

Cycling Safaris

MANTOVA TO VENICE BIKE & BOAT TOUR 2016

With a guide cycling with the group OR self guided tour | 210 km | 8 days / 7 nights



After a day at your full disposal to discover the magic of Venice, you will start exploring the peculiar ecosystem of the lagoon and the Po Delta area. The trip leads you in the core of the Po plain, until Mantova, where a lot of worldwide known artists left their masterpieces, thanks to the assignment of the famous Gonzaga family.

This cycling tour is largely along the flats of the Po plains, and the daily stages vary from 30 to 55 km – mostly on tarmac cycle paths along rivers and canals, or quiet country roads. The boat is moored at night and typically sets sail after breakfast, meeting up with the bikes in the afternoon. Some parts of the itinerary are undertaken by boat, for example to allow easier access onto cycling paths, or simply to enjoy the cruise through the Venice lagoon.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 **Arrival to Mantova**

The cabins are available from 4.30 p.m. The meeting with the tour leader and the crew is scheduled at dinner-time, at 7 p.m.

Day 2 **Mantova, round tour** **(40 km)**

An entire day dedicated to the discovery of this little visited cultural gem, its three picturesque “lakes” formed by the Mincio, most known highlights of the town.

Day 3 Mantova-Governolo-Zelo (50 km by bike)

A short cruise along the lush banks of the Mincio takes us to Governolo, where it flows into the Po and forms the largest inland basin in Italy. At Governolo Lock, once a vital staging post for local navigation, we saddle our bikes and follow the Po through Ostiglia (famed for its medieval fortress and floating mill) and on to the village of Bergantino. Here we visit the charming Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum. Finally, we reach Zelo, a sleepy village on the Canal Bianco, the waterway which runs parallel to the Po.

Day 4 Zelo-Ferrara-Adria (50 km by bike+60 km by bus)

After breakfast we continue our bike and boat adventure cycling towards Ferrara, another key City State of ancient Italy. You will visit this historic town and discover its little touched centre, still surrounded by the original city walls. From Ferrara a short transfer by private coach will take you to Adria. Once close to the shores of the sea which bears its name, Adria was an ancient Greek port, famous for trading Baltic amber. Its remarkable museum also bears witness to its Etruscan, Roman and Venetian heritage.

Day 5 Adria-Porto Viro-Chioggia (40 km)

An exhilarating day of discovery alternating sailing and cycling starts with a short cruise to our drop-off point at Porto Viro and the exploration of the Po's delta. This unique wetland park is the prime reserve in Europe for herons and home to several colonies of flamingos. At the mouth of the River Adige, which flows fast and cool from the Dolomites, we then follow the Po-Brondolo waterway and reach the Venetian lagoon. Our overnight stop is the bustling and colourful fishing port of Chioggia, known as "Little Venice".

Day 6 Chioggia-Venice (30 km)

A morning visit to the fish market is recommended and, time allowing, we also climb up Chioggia's millennial clock tower - the oldest in the world - for some breathtaking views. We then enjoy some island hopping in the lagoon itself by bike and boat, starting with our barge dropping us off on Pellestrina (home to the Ca' Roman nature reserve); and continuing by public ferry for the short crossing to the Lido island. Celebrated by Thomas Mann (Death in Venice) and particularly fashionable with the artists and aristocracy of the Belle Époque, the Lido di Venezia is now home to the International Venice Film Festival and its galaxy of stars. Finally, our floating hotel takes us to our marina in Venice, for the culmination of our bike and boat holiday.

Day 7 Venice

In the morning a local guide will let you discover the capital of the ancient "Serenissima Republic of Venice", which held sway over much of the Mediterranean (and beyond) for centuries. After that you have a lot of time to soak up its timeless beauty or explore its islands.

Day 8 Venice - homeward Bound

Departure after breakfast.

High and low water issues, as well as logistic obstacles can modify some of the daily stretches or embarkation points. These decisions are taken by the captain. It is envisaged that the boat will sail some of the way during breakfast or the evening meal to make getting out of the towns easier or to shorten the stages.

