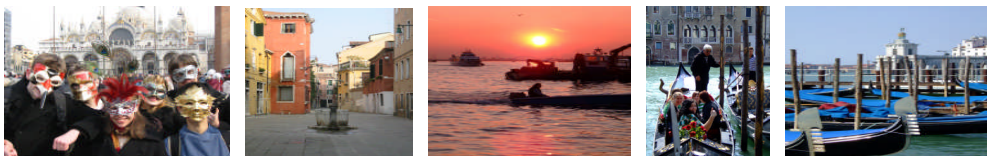




Sample Itinerary for a Four Day Study Tour to Venice.

Dates: To Be Decided.



The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the holiday itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit will be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The director is able to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.



ACCOMMODATION

The Hotel Zecchini**

152 Lista di Spagna, Venice, Italy. Tel: 0039 041 715066. Fax: 0039 041 715611. www.hotelzecchini.com

The Hotel Zecchini is located on the Lista di Spagna, an ancient & popular hotel & shopping street in the Cannaregio district of Venice. The Rialto Bridge & The Venice Fishmarket are within a twenty minute walk & St. Mark's Square is within a twenty-five minute stroll.

All rooms have en-suite bathroom facilities, televisions, lamps, desks & telephones. Accommodation is usually in twins, triples & a few quadruple rooms. All are clean, well-decorated & are serviced daily.

The public vaporetto boats depart from the vaporetto stop opposite the hotel every ten minutes but most of our groups prefer to walk from our hotel to the various sites as it is so centrally located.

We have found the family-run Hotel Zecchini to be a very popular hotel for our groups, with comfortable rooms, friendly staff, a very central location for rapid transfers between visits & the popular shops, cafes & restaurants of Venice within close proximity.

CATERING

The catering in Venice proves to be a highlight for many of the groups that have joined us. The food is of a high standard but the real attraction is the location & beauty of some of the restaurants that we use - on a terrace overlooking the Grand Canal or 'al fresco' in the ancient Piazza Santa Vitale, for example.

En Route

We ask parents to supply a packed lunch for the outward journey. On the final day, lunch is the final meal provided by Varsity Travel so participants should keep £3 for an evening meal.

Breakfast

A continental breakfast of croissants, bread, butter, jam, coffee, tea or hot chocolate is served either in the main or the group dining room.

Lunch

For lunch, the Tour Director will distribute lunch money to students before taking the group to a particularly good area of Venice for cafes, restaurants, pizzerias & pasticcerias. Participants will have a wide choice of food & can either purchase a pannini sandwich & a drink, enjoy a pizza on the terrace of a restaurant or try a bowl of pasta from one of the many good outlets. Of course, every meal should be completed by a visit to one of the many gellaterias where participants can choose from 30 different flavours of the best ice-cream in the world. The use of lunch money has proved to be very popular with students as it provides an opportunity to explore, try the local food & converse with the locals who are always friendly & helpful. The Tour Director will take staff to one of the local trattorias where they will be able to savour local foods such as risotto with cheese, spaghetti alla carbonara or a crusty pizza cooked in a wood-burning oven.

Dinner

Evening meals are a time for participants to experience authentic Italian food in several restaurants that we have researched all over the city.

The restaurant that we frequently use is 'The Accademia Pizzeria' which is located next to the Accademia Museum & which directly overlooks the Grand Canal & The Accademia Bridge. Participants can choose from 18 delicious pizzas, several pasta choices or a salad. The outside terrace is candlelit at night & student musicians often play the violin to diners on the terrace. We have found this cosy Dorsoduro restaurant to be a very memorable experience for our groups visiting the city.

DAY ONE

- 06.00 Coach arrives at school.
- 06.15 Depart school. Coach transfer to local airport.
- 07.30 E.T.A. local airport. Commence check in.
- 09.30 Ryanair flight 792 departs local airport.
- 12.25 E.T.A. Venice Treviso Airport.
(Please note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of British time)
- 13.00 Coach transfer to Piazza Roma, Venice.
- 14.00 E.T.A. Piazza Roma, Venice. Walk to Hotel Zecchini.
- 14.15 E.T.A. Hotel Zecchini. Allocate room keys & settle into rooms.
- 15.30 Walk to St. Mark's Square.
- 16.00 **E.T.A. St. Mark's Square. Visit to The Basilica di San Marco.**

The Basilica of San Marco has always inspired extreme reactions. Venetians started with nothing but salt and fish and so became traders by necessity. The Basilica is a celebration of the success that their trading brought them, as did the straightforward looting of Constantinople, which Venice sacked in 1204 during the Fourth Crusade. Even the body of the city's patron saint, St. Mark, was stolen from Alexandria in 828 and housed in the Basilica.

Inside, the basilica is breath-taking, with gold mosaics and cartoons by Titian and Tintoretto. The work to the inside of the basilica took 600 years and not one inch is undecorated. We will climb to the outside terrace for a splendid view over the Piazza below and the famous bronze horses.

