VENICE GUIDE



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Emergency Contacts

General emergency number: 112

Police: 113

Fire brigade: 115

Ambulance: 118

Essential Information

What is there to say about Venice without repeating what everyone knows? A charming city conserved in its medieval form, with canals, narrow streets, peculiar bridges and lavish palaces.

The romantic notions may well be true, but there's way more to it. For instance, important events such as Biennale of Contemporary Arts or Venice Film Festival take place here. It is also a city where notable educational institutions have their seat.

Venture beyond the main tourist sites like St Mark's Square, Murano Island or Rialto Bridge, visit the local markets, wander the small streets and eat in small unpretentious places - this is the best way to enjoy this very special place.

Time Zone

UTC/GMT +1 hour. Daylight saving time +1, March to October.

Contacts

Tourist Contacts

- Venice Treviso Airport: +39 422 315331
- Venice Marco Polo Airport: +39 421 594672
- Tourist Office: +39 41 5298711

The currency is the euro. $1 \in = 100$ cents.

The banks charge commission fees but the rates are generally acceptable. The expediency of exchange bureaus vary – there are some with good rates and good fees but they are quite an exception. Always ask about the fees beforehand. Not all of the banks will exchange money for non-customers.

ATMs are widespread and the best way how to change money. Many of them are 24/7.

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in hotels, supermarkets and better restaurants. You should not expect cards to be accepted everywhere, though - the smaller shops and food vendors might not have terminals or may restrict the use of cards to purchases of higher amounts.

Tax Refunds

The VAT is 20%. You are eligible for refund if you're not an EU resident and spend at least €154,94 in one day. If you see "Euro Tax Free" or "Global Blue" sticker on the door, present your passport and ask for a Tax Free Shopping Check and receipt. If you want to shop in places without the sticker, ask for a special receipt stating the amount of VAT paid.

Then you need to present the purchased goods together with the papers at customs. After presenting the goods and receipts to customs, you need to send the newly stamped receipt to the shop (within 90 days) and they will be responsible for the refund.

Generally, it is always better and easier to purchase goods in shops participating in the Euro Tax Free refund system.

Prices

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant €11
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three-course - €60
- Combo Meal at McDonald s €6.50
- Bottle of water at supermarket €0.40
- Domestic beer (0.5 liter, draught) €5
- Souvenir t-shirt €10
- Gasoline (1 liter) €1.54
- Hostels (average price/night) €25
- 4* hotel (average price/night) €150
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) €35

Tipping

Tipping is not that customary in Italy. If you decide to tip, though, round up to the next euro or two. It is not usual to tip on vaporettos. Some Venice restaurants may already add a service charge of 10 – 15% to the bill – don't tip in that case.

Electricity

The standard electricity supply in Italy is 220 volts - 50 Hz AC. The most common sockets (CEI 23-16/VII) have holes for three round pins. You will need to purchase a converter to change the voltage if coming from the US.

Languages

It should not come as a surprise that Italian is the most widely spoken language. This region has also a specific language called Venetian - more than two million people are fluent in it. Being such a tourist hot spot, the proficiency in English is very good at least with those employed in the tourist industry.

Mobile Phones

The standard mobile network (GSM/GPRS/3G) covers the whole country. You should check your cell phone for compatibility if coming from a non-GSM standard country. It is quite common to rent a mobile phone in Italy, you might also consider purchasing an Italian SIM card to reduce the roaming costs. The main service providers are Tim, Vodafone, Wind and 3.

The country code is +39, area code 41.

Internet

There's a municipal Wi-Fi network (www.veniceconnected. com) in Venice. The coverage is very good but the whole service is guite costly, 24 hours for €5 and one week for €20. There are several internet cafés in the city center but they are no cheaper.

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Only some hotels, bars and cafés offer free Wi-Fi connection.