2016 TOUR DATES AND PRICES - BOAT AVE MARIA

April 2, 16 - value season	Price per person sharing in a standard cabin <u>below deck</u>: Value season: €1,060 Mid season: €1,260 High season: €1,430 <u>Extras per person:</u> Single cabin <u>below deck</u> supplement: €300 Superior double cabin with low beds (<u>deck level</u>): €140 E-bike: +€90 Helmet rental: €15 <u>Reductions per person:</u> Reduction for the 3 rd / 4 th person in the cabin: €250 Bunk cabin reduction: €100
April 30 - mid season	
May 14, 28 - mid season	
June 11, 25 - mid season	
July 9, 23 - mid season	
Aug 6, 20 - mid season	
September 3, 17- high season	
October 1 - high season	
October 15 - mid season	

2016 TOUR DATES AND PRICES - BOAT VITA PUGNA

April 9, 23 - value season	Price per person sharing in a standard cabin <u>below deck</u>: Value season: € 910 Middle season: € 1,060 High season: € 1,130 <u>Extras per person:</u> Single cabin <u>below deck</u> supplement: €300 E-bike: €90 Helmet rental: €15 <u>Reductions per person:</u> Reduction for the 3 rd / 4 th person in the cabin: €250
May 7, 21 - high season	
June 4, 18 - high season	
July 2, 16, 30 - mid season	
Aug 13 - mid season	
Aug 27 - high season	
September 10, 24 - high season	
October 8 - mid season	

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 overnights on a boat Ave Maria or Vita Pugna
- Full board (breakfast, dinner and a self-made packed lunch)
- Accompanying Tour Leader on board and on bike (**When booking this bike and boat tour, please specify your chosen option - i.e. Guided with a guide cycling with the clients or Self-guided, when you get your maps and route details and you cycle independently).**)
- Sheets and towels
- Route description and maps
- Bus transfers Ferrara-Zelo
- Harbour charges
- Coffee, tea and other hot drinks on board
- Mid-week cabin cleaning service and towel change
- Guided visit in Venice and Mantova
- Visit of a cheese factory with tasting of typical Grana Padano
- Visit of Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum
- Bike rental

Not included in the tour price

Beverages, museums

Fees and extras in general

One ferry-boat stage in Pellestrina (about € 9 per person)

Helmets are **not** included in the price, but are available at time of booking for €15.

Local taxes to be paid locally (€10-€15)

Helmets need to be booked in advance!

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

On request we can book additional accommodation in 3/4 * hotels for you:

Mantova 3 hotel - €45 per person sharing / €75 in single room

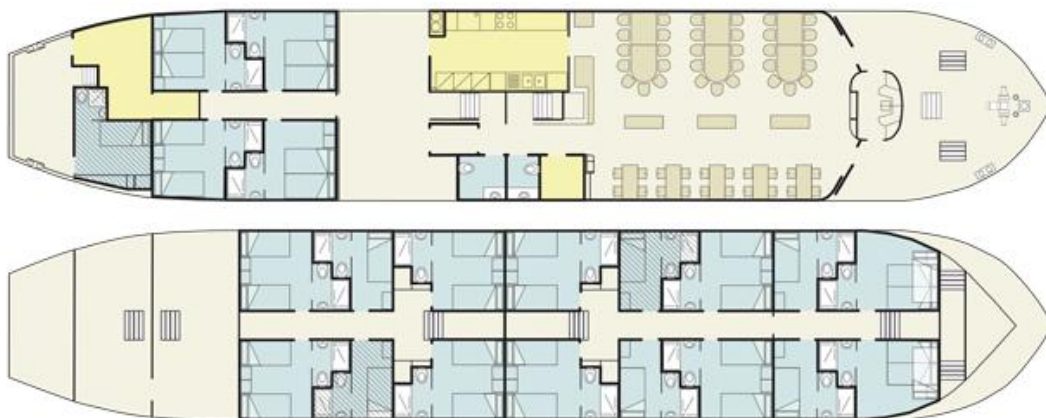
Mantova 4 hotel - €85 per person sharing / €125 in single room

Mestre 3/4 hotel - €65 per person sharing / €85 in single room

Venice 3/4 hotel - from €90 per person sharing / from €150 in single room (on request only)

**Local taxes to be paid on the spot*

BOAT AVE MARIA



CAPACITY: 40 guests max

SIZE: 41 m x 7,5 m

DRAUGHT: water rod: 1,05 m - air rod: 4,05 m

CABINS

- 4 double superior cabins (2 of these can become triple or four bedded cabins, with a bunk bed) above deck, of approx. 11 m²
- 10 double standard cabins (3 of these can become triple cabins, with a bunk bed) below deck, of approx. 11 m²
- 3 bunk bed cabins (each of these can be sold as single cabin) below deck, of approx. 7,5 m².
- Each cabin boasts large windows (the ones in the superior cabins can also be opened), comfortable low beds, en-suite facilities and air conditioning.

BEDS

Bed size is 2 x 0,80 m. Each double bed can be changed into two single beds.

