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As it is essential to the future of the Venetians and guarantees you to get the real thing and to have a much better experience of Venice. It is not easy, though. Thankfully, there is a social enterprise in Venice that works closely with the Venetian business owners (shops, restaurants and bars included). They have a certification process where the local artisan shops attest and commit to selling products both authentic and sustainable as well as to limit any % discount to the customer carrying a Venezia Autentica Friends Pass[dead link] (bought for only 10€). E-commerce runs the majority of ATMs within tourist areas, which carry both hefty ATM fees and extortionate exchange rates. To avoid the extortionate exchange rates, you should reject the first currency conversion offered to you, which will allow you to default to your bank's rate. When possible, you should use ATMs provided by actual banks and financial institutions. The Credit Agricole ATM machines are notable because they do not charge ATM fees or offer excessive currency conversion rates for most Visa Debit and Prepaid cards. If you've come to Venice thinking that you won't be able to do a bit of designer shopping, think again. Just like in every major Italian city, you get the big fashion brand names. For label clothing shopping, the best area is that around the Piazza San Marco, where you can find Versace, MaxMara, Gucci, Armani, Louis Vuitton, Prada (and numerous more) big names. If you want to shop for clothing or accessories, though, you don't necessarily have to shop through the biggest names in fashion. In the Campo Santa Stefano and Calle della Mandola, you can get less famous or local boutiques, but you can find some excellent quality and/or unique items such as clothes, shoes, wallets or handbags. Look for the hand-made paper and the exquisite miniature buildings made by Moro. Watch out for fakes; Moro "signs" his name on the back. Also, beware of fakes and "free" trips to neighbouring Murano for its famous glass. (See article for details.) Tourist traps: "Coloured Pasta" and "Venetian Limoncello" (not the original Neapolitan one) are not Italian food, no Italian would ever eat them, they are particularly made for tourists. For typical regional Italian food in food shops, check the labels to discover where they have been made. Don't miss the Rialto market on San Polo, the smallest sestiere. The Rialto market is for shoppers. To the east is an area of small shops and restaurants; to the west is the Rialto farmers' market. Shopping is slightly less expensive than in the tourist-filled Piazza San Marco. Individual listings can be found in Venice's district articlesâ plate of cicchetti and two glasses of prosecco, enjoyed al fresco.Sepe al nero, cuttlefish cooked with their ink lagoon, a traditional Venetian dish.A bacaro in Venice. Venice is home to a rich and distinct regional cuisine; there are numerous wonderful restaurants, including a few Michelin starred ones. However, the city is also home to many more mediocre eateries that will not stay away from overinflated prices. This has led to it becoming widely regarded that the restaurants in Venice serve food of a quality and in quantities much lower than anywhere else in Italy. However, with a bit of caution and planning ahead you'll have many excellent experiences eating in Venice. Rule of thumb is that if there's a waiter outside pimping for business, it's probably best avoided! One of Venice's trademark foods is Sepe al nero, cuttlefish and its ink. This intense black ink serves as a sauce and ingredient for polenta (corn meal), risotto (rice), and pasta. These dishes are normally indicated by the Italian words "nella seppia" (in cuttlefish), "alla seppia" (in the style of cuttlefish), or "nero di seppia," (black of the cuttlefish). For example, Polenta Nella Seppia is fried corn meal with the black ink of a cuttlefish. Despite the intensity in color, the ink has a surprisingly mild taste. Other Venetian dishes include Fegato alla veneziana, chopped liver, cooked with chopped onions and Sarde in saor: fried sardines, dipped in fried onion, raisins and pine nuts, spices and vinegar. For snacks, Venice has its own version of tapas, the cicchetti. Often paired with wine you will find that most restaurants and bars serve some variant of it. There are also many "bacaros in Venice, a wine bar that serves a wide selection of cicchetti to go along. What Venice is not famous for is its pizza, Italy is a big country and pizza is generally more of a speciality in its southern parts. While there are restaurants serving it and some even do it acceptably, don't compare it to other parts of the country. If you really are craving for pizza, try the local chain Pizzeria Ae Oche. Meals are plentiful and prices reasonable, look to spend between 5-10 for a pizza depending on how exotic your selection is. For Americans, you can find a place called Quanto Basta pizza that serves an American-style pizza with pepperoni and french fries. Be careful when the prices are on a weight basis (typically by the "etto", abbreviated "hg", or 100 g). One dish can easily contain 400g of fish or meat (almost a pound) - coming to 4 times the indicated base price! Restaurants might offer low prices for food on their menu that they advertise outside the entrance, but they will sometimes compensate this by charging high prices for drinks (which is naturally "not advertised"). 