Internet Resources

- Official Website for Public Service in Venice (www.veniceconnected.com)
- Tourist Office (en.turismovenezia.it) also offers a list of events
- 1 January New Year's Day (Capodanno)
- 6 January **Epiphany**
- 17 March Anniversary of the Unification of Italy
- Easter Monday
- 25 April Liberation Day
- 1 May International Workers' Day
- 2 June Republic Day
- 15 August **Assumption Day**
- 1 November All Saints
- 4 November Day of National Unity and the Armed Forces
- 8 December Immaculate Conception
- 25 December Christmas Day (Natale)
- 26 December St. Stephen's Day

During these days, banks and offices close. The majority of shops close too, expect only those in touristy areas which stay open for a shortened period of time.

Opening Hours

Typical opening hours may seem unusual. General business hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a lunch break from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The majority of shops close on Sunday, some don't even open on Monday morning and grocery stores close on Wednesdays after noon.

Business hours for banks are 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Only some open on Saturdays. Post offices have the same opening hours except they don't open again in the afternoon.

Sites are usually open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. but the times vary a lot - it is always safer to check the times individually.

Public Transportation

Vaporettos - run by the Actv company (www. actv.it) it is the most convenient way to travel around the city. The schedules are not very strictly followed and the costs are quite high, but there's no better service. Consider purchasing a Travelcard as it cuts costs considerably. A single ticket, valid for one hour, costs €7 or €4 for particular short routes. The Travelcards are as follows: €18 for 12 hours, €20 for 24 hours, €30 for two days and €50 per week.

Taxis

Water taxis are the most expensive means of transport in the city. The fare starts at €13 and each minute of travel will cost you €1.80 - expect the price to soar very quickly. If there's up to five travellers in the taxi, the fare remains unchanged. However, every extra person pays the €10 extra fee. It works the same with the bags – €5 for every extra piece of luggage. There are also surcharges for Sundays, holidays and nights.

Despite being expensive, water taxis are quick and comfortable. Get a taxi from the designated rank or let your hotel arrange one for you. One boat can take up to 10 people.

Regional Transportation

Buses - Atvo operates buses connecting Venice with the airports and other seemingly random lines.

Trains – the train tickets can be purchased online at competitive prices. It is always better to book or buy your ticket in advance.

Boats - Alilaguna operates boat lines between Venice, airports and some other frequented spots.

- Atvo (www.atvo.it)
- Trenitalia (www.trenitalia.com)
- Alilaguna (www.alilaguna.it)

Driving

It is not possible to drive around Venice. If coming by car, you will have to find parking in Mestre or Troncetto suburbia. The parking lots are limited so the prices are quite high.

Generally, driving is a pleasure in Italy. The drivers may be a bit aggressive and chaotic, but it is all made up for by the good system of roads, highways and the scenic landscapes. The highways are tolled - marked by a sign with A (autostrada). Don't forget to keep the ticket received upon entering the paid area; you will need to present it when exiting.

- Maximum speed on highways 130 km/h
- Maximum speed on open roads 90 km/h
- Maximum speed in the built area 50 km/h
- Blood alcohol limit .05 bac (0,5 pro mille)

Wearing a seat belt is compulsory for everyone in the car. Infants and children under 12 years need to sit in a child safety seat. Children under 12 also aren't allowed to travel in the front seat. Using the cellphone while driving is forbidden in Italy.

Walkability

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Venice is a prime example of walkable city - and walkable only. You can take water buses (vaporettos) but apart from that, your feet are your only option. It is a pleasant option, though. The historical core is compact and the walkways wide. Don't forget to get a map; the streets sometime resemble a maze.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about accessibility. The pavements often get crowded and the overall layout isn't very suitable for wheelchairs. The situation is changing for the better, but only very slowly.

You will be surprised if expecting pasta and pizza. Venetian cuisine is way more than that.

- Typical is the use of polenta as a side-dish and an abundance of seafood.
- Sarde in saor fried sardines with onions and nuts
- Rixoto de gò rice with fish
- Połenta e schie fried shrimps with polenta
- Fondi di carciofo artichoke dish
- Venetian sandwich white bread, mayonnaise, tomatoes, ham or any other filling.

