



***Itinerary For a Five Day Art Study Tour to Venice.
Prepared For The Art & Design Department.***

Dates: To Be Confirmed.



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 tour itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The tour can be guided throughout. All excursions are well-prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The expert tour guide is able to run the tour 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 Tintoretto***

Santa Fosca 2316 Cannaregio – 30124 Venice, Italy

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hoteltintoretto@hoteltintoretto.com

<https://www.hoteltintoretto.com/>

Most school tours to Venice are based outside central Venice, either on the Lido or the mainland, neither of which qualify for truly being 'Venice'. The Hotel Tintoretto is located on the Strada Nuova, one of Venice's most popular shopping streets in Cannaregio, a few minutes' stroll from The Rialto Bridge & right in the heart of the city.

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 near 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 Tintoretto 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 Guide 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 gelaterias 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 Guide 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 'Ae Oche' which has two branches at either end of the city.

Participants can choose from various delicious pizzas, several pasta choices or a salad. We have found this cosy Cannaregio restaurant to be a very memorable experience for our groups visiting the city.

DAY ONE

- 08.00 Coach arrives at School.
- 08.30 Depart School.
- 09.30 E.T.A. Local Airport. Commence check in.
- 12.30 Easyjet flight 8067 departs Local Airport (North Terminal).
- 15.40 E.T.A. Venice Marco Polo Airport.
(Please note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of British time)
- 16.45 Bus transfer to Piazza le Roma, central Venice.
- 17.30 E.T.A. Piazza le Roma. Walk to Hotel Tintoretto.
- 18.00 E.T.A. Hotel Tintoretto. Check in & allocate room keys.

Students will have time to unpack, settle in & rest after the transfer from the U.K.

- 19.00 Walk to Ae Oche Restaurant.
- 19.20 **Dinner at Ae Oche Restaurant, Lista di Spagna.**
- 21.00 **Introductory Walk of the Rialto area.**

We usually find that our groups are so excited to be in Venice that they are very keen to get out & explore the narrow alleyways, canals & bridges for which the city is so famous. After dinner we can enjoy a walk around the Rialto area & admire the Grand Canal for the first time. We will also have time for our first (of many!) gelato ice-cream while strolling around the edge of the Grand Canal.

- 22.30 E.T.A. Hotel Tintoretto.

DAY TWO

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 **Guided Walking Tour of Venice.**

Venice is a city unlike any other in the world. Known as 'La Serenissima', Venice is compared to a crumbling jewel or a patient constantly in care that never recovers. The city has a fascinating history & our tour guide will lead students through the narrow alleys & across historic bridges telling tales of the city & introducing some of the colourful characters that lived here. By the time we arrive at St Mark's Square, students will have a much better comprehension of the history of the city than most other tourists there.

10.45 **Visit to St. Mark's Square & 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.

Students can opt to pay the optional charge of approximately 7 Euros to ascend the Campanile Belltower in St Mark's Square for panoramic views over the islands & lagoon.

11.45

Visit to The Venice Biennale - Day 1 (The Arsenale).

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. 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.

We will break for lunch at some of the cafes & restaurants located close to the Biennale.

On our first day at the Venice Biennale we will focus on the interior art displays at the Arsenale - the cavernous wooden yards formerly used for shipbuilding during the height of the Venetian Republic. Seven ships per day could be produced at the Arsenale & the whole city kept time with the working hours of the shipyards. Workers had 30 minutes to arrive at work after the first bell tolls in the city.

13.30

Lunch in Piazza San Bartolomeo.

There are several good restaurants around this square which offer better value than in the St Mark's Square region.

14.15

Visit to The Terrace at The Tedeschi Foundation.

The Tedeschi Foundation is a large historic building next to the Rialto bridge in the heart of Venice. Built in the 16th century, it used to be the trading post of German merchants in the city, and its exterior was decorated with frescoes by Giorgione and Titian. Until a few years ago, this was Venice's central post office, shabby but imposing.

Now the building has been restored and transformed into a high-end shopping experience. Somewhere between a mall and a department store. The interior is imposing & a roof has been put over the courtyard which still contains a well. We will ascend to the 4th floor, from where we will wait a short time to ascend to the roof terrace - Venice's newest attraction.

