Hotel Antica Locanda al Gambero** Calle dei Fabbri - San Marco 4687, 30124 Venice Ph: +39 041.5224384 Fax: +39 0 from 90â,-, Double from 110â,- (150â,- if you want to choose a room facing the Canal)
- **Hotel Antico Panada** San Marco 646, Tel +39 041.5209088 Fax +39 041.5209619, . Welcoming Venetian hotel, in the he of San Marco, has rooms decorated in an 18th century Venetian style. Double Room rates range from â,-145 to â,-310.
- **Hotel Antico Palazzo Gottardi**, Cannaregio 2283 3000 Venice. Tel. +39 041 2759333 +39 041 2759421. . Antico Palazz Nuova, in the heart of the old city centre of Venice, between two buildings that look down onto the Canal Grande. Dou
- **Hotel Becher**, San Marco 1857, Tel. +39.041.5221253 Fax +39.041.5212685 . 18th century enhanced by the most m atmosphere and impeccable service. Single rooms from â,-70, doubles â,-110 and triples from â,-170.
- **Hotel CÃ D'Oro**, Calle delle Rasse, Castello 4604, 30121 Venice. Tel. +39 041.2411212 Fax +39 041.2414385 . The H Cannaregio district, only 5 minutes walk from the Rialto Bridge and 10 minutes from St. Mark. Singles from 60â,-, doubl
- **Hotel Canal**, Santa Croce 553, 30135, Ph. +39 041.5238480 Fax +39 041.5239106. . L'Hotel Canal sul Canal Grande, atmosfere romantiche con i suoi arredi in stile '700.
- **Hotel Capri** Santa Croce 595, 30135, Ph. +39.041.2752300 | Fax +39.041.2752350. . It is situated in a peaceful zone cl and main venetian attraction's points. Doubles from around â,-140.
- **Hotel Centauro**, San Marco, Campo Manin 4297, Tel. +39 041.5225832 Fax. +39 041.5239151, . Right in the historic ce the Great La Fenice Theatre and 5 minutes on foot from St. Mark's Square
- **Hotel Continental**, Lista di Spagna, Cannaregio 166, Tel. +39.041.715122 Fax +39.041.5242432 . The privilege of s elegant spaces. Hotel Continental is the ideal spot for an unforgettable vacation in Venice. Single rooms from â,-9€ triples from â,-194 including taxes and breakfast.
- **Hotel Commercio e Pellegrino**, Calle delle Rasse, Castello 4551/A, 30122 Venice. Tel. +39 041.5207922 Fax +39 Commercio e Pellegrino is a comfortable hotel in the centre of the city, easy to reach by public transport and just Markâ ™s Square. Single rooms from â,-80, doubles from â,-100 including taxes and breakfast.
- **Hotel Dolomiti**, Cannaregio, 73-74, 30121 Venezia, Tel +39) 041.715113 Fax (+39) 041.716635 . Situated in the first

Train Station, Hotel Dolomiti has 32 nice, clean rooms, most of them with private bathroom, some with air conditioning

- **Hotel La Forcola**, Cannaregio 2353, tel. +39 041 5241484, fax +39 041 5245380,
- **Hotel Gardena**, Santa Croce 239, 30135, Ph. +39.041.2205000 â€¢ Fax +39.041.2205020. . Only five minutes from the the Hotel Gardena welcomes you to the heart of Venice in rooms of Venetian personality enhanced with excellent comfort.
- **Hotel Gorizia A La Valigia** Calle Fabbri, San Marco 4696/A - 4697/A, 30124, Tel. +39 041.5223737 Fax +39 041.5212789.
- **Hotel Palazzo Guardi** Dorsoduro 995, 30123, Ph.: +39 041 2960725 Fax: +39 041 7241067. , A stone's throw from Venetian palace, rooms equipped with all comforts. Double room from â‚¬80.
- **Hotel San Gallo**, San Marco 1093/A 30124 Venice. Tel. +39 041.5227311 Fax +39 041.5225702 . The San Gallo is a characteristic campo (square), called San Gallo or Rusolo, which has an ancient well and curb and is very close to St Mark's Square.
- **Hotel San Giorgio**, Rio TerÃ della Mandola, San Marco 3781 30124 Venice, Tel. +39 041.5235835 Fax +39 041.52280000 Venice between Campo Sant'Angelo and Campo Manin in an antique gothic palace bought by Mariano Fortuny. Single room from â‚¬90, triples from â‚¬120.
- **Hotel Tiepolo**, Castello 4510, 30122 Venice. Tel. +39 041 5232415 Fax. +39 041.5208222 . Small and elegant, Hotel Tiepolo is a hotel in the historic heart of Venice, a few steps away from Saint Mark's Square. Doubles from around â‚¬200.
- **Hotel Villa Dori**, Via Colombara 213, Malcontenta, 30030, tel +39 041.930926, fax +39 041.930421, . Just a few miles from the Riviera del Brenta, Venice Hotel Villa Dori offers elegant rooms inspired by Venetian Villas.
- **Hotel Violino D'Oro** Via XXII Marzo 2091, San Marco, 30124 Venice Ph: +39 041.2770841 Fax: +39 041.2771001. synonymous with true Venetian style. It is ideal for those looking for an experience characterized by taste and tradition and a magical ambiance. Single rooms from 40â‚¬,-, Double from 70â‚¬,-.
- **Locanda al Ghetto** Cannaregio 2892-2893, 30100 Venice Ph: +39.041.2759292 Fax: +39.041.2757987. . Located in Cannaregio, Locanda del Ghetto accommodates guests in refined, elegant rooms with full amenities.
- **Locanda Orseolo**, . Located only a 3 minutes walk from St. Peter's Square, this Venice hotel, a very popular 12 room hotel operated by a multi-lingual Venetian family who offer impeccable concierge service. Room rates are generally â‚¬150, quite reasonable for its central location.
- **Residence Corte Grimani**, Corte Grimani, San Marco, 4402, 30124, Tel. +39 041 2410719 Fax +39 041 5287949, apartments of Residence Corte Grimani, only a few steps away from Saint Mark's and from Rialto.
- **Residenza Goldoni**, San Marco 5232/5234, 30124, Tel. +39 041 2410086 Fax +39 041 2774728, . Near the Rialto Bridge, this is one of the quietest accommodations in Venice from the warm and intimate interior in a typical Venetian building complex.
- **Venezia Residence**, Via San Polo 2920, 30100 Venice. Tel. +39 340.4029466 Fax. +39 041.5239396 . In Venice, in the center of the city around the corner from the Riva degli Schiavoni, among "calli" and churches that conjure up the numerous foreigner's memories or near the Ca' d'Oro.
- **Villas Venice apartments**, Via Mattei 20, 30030 Dolo, VE. Tel. +39 338 9736241 . Villas Venice offers you a selection of B&Bs in the most evocative locations in Venice and on the Brenta Riviera. Doubles from â‚¬77.
- **Views on Venice** Apartments, San Marco 4267/A, 30124, Tel. +39 041 2411149 Fax +39 041 2415821, . Over 60 private holiday rental in the heart of Venice selected by the Venetian Staff of Views on Venice.

