

VENICE

TREASURES OF ITALY





The Floating City

Venice, Italian Venezia, city, major seaport, and capital of both the provincia (province) of Venezia and the regione (region) of Veneto, northern Italy. An island city, it was once the centre of a maritime republic. It was the greatest seaport in late medieval Europe and the continent's commercial and cultural link to Asia.

Venice is unique environmentally, architecturally, and historically, and in its days as a republic the city was styled *la serenissima* ("the most serene" or "sublime"). It remains a major Italian port in the northern Adriatic Sea and is one of the world's oldest tourist and cultural centres.



Queen of the Adriatic

Venice, Italy is often on the top of traveler's bucket lists. With the romantic canals and plethora of fine dining, it's no surprise why this Italian city is so popular. Although you'll get a taste of Italian cuisine, history and art, Venice's cultural and geographical traits make it incredibly unique in itself. Although Venice is small, there is lots to do and some great Venice tours to experience. That's why it's so important to have an itinerary ready so you can be sure to hit every spot without missing anything. Here are our top favorite activities you can't miss in Venice.

Venice is a walking city. Other than at the great parking lots at Rome Square and on the Lido, automobiles are banned from the city. At the risk of encountering frequent detours and dead ends, one can reach any point in Venice by foot—along the banks of the canals, on the paved streets, through the neighbourhood squares, and over the 400 or so canal bridges (ponti). Many of the traditional arched marble bridges remain.



THINGS TO DO

Eat and Drink with the Locals

Venice is incredibly touristy and with the influx of tourists comes the expensive, inauthentic restaurants that line the main streets looking to shuffle patrons in and out as quick as possible. Luckily, you can easily avoid these tourist traps by researching where the locals eat and drink. If you're a fan of wine, try one of the Bacari, traditional wine bars located through Venice. Don't miss the Rialto Market where you can try local produce, perfect for grabbing supplies for an afternoon picnic.

Gondola Ride

Yes, it's cheesy. Yes, it's touristy. But can you really go to Venice and not ride on a gondola? Venice is known for its canals that criss cross the city and cruising on a gondola is the best way to see them. Gondola rides in Venice are pretty much exactly as you've pictured them in your day-dreams- the gondolier, (aka the driver), sports the iconic striped shirt with a red handkerchief tied around their neck and straw hat on their head. Using their long oar, they'll direct you through the Grand Canal, under bridges and past houses located directly on the water. Gondola rides are a once in a lifetime experience and one you'll regret missing if you don't take one



Venice Carnival Masks

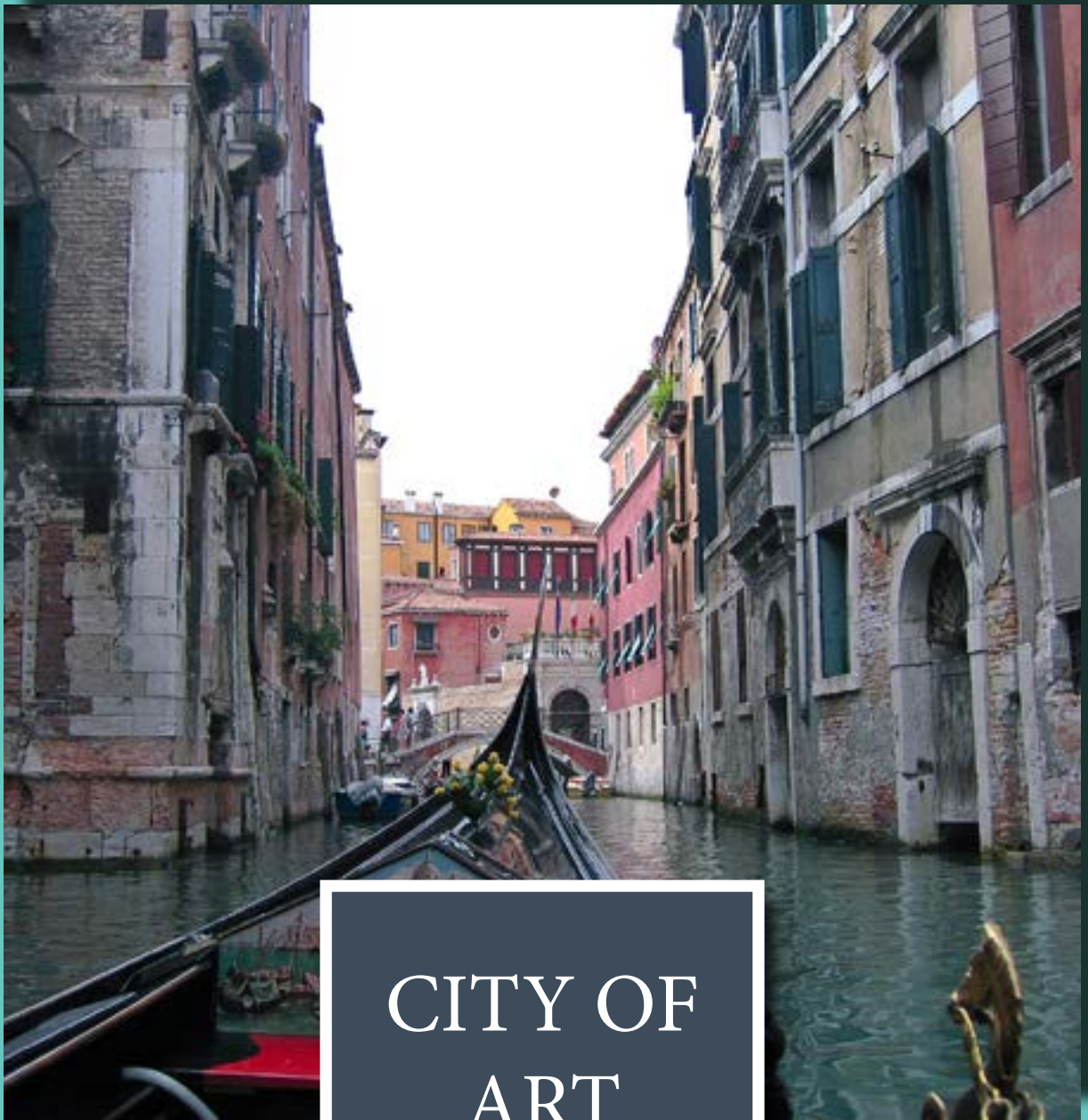
Venice Carnival is a centuries old tradition and one of the world's most famous carnivals. The Carnival of Venice also became our own tradition during the seven years that we called Italy home, masquerading each year in La Serenissima with the locals and tourists alike. The costumes, events and parties over the 10 days leading up to Fat Tuesday make Venice Carnival one of the biggest events in Italy, but it's the masks – the quintessential feature – that makes the Carnival of Venice unique from Italy's other famous carnivals.



Murano Glass

Murano has earned its nickname as the glass island because of its famous glass making artisans. The history behind this trade started in 1291, when the Venetian Republic forced local glass makers to move to the island of Murano to avoid potential fires. Now the craft is the island's main attraction for visitors, where they can see glass blowing demonstrations and take home beautiful souvenirs. The Museo del Vetro (glass museum) is a great place to start if you're interested in learning more about the trade.





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