5 for 33 cl of beers is not uncommon. La Bauta, an eatery on Fondaco Guffaro, is a good example. Also, please make sure that you get your change back after payment as sometimes it may be 'forgotten' by the waiters. To save money at lunch, eat standing up - that's what Venetians do themselves do. Every cafe, trattoria, osteria, enoteca or whatever it chooses to call itself is stocked at lunchtime with cicchetti - Venetian tapas, including tramezzini (triangular sandwiches on white bread), bite-sized rolls with various cold cuts, polpette (fried balls of minced fish or meat) and assorted antipast. Order by pointing at what you want on the glass shelves, and wash the whole thing down with a glass of wine (un'ombra) or a spritz made with, in order of bitterness and alcohol content, Aperol, Campari or Select). Bear in mind that as soon as you allow yourself to sit at the table and be waited on, instead of ordering and consuming your food at the counter, the prices for the same items go up - you can end up paying double. If you look at the (government-mandated) chart of prices stapled to the wall near the bar, you'll see 2 columns of numbers, accommodating this arrangement. However, sitting is worth it if you plan on staying a while. Some places will also serve free bread and water for seated patrons, but then there is usually also a small charge (1-3 per person) for "pane e coperto" (bread and cover charge). There are a few supermarkets in the city, so if you are in the need to save some money, these are an option as they serve a wide array of prepared and semi-prepared food. On the main street from the station to the Rialto bridge there is a Coop and a Billa supermarket. There are still many small bakery shops and "biavorali" where you can buy bread, cheese etc., particularly near the Rialto market area. For fresh fruit (including chilled coconut) watch out for the street market stalls.

There is always a boat parked in the canal on campo San Barnaba selling fruit and vegetables into the late hours. If you want to buy water (Venice has excellent free tap water easily accessible at the numerous fountains located outside throughout the city) it is usually cheapest to get it at the supermarkets: there are Billa or Co-op stores located throughout the city, though supermarkets are often "disguised" in nondescript buildings in Venice or space limitations. Head to the Dorsoduro area of Venice if you want to save a few euros. It is located on the south side of the city. It has the highest concentration of places where locals, especially students, go to eat. Generally staying away from the main squares will be the cheapest option. If you're willing and able to walk around the town, some back streets offer the best food for the lowest price. Seeing the city from this vantage point is a lot of fun too! The Rialto food markets are an absolute must for fruit, vegetables and cheese, but most of all for the huge range of seafood, much of it fresh out of the lagoon and still moving! There are a variety of small stores around the city that sell fruits and vegetables, but tourists will be hard-pressed to find them. Anything else you will find in the one of the few supermarkets in the city. There are 6-7 Michelin star restaurants in Venice, with prices to match. Near the Rialto bridge there's a row of restaurants with tables by the canal, where you can have the quintessential Venice experience of dining by the canal lights. Although they do have waiters outside begging you, some have pretty acceptable quality for price, which is almost always expensive anyway. You will find ice cream all over the city, and you will hardly survive a hot summer day without it. Prices are 1.00-1.50 for one scoop, 2.50-3.50 for three scoops. Aperol Spritz, a small cicchetti and gorgeous Venetian backdrop.A classic Bellini, as served at Harry's Bar where it was invented. The typical local drink loved by all Venetians is Spritz, which is a mix of liquor and Prosecco with sparkling water to top it off. Aperol Spritz is by far the most common but there are variants with Campari or Select too. Almost all bars in the city serve it with prices range from 5 to 12, depending on how close you are to the main tourist arteries. Spritz are usually paired