

Enchanting Waterways of Venice



TRIP OVERVIEW

Our five day cruise takes you into the iconic Italian city of Venice, to marvel at an otherworldly network of sea-fed canals lined with bobbing gondolas, tucked away osterie taverns serving the city's signature prosecco, museums flooded with vivid artistic treasures and marble landmarks crowned by elegant Byzantine domes.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Venice. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our river cruise.

It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.

Day 1: UK to Venice D

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Venice. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your ship, the MS Michelangelo. After meeting the crew and enjoying a welcome cocktail, unwind on board with an evening to do as you please.

Day 2: Burano and Murano B/L/D

Awake in a city like no other: a network of gondola-filled canals weaving between grand marble palaces and dramatic, historic monuments. This morning a brief cruise through the Venetian Lagoon will bring us to Mazzorbo. Take a guided tour of Saint Mark's Basilica, a Byzantine masterpiece, and one of the most important churches in the city. Learn about the fascinating pasts of the impressive sculptures and mosaics and what they represent within Christian history. Take an afternoon tour through the brightly-coloured streets of the charming island of Burano then explore the outlying island chain of Murano, renowned for its beautiful glassware.

Day 3: Venice B/L/D

This morning, join us on a food tour of little-known neighbourhoods in Venice. The tour will begin with a stroll to the Rialto Market, the famous fish market located next to the Grand Canal. We'll continue on to the Cannaregio neighbourhood, a melting pot of diversity and authenticity. The next stop will be Castelletto, the first red-light district in the city. At the end of the tour, you'll enjoy a wine tasting with some Italian-style tapas in an Osteria. Your ship will cruise through the lagoon. Enjoy some free time on your own in Venice this afternoon and this evening.

Day 4: Venice and Chioggia B/L/D

This morning, sail to Chioggia, a picturesque coastal town where pastel houses overlook a web of serene canals. In the afternoon, travel to Padua, a city brimming with medieval architecture. Take a guided tour of the town's sights, including the grand Basilica of Saint Anthony, one of the most frequently visited holy sites in the world. Head back to Venice for on board evening entertainment and a gala meal.

Day 5: Venice to UK or extension B

After a leisurely breakfast, disembark the ship for your transfer to the airport and your scheduled flight back to the UK or continue on to your Venice extension.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily are taken onboard the ship. Tables seat 4 and 6 people, so you'll be able to converse and socialise with new friends, whilst never feeling crowded together. Tea and coffee are available on board ship as well as unlimited soft drinks and alcoholic drinks, including a variety of wines and beer, both during meals and at the bar. (Premium brands are available at an extra cost).

Any dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.

On embarking the ship, you will be greeted by the captain, crew and staff and treated to welcome cocktails.

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for British nationals travelling to Italy. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Tour Guides

Optional excursions are escorted by an experienced, English speaking guide.

Shared cruise

Please note: your cruise is shared with international clients from other companies.

Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion. There is an envelope in your cabin for these purpose that can be handed to reception at the end of your cruise.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Italy as well as on board is the Euro (€). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK, however cash machines are available throughout Venice to withdraw money in the local currency.

Personal Expenses

This cruise is All-Inclusive, so you will only need to take a little extra money with you to cover any premium drinks on board and souvenirs, drinks and snacks purchased when off the ship, as well as any optional excursions you wish to book.

Credit Card Information

Credit cards are accepted on board ship and throughout Italy.

Electricity Supply

The electricity supply is 220V. You will need a European two pin round plug adapter in Italy.

Itinerary Changes

The Captain and CroisiEurope reserve the right to alter/modify an itinerary at any time, should safety or external circumstances make this necessary, changes are also subject to tides. Some of the highlights may only be seen on optional excursions at an additional cost, or by exploring independently.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This river cruise is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves moderate days of walking on cobble streets and getting on and off the cruise ship. This cruise is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

DRESS CODE & WHAT TO PACK

Dress Code

There is no official dress code on board, however you'll be most comfortable during the day in smart casual clothing. You may wish to bring items that do not wrinkle easily as there is no iron provided on board ship. There are also no laundry facilities available. Bring a variety of clothing for the weather expected on your cruise, including light clothing and bathing suits for hot weather, a jumper or jacket for cooler weather and of course a raincoat and/or small umbrella.

What to Pack

- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers for sightseeing excursions
- Sun cream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Sunglasses
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

Please Note:

You will receive excursion vouchers with your ticket package. In the unlikely event that your cruise does not operate, then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available, should the alternative dates offered be unsuitable.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Venice you will be met by a representative from our local agent, CroisiEurope, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/CroisiEurope representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. If you need to contact your representative during your stay the details will be given on your arrival.

EMBARKING & DISEMBARKING

Embarkation Time: 6pm
Disembarkation Time: 9am

If your arrival is before this time, you will be transferred to the docking area where you will be able to leave your luggage. You are then free to explore the city at your own pace until it is time to board your ship. If your return flight is after 9am you will be able to leave your luggage onboard the ship (until 14:00pm) and spend your time exploring the city until your return airport transfer. Please note: from 9:00 am on day of disembarkation drinks will not be available in the lounge bar and there will be no other cruise services on board.

BOARDING DETAILS

Please see below for details of your boarding quay. Your cruise company is **CroisiEurope**.



Venice City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Enjoy an extended 2-night stay in Venice, the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region. Explore this city at your own pace and further discover everything beautiful Venice has to offer.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your beach extension to Venice.

Hotel (2 nights)

Your stay in Venice will take place at the **4★ Hotel Santa Marina** on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

Located in the heart of Venice, just a short walk from the Rialto Bridge and St. Mark's Square, the 4-star Hotel Santa Marina Venice is the ideal choice for discovering the most authentic Venice. Built on the ruins of an ancient convent, this hotel features a beautiful terrace where guests can enjoy breakfast during the summer or relax while having drinks after a day spent visiting the city's many architectural wonders.

Guests enjoy maximum comfort, as the Hotel Santa Marina offers rooms of irresistible charm, furnished in an original mix of styles that combine classic and contemporary details: quiet, romantic and all equipped with modern amenities, from satellite TV to free Wi-Fi, making your stay in Venice a truly unique experience.

Hotel Information

4★ Hotel Santa Marina

Campo Santa Marina, 6068, 30122 Venezia VE, Italy
Tel: 0039 041 097 0132

Tour Guides

Your stay in Venice is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Transfers are included.

Transfers

Arrival transfer: 09:00am Transfer from MS Michelangelo to Hotel Santa Marina

Return transfer: Pick up at Hotel Santa Marina to the airport when booked on flight: VCE- LGW, BA2583, 16:10/17:20

Supplier: Euro Plan, contact number 0039 331 701 3838

Meals

Your stay will be on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs and drinks.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**