

Cycling Europe

ITALY: LANDS OF VENICE 2020

8 days/7 nights Self-Guided Cycle tour

270-295 km – Start in Vicenza or Mestre (Venice)



A wonderful easy ride on almost completely flat cycle paths and low traffic roads exploring the land of Prosecco vineyards; incomparable Venice; island hopping the quaint islands in the lagoon to Choggia; along the river to Padova; and finally to Vicenza where you will see some of the best Palladian villas. Besides crossing these prestigious cities it also allows you to discover such jewels as Bassano, Asolo and Choggia.

ITINERARY: Starting in Venice/Mestre

Day 1: Arrive Mestre (Tuesday or Wednesday)

On your arrival in **Mestre or Venice** we advise you to buy a 12 or 24 hour ticket that you will need on the ferryboat from Venice to Chioggia and for several other small transfers in Venice. These tickets are the cheapest solution for those who want to move around with the public transport ACTV in Venice and its surroundings. They allow an unlimited number of transfers and are valid on all kinds of transport on water (except lines Alilaguna, Clodia, Fusina) and urban lines on land in Venice (bus Lido and urban lines in Mestre).



Day 2: Mestre / Venice – Chioggia (Public transport in Venice)

For an independent tour starting in Mestre, you meet our representative in the hotel's reception area at 8.30 am. They will brief you on the tour and hand over your bikes, and answer any questions you may have.

Leaving Mestre this morning you head into Venice pedalling on the 4km bridge "della Liberta", then to Tronchetto harbour. From here you take a ferry along the canal Guidecca to Lido. It is a most exciting day, pedalling on two narrow islands that divide the sea from the lagoon: Malamocci and the island of Pellestrina with its long beaches. **Cycling: 35 km Flat**

Day 3: Chioggia – Padua thermal district

A visit to the fish market at dawn is an absolute must! There may be time to climb Chioggia's millennial clock tower for some breath-taking views. Today pedal along the Bacchiglione River which carried trade in out of Venice centuries ago. On reaching the Euganean Hills, renowned for its unique salt-bromine-iodine waters, you will have the opportunity to relax in an indoor thermal pool at one of many 4* spa resorts in the area. Alternatively (highly recommended) we can book a hotel in historic Padua for a small surcharge. Cycling: 55 km Flat

Day 4: Padua thermal district- Vicenza

Cycle along the Battaglia Canal to Padua. The Bacchiglione River points the way out of the city and you reach Costozza, a little town at the foot of the Berici hills. The bike path passes in front of Villa Rotonda, the most famous of the Palladian villas. Just before entering Vicenza you see the Villa Valmarana ai Nani with its marvellous frescoes by Tiepolo. Vicenza's historical city centre is known for the buildings of the 16th century architect Andrea Palladio.

Cycling: 60 km (elevation up 130m)

Day 5: Vicenza – Bassano del Grappa



From Vicenza you cycle towards the picturesque town of Marostica whose centrepiece is a giant chessboard. In 1454 it was the scene of a live chess game using real people carrying black and white ensigns, to decide which of two suitors would win the hand in marriage of a noblewoman. The event is re-enacted bi-annually (on even years) with all the pomp and ceremony of ancient times. Time to wander the town square and climb up to the castle that

overlooks the town. The last stop is Bassano del Grappa with its covered wooden bridge by Andrea Palladio and the "grappa". **Cycling: 40 km (elevation up 100m)**



Day 6: Bassano del Grappa - Treviso

You enter Asolo, which presents us with the only real uphill section of our ride. The downhill run takes you through the land of Prosecco vineyards and on to Maser. Today's ride ends in Treviso.

It is possible to shorten the stage by 25 km by taking the train from Montebelluna to Treviso.

Cycling: 60 km (elevation up 260/ 300m)

Day 7: Treviso – Mestre/ Venice

Leaving Treviso behind you follow the course of the River Sile up to Casale. At the end of the trip Venice awaits for an evening among canals and narrow streets. **Accommodation in Mestre.** A supplement can be paid to stay in Venice city.