The most popular Venetian drink is undoubtedly sparkling wine (prosecco). It is often served as Spritz, with Aperol and soda. Wine-lovers should not leave unnoticed other popular Venetian wines, white, light-bodied Pinot Grigio and Bianco di Custoza.

Legal Age

The legal drinking age is 16.

January

- New Year's Day celebration on Lido
- Regatta delle Befane regatta contest

February

Carnival (www.carnevale.venezia.it)

June

- Biennale (www.labiennale.org) (lasts until October)
- Vogalonga (www.vogalonga.net) rowing marathon

August

Film Festival (www.labiennale.org)

September

- Regatta Storica (www.regatastoricavenezia.it)
 - a reenactment of the historical race

October

Venice Marathon (www.venicemarathon.it)

December

Christmas Market

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Free Things To Do

- St Mark's Square
- Rialto Markets
- Basilica of St Mary of Health
- Church of Saint Zacharias
- Island of Murano
- lewish Ghetto
- Rialto Bridge

Shopping

Venice is known as one of the capitals of fashion and design - buying some designer clothes or goods here is totally in place. Otherwise, there's a large selection of exquisite silk, velvet and other fabrics. Stop in Murano for impressive traditional glassware. Other popular souvenirs include miniature masks, gondolier straw hats and marble paper.

- DO allow enough time for aimless wandering - this way you will see the most of Venice.
- DO visit many churches, not only those mentioned in tourist guides - every single one is a gem.
- DO NOT eat your picnic at the main sights it is forbidden and can incur a fine.
- DO NOT visit Venice during Carnival if you're not ready for the crowds - the whole city goes crazy.
- DO NOT order cappuccino after lunch the Italians consider it as a meal in itself and therefore never drink it after having eaten.
- DO NOT expect gondola to be a typical means of travel - it is a very touristy and pricey way to get around.

Safety

Generally, Venice is a safe city and violent crime is unlikely. Unfortunately, pickpockets are aplenty, especially in the touristiest areas and in crowds. You should always take the general precautions: keep an eye on your belongings, don't flash expensive possessions and avoid badly lit and abandoned areas at night. There's one more reason for avoiding dark places: the canals may not be well fenced.

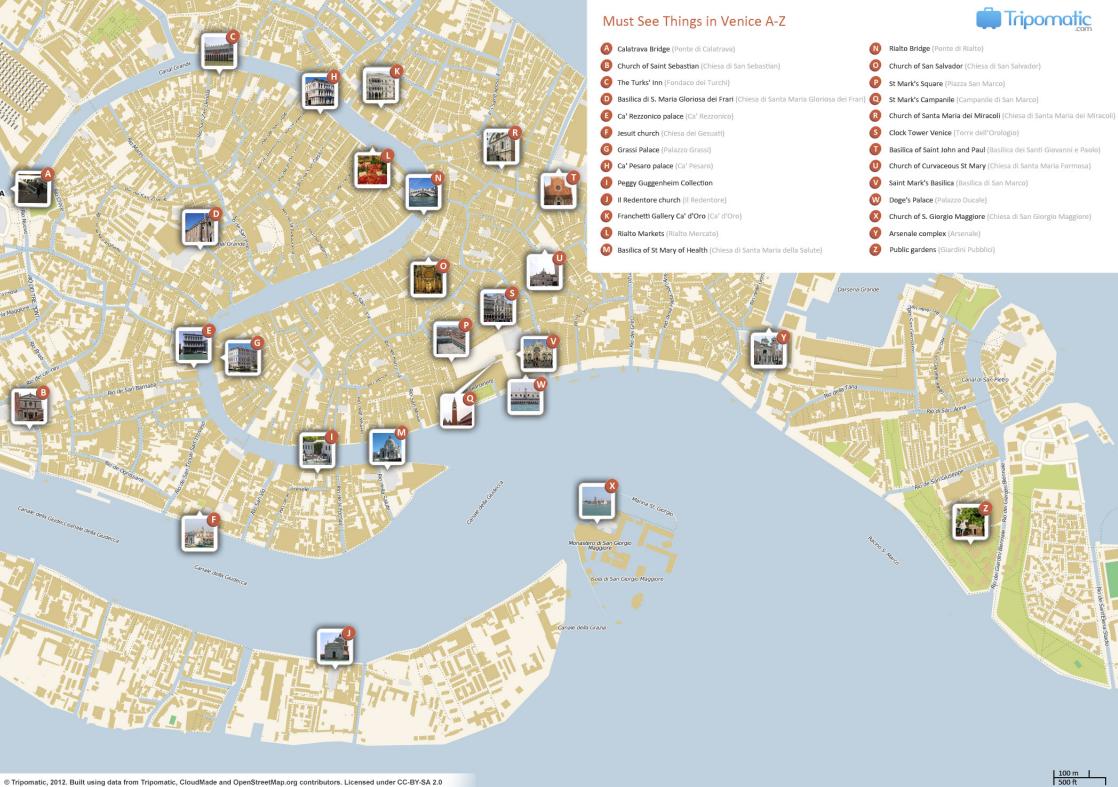
The typical tourist scams are uncommon in Venice but can happen. Just apply your common sense and you'll be safe.