The panoramic views afforded from the roof terrace are spectacular. Students will be able to view the Rialto Bridge beneath them, masses of terracotta roof tiles, St Mark's Basilica & on a clear day one can view as far as the Dolomites. We will aim to arrive on the hour when the ringing bells sound over the rooftops of the city.

15.30

Walk to Guggenheim Foundation.

16.00

Visit to The Peggy Guggenheim Foundation.

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.

17.30

Walk to Hotel Tintoretto.

18.00

E.T.A. Hotel Tintoretto. Rest & relaxation in hotel before dinner.

19.00

Walk to Ae Oche Restaurant.

19.20

Dinner at Ae Oche Restaurant, Lista di Spagna.

21.00

Walk to Hotel Tintoretto.

21.20

E.T.A. Hotel Tintoretto.

DAY THREE

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Walk to The Palazzo Mocenigo.

10.00 **Visit to The Palazzo Mocenigo**

Formerly inhabited by the influential Mocenigo family, seven of whom became Doges of Venice, the Palazzo Mocenigo is now one of the city's finest museums of fabrics & costumes.

In 1985 the museum was designated as the Museum of the History of Fabrics & Costumes. The impressive collection borrows from the Correr, Guggenheim, Grassi & Cini collections.

Of particular interest to textiles students, this museum also contains a library on the first floor dedicated to the history of costumes & fabrics, mainly from the 18th Century.

11.15 Walk to Casa Pesaro.

11.30 **Visit to Casa Pesaro.**

The Ca' Pesaro is a Baroque marble palace facing the Grand Canal. Originally designed by Baldassarre Longhena in mid-17th century, the construction was completed by Gian Antonio Gaspari in 1710. As at his Ca' Rezzonico, a double order of colossal columns and colonnettes flanking arch-headed windows, reinterpreting a motif of Jacopo Sansovino, Longhena creates the impression of double loggias extending across the main Grand Canal frontage, above a boldly rusticated basement.

Today it is one of the 11 museums run by the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia system & contains a lot of modern art in the most beautiful setting. The collection houses 19th & 20th Century paintings & sculptures as well as a section on graphic art. There are frequent & excellent temporary art exhibitions at this museum. A visit here is always popular with our art groups.

13.00 Walk to Piazza San Margherita.

13.15 **Lunch in Piazza San Margherita.**

With 4 ancient & prestigious universities in the vicinity, this square is known locally as 'the students' square'. Students will have a choice of various restaurants & cafes for lunch in this popular square.

15.00

Visit to The Scuola di San Rocco.

One of the greatest sights in Venice, this is the grandest of the *scuole* (schools) or charitable lay foundations concerned with the relief & help for the sick of the city. The interior of the building is a shrine to Tintoretto whose pictorial cycle adorns the walls. Tintoretto won the competition to adorn the interior of the building through blatant cheating – he submitted a perfectly completed panel instead of the hand-drawn outline that was permitted by the judging committee. Painted between 1654 & 1587, the *Sala Grande* upstairs contains one of the finest painting cycles in the world, with Tintoretto's genius revealed through dynamic orchestrations of colour & light showing scenes of drama & strong composition. We will ascend the *grand staircase* to view the *Sala Grande* – visitors feel as if they are visiting a very special jewellery box. Students can use the hand-held mirrors to view Tintoretto's frescoes on the ceiling.

15.00

Walk to Campo Santa Barnaba.

15.15

Visit to Exhibition 'The Genius of Leonardo da Vinci'.

This small permanent exhibition inhabits the space of the Church of S. Barnaba & contains many of the machines & inventions that da Vinci made during his lifetime. Full-size interactive wooden models of some of the machines allow students to turn handles, push buttons & twist applications to actually work the machines. Not only did da Vinci invent plans for the helicopter, water pumps, lifting mechanisms & flying machines, he also found the time to complete several painting masterpieces including The Mona Lisa. The wooden machines are paired with da Vinci's notes & illustrations to provide an insight into his genius & his thinking.

16.15

Exploration of The Dorsoduro district.

Students will enjoy exploring the cobbled streets, canals, shops & cafes of the historic Dorsoduro quarter, perhaps standing on the wooden Accademia Bridge at the exact spot where Rodin painted the iconic scene of the Santa Maria della Salute Church at the bottom end of the Grand Canal.

17.45

Walk to Ae Oke Restaurant, Zattere.

18.10

Dinner at Ae Oke, Zattere.

