

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019 – half day tour

THE «MUST SEE» 14:00 – 17:00 (for delegates and partners) limited number of places

Cost per person: €65 + VAT



Whether this is your first time to Venice or the umpteenth, a visit of the historical centre with an expert guide is mandatory to understand the genius of this unique city!

The guide will explain St. Mark's Square – called by Napoleon “the most beautiful drawing room in the world” which used to be – and still is – the focal point of Venice. She will explain the clock tower, the bell tower, and will walk you through the incredible Doges' Palace which was not only home to the elected Doges of Venice but also home to the Venetian government offices and courts of law. This was the seat of Venetian power. You will then walk through the Bridge of Sighs -- where prisoners, who were brought from the dungeons to the courts of law, sighed for their lost freedom, hence the name! – and lastly, you will see the dungeons with the prisoners' desperate writing carved on the walls. Following this plunge into history, you will visit the spectacular Basilica of St. Mark with its glittering gold mosaics.

Your guide will explain the fascinating history of Venice. Venetians were extremely advanced for their time. In fact, they had a somewhat democratic form of government since the Doge was elected by the noblemen and did not acquire his status by birth, as was the case with European monarchies. The «must see»!



MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019 - full day tour

THE TRADITIONS OF VENETIAN CRAFTSMANSHIP - 09:30-16:00 (for partners)

limited number of places - cost per person: €125



The first visit will be to a gold leaf atelier whose owner is the last craftsman left in Europe able to transform gold into tiny sheets, an ancient profession that arrived in Venice from Byzantium back in the 11th century. In this small historic artisan laboratory, gold, silver and other precious metals are transformed into ultra-slim leaves, suitable for applications in multiple fields, such as art, beauty and food industries. You will discover how liquid gold is transformed into the most amazing artistic creations!



The second visit will be of a furnace, hidden away in a small alley of the Cannaregio district. It is one of the most spectacular and best-kept secrets in Venice. In fact, since 1888 this furnace, the oldest in the world of its kind, has been producing precious glass and gold mosaics for the most spectacular monuments in the world: from Westminster in London to the Golden Buddha in Bangkok, from the Theatre de l'Opéra de Paris to the Basilica of San Marco in Venice. One of the highlights of this visit will be the "Color Library" where over 3,500 mosaics of different tones and shades are perfectly filed away.

After lunch, return to St. Mark's on foot, and brief visit of the Basilica of St. Mark's to see its splendid mosaics and thus appreciate the fine craftsmanship that went into it centuries ago!

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019 – full day tour
VENETIAN TEXTILES AND COSTUMES – 09:30-16:00 (for partners) limited number
of places – cost per person: €120



First visit: Palazzo Mocenigo, former residence of one of the most important families of the Venetian patriciate, seven members of which became doges between 1414 and 1778, is now home to Venice's Museum of Textiles and Costumes. The rooms of the Museum skillfully evoke the different aspects of the life and activities of Venetian noblemen between the 17th and 18th centuries, and on display are mannequins wearing valuable ancient garments and accessories belonging to the Museum's Study Centre. Made of patterned fabrics, embellished with embroidery and lace, they bear witness to the expertise of craftsmen from past centuries and convey the refined, luxurious elegance for which the Venetians were renowned.



Second visit: A weaving workshop.

The roots of the family that own this workshop date back to 1499. The actual workshop was founded by an ancestor in 1875, who recovered some looms and machines once used by the Silk Guild of the Republic of Venice. Throughout its history, the company has produced countless fabrics for renowned customers and famous buildings around the world, including the Kremlin!

During this visit, you will see weavers and looms at work, while they produce the refined soprarizzo velvet, and you will be able to touch the fabric made using ancient techniques. After lunch, a walking tour through the district of San Polo.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019 – full day tour

A PALAZZO, A CHURCH AND A THEATRE – 09:30-16:00 (for partners) limited number of places – cost per person €125



First visit: The Fondazione Querini Stampalia was established in 1869 by Count Giovanni Querini, the last descendant of the prosperous Querini Stampalia family. The Foundation is the only institution of the city that promotes the entire heritage of an ancient and noble Venetian family. In fact, the palazzo contains the family's original furnishings and therefore you will be visiting an old Venetian patrician home, giving you insight on how Venetian noble families lived in past centuries.



Second visit: the Church of San Zaccaria, a 15th-century former monastic church in Renaissance style is located in the sunny Campo San Zaccaria, just off the waterfront, a few minutes from St. Mark's Square. The church was originally attached to a Benedictine monastery of nuns who mostly came from prominent noble families of the city and had a reputation for laxness in their observance of the monastic enclosure. The abbess was usually related to the doge. The highlight of this visit is to see an incredible painting of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child by Giovanni Bellini, one of the great Venetian painters from the late 15th early 16th centuries. Its vibrant colours and realistic forms will just astound you.

A PALAZZO, A CHURCH AND A THEATRE ... continued



After lunch, visit the Fenice Theatre: the “Teatro La Fenice” (The Phoenix) opera house is the Venetians’ pride and joy. It is one of the most famous and renowned landmarks in the history of Italian theatre and in the history of opera as a whole. Especially in the 19th century, the Fenice became the site of many famous operatic premières at which the works of several of the four major bel canto-era composers, such as Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi, were performed.

It has “risen from the ashes” three times: the first in 1774; after being destroyed by a fire it was rebuilt in 1792. The second fire in 1836 damaged the theatre only partially but the most devastating fire in 1996, the result of arson, completely raised the theatre to the ground. Only the outer walls and staircase remained standing. As the firemen tried with great difficulty to contain the blaze, Venetians were seen crying in the streets!

With the help of international funding and the cooperation of thousands of Italian artisans, the Fenice Theatre was rebuilt identically to its previous version and re-opened in November 2004, eight years after the fire.

The feasibility of this visit will depend on the theatre’s rehearsal schedule. If not possible, it will be replaced by another visit.