Stay away from counterfeit designer goods – you can be fined for purchasing fake stuff in Venice.

In summer, there are many mosquitos – don't forget to take repellent with you. If you are planning on visiting Venice during autumn, especially during November, be aware of the infamous phenomenon called acqua alta - the tides are so high that they flood the streets for several hours. Despite being announced by sirens and bell chimes, it is not an uncommon occurrence and you don't need to worry. Just bring along a pair of good shoes.

The tap water is safe to drink. There are also numerous water fountains around the city - unless marked as non-potable water, it is safe to drink from them.

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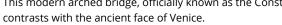
- ▶ Discover more with on-the-go visual trip guide.
- Find nearby sights and attractions, wherever you are.
- ► Sync your trip plans to your device.

ACTIVITIES



Calatrava Bridge / Ponte di Calatrava

This modern arched bridge, officially known as the Constitution Bridge,



30135 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43891, E12.31952



Church of Saint Sebastian / Chiesa di San Sebastian

Dating back to the 16th century, this Renaissance church has some remarkable artworks by Titian and Paolo Veronese inside.

Campo San Sebastian, 30123 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43197, E12.32014

Opening hours:

Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission:

General admission: €3



The Turks' Inn / Fondaco dei Turchi

Turks lived and did their business in this palace from the 17th to the 19th century. Now, it houses the Museum of Natural History.

Sestiere Santa Croce 1730, 30135 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.44200, E12.32792

Phone:

+39 041 275 0206

Opening hours:

lun - Oct:

Tue - Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Nov - May:

Tue – Fri: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sat - Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Ticket office closes an hour earlier.

Admission:

Full price: €8

Children (6 – 14), students (15 – 25), seniors: €5.50



ACTIVITIES

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Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari / Chiesa di Santa

Maria Gloriosa dei Frari

One of the oldest and largest church of Venice is known for its tall bell tower and works by Italian artists on the walls and the ceiling.

Campo dei Frari, 30125 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43718, E12.32693

Opening hours:

Mon – Sat: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sun: 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Admission:

General admission: €3



Ca' Rezzonico Palace / Ca' Rezzonico

Explore the rooms and halls of this marble palace and marvel at its luxurious furnishings and a great collection of art.

Dorsoduro 3136, 30123 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43361, E12.32683

Phone:

+39 041 241 0100

Opening hours:

Apr 1 – Oct 31: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Nov 1 – Mar 31: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission:

Full ticket: €8

Reduced ticket (children, students, seniors): €5.50



Jesuit Church / Chiesa dei Gesuati

Both the interior and the exterior of this church are richly decorated with sculptures. Don't forget to notice paintings on the ceiling!