with cicchetti, the Venetian version of tapas. Another famous drink is the Bellini was invented in Harry's Bar in Venice. It is a mix of white peach juice and Prosecco (the ubiquitous Venetian Champagne-like sparkling wine). Fermented at a low temperature Prosecco develops amylac aromas (fruit drops), though these perhaps mix better with fruit juices than does the more austere Champagne. Classic Bellinis should never be made with Champagne. Although by normal standards expensive, a Bellini in Harry's Bar (17 for a 1.5 oz drink is obscene) is still much cheaper than on the terraces of similar "5-star" establishments in the city. A small Grappa is a common way to end meals, but be careful as it is brandy with 30 to 60 per cent alcohol. Beer in a small pub is about 5 for a pint (birra media). A cafe in Piazza di San Marco. Coffee is everywhere in Venice, and both Venetians and the tourists avid themselves of the opportunities, usually by dowing a quick dose at the counter (see warning about sit-down prices above). Rule of thumb: the bigger (and shinier) the espresso machine, the better the result. Espresso, the real Italian, is about 1 at the bar, 2 at a table. E Rosa Salva. One of the favorites is the mini-caffè "E Rosa Salva", with three locations in the center - on C. Fùbera (from Piazza San Marco, take the underpass in the middle of the arcade, cross the bridge and take second right off C. Fabbri), Merceria S. Salvatore (off the campo of the same name), and right on Campo San Zanipolo (to the right of the church looking from the canal); the last one is a gelateria as well. For your 1 you'll get exactly 2 and a half sips at the bottom of a small cup, with rich crema and no bitterness. Assorted house-made sweets are 1.10. There are a number of fantastic bars in Venice, most are small places with lots of charm. Bars that stay open after 23:00 are clustered around a few late-night drinking areas in Venice. Notice that Piazza San Marco is not one of them, although it is very pleasant with many people wandering around late. The actual late night scene is in either Campo Santa Margherita, where the student crowds from nearby the University Ca' Foscari in Dorsoduro hangs out; upscale Erbaria on the West side of the Rialto Bridge where the main vegetable market is held during the day and along Fondamenta de la Misericordia in Cannaregio. The bars along Fondamenta de la Misericordia is anchored by Paradiso Perduto, which features live music on most nights. There's usually youths cruising (in motor boats) along the canal, blaring Italian rap songs in Italian from the loudspeakers. Pub crawls are best planned in advance, as there's a real risk of wasting an hour or two wandering aimlessly in search of a watering hole that's open, especially midweek. Most bars close at 01:00, so make sure you notice which ones are open until 02:00 or 03:00. There's next to no night clubs in proper Venice, to get to those you have to follow the locals and head over the bridge into Mestre, or head to the Lido. Those looking for LGBT nightlife in Venice will be disappointed. Hop on the train to Padua instead. There are two Irish pubs in Venice. One is located along the Strada Nova in Cannaregio; the other one is the Irishark just before Campo Sant

Maria Formosa. The Palazzo Civran and Grand Canal at dusk. This 15th-century building that was substantially altered in the early 17th century now houses the Guardia di Finanza. Due to the historic city's constrained area and international popularity hotels are expensive. Bed and Breakfasts and guesthouses offer better rates. Real budget solutions (like camping and hostels) can be found in Mestre (mainland Venice) and on the island of Lido. Alternative accommodation can also be found on the island of Murano. These are worth considering since historic centre is quite well-connected with buses and ferries, so staying further from the centre is not such a big problem, as for example it takes only 11 minutes to travel from Mestre to islands of Venice by train. In the last few years, holiday or short rentals apartments have increased in number and quality, now you can rent (minimum stay is usually 3 nights) a Palazzo on the Grand Canal as a little flat near Rialto.As of Sep 2021, Venice has 4G from Iliad and TIM, and 5G from Vodafone and Wind Tre. The city has been steadily building out the municipal Wi-Fi network, which now covers almost the entire area around the Grand Canal and some of the larger squares in the center. You can buy guest access at approximately 5 per day at the same unified Venice Unica site where the transport and museum passes are sold. However if you only need occasional access, it may not be worth buying this as you can get free wifi at most accommodations and at a lot of the museums in Venice. Venice has several internet cafes, but they are much more expensive than the