

Cycling Safaris

VENICE LANDS TOUR 2017

Self Guided

285 km | 7 nights / 8 days



Nestled between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea this tour explores the Veneto (Venetia) region of northern Italy. This area has always had a key strategic significance, its location forming a gateway between the Mediterranean region and northern and eastern Europe.

Pedalling through vineyards, mountain backdrops and on two tiny islands, this journey brings you through a lovely mixture of scenery and explores some of Italy's true classics.

We cycle along lagoons, rivers and the sea, through quiet planes and bustling towns, and experience a unique fusion between the old and new Italy.

The region being the birthplace of the famous architect Andrea Palladio (16th Century) you are spoilt for stunning architecture that characterises the beautiful villages and also the many "Palladio Villas" along the way.

With an almost completely flat itinerary this tour is suitable for everyone. You will cover 283 km in 6 stages riding on cycle paths or level roads with low traffic volume. Your ride on secondary roads with low traffic or paved bike paths.

Venice Lands

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TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival in Vicenza

Individual arrival to Vicenza, a historical town with buildings designed by famous architect Andrea Palladio.

Day 2 Vicenza to Bassano del Grappa 25 miles / 40km

On our first day on the bike we cycle to the foothill of the Alps until we reach the castle village of Marostica, characterized by the surrounding castle walls and its Chess square where human chess games takes place. We finally reach Bassano del Grappa, a charming town situated on the Brenta River, and famous for its marvellous wooden bridge and the "Grappa".

Day 3 Bassano del Grappa to Treviso 39 miles / 62km

One of the tour's scenic highlights, today we cycle the only uphill section of the tour: the 1km climb that takes us to the beautiful village of Asolo. From here there is a nice downhill section and we continue through the Prosecco vineyards and on to Maser. In the afternoon we reach Treviso where we stay the night.

Day 4 Treviso to Mestre/Venice 24 miles / 38km

Departing from the centre of Treviso, the cycling track takes us along the course of quiet river Sile towards Casale village where you have the opportunity to enjoy the local cuisine through wine and cheese tasting. The cycle continues towards Mestre where we spend the night.

Today's cycle is a deliberately short one so as to give us plenty of time to explore Venice, the "city on water" where an evening of narrow streets and canals awaits.

A supplement applies for accommodation in Venice.

Day 5 Mestre/Venice to Chioggia 20 miles / 35km

One of the most exciting days of the tour, today we pedal along two tiny Islands that divide the sea from the lagoon. In the morning we leave Mestre and cycle along the 4km bridge "Della Libertá" towards Venice and Tronchetto harbour where we find our ferry connection. The ferry takes us to along the canal Giudecca to the island of Lido with the sea on one side and the lagoon on the other. This is the most exciting day - you will be cycling on two narrow islands (Malamacco and Pellestrina) that divide the sea from the lagoon.

This is the first day of the tour for those who start in Mestre

Day 6 Chioggia to Padova 37 miles / 60km

Today we pedal along Bacchiglione and Brenta, the two rivers used to carry trade in and out of Venice. The cycling continues along quiet roads where we embrace the rustic charm of the Italian countryside. We eventually reach Stra where you can stop for lunch and also have the opportunity to visit the famous Villa Pisani of Stra. When arriving at the vivacious city of Padova the beautiful sight of the basilica dedicated to St. Anthony meets us. Known to have one of Europe's oldest and most glorious universities this city is renowned for its rich history and culture.

Day 7 Padova to Vicenza 30 miles / 50km

The Bacchiglione River points the way out of the city towards Costozza, a small town situated at the foot of the Berici hills. The village is famous for the bar "botte del covolo" that, in the past, was used to conserve ice. Further along the way we pass Villa Rotunda, the most famous of the Palladian villas. Just before entering Vicenza we see the Villa Valmarana ai Nani with its marvellous frescoes by Tiepolo.

Day 8 Homeward Bound

After breakfast we head home.

2017 DEPARTURE DATES

Self Guided Dates : From March 25th to October 21
Every Saturday & Sunday from Vicenza
Every Tuesday & Wednesday from Mestre

Season 1: 25th March – 21st April & 2nd Oct – 21st Oct

Season 2: 22nd April – 23rd June & 7th Sept – 1st Oct

Season 3: 24th June – 6th September

Important note:

On the following dates, the tour will start from Treviso, instead of Vicenza:
September 16, September 17, September 23, September 24

On September 19 the tour will start from Padua, instead of Mestre

On September 20 the tour will start from Vicenza, instead of Mestre

The tour will follow the same itinerary, but the departure town will be different.