St. Mark's Square.

We will visit the Piazza San Marco before entering the Basilica. The square is the real heart of Venice and becomes extremely busy in summer. Napoleon referred to the Piazza as the 'drawing room of Europe' and the square covers 1,000 years of Venetian history. Venetian governments have always kept the square free from public monuments and statues. This is typical of Venice, whose history has always been communal rather than personal. Architects built for the glory of the city rather than for their own fame. The Tour Director will also take students to view the exterior of the Doge's Palace & to gaze at the Bridge of Sighs, from where prisoners would get their last glimpse of Venice before being led to the waterlogged dungeons next door.

18.00 Return walk to Hotel Zecchini.

19.00 **Dinner at Ae Oche Restaurant, Lista di Spagna, Venice.**
www.aeoche.com

21.00 E.T.A. Hotel Zecchini.

DAY TWO

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Walk to The Giardini District of Venice.

10.30 **Full Day's Visit to The Venice Biennale.**

First held in 1895, the Venice Biennale is a major contemporary art exhibition that occurs every two years. There are 30 permanent national pavilions in which the various countries exhibit their leading artists' works. The British pavilion is managed by the British Council & the star of the 2009 British contribution is Steve McQueen. There is also a large exhibition hall housing a themed exhibition curated by the Biennale's director.

This will be a varied & interesting day for pupils as they explore the various pavilions & exhibitions showcasing some of the best contemporary art in the world.

12.30 Lunch in Arsenale District.

16.30 **Optional Gondola Ride in Venice.**

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a gondola ride on the narrow & beautiful canals between St. Mark's Square & the Ponte Rialto. The gondola rides are approximately 10 Euros per student with six students sharing a gondola. The Tour Director will haggle the price with the gondoliers on behalf of students. The gondolier will give a guided tour of the canals, which reach secret parts of the city that are inaccessible on foot. A gondola ride is always a highlight of a visit to Venice & participants will be deposited on the shores of the Grand Canal after paddling along the canals between Zattere & St. Mark's Square.

Please note: The cost of the gondola cruise is not included in the Study Tour cost. Pupils should pay a small supplement either prior to departure or directly in Venice.

18.30 **Dinner at Roberto's Pizzeria, Dorsoduro, Venice.**

Our restaurant is located directly on the Grand Canal & we will eat our dinner on the candlelit terrace while we watch the gondolas glide under the wooden Accademia Bridge. Participants will be able to choose from 16 types of delicious hand-made pizzas.

21.00

Optional Evening Vivaldi Concert - 'The Four Seasons'

www.interpretiveneziani.com

Participants have the option of viewing an evening concert of Venetian music. The tunes will be as follows: Concerto for Violin, Strings & Harpsichord Op.8 No.10 'La Caccia' & Concerto in D Minor for cello, strings & harpsichord.

The concert is within a short walk of the hotel & is within an ancient Venetian church where Vivaldi staged some of his concerts while he lived in the city. The five-piece ensemble play regularly in Venice & the tickets cost approximately £16 per person. The purchasing of the tickets & the organisation of the evening concert can be organised by the Tour Director. Viewing a concert in Venice is a very memorable experience & is often a highlight for many of our groups. We will organise an alternative evening activity for those participants who choose not to view the concert.

Please note: The cost of the Vivaldi Concert is not included in the Study Tour cost. Pupils should pay a small supplement either prior to departure or directly in Venice.

22.30

Return walk to Hotel Zecchini.

23.00

E.T.A. Hotel Zecchini.

DAY THREE - 'Island Hopping'

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Walk to The Jewish Ghetto, Cannaregio.

10.00 **Visit to the Ancient Jewish Ghetto.**

This Jewish ghetto is the oldest in Europe & is a fascinating visit. Local Jews profited from money-lending to businessmen at the Rialto & tension would appear when the businessmen were unable to repay the debt. The ghetto has two of the oldest synagogues in Europe & is completely cut off from the rest of Venice by canals & gates that were locked during the curfews. Afterwards we will enjoy some time in the busy shopping street outside.

10.45 Walk to Fondamenta Nove Vaporetto Stop.

11.30 **Boat transfer to the Island of Murano**

To get from St. Mark's Square to the Island of Murano, we will take a boat out into the choppy waters of the lagoon. This is one of the larger boats and has an open deck during good weather.

12.00 **Visit to The Glassmaking Island of Murano**

The island of Murano is synonymous with the famous glass-making industries of the region. The decision was made in 1291 to site all of Venice's glass furnaces on the island to avoid major fires on the main island. The factories' products were commercialised all over Europe and the secrets of the trade were closely guarded. Any glass-maker leaving the island was considered a traitor. Many of the glass factories are still owned by an elite group of glass families, such as the Barovier dynasty, who started their factory in the thirteenth century. Some factories specialise in chandeliers, others in glasses, goblets and tablewear.

We will visit a glass-making factory to see the skillful artists at work. Students may like to purchase some of the famous glass as gifts, otherwise they will need to resist the fluent English-speaking salespeople who work on commission.