rest of Europe with prices for an hour of access around 6. Wi-Fi is only available at some of them. There's a wonderful pub, Cafe Blue in Dorsoduro, which has free (password-protected) wi-fi. Buy a spritz and a panini and go town. At the Telecom Italia Future Centre in Campo San Salvatore (San Marco) you can browse for free for one hour, once registered with your ID card. To use an internet cafe, buy a mobile SIM card or get a contract for an Internet connection. Personal identification is needed by law in Italy. Internet cafes will not let you use computers without a passport or national ID card. Calle Delle Botteghe on San Marco 2970 Venezia is a pretty art gallery type internet cafe with a book shop. It is on the expensive side with 3 for 15 min but you can just go in and play chess with a glass of wine. Venice is considered a safe city. You have to take the habitual travellers' precautions however. Keep your valuable items (like wallet and passport) close to you because there are pickpockets, especially in more crowded parts of the city.In case of need, you can dial free of charge on any phone 112 (no area code needed) to contact Carabinieri or 113 (no area code needed) to contact the Police. Sometimes, in the evening and night hours, Campo Bella Vienna and Campo Santa Margherita are places for violence, so be careful if you stay here. Since 2024-2025 there are a lot of pickpockets, so you should avoid highly crowded areas. Do not touch or swim in the extremely polluted water in the canals. Some of that water comes from the surrounding Venetian Lagoon, but the rest comes straight from toilets and kitchen sinks. Venice has begun to install septic tanks in buildings, but much of the city has not yet been upgraded and releases untreated sewage directly into the canals. Avoid bathing yourself, touching the water, immersing feet, etc. in the canals looking for refreshment in the hot season. Also, at night there is a risk of falling into the water, as there are many alleys which end in the water but have little or no lighting. In the warmest months, these conditions can sometimes generate foul odors. Choose other times to visit if they might ruin what should be a highly enjoyable stay. You can reach the emergency medical service dialing free of charge on any phone 118 (no area code needed, conversation will be recorded) to have assistance and an ambulance sent to you. Chemists' shops (Italian: Farmacie) are all around the town. They are open 24 hr a day, 7 days a week on a rotational basis: outside the shop there's always the list of operating hours with timetables, address and number. If you need a special drug you might be asked to book it in advance if it's not in common use. Note that the commercial name or brand of your prescription might differ from your country of origin, and make sure that the medication you want is available in the EU. Much of Venice's famous architecture is extremely old and showing the effects of being mishandled by the flood of tourists, some small fraction of whom behave as if they were in a modern holiday resort complex instead of an ancient city. To preserve the wonder of this city for future generations, everyone needs to treat the city's infrastructure as if you were in a large, open-air art museum. The city officials state that it is necessary to enforce rules that preserve the city's urban cleanliness and make sure visitors behave themselves. The following tips will come in handy: Walk on the right side of the street, especially on narrower streets, you'll contribute to making your way and others walk faster, safer, and tidier. Do it always, even if the street is empty; you never know if there is someone behind corner and you will end to hit him. Do not block the flow of traffic, especially on bridges.Do not bathe, dive into, or swim in the canals; it is dangerous and unhealthy (the canals are the city's ancient open-air sewage system, and you risk being hit by motorboat traffic). Violations are subject to fines up to 350 and being banned from the city for the next 48 hours, even if you have a prepaid hotel room and non-refundable tickets to events. More information is available on #EnjoyRespectVenezia website.Do not walk around bare-chested or in swimwear; this is punishable by a fine of up to 250.Do not sit down or lie down on the ground, on monuments, on steps, on bridges, on buildings (or even lean against them), or sit in public on anything else except chairs and benches made for this purpose, and especially do not sit on the ground to eat.Picnics are banned in all public areas. They are punishable by a fine of 100200, and the police can immediately ban you from the area. If you need to rest or want to watch the people going by, look for one of Venice's bright red public benches to sit (but not lie down) on.Do not camp or sleep in public areas; the fine is 200, and