2017 SELF GUIDED TOUR PRICE

Season 1 - €670.00 per person sharing

Season 2 - €740.00 per person sharing

Season 3 - €790.00 per person sharing

€200.00 single room supplement

Reduction (category A):

€130 for the third/fourth person in the room

Child reduction (not including bike rental):

0-2 years: 90%

3-5 years: 50%

6-8 years: 30%

Note: The price is based on category A accommodation (3-4 hotels). It is possible to upgrade it to category A+(luxury hotels & Villas) or to book category B (2-3* hotels). Please contact us for prices.*

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Welcome and tour information at first hotel
- 21-speed touring bike
- 7 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast buffet
- Detailed documentation, (maps, route description, important telephone numbers)
- Luggage transportation
- Entrance to Villa Valmarana ai Nani
- Ice cream in the best ice cream parlour in Vicenza
- Ticket for ferry transfer on Day 5 (bike ticket not included - approx €4) (category A/A+ only)
- Hot-line service

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Not included:

- Helmets are **not** included in the price, but are available at time of booking for €15.
Helmets need to be booked in advance!
- Local hotel taxes to be paid on the spot (approx €10-€15)

Optional extras

- Half board (6 dinners) for additional €170 per person (Category A)
- E-Bikes are available for an additional €95

TOUR ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is in 3/4 * Hotels mostly in a central location (category A).
We ensure private facilities and air conditioning.

On request we can book additional accommodation for you:

- From €60 per person in double room with breakfast in Vicenza and Treviso
- From €90 in single room with breakfast in Vicenza and Treviso
- From €70 per person in double room with breakfast in Mestre
- From €90 in single room with breakfast in Mestre

- Extra nights in Venice/extra night in Venice instead of Mestre are possible on request.

It is approximately from €100 per person sharing in double room and from €160 for single room (incl. breakfast) but the price depends on the season, day of the week and distance from Hotel to Railway station.

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.

BACK UP SERVICE

As this is a self led trip you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation.

If you experience small problems with the bike (e.g., a puncture) you will have a spare tube, pump and tyre lever. You also have access to a 24 hour helpline.

Route Profile:

Terrain is 85% asphalt and 15% unpaved.

Total vertical climb over the week is 500m

It is possible to shorten the itinerary by taking the train on Day 3

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Bike hire is included in the tour package.



27-gear unisex Citybike
A unisex frame, ideal for an upright but relaxed riding position.
This is the bike automatically given to ladies and gents unless otherwise specified.



Citybike with men's frame with 21/24 gears (on request only)



Kalkhoff, Agattu model
Motor: 36 volts, 540W/H Impulse, located centrally.
The high-capacity battery is secured to the seat tube.
Gears: Nexus 8-speed. Range: approx. 90 km (flat terrain, average speed).

Flyer T8.1 Model, Low-entry frame
Panasonic or Bosch batteries of top safety and long life.
Panasonic motor (36 V, 15 AH Capacity, 540 WH available power)
Gears: Nexus 7-speed.. Range: approx 90 km (flat terrain, average speed)

Details:

- Gel saddle
- Shimano Deore 27 gear
- Grip shift gear
- 28" tyre
- Shimano v-brake
- Anti-slip pedal

Also Provided:

- Handlebar bag (female bikes)
- Map rack (on male bikes)
- Back panniers
- Padlock
- Water-bottle
- Helmet (on 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. The only climb on the tour is on day 3 with the 1km slope in Asolo.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

The starting point of Vicenza is well connected with the following airports: Venezia (VCE), Verona (VRN), Treviso (TSF), Bergamo (BGY-150min).

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

Venezia Marco Polo Airport

ATVO provides a "Fly Bus" from the airport to the train station of Venezia Mestre. Bus departs every 25/30 minutes and journey time is approx 20 minutes. Ticket price is €3.00:

www.atvo.it

From Mestre train station there are regular trains to Vicenza:

www.trenitalia.com/en/index.html

Verona Villafranca Catullo

Every 20 minutes from 6:30am to 11:35pm a bus departs from the airport to Verona Porta Nuova station.

The trip takes about 30 minutes and ticket price is €4.50: www.aeroporto.verona.it

From Verona there are numerous train connections to Vicenza, journey time approx. 50min:

<http://www.trenitalia.com/en/index.html>

Trains

In Italy there is a good train service offering bicycle transport. This low-cost option will allow you to reach the next city if you prefer to visit a city at your own pace instead of cycling. Train with **bicycle compartments** are in all regional trains and are indicated with a bicycle symbol on the carriage and also on the timetables on display in the station.

The **cost of the ticket** for a passenger varies according to the distance covered, whereas for the bike it is always €3.50 (valid for 24 hours on the entire Italian network). Tickets can be bought directly at the railway stations or at a "Tabacchi" stop, asking for a "fascia chilometrica" (per kilometre) ticket, plus a ticket for the bike. For further information on timetables and prices you can consult www.trenitalia.com.