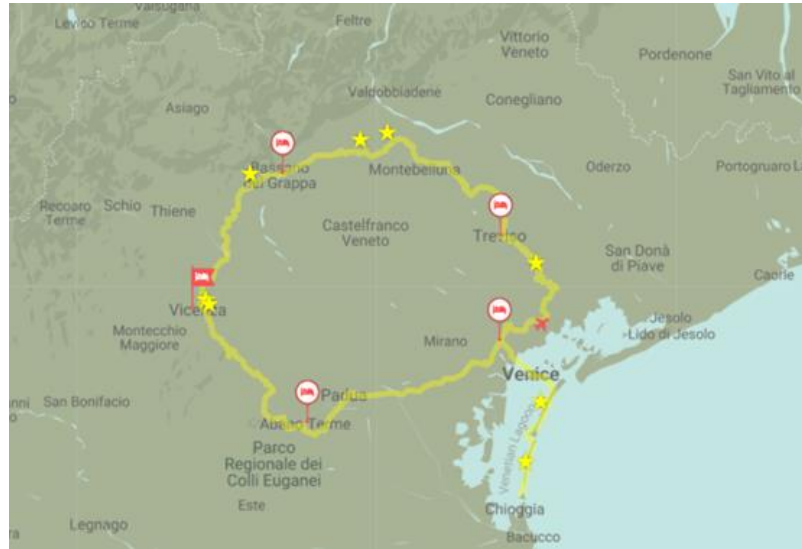


Cycling Safaris

VENICE LANDS TOUR 2024

Self Guided

225-315 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.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 **Arrival in Vicenza**

Individual arrival to Vicenza, a historical town with buildings designed by famous architect Andrea Palladio (16th century).

Day 2 **Vicenza to Bassano del Grappa** **40km / elevation 100m**

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** **65km / elevation 260m/300m**

You will enter the beautiful village of Asolo, which is the only real uphill section of this ride. 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, whose city centre is characterised by ancient waterways.

Day 4 **Treviso to Mestre/Venice mainland** **25/45km / elevation 100m**

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.

Accommodation is in Mestre, Venice mainland.

Day 5 **Mestre/Venice mainland** **65km / elevation 0m**

Today you can decide to give your bike a day of rest and spend your time in Venice, exploring its timeless fascination on foot. Alternatively, you can enjoy another exciting cycling day (ca. 65 km) by pedalling on the two narrow islands that divide the sea from the lagoon: the island of Lido, with the ancient hamlet of Malamocco, once capital of the Serenissima Republic, and the island of Pellestrina, with its long wild beaches, If you have time you can take the motorboat from Pellestrina and visit Chioggia, too.

Day 6 **Mestre/Venice mainland to Padua thermal district** **55km / elevation 0m**

You will start following the Brenta Canal, overlooked by the countryside villas of the ancient Venetian nobility (Villa Malcontenta, Villa Widmann, Villa Pisani) until you reach the hamlet of Stra. From here you will cycle along the Piovego Canal, which will lead you to the city centre of Padua, home to one of the oldest Italian (and European) universities and rich in art and history. Finally, along the cycle path of the Battaglia canal, you will head towards the Euganean Hills, where you will have the chance to relax in the largest European thermal district.

Day 7 **Padua thermal district to Vicenza** **50km / elevation 130m**

Cycling out of the Euganean Hills, you will head towards the cycle path of the river Bacchiglione, which will lead you into Vicenza, architect Palladio's personal showcase. Before entering the town, along the way you can admire the Palladian masterpiece Villa La Rotonda. Let yourself be fascinated by the old city centre of Vicenza, characterized by beautiful private palaces and public buildings by Andrea Palladio.

Day 8 **Homeward Bound**

Departure after breakfast.

2024 DEPARTURE DATES

Sundays & Tuesdays from 31st March to 13th October

Special departure dates for a group of at least 6 people

Season 1: 31st March – 20th April & 29th September – 13th October

Season 2: 21st April – 11th May & 8th September – 28th September

Season 3: 12th May – 7th September

2024 SELF GUIDED TOUR PRICE

Category A (mainly 4* hotels with some 3* hotels):

Season 1 - €770 per person sharing / €1080 single room / €570 third person in triple room

Season 2 - €900 per person sharing / €1210 single room / €700 third person in triple room

Season 3 - €950 per person sharing / €1260 single room / €750 third person in triple room

Category B (3* hotels):

Season 1 - €670 per person sharing / €940 single room / €530 third person in triple room

Season 2 - €800 per person sharing / €1070 single room / €660 third person in triple room

Season 3 - €850 per person sharing / €1120 single room / €710 third person in triple room

Category A+ (Hotels with Charme & Venice Island)

€1370 per person in double room, price for whole season (31st March – 13th October)

Note that for 2024 bike hire is separated out / not included in the tour price

€115 21 speed touring bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag, repair kit

€165 Hybrid Bike

€275 Electric - bike with water bottle cage, lock and a small pannier bag, repair kit

€15 Helmet

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast buffet
- App including maps, roadbook, points of interest and GPS tracks
- Digital tour information
- Luggage transportation
- Ice cream in the best ice cream parlour in Vicenza
- Hot-line service

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-€20 in total)
- Venice Municipality Access Fee: It is expected to enter into force on January 1st, 2024 (approx €3-€10/day, to be paid on site)
- Ferry boat transfer on day 5 (about €30 per person, bike incl.)
- Everything not mentioned in section “included”

TOUR ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is in 4 * Hotels mostly in a central location (category A).

The accommodation is in 3 * Hotels mostly in a central location (category B)

We ensure private facilities and air conditioning.

On request we can book additional accommodation for you:

- From €80 per person in double room with breakfast in Vicenza (Cat A) / €60 per person (Cat B)

- From €130 in single room with breakfast in Vicenza (Cat A) / €100 in single room (Cat B)

- From €95 per person in double room with breakfast in Venice (Cat A)

- From €160 in single room with breakfast in Venice (Cat A)

WHAT TO BRING

- Waterproof windbreaker or poncho (recommended in spring time)
- Sunglasses and Hat
- High protection sun cream and after sun cream
- Insect repellent
- Casual clothes for evening. You may be grateful for something warm with long sleeves.
- We strongly recommend to bring your own reusable water bottle with you
- We suggest to bring a holder for your mobile phone to be fixed on the handlebar, as well as a power bank (even if the App can be used offline, too)

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 590m / 630m

Train connections among the overnight stays: day 2, 3 and 4

It is possible to shorten the itinerary by taking the train on Day 4 and 6

The itinerary is completely in the low lands except for the 1km slope in Asolo. You will ride on secondary streets with low traffic and paved bike paths.

Bike hire is not included in the tour package.



27-gear unisex Citybike/Touring Bike
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 / Touring bike 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
Cycle computer (on adult bikes)
Ortlieb side panniers
Padlock
Water-bottle
1 repair kit per room

When booking you can also rent helmets (€15), suitable for head circumferences from 54 to 61 cm.
All helmets have a certification mark according to the DIN EN 1078 (CE) European norm.

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.