Our restaurant is located directly on the lagoon & we sometimes eat our dinner on the candlelit terrace while we watch the river traffic glide past. Participants will be able to choose from various types of delicious hand-made pizzas.

19.50

Walk to the Salute Church.

20.10

Optional Evening Concert - 'The Four Seasons' by Vivaldi.
www.interpretiveneziani.com

Participants have the option of viewing an evening concert of 'The Four Seasons' by Vivaldi. The concert is within a short walk of the hotel & is within an ancient Venetian church where Vivaldi actually staged some of his concerts while he lived in the city. The five-piece ensemble play regularly in Venice & the tickets cost approximately £12 per person. The purchasing of the tickets & the organisation of the evening concert can be organised by the Tour Director. Viewing The Four Seasons concert in Venice itself 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 that pupils will have to cover the cost of the concert (approximately £25/person)

22.15

Return walk to Hotel Tintoretto.

22.45

E.T.A. Hotel Tintoretto.

DAY FOUR – ‘ISLAND HOPPING’

08.00 Breakfast.

09.15 Walk to The Jewish Ghetto.

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.

Today the Jewish ghetto is manned by a delegation of Jewish scholars who ensure that the culture & history of the area is preserved. We will see many of the local Jewish population observing their religious rituals, preparing the traditional food & manning the local Museum of Jewish Culture which students can pay a small amount to visit.

11.00 Walk to Fondamenta le 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.

13.00 Lunch in Murano.

14.30 Vaporetto boat transfer to Burano.

15.15 **Visit to The Island of Burano.**

We will take another boat out into the lagoon to arrive at 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.

17.45 Return boat transfer to Venice.

18.30 E.T.A. St Mark's Square, Venice. Walk to The Ae Oche Restaurant.

19.00	<u>Dinner at Ae Oche Restaurant, Lista di Spagna.</u>
20.30	Return walk to Hotel Tintoretto.
21.00	E.T.A. Hotel Tintoretto.

DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast, hotel check-out & room checks.

09.30 Walk to The Accademia Gallery.

10.00 **Visit to The Accademia Gallery.**

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 'Pieta' 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.

11.15 Walk to the Palazzo Fortuny.

11.45 **Visit to The Palazzo Fortuny.**

This beautiful museum is housed in a palace that was formerly inhabited by Mariano Fortuny from 1902.

The museum presents paintings, fabrics & lamps on the first floor along with a history of the palazzo. On the second floor is Fortuny's atelier workshop which still has features created by the artist such as wall-hangings & paintings.

The commune of Venice was gifted the palace by Fortuny's widow & it has been run as a museum since 1975.

This visit is of particular interest to the textiles students in the group.

12.45 **Visit to The Venice Biennale - Day 2 (Giardini).**

On our second day at the Venice Biennale we will focus on the pavilions in the Giardini park, each representing the best art from a particular country. Students will enjoy visiting, comparing & contrasting the artistic offerings from the many countries represented while strolling around Venice's only park.

14.00 Lunch in Piazza San Bartolomeo.

14.30 Walk to St Mark's Square.

15.00 **Gondola Cruise 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 gondolier will give a guided tour of the canals, which reach secret parts of the city that are inaccessible on foot. The canals are magical & the cruise is silent except for the chopping of the water, the paddling of the oar & the snapping of passing tourists as they photograph us on our cruise. 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 choppy waters of the Grand Canal.

16.00 Walk to Hotel Tintoretto.

16.30 **Final Free Time in region of Hotel Tintoretto**

Students may choose to prepare their luggage for the return flight, have a final gelato or sip a drink on the popular pedestrianised high street of Cannaregio.

17.00 E.T.A. Hotel Tintoretto. Collect suitcases & prepare for transfer to U.K.

17.30 Walk to Piazza le Roma.

18.00 E.T.A. Piazza le Roma.

18.15 Bus transfer to Marco Polo Airport.

19.00 E.T.A. Marco Polo Airport. Commence check-in.

21.50 Depart Venice on Easyjet flight 8070.

23.05 E.T.A. Local Airport (North Terminal).

(Local Time)
(Allow 30 minutes for luggage to arrive in the arrivals hall)

00.00 Onward coach transfer to School.

00.45 E.T.A. School.

Please note: This is a Suggested Itinerary only. We make hotel, flight & itinerary bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The timings, airports, flight times & visits contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of hotel, visits & timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.