THE SALON

Air conditioned living room, measuring 11 x 7,5 m and divided into two areas:
the restaurant (33 seats)
the lounge (up to 28 seats)

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

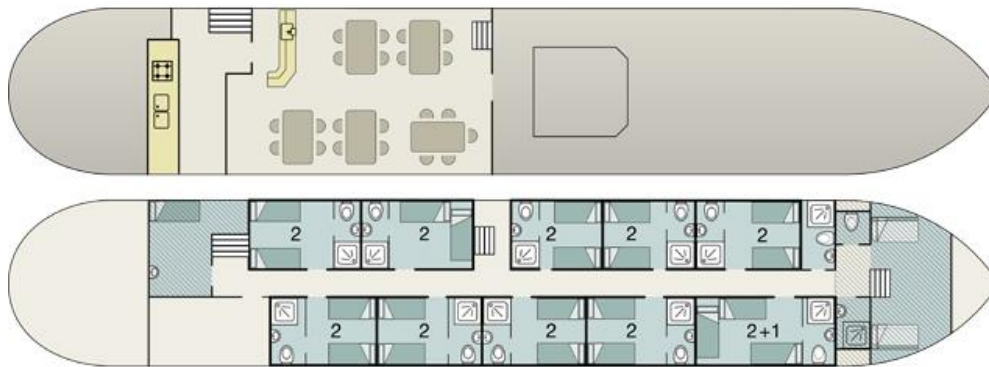
- Two sundecks
- dedicated bike parking (for approx. 40 hanging bikes)
- internet point with two computers
- free wi-fi
- large 52" screen TV in the lounge

STORY

This 4* Italian boat has been totally rebuilt in order to meet the most challenging clients' requests. Only the hull of the original 1970s sand digger sailing along the Po has remained and the boat is now brand new. It has been completely designed by a renowned Italian architectural firm. Its shapes, colours and materials have been chosen carefully in order to create a warm but yet sophisticated atmosphere.

BOAT VITA PUGNA





CAPACITY: 21 guests

LENGTH: 36 m

WIDTH: 5.4 m

DRAUGHT: 1.60 m

CABINS

10 Standard Twin cabins (including one accommodating up to 3 guests) of 7/8 m². All cabins are equipped with comfortable low twin beds and en-suite facilities. They also offer the convenience of attractive, traditional portholes, which can be opened for fresh air. The corridor is air-conditioned. Bed size is 1.90/2 m x 0.75/0.80 m

THE LIVING AREA

There is a spacious air-conditioned lounge/restaurant with 5 tables, accommodating up to 23 guests.

EXTRA FEATURES

1 sundeck

Free hot drinks machine (including Italian ground coffee)

Free wi-fi with 2 computers

Dedicated bike storage

WHAT TO BRING

- Waterproof windbreaker or poncho (recommended in spring time)
- Sunglasses and Hat
- High protection sun cream and after sun cream
- Insect repellent
- Swimming costume for 4th day from Venice to Chioggia
- Casual clothes for evening. You may be grateful for something warm with long sleeves

GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

The detailed directions and maps supplied with your free info-pack offer you the option of either cycling independently at your own pace or with the rest of the group, following the Tour Leader who cycles with the group. **When booking this bike and boat tour, please specify your chosen option (i.e. Guided or Self-guided).**

BIKE & FITNESS

Bike hire is included in the tour package.

Details:

Unisex bikes

Shimano Deore 27 gear
4bis. Grip shift gear
28" tyre
Shimano v-brake
Anti-slip pedal
Gel Saddle

Also Provided:

Handlebar bag
or Map rack
Back panniers
Padlock
Water-bottle
Helmet (on request)



27-gear Shimano Deore **unisex** bikes in appropriate frame sizes. They are puncture-proof, fully serviced and equipped with a trip computer, sidebag, water bottle and padlock. Additionally, **self-guided cyclists are supplied with a map holder/front bag (1 per bike) and a repair kit (1 per couple)**. Due to space and safety restrictions, only a limited number of clients' bikes can be accepted on board upon request.

Level of difficulty

This is ultimately a relaxing tour with easy cycling on all stages, which gives you the opportunity to take in the surroundings. You can also take it easy and relax on the sundeck!

TRAVEL INFORMATION

It is up to you to make your way to and from the tour.

By Plane

Both Venice and Mantova are well served by many airports of Northern Italy: Venice (VCE), Treviso (TSF), Verona (VRN), Bergamo (BGY), Milano Malpensa (MXP), Milano Linate (LIN)

By Railway and Car

Mantova is situated on the A22 Highway Brennero–Modena, only 50 km south of Verona. By train it is connected very frequently to the railway station of Verona (journey: 45 min.) Venice is situated on the A4 highway and on one of the principal railway lines, which links Venice to the most important Italian cities. The journey Venice-Mantova (or opposite) is covered by train in approx. 2,5 hours. www.trenitalia.com/en/index.html

Please note the prices of public transfer tickets and timetables can change through the year.