13.30 Lunch in Murano.

14.45 Vaporetto transfer to the Island of Burano.

15.30

Visit to The Island of Burano.

We will take another boat out into the lagoon and will pass several abandoned islands in the wetlands before landing at the island of Mazzorbo. From Mazzorbo, we will walk over the narrow wooden footbridge that connects with the picturesque island of Burano. Burano is famous for its lace production and for its brightly coloured cottages and tiny canals. Students can take some excellent photographs of the street-life in Burano. The fishermen often barbeque their fresh fish in the street while their wives and children repair the nets or work inside the houses. Participants will never have viewed such a brightly coloured and beautiful town as Burano and we will have some free time on this island before meeting in the central square for a short walk back to the landing stage.

18.00

Return boat transfer to Venice.

19.30

Dinner at Ae Oche Restaurant, Cannaregio, Venice.

21.00

Walk to Campo Santa Margherita, Dorsoduro.

21.30

Free Time in The Campo Santa Margherita - The Student Quarter.

Students will enjoy visiting the bustling Campo Santa Margherita District, which is surrounded by historic universities & which is the focal point for the city's student population.

22.30

Walk to Hotel Zecchini.

23.00

E.T.A. Hotel Zecchini.

DAY FOUR

08.30 Breakfast & loading of suitcases into hotel storage room.

10.00 Walk to the Dorsoduro region of Venice.

10.45 **E.T.A. The Peggy Guggenheim Museum Collection.**
www.guggenheim-venice.it

This collection is sited just down-river from the Accademia, in the most eccentric palace on the whole Grand Canal. Peggy Guggenheim was an American heiress who was equally famous for her extravagant eyewear as her collection of coiffured poodles. She arrived in Venice with a mass of artworks by such artists as Picasso, Brancusi, Chagall, and Duchamp amongst others and installed her collection here for the public to view. The museum also plays host to contemporary art exhibitions and we will be able to visit these as well.

13.00 Lunch in Dorsoduro District.

14.30 **Visit to The Church of Santa Maria della Salute**

Dominating the southern entrance to the Canal Grande, this baroque church is as recognisable an image of Venice as St. Mark's or the Rialto Bridge. Built between 1631 and 1681, it was in thanksgiving for the end of Venice's last bout of bubonic plague which decimated a third of the city's population.

The architect Longhena won the contract among fierce competition. The challenge was to build a church that was colossal and grand yet inexpensive and Longhena succeeded brilliantly.

We will have time to sketch the wonderful view of St. Mark's Square & The Lagoon from the old Dogana Customs House, located behind the Church of Santa Maria della Salute.

16.00 **Lunch & Final Shopping Time in The Rialto Market Area.**

17.00 Walk to Hotel Zecchini.

17.45 E.T.A. Hotel Zecchini. Collect suitcases & prepare for return journey to U.K.

18.15 Walk to Piazza Roma.

18.45 E.T.A. Piazza Roma.

19.00 Bus transfer to Venice Treviso Airport.

20.00 E.T.A. Venice Treviso Airport. Commence check-in.

22.25 Depart Venice on Ryanair Flight 799.

23.30 E.T.A. local airport.
(Local Time)
(Allow 30 minutes for luggage to arrive in the arrivals hall)

00.30 Onward coach transfer to school.

01.30 E.T.A. School.

ALTERNATIVE VISITS TO CONSIDER:

Visit to The The Palazzo Grassi.

www.palazzograssi.it

Located on The Grand Canal, The Palazzo Grassi was constructed between 1748 & 1772 for the wealthy Bolognese Grassi Family. It was one of the last palaces to be built before the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797. Built around a large colonnaded courtyard, the palace now hosts a series of temporary contemporary art exhibitions. A visit to the collections of The Palazzo Grassi is often a highlight for our art groups visiting Venice.

Visit to the Ancient Jewish Ghetto.

This Jewish ghetto is the oldest in Europe & is a fascinating visit. Local Jews profited from money-lending to businessmen at the Rialto & tension would appear when the businessmen were unable to repay the debt. The ghetto has two of the oldest synagogues in Europe & is completely cut off from the rest of Venice by canals & gates that were locked during the curfews. Afterwards we will enjoy some time in the busy shopping street outside.

Visit to The Accademia Gallery.

www.gallerieaccademia.org

The Galleria Accademia hosts the world's most comprehensive collection of Venetian painting and is sited in three former religious buildings. Arranged chronologically, the collection opens with a group of fourteenth and fifteenth century works in the Byzantine style. The greatest strength of the collection starts from room 6, with the three greats of Venetian painting: Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese. Room 10 holds three of the greatest of their paintings, with Tintoretto's ghostly 'Transport of the Body of St. Mark', Titian's moving 'Pietà' and Veronese's huge 'Christ in the House of Levi'.

The collection runs up to the eighteenth century, with works by Canaletto, Guardi, Longhi and Carriera.