

GRANDTOURIST



Venice - La Serenissima, City of Light, Beauty and Art

Venice at Carnevale Time – February, 2022



Highlights

- Stay in the heart of historic Venice to absorb the magical Carnevale atmosphere
- Prepare for a visual delight of images, sights and sounds
- See Costume Parades, hand-made masks and the most exceptional costumes
- Visit the historic palazzo where Casanova, flirted, gambled and socialised with friends
- Meet a mask-maker and learn the craft
- Stroll the streets of centuries; Shakespeare, Vivaldi, Byron, D'Annunzio, Hemingway
- Enjoy lunches and dinners in authentic, local trattorias
- Experience the luxury of a private boat tour of the Venetian islands and lagoon
- Discover life in 18th century Venice as you mingle with costumed couples



Optional – opportunity to attend a Costume Ball in a historic Venetian Palace, including dinner, entertainment and costume hire

Dates: 25th February – 1st March, 2022

Day by Day Itinerary

Day One: 25th February (Friday): Arrival - Venezia - San Marco

A luxury motor launch will be waiting to transport you across the waters of the Venetian Lagoon to your centrally located Venetian hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax and rest. This evening a short walking tour with a Venetian resident will introduce us to the theatre that is Venice. Visit a historic palace and absorb the atmosphere and history of the city. It is like stepping back in time. Masks will be available! Welcome Drinks Party and Dinner this evening at a traditional Venetian ristorante. Dress code: elegant. Meals included today – Dinner.

Day Two: 26th February (Saturday): Venezia - S. Marco - Riva Schiavoni

A Buffet breakfast will be served in the hotel. Then there will be a walking tour to discover the light, history and architecture of Venice. Our local guide will explain the fascinating and complicated history of Venice, St Mark's Square and Basilica San Marco. There will be time for coffee in the square, declared the finest Drawing Room in Europe by Napoleon. Mid-afternoon we'll head from Zattere to Giudecca for stunning views across the Bacino San Marco to St Mark's Basilica and the famous bell tower. This is a perfect place for taking photographs. We will also ascend the bell tower of San Giorgio Maggiore for a panoramic view of the whole city of Venice and the lagoon. As the Italians would say, the view is 'mozzafiato'.... This evening there is the opportunity to attend a costumed, masked ball (optional). These balls are a once-in-a-life-time experience. Historic, traditional costume is obligatory. The evening comprises, attending an atelier for a fitting of a costume. Cocktails and dinner in a historic palazzo on the Grand Canal, entertainment and music throughout the evening. Elegant private water launch transport to and from the palace. A unique and exceptional experience. Meals included today: Breakfast

Day Three: 27th February (Sunday): Venezia - Rialto - Ghetto

Early morning start today as we head up The Grand Canal, on the vaporetto boat, bound for the Rialto. We'll catch the early morning light and visit the fruit, vegetable and fish markets of the city. This is one of the oldest parts of Venice and here in the dark alleys Shylock, The Merchant of Venice plied his trade. Today a typical Venetian cichetti lunch is included with a selection of Venetian style snacks and a spritz or two! After lunch there's the opportunity to see a Venetian mask-maker in action. It's fascinating to watch the colourful and elaborate masks being made by hand. This evening is free for guests to explore Venice. Many Carnival guests will be parading in the square in full costume, so it's a great time to take photos and soak up the carnival atmosphere. Dress code: casual. Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch.



Which of these traditional 'Italian comic characters' will you see in the campos and alleys of Venice during Carnival?

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Day four: 28th February (Monday): Torcello, Burano, Murano

Today we'll discover the beauty and majesty of the Venetian Lagoon. Our day will include visits to the islands of Torcello, Burano and Murano. Each island is fascinating and unique. On Torcello there's a visit to the Basilica of Santa Maria with incredible Byzantine style mosaics on the back wall of the church, probably the most graphic 'Last Judgement' ever. Next it's the fishermen's island of Burano, impossibly picturesque and here we'll have lunch in the best fish restaurant on the island – they've hosted everyone here; Robert de Niro, Jimmy and Rosalind Carter, The Rolling Stones and now you!! The speciality is a fish risotto, made fresh to order – delicious. After lunch it's back on the boat for a trip to Murano – the glassmakers island, where we'll see glass blowing techniques and the finest, glass sculpture – which is exported globally. Meals included today: Breakfast, Lunch.

Day five: 1st March (Tuesday): Venezia - Departure

Breakfast is served in the hotel this morning. Then it is time for airport transfers to Venice's Marco Polo Airport. We wish you safe travels and a pleasant journey home.



The most common characters in the Commedia d'Arte and their original homes

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Carnevale in Venice

What's included:

- Hotel Accommodation – Boutique style hotel in the centre of Venice.
- Choose from 3-star and 4-star accommodation
- A 4-night stay in double or twin room.
- Welcome drinks and snacks on arrival
- Breakfast - Buffet style breakfast included daily.
- Our choice of hotels: La Calcina Pensione (3 star) or Monaco + Grand Hotel (4 star)
- Meals - 3 x Dinners and 3 x lunches (total: 6 meals included) all meals to include typical Venetian dining experiences in authentic trattoria / ristorante settings.

- Travel by boat - arrival and departure transfers from Marco Polo Airport to Central Venice in private water taxi. This is a wonderful, exhilarating journey as you cross the lagoon from the airport to the historic centre of Venice. The departure transfers will be the same magical and compelling experiences.
- Vaporetto – 5-day pass for all participants, offering unlimited use of public boat services 24 hours a day. Perfect for photographers wanting to catch the early morning light, or evening sunsets in hidden corners of the lagoon.
- Local guide to lead tour of St Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Piazzetta San Marco. Discover Venice through the Venetians and their customs.
- Walking tour of the small streets and alleys around Rialto
- Venetian Lagoon discovery – by private boat – with visits to the islands of Torcello, Burano and Murano – to appreciate and enjoy the diversity of the lagoon.
- Meet a mask maker - watch a master mask maker at work.

COSTS:

- Euros € 2,900 per person – sharing a double room – La Calcina
- Euros € 3,200 per person - double room for single occupancy

- Euros € 3,600 per person – sharing a double - Hotel Monaco.
- Euros € 3,900 per person – double room for single occupancy - Hotel Monaco
- Hotels subject to availability at time of booking.



Itinerary written and prepared by www.grand-tourist.com
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07-11-2021