the police will immediately ban you from the area.Do not feed the birds or other wildlife and do not litter; the fines go up to 500. It may seem strange that feeding the birds has a higher penalty than littering, but this is because the birds are a fragile wetlands ecosystem, so please exercise more than the usual care. The municipal city of Venice maintains an up-to-date list of rules and regulations in English and several other languages at their official website. To avoid the worst of the crowds, unless it is winter, try to visit the San Marco and Rialto bridge areas during early morning and late evening. During the late morning and afternoon, stay away as far as possible from this area, for instance walking around west Santa Croce, north Cannaregio, eastern Castello and Giudecca. Alternatively, take day trips to places outside central Venice such as Burano, the Lido, Padua or Vicenza, or simply take the opportunity to refresh in your hotel. Venice (emergency call), 113. Carabinieri (emergency call), 112. First Aid (emergency call), 118. Venice Hospital, +39 041 5294111. Medical Service on Duty, +39 041 5294060. Tourist Information, +39 041 5298700. Gondola Service San Marco, +39 041 5206685. Gondola Service Rialto, +39 041 5224904. Gondola Service Danefin, +39 041 5222254. Airport San Marco Information, +39 041 2609260. Airport San Marco Lost and Found Office, +39 041 2609222. Railway information, 892021 (in country only). Railway Lost and Found Office, +39 041 785531. Most of the consulates listed here are only honorary consulates, so can only offer limited consular services. If you need any serious help, try visiting Milan, where larger consulates can sometimes be found; however, it will usually be easier to visit the Italian capital, Rome, where most countries' embassies are found. Australia, Via della Libertà, 12, +39 041 5093061, mc@castelbrande.it. Austria, Santa Croce, 251, +39 041 5240556, consolato.austria@zoppas.com. Belgium, Dorsoduro, 3464, +39 041 5242944, piero.reis@sgpaa.lu. Czech Republic, Cannaregio, 3821, +39 041 2413984, venice@honorary.mzv.cz. Denmark, Santa Croce, 466/g, +39 041 2413984, covedk@hotmail.com. Finland, Rio dei Scudi 2654/A, +39 347 1245016, finland.consulate.venice@gmail.com. France, Castello, 6140, +39 041 5224319, cfvenise@yahoo.fr. Germany, Santa Croce, 251, +39 041 5237675, venedig@hk-diplo.de. Greece, Castello 4683/C, +39 041 5237260, gcrcon.ven@mfa.gr. Lithuania, Santa Croce, 764, +39 041 5241131, info@consolatolituania.venezia.it. Luxembourg, Castello, 5312, +39 041 5222047, consulu@astwelbnet.lt. Malta, Piazzala da Vinci, 8, Mestre, +39 041 3969100, maltaconsul.venice@gov.mt. Mexico, Santa Marta, Fabricato, 17, +39 041 2712642, consuladomexico.venice@service.net. Monaco, San Polo, 747, +39 041 5223772, consomaco.venice@tin.it. Netherlands, San Marco, 2888, +39 041 5283416, cons.paesibassi.ve@libero.it. Norway, Santa Croce, 466/g, +39 041 5231345, consolato.norvegia.ve@longanescattani.it. Portugal, San Marco, 1747, +39 041 5223446, perchidoni@yahoo.it. Russia, San Marco, 4718/a, +39 041 12418879. Spain, San Polo, 2646, +39 041 52323254. Sweden, Sestiere Cannaregio 166, +39 041 5252489, consolato.svezia.venezia@gmail.com. Switzerland, Dorsoduro, 810, +39 041 5225996, venezia@honrep.ch. Turkey, Santa Marta, Fabricato 17, +39 041 5230707, consolatoturcia@bassani.it. United States, Venice Marco Polo Airport, Via Galileo Galilei, 30, +39 041 5415944, USCitizensVenice@state.gov. Venezia Centre, San Marco, Sottoparco della Avca 5016Venezia 1: Cannaregio, Lista di Spagna 233Venezia 3: San Polo, Campo San Polo 2012Venezia 4: San Marco, Calle Larga de l'Ascension 1241Venezia 5: Castello, Calle Barbaria delle Tole 6674Venezia 8: Giudecca, Fondamenta Sant'EufemiaVenezia 9: Castello, Via Garibaldi 1641Venezia 10: Dorsoduro, Zattere

Fondamenta al Ponte Longo 1507Venezia 11: Sant'Elena, Viale 4 Novembre 2324Venezia 12: Santa Croce, Fondamenta Santa Chiara 411Venezia 13: Cannaregio, Calle dele Cooperative sncMurano: Fondamenta Navagero 48Burano: Fondamenta Terranova 162Lido di Venezia: Via Doge Domenico Michiel 1Malcomocco: Campo Chiesa 1 Metropolitan Venice has many interesting destinations far from the Venetian curcs. Around the Venetian lagoon are other smaller islands, which have since been deserted but are worth a visit. There is also the Lido, which is a long narrow island with more modern buildings, hosting a youth hostel and a hotel.Burano Island famous for lace, textiles and colorfully painted houses.Lido The island of tranquility, a beach district 10 minutes by boat from San Marco, and where the Venice movie festival is held.Mestre Town in the mainland, but still a part of Venice-Murano Nearby island famous for its glassware. San Lazzaro Nearby island with Armenian monastery and impressive art collection, some world class pieces.Torcello Nearby island with a 