Fondamenta delle Zattere ai Gesuati, 30123 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.42927, E12.32726

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Opening hours:

Mon - Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission:

General admission: €3





Grassi Palace / Palazzo Grassi

Overlooking the Grand Canal, this Classical-style palace hosts many exhibitions of contemporary and modern art.

Campo San Samuele, 30124 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43365, E12.32796

Phone:

+39 041 523 1680

Opening hours:

Daily: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays.

Admission: Adults: €15

Discount tickets (children, students, seniors): €10

Children (up to 11): free



Ca' Pesaro Palace / Ca' Pesaro

You can find two museums focused on modern and oriental art in this splendorous Baroque palace built in the 18th century.

Sestiere Santa Croce 2076, 30135 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.44120, E12.33174

Phone:

+39 041 721 127

Opening hours:

Apr 1 – Oct 31: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Nov 1 – Mar 31: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission:

Full ticket: €10

Reduced ticket (children, students, seniors): €7.50

Free entrance: children up to 5, disabled people with helpers







Peggy Guggenheim Collection

Works of Italian and international artists displayed in this museum have been collected by Peggy Guggenheim, the American heiress.



Dorsoduro 704, 30123 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43081, E12.33150

Phone:

+39 041 2405 411

Opening hours:

Daily: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission:

Adults: €14

Seniors (over 65): €11

Students, Children (10-18): €8 Children (under 10): free



Il Redentore Church / Il Redentore

Splendorous church made of white marble originated as a thanksgiving to God for stopping the epidemy of plague in the 16th century.



Campo del Redentore, 30133 Venice, Italy

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GPS: N45.42514, E12.33224

Opening hours:

Mon - Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission:

General admission: €3



Franchetti Gallery Ca' d'Oro / Ca' d'Oro

This palace is fabulous both from the outside and the inside. The facade is richly decorated and it houses a great collection of art.



GPS: N45.44115, E12.33436

Phone:

+39 041 520 0345

Opening hours:

Mon: 8:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tue - Sat: 8:15 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission:

Full ticket: €6

Students: €3

Children (up to 18), seniors: free



Rialto Markets / Rialto Mercato

Witness the preparation of various Venetian specialties. Try out the freshest, tasty seafood, as well as vegetables and fruits.



GPS: N45.43994, E12.33421

Opening hours:

Daily: 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

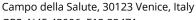
Admission:

Admission to the market is free.



Basilica of St Mary of Health / Chiesa di Santa Maria della Salute

A 17th century church in Baroque style, built after Venice was struck by plague. It has an octagonal shape with eight chapels inside.



GPS: N45.43096, E12.33471

Opening hours:

Daily: 9 a.m. - noon; 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Admission:

Admission to the church is free.





Rialto Bridge / Ponte di Rialto

Crossing the Grand Canal, this pedestrian bridge is one of Venice's gems. White marble and archs make it just marvellous.



30124 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43807, E12.33591



Church of San Salvador / Chiesa di San Salvador

The Baroque church boasts decorations created by several renowned Italian artists, including Sansovino and Titian.



Sestiere San Marco 4835, 30124 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43686, E12.33633

Phone:

+39 041 523 6717

Opening hours:

Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - midnight; 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Admission:

Admission to the church is free.



St Mark's Square / Piazza San Marco

The main and most famous square of Venice is always bustling with life. It offers great views of the surrounding landmarks.



Piazza San Marco, 30124 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43402, E12.33729



St Mark's Campanile / Campanile di San Marco

One of the landmarks of Venice was originally built as a lighthouse. Worth visiting for the great views it offers.



