

Art and Culture Travel

Venice Course

Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th April 2026



An early spring exploration of the extraordinary city of Venice, on and off the beaten track

Join us in Venice in April after Easter and before the Biennale rush, on and off the well-trodden tourist track, for an uplifting trip to enjoy La Serenissima. Just walking around this unique and beautiful 'floating' city is a wonderful experience. On our travels we will also get beneath the skin of the city, exploring not only its history, and the abundance of renaissance art and architecture in its churches, but also some of its most important civic buildings such as the Doge's palace and the basilica of San Marco, as well as looking at some of the more modern art that the city now hosts.

You will also have time to explore the enticing restaurants and enjoy the delicious Venetian food.

"Venice, it's temples and palaces did seem like fabrics of enchantment piled to heaven."

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Thursday 2nd April

We will meet you in the reception of the Hotel Palazzo Paruta at 3.30pm. At 4pm we take a short walk to the stunning Accademia Gallery, where you will have a two-hour guided visit with Fania and Ian, enjoying artists such as Bellini, Tiepolo, Tintoretto, Bosch, and many others. Afterwards we will walk to the Piazza and Piazzetta San Marco where we will consider the layout, image of state and the architecture. We will then walk to supper at a nearby restaurant.



San Giobbe Altarpiece. Giovanni Bellini. c1480. Accademia Gallery.

Friday 3rd April

In the morning we will leave the hotel at 9.30am on a mainly walking tour of some of the great churches and *scuole* of Venice – charitable confraternities, whose membership, open to all Venetians who had citizenship, conferred a great deal of social prestige. They also commissioned some of the most significant artworks of the Venetian Renaissance, from artists such as Tintoretto, Titian, Bellini, Giorgione, Carpaccio and many others.

We will explore the architecture and artworks of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari and the Scuola Grande di San Rocco before walking across the Rialto bridge to Santa Maria dei Miracoli, with a coffee break en route.

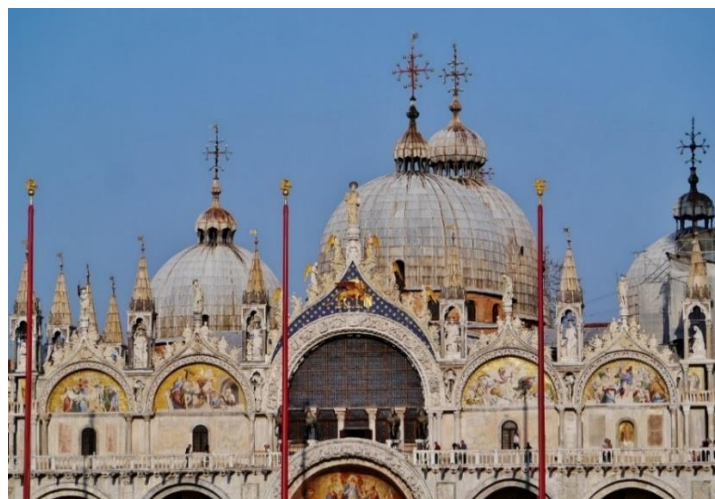
After that, a short walk will take us to the Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavonni.

1.30pm-3.00pm. Lunch.

After lunch we will visit the church of San Zaccaria and Bellini's landmark altarpiece.

4.15pm. Gather in front of the Doge's Palace for a guided tour (4.30pm to 6pm).

After that you have a free evening and supper at your own discretion.



Basilica di San Marco

Saturday 4th April

9.30am. Meet in the hotel lobby.

9.45am. A short walk will take us to the Guggenheim Collection for a guided tour by Jacqueline (10-11.30am). This extraordinary collection, a great favourite of hers, will allow us to consider art collecting by one of the greatest collectors of early 20th Century Modernism. We will consider Peggy's life and loves and enjoy artists such as Ernst, Pollock, Picasso, Klee and Severini.



We will then take the *vaporetto* across to visit the magnificent Palladian churches of Il Redentore and San Giorgio Maggiore. Afterwards, we will reflect on Venice's long legacy into the 19th century and try our hands at drawing some of the views favoured by Turner on his trips to the city.

1.45pm. Taking the *vaporetto* across to San Marco, we will then walk to the Fondamenta Nove (20 minutes), stopping en route for lunch.

4pm-6pm. We have a private visit to the Palazzo Dona delle Rose, where we meet the owner to discuss the extraordinary history of her family of Doges and see her own private collection of art in the palazzo.



Palazzo Dona delle Rose

At 6pm we walk back to the hotel. After supper at your own discretion, we then have a private guided nighttime visit to the Basilica of San Marco, from 10pm to 11pm – a quite magical experience.

Sunday 5th April

Today we will leave at 10.am to walk to the Ca Pesaro with its wonderful collection of international modern and contemporary art which includes masterful works by Gustav Klimt, Auguste Rodin, Joaquin Sorolla and many notable Italian artists such as Medardo Rosso. After a final lunch together, we will return to the hotel around 3pm to collect our bags and travel to the airport, for flights any time after 7pm.



Ca Pesaro

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is Managing Director of Art & Culture Travel. She was formerly Head of the Department of Art History at Westminster School, Chief Examiner in Art History at Cambridge International Examinations, and an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. Ian Cockburn is a director of Art & Culture Travel and has an M.A from the Courtauld Institute in medieval Spanish art history. Fania Weatherby, our third tutor has a B.A in History of Art at St John's College, Oxford University, and an M.A from the Courtauld Institute. She is an experienced guide in Venice.

The fee of £1,980 per person, shared accommodation, minimum 12 people/maximum 18 people, includes:

Three nights double accommodation in the Hotel Palazzo Paruta, a 4-star hotel in an excellent location for exploring Venice; all breakfasts, plus Thursday supper and Sunday lunch; all teaching and guiding by three specialist tutors; all vaporetto tickets; all museum and monument entrance fees, including local guides and private visits, as per the itinerary.

Note: Itinerary subject to change, if necessary

Not included in the fees: flights, transfers to and from the hotel, travel and medical insurance, Friday and Saturday lunch and supper. Individual room supplement 20%.

Fitness: Please note that as a courtesy to your fellow travellers, a good level of fitness and mobility is required for walking and for visiting galleries and monuments.

Contact: Jacqueline Cockburn at Art & Culture Andalucía

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