7th-century basilica church and an archeological museum.Riviera del Brenta Palladian villas around Brenta River, 20 minutes from Venice by car, or you can get there via biking tours with a local bike hire shop.Lake Garda An easy day trip by train, it is Italy's largest lake and stunning in scenery.Fo Delta Peaceful and scenic marshy area southwest of Venice with bike trails.Eraclea Typical for its pinewood and Laguna del Mort, 55 minutes from Venice by car or by boat.Jesolo Jesolo is one of the most important beaches in Italy, just 45 minutes from Venice by car or by boat (ferry from Treporti to Venice)Padua (I. Padova) 40km west of Venice, home to the Basilica of St. Anthony, the Scrovegni Chapel, and the oldest Botanical Gardens in the world, among others.Cortina d'Ampezzo Lovely alpine town, site of 1956 Winter Olympic Games. Great mountain scenery, might be very expensive. A couple of hours of car ride to the north of Venice, more than 3 hours by train and bus. This city travel guide to Venice has guide status. It has a variety of good, quality information including hotels, restaurants, attractions and travel details. Please contribute and help us make it star! Geography & Travel Physical Geography of Land Islands & Archipelagos Italia: Venezia What is Venice and where is it located? Why is Venice famous as a "city of canals"? What makes the architecture of Venice unique? How has Venice's geographical location influenced its history? What events led to Venice becoming a major trading power in the past? How do ancient landmarks like St. Mark's Basilica reflect Venice's history and culture? Venice, city, major seaport, and capital of both the provincia (province) of Venezia and the regione (region) of Veneto, northern Italy. An island city, it was once the centre of a maritime republic. It was the greatest seaport in late medieval Europe and the continents commercial and cultural link to Asia. Venice is unique environmentally, architecturally, and historically, and in its days as a republic the city was styled la serenissima (the most serene or sublime). It remains a major Italian port in the northern Adriatic Sea and is one of the worlds oldest tourist and cultural centres.Since the fall of the Venetian republic in 1797, the city has held an unrivaled place in the Western imagination and has been endlessly described in prose and verse. The luminous spectacle of ornate marbled and gilded palaces, bell towers, and domes reflected in the sparkling waters of the lagoon under a blue Adriatic sky has been painted, photographed, and filmed to such an extent that it is difficult to distinguish the real city from its romantic representations. The visitor arriving in Venice is still transported into another world, one whose atmosphere and beauty remain incomparable.Today Venice is recognized as part of the artistic and architectural patrimony of all humanity, a fitting role for a city whose thousand-year economic and political independence was sustained by its role in global trading. The situation of the city on islands has limited modern suburban spread beyond the historic centre; its framework of canals and narrow streets has prevented the intrusion of automobiles; and its unmatched wealth of fine buildings and monuments dating from the period of commercial dominance has ensured a keen and almost universal desire for sensitive conservation. This concern for conservation is now extended not just to the citys monuments but to the very city itself, as rising water levels and subsidence of the land upon which Venice is built threaten the continued existence of the city in its present form. In 1987 Venice and its lagoon were collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Pop. (2022 est.) city, 254,661; metropolitan area, 839,396. Situated at the northwestern end of the Adriatic Sea, Venice lies on an archipelago in the crescent-shaped Laguna Veneta (Venice Lagoon), which stretches some 32 miles (51 km) from the reclaimed marshes of Jesolo in the north to the drained lands beyond Chioggia at the southern end. The shallow waters of the lagoon are protected by a line of sandbanks, or lidi, whose three gaps, or porti, allow passage of the 3-foot (1-metre) tides and the citys maritime traffic. On the sandbanks are many small settlements, some of them centuries old. The best-known is the Lido itself, which has been a fashionable seaside resort since the 19th century. Although Venice may aptly be regarded as an isolated sea city, it has always had close links with the surrounding mainland and the mainland of northern Italy. The Venetian republic included the perimeter of the lagoon, and from the early 15th century, especially after the fall of the Venetian republic, it annexed a large land empire known as terraferma (dry land), stretching from the Istrian Peninsula in the east to the borders of Milan in the west.