Splurge

- **Ca' Pisani Design Hotel**, Dorsoduro 979 Rio TerÃ foscari ph.: +39.041.2401411 fax: +39.041.2771061 the Ca' Pisani hotel in Venice, noticeable for its Design and its location nearby the Accademia bridge in a very quiet area. Remarkable views outside www.capisanihotel.it special offers online.
- **Ca' Valeri** Castello - Ramo dei Corazzieri 3845 tel.: +39 041.2411530 +39 041.2415392 . Ca' Valeri welcomes guests in a boutique hotel within the warmth of an antique private home where an atmosphere of charm and comfort define an atmosphere.
- **Hotel Amadeus**, Lista di Spagna, Cannaregio 227, . Hotel Amadeus: the Japanese restaurant, conference room, a deli and bar. Venetian elements characterize the original elegance of the Hotel Amadeus in Venice. The hotel has 63 rooms available in single, double, junior suite versions.
- **Hotel Bonvecchiati**, San Marco 4488, 30124 Venice. Ph. +39 041.5285017 Fax +39 041.5285230, . the Hotel Bonvecchiati welcoming guests to the heart of Venice since 1790, is just 3 minutes from Saint Mark's Square and 5 from the Rialto Bridge and unforgettable of visits. Prices depends on the kind of accommodation and on the season.

- **Hotel Ca' dei Conti**, Castello 4429, 30122, Ph. +39.041.2770500, Fax +39.041.2770727 . A dream vacation in a luxurious hotel in a 17th century building, just a stroll from St. Mark's Square. Room rates start from €155 for a double single use, €200 for suite.
- **Hotel Carlton Grand Canal**, Fondamenta S.Pantalon, Santa Croce 578, 30135, Ph. +39 041.2752200, Fax +39 041.2752200. Grand Canal Hotel overlooks the Grand Canal and is the perfect starting point for discovering the beauty of Venice (depending on the season): from €150 until €250.
- **Hotel Ca' Vendramin**, Cannaregio 2400, 30100, Ph. +39.041.2750125 Fax +39.041.2750543. In the heart of Venice, original Murano glass chandeliers define a unique atmosphere, in pure Venetian style. Double classic from €160 and junior suites from €180.
- **Hotel Gabrielli Sandwirth**, Riva Degli Schiavoni 4110 30122 Venice, Ph. +39 041.5231580 Fax +39 041.5209455, . This hotel looks out on the Bacino di San Marco along the Riva degli Schiavoni just a few minutes from the Piazza San Marco and Venice Biennale. Doubles from €200.
- **Hotel Grande Italia**, Rione S.Andrea, 597 (P.tta Vigo) 30015 CHIOGGIA, Ph. +39.041.400515 Fax +39.041.400185, . Historic 20th century building in the prettiest spot of Chioggia, in front of the Venice Lagoon. Doubles starting from €110.
- **Hotel Giorgione**, Calle Larga dei Proverbi, Cannaregio 4587, 30131 Venice Tel +39 041.5225810, Fax +39 041.5239090. In Venice, just 10 minutes from Piazza San Marco, it was transformed into a hotel at the beginning of the 19th century and has remained in the same family ever since. Singles from €105 and Doubles from €150.
- **Hotel Kette**, S.Marco, 2053 A 30124, Ph. +39 041 5207766, Fax +39 041 5228964 . In Venice, in an enclave of tranquility and privacy, a short distance from the elegant and refined Via XXII Marzo. Room rates, that vary based on the season, can be checked on the website of the hotel.
- **Hotel Palace Bonvecchiati**, San Marco, Calle dei Fabbri 4680 30124 Venice, Italy Ph. +39 041 2963111 Fax +39 041 2963111. Bonvecchiati, a new concept of hospitality in Venice, with contemporary design, wellness center and offering the best services.
- **Hotel Principe**, Lista di Spagna, Cannaregio 146 30121, Ph.+39 041.2204000 Fax +39 041.220402079 , Overlooking the Grand Canal, a short distance from the airport and station terminal, Hotel Principe welcomes its guests in sumptuous elegance, enhance the quality of its impeccable services.
- **Hotel Rialto**, Riva del Ferro/Ponte di Rialto, San Marco 5149, . This luxury four star hotel enjoys a spectacular position overlooking the Rialto Bridge, in the centre of all that this legendary city has to offer. Room rates start from €160 for a double room, the hotel also offers suites which are overlooking the Grand Canal.
- **Hotel Saturnia**, San Marco 2398, 30124 Venice. Ph. +39.041.5208377 Fax +39.041.5207131 e-mail info@hotelsaturnia.it. One of the historical 4 stars family run hotels in Venice. Near St. Mark's Square, only 250 meters and next the Fenice theatre and La Caravella and his long tradition since 1908. www.hotelsaturnia.it special offers on line.
- **Palazzo del Giglio**, Campo Santa Maria del Giglio, San Marco 2462, 30124, Ph. +39.041.2719111 Fax +39.041.5205158. A small, elegant and charming residence located in the heart of Venice, at 5 minutes walking distance from Saint Mark's Square. Doubles from €170, Junior suite from €250.
- **Relais Piazza San Marco**, San Marco 312, 30124 Venice. Ph. +39 041.2960804 Fax+39 041.7241079, . Relais Piazza San Marco position compared to all the other inns in Venice: in Piazza San Marco, a real open air museum where spectacular works of art depends on the kind of accommodation: Suite or double are available and on the season.
- **San Clemente Palace**, Isola di San Clemente, 1 San Marco, . This hotel is located on its own island and makes a peaceful haven for the hoards of tourists in Venice. They provide a shuttle boat between the hotel and San Marco square. The cheapest is the 'Residential Suite' at a mere €2800 a night.