Highlights include: St Mark's Basilica - an opulent mix of western and oriental styles. It is one of the most valuable churches in the world, containing over 4,000 feet of mosaics covered in rubies, emeralds, marble and gold. The first church was built to celebrate the arrival of the body of St Mark to Venice in 828, the 2nd rebuilding after a fire in 976, then rebuilt entirely in 1096. The Doges Palace where secret corridors and rooms lead through several interconnecting rooms where private archives, public deeds and secret contracts of most of Venice magistrates were kept. These rooms are directly linked to the prison where Cassanova was held, and the infamous Sala degli Inquisitori where magistrates could use any method for their investigations. The Gallery of the Accademia is housed in a group of buildings including the Great School, the church of Santa Maria della Carita and the Monastery of the Canon. The collection is a broad spectrum of Venetian painting and its evolution over the centuries. Further afield in the islands of the lagoon is the Murano glass factory and a ride through Venice's canals in a gondola is not to be missed.

Cycling: 45 km

Day 8: Mestre

Tour ends after breakfast. There is an Airport bus from Mestre train station to Venice Airport, or you can take a taxi.

ITINERARY: Starting in Vicenza (start on Saturday or Sunday)

Day 1: Arrive Vicenza

Vicenza has a nice, small, historical city centre characterized by the buildings of the famous architect Andrea Palladio (16th century).

2. Vicenza–Bassano del Grappa (40 km)

From Vicenza you cycle towards Marostica, famous for its castle and the chessboard in the main square. The last stop is Bassano del Grappa with its covered wooden bridge and the "grappa".

3. Bassano del Grappa–Treviso (65 or 40 km)

You enter Asolo, which presents the only real uphill section of your ride. The downhill run takes you to the land of Prosecco vineyards and on to Maser. Possibility to shorten the stage by 25 km by taking the train from Montebelluna to Treviso.

4. Treviso–Mestre/Venice (45 km) Leaving Treviso behind you, follow the course of the River Sile up to Casale. At the end of the trip Venice awaits you for an evening among canals and narrow streets. **Accommodation is in Mestre; a surcharge applies for hotel in Venice (Island).**

5. Mestre/Venice–Chioggia (35 km)

Leaving Mestre this morning, you head into Venice pedalling on the 4 km bridge "della Libertà", then to Tronchetto harbour. From here you take a ferry along the canal Giudecca to Lido. This is the most exciting day, pedalling on two narrow islands that divide the sea from the lagoon: Malamocco and the island of Pellestrina.

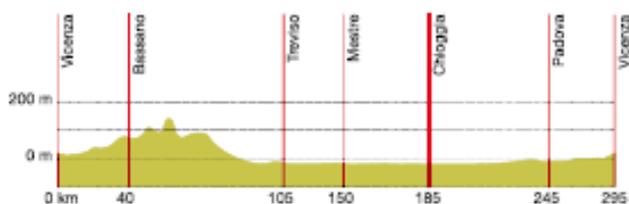
6. Chioggia–Padua thermal district (55 km) You will be pedalling along the river Bacchiglione, which carried trade in and out of Venice in this area centuries ago. Once at the foot of the Euganean Hills, you will have the chance to relax in a 4* spa resort in the largest European thermal district. Alternatively (highly recommended) we can book a hotel in historic Padua for a small surcharge.

7. Padua–Vicenza (60 km)

Along the cycle path of the Battaglia Canal you will pass through Padua, home to one of the oldest Italian universities. Worth visiting are the great basilica dedicated to St. Anthony, the historic Caffè Pedrocchi and Prato della Valle, the biggest square in Italy. The Bacchiglione River points the way out of the city and you reach Costozza, a little town at the foot of the Berici hills. The bike path passes in front of Villa Rotonda, the most famous of the Palladian villas. Just before entering Vicenza you will see Villa Valmarana ai Nani with its marvellous frescoes by Tiepolo (entrance included).

8. Vicenza: Tour ends after breakfast.

ROUTE PROFILE/ GRADE: EASY



Easy - suitable for most levels of fitness. The itinerary is completely in the lowlands except for the 1 km slope in Asolo. You ride on secondary streets with low traffic, or on paved bike paths. The terrain is 85% paved and 15% unpaved. **Trains with bike transportation connect the main cities of the**

tour, so in case of bad weather, or if you need a day of rest, or to shorten the ride, you can reach your destination by train. The ferryboat transfers in Venice are not included in the "Category B" tour price (3 ferryboat transfers cost in total approximately €20 per person + bike).