Sestiere San Marco, 312, 30124 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43420, E12.33900

Phone:

+39 41 5225205

Opening hours:

Oct: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Nov - Mar/Apr (Easter): 9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Mar/Apr (Easter) - June: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Jul – Sep: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Admission:

Entrance fee: €8

Reduced fee (for groups of more than 15 people): €4



Church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli / Chiesa di Santa Maria dei

Miracoli

The facade made of colourful marble is one of the most noteworthy features of this church, built in Venetian Renaissance style.

Santa Maria dei Miracoli, 30121 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43934, E12.33914

Opening hours:

Mon - Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission:

General admission: €3 Children (up to 10): free

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ACTIVITIES



Clock Tower Venice / Torre dell'Orologio

An early Renaissance structure on the Piazza San Marco built in 1496. The clock mechanism still keeps perfect time. A favourite meeting point.



T

Piazza San Marco, 30124 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43472, E12.33900

Opening hours:

Tours in English:

Mon to Wed: 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thu to Sun: 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Tours in Italian: Daily: noon to 4 p.m.

Admission: Full ticket: €12

Reduced ticket (children, students, seniors): €7



Basilica of Saint John and Paul / Basilica dei Santi Giovanni e

This church has several notable features, including 25 graves of Venetian doges and splendid decorations on the walls and the ceiling.

Castello 6363, 30122 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43937, E12.34149

Phone:

+39 041 523 5913

Opening hours:

Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sundays and holidays: noon - 6 p.m.

Admission: Adults: €2.50 Students: €1.25

Free entry: Venice citizens, disabled people and their attendants, teachers,

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Church of Curvaceous St Mary / Chiesa di Santa Maria Formosa

A 15th century church with two different facades – Renaissance and

Baroque. There is a famous panel painting by Palma Vecchio inside.

Campo Santa Maria Formosa, 30122 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43727, E12.34102

Opening hours:

Mon - Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed on Sundays.

Admission:

General admission: €3 Reduced admission: €1.50



Saint Mark's Basilica / Basilica di San Marco

An absolute must see of Venice. This church is a mix of Italian and Byzantine styles and its gilded interior is just incredible.

30124 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43407, E12.33965

Phone:

+39 041 2708311

Opening hours:

Basilica: 9:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday and holidays: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. (4 p.m. from Nov to Easter)

Admission:

Admission to the basilica is free.

Reserve an entry time online for €1.50 and skip the line.







Doge's Palace / Palazzo Ducale

This striking Gothic palace is one of the most visited attractions of Venice. Don't miss out on The Doge's Apartments and other rooms!

San Marco 1, 30124 Venice, Italy GPS: N45.43359, E12.34006

Phone:

+39 041 271 5911

Opening hours:

Apr 1 - Oct 31: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Nov 1 - Mar 31: 8.30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Admission: Adults: €16

Seniors/Students/Children (6-14): €8



Church of S. Giorgio Maggiore / Chiesa di San Giorgio Maggiore



The white facade of this church is almost radiant. Its interior is bright and airy, decorated with a few paintings, mostly by Tintoretto.

Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, 30133 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.42949, E12.34312

Opening hours:

May- Sep:

Mon - Sat: 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sun: 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.; 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Oct - Apr:

Mon – Sat: 9:30 a.m. – closing at dusk

Sun: 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.; 2:30 p.m. – closing at dusk

Admission:

Admission to the church is free. Admission to the belltower: €5

Reduced admission: €3



Arsenale Complex / Arsenale



Built in the 12th century, this shipyard has been a showcase of the naval dominance of Venice. Nowadays, various events take place here.

30122 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.43473, E12.34992

Opening hours:

The area is freely accessible but visitors can't go inside. For more information, call +39 41 244 1362.

Naval Museum:

Mon - Fri: 8:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sat: 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Admission:

General admission to the Naval Museum: €1.55



Public Gardens / Giardini Pubblici



This huge park was established by Napoleon and serves as an exhibition space. The famous Venice Biennale Art Festival takes place here.

30122 Venice, Italy

GPS: N45.42908, E12.35759