Contact

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 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 or more only available at some of them. There's a wonderful pub, Cafe Blue in Dorsoduro, which has free (password-protected) Internet access, panini and go to town.

Stay safe

Venice is considered a safe city. One can walk down the darkest alley in the middle of the night and feel completely safe. However, habitual travellers precautions, however. Keep your valuable items (like wallet and passport) close to you because especially in more crowded parts of the city. In addition, make sure you get receipts for all of your purchases (in order to avoid tax law requires customers to retain receipts and you could (in theory) be stopped by the Financial Police and asked for receipts on purchases).

Stay healthy

Venice has begun to install septic tanks in buildings, but much of the city has not yet been upgraded and releases into the canals. Shoes and clothing that touch the acqua alta will be contaminated. Take care not to spread the contamination.

One other consideration at night, carry a pocket torch. There are many alleys, which end in the water but have little or no signposts because the locals know them.

Cope

The unfortunate side-effect of the quaint back-alleys which make Venice such a delight to visit is that it is remarkably difficult to navigate. The directions provided by hotels are frequently inaccurate, and the maze-like structure of the city can become very confusing indeed.

One tip, as you cross bridges note the house numbers before and after. A small change probably means you are on the same island, but you have crossed a "new" canal. A major change means you are now on another island. Most maps clump islands together, but there are many more islands than districts.

One piece of assistance is to look for directional signs. These will be marked "Per" and then with the name of a prominent landmark or city, complete with an arrow pointing in the relevant direction. Hence, to get to the Rialto bridge, the signs to follow are to St Mark's Square read "Per S Marco", and those to the train station "Per Ferrovia" (there are some others as well). In the absence of the nearest landmark, direction-finding can thus become (slightly) easier.

Remember, though, that the signs to read are the *official* ones. Graffiti will occasionally give other directions, frequently incorrect.

That said, there is a school of thought which argues that getting lost in Venice is part of the experience of the city. The narrow canals, hidden restaurants and shops where glass blowing is done almost guarantees that there is no such thing as a straight line. Additionally, the relatively cheap public transport means that it is relatively easy to arrive at the intended destination even if you get lost from the web of alleys in a totally unexpected place.

Get out

Around the Venetian lagoon are other smaller islands, which have since been deserted but are worth a visit. There is a small narrow island with more modern buildings, hosting a youth hostel and a hotel.

- Lake Garda -An easy day trip by train, it is Italy's largest lake and stunning in scenery
- The Lido - Typical for its beaches
- Murano - Nearby island famous for its glassware
- Po Delta -Peaceful and scenic marshy area southwest of Venice with bike trails
- Burano - Nearby island with typical textiles and painted houses.
- San Lazzaro - Nearby island with Armenian monastery and impressive art collection, some world class pieces.
- Mestre - Town in the mainland, but still a part of Venice
- Jesolo - Jesolo is one of the most important beaches in Italy, just 45' from Venice by car or by boat (ferry from Treport)

Venice (Italian: *Venezia*, Venetian: *Venezsia*, Latin: *Venetia*) is a city in northern Italy, the capital of region Veneto, and the most populous city in the Venetian Lagoon (census estimate January 1, 2004). Together with Padua (*Padova*), the city is included in the Padua-Venice Metropolitan Area (population 1,600,000). Venice's nicknames include "Queen of the Adriatic", "City of Water", "City of Bridges", and "The City of Light".

The city stretches across numerous small islands in the marshy Venetian Lagoon along the Adriatic Sea in northeast Italy. The city stretches along the shoreline between the mouths of the Po (south) and the Piave (north) Rivers. The population estimate includes the population of the whole Comune of Venezia; around 62,000 in the historic city of Venice (*Centro storico*) (literally *firm land*, the areas outside the lagoon), mostly in the large *frazione* of Mestre and Marghera; and 31,000 in the Venetian lagoon.

The Venetian Republic was a major sea power and a staging area for the Crusades, as well as a very important center of commerce (spice trade) and art in the Renaissance.