From the Po River in the south to the high Alps in the north, from the 16th century onward, the Venetians invested heavily in the purchase, reclamation, and drainage of terraferma lands. The imprint of the republic may still be seen in former subject cities, such as Padua, Verona, and Vicenza, where Venetian Gothic palaces line the streets and the symbol of Venice, the lion of San Marco, stands over the city squares. Guess the City by Its River Quiz Thdu the administrative city, or comune, of Venice embraces the 90-mile (145-km) perimeter of the lagoon, taking in the urban and industrial areas of Mestre and Marghera and the Marco Polo International Airport at Tessera. The proportion of the population of the comune that lives in Venice itself has shrunk steadily. At the beginning of the 20th century the historic city centre contained three-fourths of the comunes population, and at mid-century it still contained more than half. By the beginning of the 21st century that fraction had shrunk to less than one-fourth. Points of Interest & Landmarks (196)Private Sightseeing Tours (617)Skip the line Tickets (35)Historic Walking Areas (41)Museum Tickets & Passes (35)Nature and Wildlife Tours (52)Observation Decks & Towers (4)Airport & Hotel Transfers (316)Weddings & Honeymoons (39)Architectural Buildings (118)Multi-day & Extended Tours (20)Holiday & Seasonal Tours (2) Visitors flock to Venice year-round, and who can blame them? Some 118 islands float on this fair-lye lagoon, linked by 400 bridges. Each is crammed with dazzling palazzi (mansions)and heart-stopping art it really is a place like no other.All the famous stereotypes are, to an extent, its spectacular and its just like the photos but, thanks to mass tourism, Venices world-famous sights are overcrowded and in precarious health (even during the quieter months).It is worth remembering that even in the busiest areas, just step one or two blocks away from the fray and you'll find empty streets and local voices in the neighborhoods beyond. Spend more time here five days is a decent starter and you'll discover that the true beauty of Venice isn't the view factor of its blockbuster sights, as magnificent as they are, but within the quieter spaces, where life goes on as it has done for centuries. Once you glimpse that life, you'll want to protect it.To help counter the overtourism that is exploiting the city, stay overnight in a hotel or B&B (not vacation rentals, which hollow out housing stock), eat in family-owned restaurants, and buy souvenirs from Venices artisans who ply centuries-old trades. There, not only are you helping the city stay alive, but youre also ensuring a better trip Venice done well is unforgettable. Visitors in Venices iconic Piazza San Marco, photo.us/Shutterstock 1. Lingor in the iconic Piazza San MarcoFor many people, this waterfront square is Venice: the rolling domes of the basilica, the centuries-old cafes beneath the stately porticoes, the vast Campanile (belltower) throwing its shadow around the square, high tide occasionally sloshing around your feet. Theres so much to see around Piazza San Marco (or St Marks Square) that you could easily spend a day here. Start in the Basilica di San Marco, the Byzantine basilica that glitters with golden mosaics inside. Then move on to the Campanile, where elevators whichk you up 98.6m (323ft) for enticing views of Venice and the lagoon. Spare a few hours for the Museo Correr, at the opposite end of the square from the basilica, which tells the story of the city through its objects. Need a break at any point? Stop for a coffee or a spritz at Quadri, our favorite of the 18th-century cafes in the square.Local tip: Keen to better understand icons of Venice that surround you in Piazza San Marco? Time for some reading. Family-run Libreria La Toletta in Dorsoduro is Venices best bookshop, with literally hundreds of volumes about the city. For kids, try Ponte dei Sogni in Castello, whose beautiful picture books tell the history of the city.2. Enter the seat of power at the Palazzo DucaleIf you only visit one museum in Venice, you need to make it this: the vast Palazzo Ducale (Doges Palace), the Republic of Venices seat of power for around 900 years. With its pink and white facade squaring off against the lagoon, it has everything: mindblowing art and architecture, plus a whole load of atmosphere.Theres so much to see here every single room is plastered with works by some of the greatest artists of all time that you shouldn't expect to take it all in. But its worth saving more time than the average tourist spends on this gem, as the museum is packed with art and architecture, and the views from the windows