BIKES

Bikes are available in various sizes in mens, womens or unisex models. Please indicate on our booking form - You can choose from the following bikes

- City bike 27 gear Shimano Deore or
- City bike 7 gear Shimano Nexus with back pedal brake
- Racing bike 27 gear with carbon fork
- Electric bike
- Pino tandem

BIKE FEATURES AND ACCESSORIES

Aluminium frame with mudguard
Comfort gel saddle
5 function cycle computer/odometer
NORCO front saddlebag or A4 format map holder or basket
One-sided pannier/ saddle bag
Water bottle
Repair kit (inner tube, patch, glue, pump)
Anti-puncture Schwalbe Marathon 700 x 35 tyres
Combination lock

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Children's bikes, child seats, bike trailer, Follow-me tandem and helmets (€15 – must pre-book)

2020 SCHEDULE

Self-Guided tour from Vicenza – Every Saturday & Sunday, from 21 March to 24 Oct 2020

Category A, B, A+

Self-Guided tour from Mestre – Every Tuesday or Wednesday, from 21 March to 24 Oct 2020

Category A, B

You can request to stay in Venice (one night), instead of Mestre for the last night of this tour for an additional charge, including luggage delivered to the hotel. This price varies with the season.

Price on request (approx. Extra €40 –€50 per person).

Alternatively we can book a hotel in historic Padua for a small surcharge €20 per person.

ACCOMMODATION

Category A

Mainly 4 *hotels, with some 3 * hotels

Category A+

4* and Luxury hotels, with 3* hotel in Venice

Category B

3* hotels with small cosy 2* hotel in Vicenza.

BIKES

Bike Hire – 27-speed unisex or men's € 85

Electric Bike €195

Helmet Hire € 15

Wearing helmets is not mandatory in Italy. If you wish to wear a helmet, please request at the time of booking, or take your own well fitted helmet.

2020 COSTS & DATES PER PERSON IN EURO

Low Season: 21 March – 24 April & 03– 24 October

Mid-Season: 25 April-19 June and 05 September – 02 October

High Season: 20 June – 04 September

	Cat. B	Cat. A	Cat. A+
	2/3 * hotels	3/4 * Hotels	4* & Luxury
Low Season Double / Twin Share	€610	€720	€1390
ADD Mid-Season surcharge	€ 70	€ 70	€ 70
ADD High Season surcharge	€120	€120	€120
ADD Single Supplement	€180	€230	€380

ADD €20 to overnight in Padua instead of Padua thermal district

Special departures: Due to an annual gold exhibition that takes place in Vicenza in September, the tour will have special departure dates to be advised.

ADDITIONAL NIGHTS IN VENICE MESTRE PER PERSON COST

All rates include breakfast:	Cat. B 2/3 * Hotel	Cat A. 3/4 * Hotel
Double / Twin Share from	from € 55	from € 70
Single Room from	from € 85	from €100

ADDITIONAL NIGHTS IN VICENZA/TREVISO PER PERSON COST

All rates include breakfast:	Cat. B 2/3 * Hotel	Cat A. 3/4 * Hotel
Double / Twin Share from	from € 45	from € 55
Single Room from	from € 75	from € 85

Local Hotel taxes – to be paid direct to hotel €3.50- €5 per person per night

Venice: Please ask for our two night Venice accommodation package rates if you would like to spend time in Venice before or after your cycling tour. These packages include bed & Breakfast and a walking tour.

2020 COST INCLUDES:

- o 7 nights hotel accommodation in chosen category – all rooms have private bathroom
- o Daily Buffet Breakfast
- o Luggage transfers between tour hotels
- o Welcome briefing in English at your first hotel
- o Detailed cycling notes, route maps, stage descriptions and places of interest
- o 7 Day Service Hotline
- o Ice-cream in the best ice-cream parlour of Vicenza
- o Category A & A+ option only: Ticket for ferry transfer (on day 2 or 5), bike ticket not included, approx €4)

Not included in Cost: Local Hotel taxes €2 - €4.50 per person, per night to be paid direct to hotel.

Not included in Cost for Category B: Ferry/boat transfers /24 hour tickets for Venice Public transport (approx €25)

GETTING TO & FROM MESTRE OR VICENZA

The closest airport to Mestre: Venice Marco Polo (VCE).

Every day the Fly Bus shuttle service departs every 25 – 30 minutes the Venice Mestre train station, from 6.00am to 11.40pm. The transfer time is approximately 20 minutes and costs around €4.

If you start in Vicenza: Verona Airport is closest airport, otherwise fly into Venice. From Verona Airport (VRN), there is a frequent bus into Verona Port Nova train station, from there you can catch a train to Vicenza (25 min by fast train).

WEATHER

In Veneto you will find cool or mild temperatures in spring and autumn, whereas in summer (June – September) the climate is definitely hotter and more humid with a strong possibility of cooling rains.

BOOK THROUGH:

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

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