History

Origins and History

While there are no historical records that deal directly with the origins of Venice, the available evidence has led several original population of Venice comprised refugees from Roman cities such as Padua, Aquileia, Altino and Concordia were fleeing successive waves of barbarian invasions. Starting in 166-168, the Quadi and Marcomanni destroyed the current Oderzo. The Roman defenses were again overthrown in the early 5th century by the Visigoths and, some 50 years later, by Attila. The last and most enduring was that of the Lombards in 568. This left the Eastern Roman Empire; a small strip of land and the main administrative and religious entities, were therefore transferred to this remaining dominion. New ports were established at Malamocco and Torcello in the Venetian lagoon. The Byzantine domination of central and northern Italy was ended by the conquest of the Exarchate of Ravenna in 751 by Aistulf. During this period, the seat of the local Byzantine governor (the *dux*) was located in Malamocco. Settlement across the islands in the lagoon probably increased in correspondence with the expansion of Byzantine territories. In 775-776, the bishopric seat of Olivolo (Helipolis) was created. During the reign of duke Agnello II, the ducal seat was moved from Malamocco to the highly protected Rialto (Rivoalto, "High Shore") island, the current location of the monastery of St. Zachary and the first ducal palace and basilica of St. Mark, as well as a walled defence (civitas murata). The Rialto were subsequently built here. In 828, the new city's prestige was raised by the theft of the relics of St. Mark the Evangelist, which were placed in the new basilica. The patriarchal seat was also moved to Rialto. As the community continued to grow, its power waned, an increasingly anti-Eastern character emerged, leading to the growth of autonomy and eventual independence.

Expansion

From the ninth to the twelfth century Venice developed into a city state (an Italian thalassocracy or *Repubblica Marina*) like Genoa, Pisa, and Amalfi). Its strategic position at the head of the Adriatic made Venetian naval and commercial power grow. The city became a flourishing trade center between Western Europe and the rest of the world (especially the Byzantine Empire).

In the 12th century the foundations of Venice's power were laid: the Venetian Arsenal was under construction in 1104; the Brenner pass from Verona in 1178, opening a lifeline to silver from Germany; the last autocratic doge, Vitale Michiel

The Republic of Venice seized the eastern shores of the Adriatic before 1200, mostly for commercial reasons, because of the threat of a Turkish menace to trade. The Doge already carried the titles of Duke of Dalmatia and Duke of Istria. Later mainland possessions, such as Lake Garda as far west as the Adda River, were known as "Terraferma", and were acquired partly as a buffer against the threat of the Holy Roman Empire to guarantee Alpine trade routes, and partly to ensure the supply of mainland wheat, on which the city depended. As a commercial empire, the Republic acquired control of most of the islands in the Aegean, including Cyprus and Crete, and acted as a broker in the Near East. By the standards of the time, Venice's stewardship of its mainland territories was relatively efficient. Towns of such towns as Bergamo, Brescia and Verona rallied to the defence of Venetian sovereignty when it was threatened by the Holy Roman Empire.

Venice became an imperial power following the Fourth Crusade, which (under Venetian control and blackmail) seized Constantinople and established the Latin Empire; Venice herself carved out a sphere of influence known as the Duchy of the Archipelago. The fall of Constantinople would ultimately prove as decisive a factor in ending the Byzantine Empire as the loss of the Anatolian provinces. Though the Byzantines recovered control of the ravaged city a half century later, the Byzantine Empire was greatly weakened and the ghost of its old self until Sultan Mehmet The Conqueror took the city in 1453. Considerable Byzantine plunder was taken, including the Winged Lion of St. Mark, symbol of Venice.

Situated on the Adriatic Sea, Venice traded with the Byzantine Empire and the Muslim world extensively. During the 15th century Venice was the most prosperous city in all of Europe. At the peak of its power and wealth, it had 36,000 sailors operating in the Mediterranean commerce. During this time, Venice's leading families vied with each other to build the grandest palaces and employ the greatest and most talented artists. The city was governed by the Great Council, which was made up of members of the leading families in Venice. The Great Council appointed all public officials and elected a Senate of 200 to 300 individuals. The Council of Ten, a secretive group which held the utmost power in the administration of the city. One member of the Council was the "doge", or duke, the ceremonial head of the city.

The Venetian governmental structure was similar in some ways to the republican system of ancient Rome, with an elected Doge (the Doge), a senate-like assembly of nobles, and a mass of citizens with limited political power, who originally had the power of approval of each newly elected Doge. Church and various private properties were tied to military service, though the military was kept within the city itself. The *Cavalieri di San Marco* was the only order of chivalry ever instituted in Venice, and no citizen could become a knight without the government's consent. Venice remained a republic throughout its independent period and the military was kept completely separate, except when on occasion the Doge personally led the military. War was regarded as a costly and necessary other means (hence, the city's early production of large numbers of mercenaries for service elsewhere, and the use of mercenaries when the ruling class was preoccupied with commerce).

The chief executive was the Doge (duke), who, theoretically, held his elective office for life. In practice, a number of Doges were forced from their oligarchical peers to resign the office and retire into monastic seclusion when they were felt to have been guilty of political failure.

Though the people of Venice generally remained orthodox Roman Catholics, the state of Venice was notable for its tolerance of religious fanaticism and it enacted not a single execution for religious heresy during the Counter-Reformation. This apparent tolerance was due to Venice's frequent conflicts with the Papacy. Venice was threatened with the interdict on a number of occasions and twice

The second, most famous, occasion was on April 27, 1509, by order of Pope Julius II (see League of Cambrai).

Venetian ambassadors sent home still-extant secret reports of the politics and rumours of European courts, providing modern historians.

Venice began to lose its position as a center of international trade during the later part of the Renaissance as Portugal intermediary in the trade with the East, striking at the very foundation of Venice's great wealth, while France and Spain Italy in the Italian Wars, marginalising her political influence. However, the Venetian empire was a major exporter of until the mid eighteenth-century, a significant manufacturing center.