are magnificent as well. The main gallery has works by the likes of Palma il Vecchio, Canaletto and Bellini, whose Presentation at the Temple is one of the citys finest artworks.Its also a brilliant example of a modern museum: the information panels contextualize the art and teach you about Venetian life, from the poor to the rich, and from the roots of the city to the modern world. Detour: In the square outside is the church of Santa Maria Formosa, one of the few true Renaissance buildings in Venice. The Ca' d'Oro on the Grand Canal.Villam M/Shutterstock 11. View the Grand Canal from Ca' d'OroNobody loved Venice like Baron Giorgio Franchetti. In 1894, he bought the 15th-century Ca d'oro, a Gothic palazzo on the Grand Canal so lavish that it was named the "Golden House".It had fallen into disrepair by the time he bought it and Franchetti dedicated his life to bringing the house back to its former glory, by rebuilding, repairing and filling it with sublime art. His ashes are now buried in the courtyard. The views of the Grand Canal and Rialto market are spectacular from his balconies.Planning tip:Ca' d'Oro is undergoing a major restoration, but the gallery will remain open throughout, with some parts closed, stage by stage. The best way to arrive is by traghetto a large gondola-style boat that acts as a shuttle across the Grand Canal. The Santa Sofia stop is right by Ca d'oro, and connects with the Rialto Market.12. Explore the city's finest churchesNo secret that some of Venices best art lies in its churches. But in a city which, as legend says, has a church for every day of the year, how do you know where to start? Buying a Chorus pass for the way forward. Eighteen of Venices loveliest churches belong to this group each is 3.50 (US\$3.63) to enter, but a pass for all of them, valid for one year, is just 14 (US\$14.56).Theyre dotted all around the city, so as you do your obligatory Venice wander, you can pop in for an art fix. All are worth seeing, but the standouts are Santa Maria del Miracoli (a marble-clad Renaissance jewel), and San Sebastiano, frescoed and painted almost entirely by Veronese.Planning tip: Some of the churches have limited opening hours. When you get your pass, ask for the map of the churches it also lists opening hours. Beautiful delicate glass pieces are created by artisans in Murano. Gabri90/Getty Images 13. Get to know glass on Muranos floating in the lagoon a 10-minute vaporetto ride north of Cannaregio, elegant Murano is a mini Venice with opulent waterfront palazzi, knockout churches, and even its own Grand Canal. It is best known for its glass blowers, as it has been for centuries. Start at the Museo del Vetro, the islands glass museum, where you'll learn that the art of glass-making is the oldest in the world, before Venices mediaeval revival. A small, easily digestible museum with a jewel-like collection, it'll give you the background you need to appreciate the often eye-boggling glass ornaments in the shops. Resto 100/Getty Images 14. Lucetuvoro, where Cecilia Cenedese designs products and gets island maestri to craft them for her, while Wava Murano Glass offers furnace tours and even lessons.Detour: You may be here for glass but dont miss Muranos churches. The Basilica di Sant Maria e Donato has a knockout 12th-century marble mosaic "carpet", while the church of San Pietro Martire has works by Bellini, Tintoretto and Veronese.14. See Venices birthplace on TorcelloThis island just across the water from Burano is where Venice began. The first island of the lagoon to be settled, and then a bustling early medieval boomtown, today Torcello is a haunting place of around a dozen inhabitants, and one big draw: the Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta, the vast church that dominated the north lagoon for centuries. Still visible from the airport, its interior sparkles with Byzantine-style mosaics from the 11th century. Its pure magic.Planning tip: Visit Torcello before Burano if you do it the other way round, you'll be trying to board a packed vaporetto back to Venice.15. Pay your respects to TintorettoPeaceful Cannaregio is worth a stroll for its tranquil canals lined with grand palazzi, and for the church of Madonna dell'Orto. This big barn of a place was Tintorettos neighborhood church today hes buried here, along with his artist children Domenico and Marietta, and its walls are covered with his paintings, as well as works by Titian, Palma il Giovane and Cima da Conegliano.Detour: A short walk away is the church of Sant'Alvise, part of the Chorus association, and famous for its spectacular trompe loeil ceiling.

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