Modern Venice

After 1070 years, the Republic lost its independence when Napoleon Bonaparte on May 12, 1797, conquered Venice. The French conqueror brought to an end the most fascinating century of its history: It was during the *Settecento* (perhaps the most elegant and refined city in Europe, greatly influencing art, architecture, and literature. Napoleon's liberator by the city's Jewish population, although it can be argued they had lived with fewer restrictions in Venice. The Ghetto and ended the restrictions on when and where Jews could live and travel in the city.

Venice became Austrian territory when Napoleon signed the Treaty of Campo Formio on October 12, 1797. The Austria on January 18, 1798. It was taken from Austria by the Treaty of Pressburg in 1805 and became part of Napoleon's returned to Austria following Napoleon's defeat in 1814, when it became part of the Austrian-held Kingdom of Lombardy. A revolt briefly reestablished the Venetian Republic. In 1866, following the Seven Weeks War, Venice, along with the rest of Italy.

After 1797, the city fell into a serious decline, with many of the old palaces and other buildings abandoned and falling. Lido became a popular beach resort in the late 19th century.

Military and naval affairs

By 1303, crossbow practice had become compulsory in the city, with citizens training in groups. As weapons became more to operate, professional soldiers were assigned to help work merchant sailing ships and as rowers in galleys. The companies recruited in the later 14th century from among the younger aristocracy and served aboard both war-galleys and as arm privilege of sharing the captain's cabin.

Though Venice was famous for its navy, its army was equally effective. In the 13th century, most Italian city mercenaries, but Venetian troops were still recruited from the lagoon, plus feudal levies from Dalmatia and Istria. In times between seventeen and sixty years were registered and their weapons were surveyed, with those called to actually companies of twelve. The register of 1338 estimated that 30,000 Venetian men were capable of bearing arms; not crossbowmen. As in other Italian cities, aristocrats and other wealthy men were cavalymen while the city's conscripts fought

By 1450, more than 3,000 Venetian merchant ships were in operation, and most of these could be converted when needed for transports. The government required each merchant ship to carry a specified number of weapons (mostly crossbows). Merchant passengers were also expected to be armed and to fight when necessary. A reserve of some 25 (later 100) warships at the Arsenal. Galley slaves did not exist in medieval Venice, the oarsmen coming from the city itself or from its possessions. Those from the city were chosen by lot from each parish, their families being supported by the remainder of the parish. Debtors generally worked off their obligations rowing the galleys. Rowing skills were encouraged through races at

Early in the 15th century, as new mainland territories were expanded, the first standing army was organized, consisting of 10,000 men. In its alliance with Florence in 1426, Venice agreed to supply 8,000 cavalry and 3,000 infantry in time of war, and 3,000 Later in that century, uniforms were adopted that featured red-and-white stripes, and a system of honors and pensions. In the 15th century, Venetian land forces were almost always on the offensive and were regarded as the most effective in tradition of all classes carrying arms in defense of the city and official encouragement of general military training.

The command structure in the army was different from that in the fleet. By ancient law, no nobleman could command (to prevent against sedition by private armies), and while the position of Captain General was introduced in the mid-15th century, in answer to a civilian panel of twenty "wise men". Not only was efficiency *not* degraded, this policy saved Venice from other Italian city states so often experienced. A civilian commissioner (not unlike a commissar) accompanied each army, especially the mercenaries. The Venetian military tradition also was notably cautious; they were more interested in minimum expense of lives and money than in the pursuit of glory.

Transport

Venice is world-famous for its canals. It is built on an archipelago of 122 islands formed by about 150 canals in a shape which the city is built are connected by about 400 bridges. In the old center, the canals serve the function of roads, and can be traveled on water or on foot. In the 19th century a causeway to the mainland brought a railway station to Venice, and an automobile lot was added in the 20th century. Beyond these land entrances at the northern edge of the city, transportation within the city for centuries past, entirely on water or on foot. Venice is Europe's largest urban carfree area, unique in Europe in remaining

in the 21st century entirely without motorcars or trucks.

The classical Venetian boat is the gondola, although it is now mostly used for tourists, or for weddings, funerals, Venetians now travel by motorised waterbuses ("vaporetti") which ply regular routes along the major canals and between the islands. The city also has many private boats. The only gondolas still in common use by Venetians are the *traghetto*, foot passenger gondolas, which cross the Grand Canal at certain points without bridges.

Venice is served by the newly rebuilt Marco Polo International Airport, or *Aeroporto di Venezia Marco Polo*, named in honour of Marco Polo. The airport is on the mainland and was rebuilt away from the coast so that visitors now need to get a bus to the pier. A waterbus can be used.

Main sights

Sestieri

The sestieri are the primary traditional divisions of Venice. The city is divided into the six districts of Cannaregio, San Marco (including the Giudecca), Santa Croce, San Marco (including San Giorgio Maggiore), and Castello (including San Pietro di Castello). In front of the Gondolas that work in the city there is a large piece of metal intended as a likeness of the Doge's hat. On the sides are two pointing forwards and one pointing backwards. Each of these represent one of the Sestieri (the one which points backwards represents the Grand Canal).

Piazzas and campi of Venice

- Piazza San Marco
- Campo San Polo

Palaces and palazzi

- Doge's Palace
- Palazzo Grassi
- Ca' d'Oro
- Ca' Rezzonico
- Peggy Guggenheim Collection
- Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo
- Fondaco dei Turchi
- Palazzo Labia
- Scuola Grande di San Marco
- Palazzo Malipiero

Churches

- Basilica di San Marco
- Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute
- Other churches

Other buildings

- Accademia
- The Arsenal
- La Fenice opera house
- La Torre dell'Orologio (St Mark's Clock)

Bridges and canals

- Rialto Bridge
- The Bridge of Sighs
- Accademia Bridge
- Scalzi Bridge
- Piazzale Roma Footbridge

Surroundings

- The Venetian Lagoon
- Islands:
 - *Burano
 - *Lido
 - *Murano
 - *San Michele
 - *Sant'Erasmo

- *San Lazzaro degli Armeni
- *San Servolo
- *Torcello
- *Vignole
- Giudecca

Venetian Villas

The villas of the Veneto, rural residences for nobles during the Republic, are one of the most interesting aspects of Venice.

They are surrounded by elegant gardens, suitable for fashionable parties of high society. Most of these villas were designed by Palladio, and are now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

According to the architects, water around the villas was a very important architectural element because it added more beauty to the buildings.

Sinking of Venice

The buildings of Venice are constructed on closely spaced wood piles (under water, in the absence of oxygen, they penetrate alternating layers of clay and sand. Wood for piles was cut in the most western part of today's Slovenia, the region today called Kras, and in two regions of Croatia, Lika and Gorski kotar (resulting in the barren slopes of Velebit) intact after centuries of submersion. The foundations rest on the piles, and buildings of brick or stone sit above these often threatened by flood tides pushing in from the Adriatic between autumn and early spring.

Six hundred years ago, Venetians protected themselves from land-based attacks by diverting all the major rivers flowing into the lagoon, preventing sediment from filling the area around the city. This created an ever-deeper lagoon environment.

During the 20th century, when many artesian wells were sunk into the periphery of the lagoon to draw water for local subsidence. It was realized that extraction of the aquifer was the cause. This sinking process has slowed markedly since around the 1960s. However, the city is still threatened by more frequent low-level floods (so-called *Acqua alta*, "high water" several centimeters over its quays, regularly following certain tides. In many old houses the former staircases used by the ground floor are now flooded, rendering the former ground floor uninhabitable. Thus, many Venetians resorted to moving up to the upper floors with their lives.

Some recent studies have suggested that the city is no longer sinking, but this is not yet certain; therefore, in May 2003 the Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi inaugurated the MOSE project (Modulo Sperimentale Elettromagnetico) for evaluating the performance of inflatable gates; the idea is to lay a series of 79 inflatable pontoons across the entrances to the lagoon. When tides are predicted to rise above 110 centimetres, the pontoons will be filled with air and will rise from the Adriatic sea. This engineering work is due to be completed by 2011.

Some experts say that the best way to protect Venice is to physically lift the City to a greater height above sea level - by building a new city underneath the city. This way, some hope, it could rise above sea levels, protecting it for hundreds of years, and eventually the need for the MOSE project would not be necessary (it will, controversially, alter the tidal patterns in the lagoon, damaging some wildlife). A further point would be that it would be permanent - the MOSE Project is, by its very nature, a temporary system: it is expected to last for 100 years.

Art Biennial

The Venice Art Biennale is one of the most important events in the arts calendar. [Site in English](#) and [Italian](#)

In 1893 headed by the mayor of Venice, Riccardo Selvatico, the Venetian City Council passed a resolution on 19th April 1893 to hold a biennale artistica nazionale (biennial exhibition of Italian art), to be inaugurated on 22nd April 1894. Following the end of the Second World War, the activities of the Biennale were interrupted in September 1942, but resumed in 1948.

Venice in culture, the arts, and fiction

In the 14th century, many young Venetian men began wearing tight-fitting multicoloured hose, the designs on which they belonged. The Senate passed sumptuary laws, but these merely resulted in the men to circumvent the law. Dull garments were worn over colourful ones, which then were cut to show the hidden colours and the spread of men's "slashed" fashions in the 15th century.

During the 16th century, Venice became one of the most important musical centers of Europe, marked by a characteristic Venetian style.

(the Venetian school) and the development of the Venetian polychoral style under composers such as Adrian Willaert (Venice was the early center of music printing; Ottaviano Petrucci began publishing music almost as soon as this technical publishing enterprise helped to attract composers from all over Europe, especially from France and Flanders. By the 16th century, Venice was famous for the splendor of its music, as exemplified in the "colossal style" of Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, which included large instrumental groups.

Canvases (the common painting surface) originated in Venice during the early renaissance. These early canvases were

Life in 1750s Venice is illustrated by the biography *A Venetian Affair*, which is based on the prolific love letters between his illegitimate half-English lover.

A remarkable, and unflattering, portrait of Venetian politics appears in *The Bravo*, published in 1831 by America Cooper. A *bravo* is an assassin under contract to the state, typically carrying out his assignments with a stiletto. Cooper's brutal dictatorship, governed through intrigue and murder, masked by the placid facade of the *Repubblica Serenissima*

Other major works involving Venice include:

Literature

- William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* (1594-97) and *Othello* (1603-04)
 - Italo Calvino's "Invisible Cities."
 - Wilkie Collins's *The Haunted Hotel* (1878)
 - Philippe Sollers's *Watteau in Venice* (1994)
 - Ben Jonson's *Volpone*
 - Friedrich Schiller's *Der Geisterseher* (*The Ghost-Seer*)
 - Henry James' *The Aspern Papers* (1888)
 - *Death in Venice* (*Der Tod in Venedig*), a 1912 novella by Thomas Mann
 - Orhan Pamuk's short stories "Batsin Bu DÃ¼nya" (1983) and "Emrah GÃ¼lle Gel de GÃ¼lme" (1983)
 - T. S. Eliot's "Burbank with a Baedeker: Bleistein with a Cigar" (1920)
 - *The Silent Gondoliers*, a fable told by William Goldman's S. Morgenstern
 - Patricia Highsmith's *the Talented Mr. Ripley* (1955) and *Those Who Walk Away* (1967)
 - Jeanette Winterson's *The Passion* (1987)
 - Dorothy Dunnett's *House of Niccolo* series (8 book series)
 - John Berendt's *The City of Falling Angels* (2005)
 - Anne Rice's *Cry to Heaven*
 - Edgar Allan Poe's short story *The Assigination*
 - Muriel Spark's *Territorial Rights*
 - Ethan Mordden's *The Venice Adriana*
 - Cornelia Funke's *The Thief Lord* (2002)
 - Sarah Dunant's *In the Company of the Courtesan* (2006)
 - Ernest Hemingway's *Across the River and Into the Trees*
 - Michelle Lovric's *The Floating Book* and *Carnevale* and *The Remedy*
 - Ian McEwan's "The Comfort of Strangers"
 - Jane Langton's *The Thief of Venice*
 - Giacomo Casanova's *History of My Life*
 - Mary Hoffman's *Stravaganza: City of Masks*
 - Kai Meyer's "The Water Mirror"
-
- Donna Jo Napoli's "Daughter of Venice" 1894
 - Sally Vicker's *Miss Garnet's Angel*
 - Daphne du Maurier's *Don't Look Now*
 - Francesco da Mosto's *Francesco's Venice*
 - Francesco da Mosto's *Francesco's Italy*
 - Voltaire's *Candide*
 - Emmanuel RoblÃ©'s *Venice in the Winter*

Films

- *From Russia with Love*, the James Bond film (1963) (based on Ian Fleming's novel (1957))
- *The Honey Pot*, directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 1967 (based i.a. on Ben Jonson's *Volpone*), with Rex Harrison, Capt
- *Death in Venice*, 1971 film adaptation by Luchino Visconti of Thomas Mann's 1912 novella
- *Don't Look Now*, 1973 film directed by Nicolas Roeg based on Daphne Du Maurier's story, with Donald Sutherland, J
- *Moonraker*, the 1979 James Bond film (the first time principal photography for the series took place in the city)
- *Casino Royale*, the 2006 James Bond film
- *Solamente Nero* (also known as *The Bloodstained Shadow*), directed by Antonio Bido (1978)
- *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989)
- *The Comfort of Strangers* by Paul Schrader (1990)

- *Nikita* (also known as *La Femme Nikita*) (1990)
- *Blame It On The Bellboy* (1992) directed by Mark Herman
- *Only You* (1994)
- *The Wings of the Dove* (1997)
- *Dangerous Beauty* (1998), a film based on the book *The Honest Courtesan* by Margaret Rosenthal about the life of Veronica
- *J* (1999)
- *The Italian Job* (in its 2003 remake incarnation)
- *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* (2003)
- *Just Married* (2003)
- *The Merchant of Venice* (2004)
- *Casanova* (2005 film loosely based on the life of Giacomo Casanova, starring Heath Ledger and Sienna Miller)
- (2001 film), based on the Tomb Raider videogame series.
- *Fellini's Casanova* (1976 film directed by Federico Fellini)
- "Senso", starring Alida Valli and Farley Granger; directed by Luchino Visconti (1954). Dramatic. Venice at the times of
- "Everyone Says I Love You", starring Woody Allen, Alan Alda, Goldie Hawn, Drew Barrymore, Julia Roberts; direct
- Musical comedy set in New York and in Venice.
- "The Story of Us", by Rob Reiner, starring Bruce Willis, Michelle Pfeiffer, Tim Matheson (USA, 1999)
- "Summertime" starring Katharine Hepburn; directed by David Lean (1955). Interiors shot in Pensione Accademia Vill
- "Othello" by Orson Welles, starring Orson Welles and Suzanne Cloutier, Othello was filmed on and off over a perio
- Italy, France, USA, 1952)
- "Children of the Century" by D. Kurys (Juliette Binoche, Benoit Maginel, Stefano Dionisi) 1999
- *The Thief Lord* (2006) Aaron Johnson, Rollo Weeks
- *Pokémon Heroes* (2003) (Main city, Altomare, based on Venice)
- *Chasing Liberty*, starring, Mandy Moore and Stark Sands, Directed by Andy Cadiff (2004 film)
- In addition, the audio *Doctor Who* adventure *The Stones of Venice* is set in a future where one last great Carnival is
- sinks forever
- *Venice Party Animals* (2008)

Television Shows

- The 1980s "Jem" episode, "In Stitches" takes place in this city.
- The manga and anime series ARIA take place in the town of Neo-Venezia, based on Venice.

Video games

- The series are based on the trading and politics of Venice during the Renaissance era. The player plays one of the
- merchants trying to gain wealth and power through trades, power plays, and Machiavellian skulduggery.
- The catacombs and the church of San Barnaba are visited in .
- Venice appeared in Core Design's *Tomb Raider 2*.
- Venice was a multiplayer level in Free Radical Design's .
- A fighting arena based around Venice can be found in *Soul Calibur II*. The fight takes place upon a stone platform
- filled streets. Typical residential Venice buildings are portrayed in the background of the level, although the fight does not
- them.
- Venice appears as a fighting arena in the first *Tekken* game released on the PlayStation.
- Venice appears as a map in , in which the Allied agents need to steal an artifact and escape the city on a boat through
- Venice is a playable level in and the first after the prelude.
- The Republic Of Venice is available as an initial playable faction in the game
- The canals of Venice are the site of a race in the arcade game Hydro Thunder.
- The first-person shooter Painkiller features a level inspired by Venice.
- The latest Sonic the Hedgehog series game, Sonic the Hedgehog, has a city in it based on Venice, Italy.
- In the Super Nintendo game, *Tales of Phantasia*, the city of Venezia is modeled after Venice.
- *Gears of War* features a map that resembles Venice (Canals)
- The La Razza Canal course from the Gamecube game, was likely modeled after Venice.
- You are able to take photographs of your tuned-up car in Gran Turismo 4 released on the PlayStation 2, in two locations: the
- Square, and also on a barge going under the Rialto Bridge.

Music

- The great Italian composer Luigi Nono (1924-1990) was born and lived in Venice. The noted composer Baldassarre Galuppi was
- a Venetian, especially celebrated for his operas.
- On July 15 1989, Pink Floyd played live on a floating barge in the middle of The Grand Canal during their "A Momentary Lapse of
- Reason" concert. In 1984, Madonna's music video for her song "Like a Virgin," directed by Mary Lambert, was shot in Venice, Italy. It featured
- her on a gondola and in a wedding dress.
- In 1960, Armenian-French singer Charles Aznavour recorded Que C'Est Triste Venise (How Sad Venice Is). It eventually became one of his
- most famous bilingual pieces, sung in both Italian and French.

Miscellaneous

- The city's patron is St. Mark the Evangelist.
- Venice is also famous world-wide for its unique carnival (1).
- Venice and its lagoon are listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Famous Venetians

For persons from Venice, see :Category:People from Venice (city)|People from Venice.

Others closely associated with the city include:

- Enrico Dandolo (c. 1107 , 1205), Doge of Venice from 1192 to his death. It played a direct role in the sack of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade.
- Titian (c. 1488-90 – August 27, 1576), was the leader of the 16th century Venetian school of the Italian Renaissance (see Titian Cadore).
- Pietro Bembo (May 20, 1470 - 18 January, 1547), cardinal and scholar.
- Marcantonio Bragadin (d.1571) general flayed alive by the Turks after a fierce resistance during the siege of Famagusta during the Cypriot War.
- Lorenzo Lotto (c.1480 - Loreto, 1556) was a painter draughtsman and illustrator, traditionally placed in the Venetian school.
- Veronica Franco (1546-1591), poet and courtesan during the Renaissance
- Antonio Vivaldi (March 4, 1678, July 28 (or 27), 1741, Vienna), famous composer and violinist of the Baroque Era
- Giacomo Casanova (1725 - 1798), in Dux, Bohemia, (now Duchcov, Czech Republic) was a famous Venetian adventurer and writer.
- Rosalba Carriera (October 7, 1675 – April 15, 1757), She became known for her pastel works.
- Emilio Vedova (August 9 1919), one of the most important modern painters of Italy
- Tintoretto (1518 - May 31, 1594), probably the last great painter of Italian Renaissance.
- Giovanni Bellini (c. 1430-1516), he was a Renaissance painter, probably the best known of the Bellini family of painters.
- Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia (June 5 1646 - July 26 1684), she was the first woman in the world to receive a doctorate.
- Bruno Maderna (April 21 1920 - November 13 1973), he was an Italian-German orchestra director and 20th century modernist composer.
- Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (March 5, 1696 - March 27, 1770), he was the last "Grand Manner" fresco painter from the Venetian school.
- Baldassare Longhena (1598 - February 18 1682), he was one of the greatest exponents of Baroque architecture.
- Carlo Goldoni (February 25, 1707 - February 6, 1793), Along with Pirandello, Goldoni is probably the most famous native Italian dramatist in his country and abroad.
- Carlo Gozzi (13 December 1720 – April 4, 1806), he was an excellent dramatist of 18th century .
- Luigi Nono (29 January 1924 - 8 May 1990) , He became a leading composer of instrumental and electronic music.
- Carlo Scarpa (June 2, 1906 - 1978, Sendai, Japan), was an architect with a profound understanding of materials.
- Sebastian Cabot (c. 1484 – 1557, or soon after), was an explorer.
- Marco Polo (September 15 - 1254 January 8, 1324) was a trader and explorer one of the first Westerners to travel to the East. His travels are written down in *Il Milione (The Travels of Marco Polo)*.
- Tomaso Albinoni (June 8, 1671 - January 17, 1751) was a baroque composer
- Canaletto (October 28, 1697 - April 19, 1768), was a famous artist for his landscapes or *vedute* of Venice, but not only.
- Sebastiano Venier, (c. 1496 - March 3, 1578) was Doge of Venice from June 11, 1577 to 1578.

Foreign words of Venetian origin

- arsenal, ciao, ghetto, gondola, lazaret, lagoon, lido, quarantine, Montenegro.
- "Venezuela" means "little Venice".

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- Venice Film Festival
- Venice Biennale
- List of painters and architects of Venice
- List of photographers of Venice
- List of architecture monuments of Venice
- List of places known as 'the Venice of something'
- Veneti and Venetic language (the ancient spoken language of the region)
- Venetian language (the modern spoken vernacular of the region)
- Venetian glass
- Su e zo per i ponti
- Venezia Mestre Rugby FC - rugby team

Twinnings

- Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (1994)
- Tallinn, Estonia
- Suzhou, China (1980)
- Nürnberg, Germany (1999)

- Istanbul, Turkey (1993)
- Kedke, Greece (2000)
- Qingdao, China (2001)
- Thessaloniki, Greece (2003)
- Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States (2007)

Cooperation agreements

Cooperation agreement between the City of Venice and the City of Thessaloniki

Cooperation agreement between the Cities of Nuremberg and Venice, signed on September 25, 1999

Co-operation Protocol signed by the Cities of Istanbul and Venice on March the 4th 1993, within the framework of the I

The City of Venice and the Central Association of Cities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE) established, in January 1993, within the framework of the EC Regulations n. 2137/85, the European Economic Interest Grouping (E.E.I.G.) Marco Polo System to promote and develop activities within transnational cultural and tourist field, particularly referred to the artistic and architectural heritage preservation

Establishment of the Science and Technology Partnership Cities Between Qingdao and Venice

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External links

- [Official Site of the City of Venice](#)
- [Padua-Venice Metropolitan Area](#)
- [Musei Civici Veneziani](#)
- [Saint Mark Church](#)
- [Museum Guggenheim](#)
- [La Biennale](#)
- [Foundation Cini](#)
- [Palaces of Venice](#)
- [Satellite image from Google Maps](#)
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