



Doge's Palaca & Piazza San Marco

Hidden Treasures of Venice  
With Nicola Howard  
& Guest Lecturer Peter Lauritzen  
19th – 23rd March 2018

The Ultimate Travel Company  
Escorted Tours



## Hidden Treasures of Venice

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Contact	Sophie Pullan
Direct Line	020 7386 4677
Telephone	020 7386 4620
Fax	020 7386 8652
Email	<a href="mailto:sophie@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk">sophie@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk</a>

### Nicola Howard

Nicola has a degree in History of Art and a background in fine art and photography. Having lived in Paris, Barcelona and Rome, she speaks fluent French, Italian and Spanish and has specialised in these countries, as well as in Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East, with a particular interest in the Islamic world. She has arranged tours for many art and garden groups.

### Peter Lauritzen

Peter Lauritzen, an American historian, author and lecturer, has lived in Italy since leaving Princeton University with a Fulbright Grant for study in Florence in 1962. A resident of Venice for many years, he has written *Venice: A Thousand Years of Culture & Civilization*, *Palaces of Venice*, *Villas of the Veneto* and *Venice Preserved* as well as the official UNESCO report. He has lectured and led tours specialising in Byzantium, Flemish and Dutch art, Imperial Russia, the Iberian peninsula and the Holy Roman Empire as well as classical antiquity. He has accompanied royalty and VIPs on visits to Venice.

## Detailed Itinerary

Venetian resident Peter Lauritzen offers an original view of Venice exploring in depth, both on foot and by boat, some of the city's magnificent churches including San Giorgio Maggiore and Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, architectural masterpieces such as Palazzo Mocenigo, and leading galleries such as the Gallerie dell'Accademia.

Staying at the luxurious Westin Europa & Regina Hotel close to St. Mark's Square, there will be an exclusive private evening viewing of the great 11th century Basilica of Saint Mark, one of the most iconic sights in Venice, and a private drinks reception and dinner at a private Palazzo overlooking the Grand Canal, by special arrangement.



St. Mark's Basilica



Palazzo Grimani

### Day 1: Monday, 19th March

### London / Venice

Depart London Gatwick on a lunch time British Airways flight to Venice. On arrival transfer by private motor launch to the 5-star Westin Europa & Regina Hotel, where four nights are spent. Situated in the heart of historic Venice overlooking the Grand Canal and a short walk from Piazza San Marco, the hotel is housed in an elegant 17th century palace.

An introduction to the tour by guest lecturer Peter Lauritzen. Early evening enter St. Mark's Basilica for a spectacular private visit to Venice's most famous church to see the illuminated mosaics and the Pala d'Oro (subject to confirmation). Dinner at the hotel.

### Day 2: Tuesday, 20th March

### Venice

This morning, leave the hotel on foot to visit the cloister of the Doge's chaplain at St. Apollonia. Continue to see the masterpieces of the Scuola di Murano in the San Tarasio Chapel at San Zaccaria. Walk to the surprisingly simple Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni which holds some of Carpaccio's finest painting ever commissioned. See the interior with its Gothic elements blended with the new Renaissance forms. Continue to San Giovanni del Tempio in the Grand Priory of the Knights of Malta, to see the newly restored Bellini altar in the newly re-opened church. See the Triumphal Entry Gate of the Venetian Arsenal.

Lunch at Il Covo restaurant. See the courtyard of the Palazzo Zorzi and the rooms of the recently restored Palazzo Grimani. See the state rooms of the Scuola Grande di San Marco. Walk past the exquisite hidden

gem of Santa Maria dei Miracoli to see Bellini's last altarpiece in San Giovanni Crisostomo along with the newly restored Ducal Monuments and an altar panel recently attributed to Carpaccio along with a Titian masterpiece with organ doors painted by his brother in San Salvador. Visit its adjacent cloister and see the picturesque Scala del Bovolo.

Optional evening performance at the nearby Palazzo Barbarigo Minotto, a 15th-century palace (subject to performance schedule). The opera is a travelling show and each act is set in a different hall of the palace. Please note further details of the performance will be available nearer the time.



Rialto Bridge



San Giorgio Maggiore

### Day 3: Wednesday, 21st March      Venice

Leave on foot to see the hidden Ridotto gaming rooms of the Venetian Republic. Take a *vaporetto* (public boat service) to San Giorgio Maggiore to visit the church, with its magnificent position facing St. Mark's, and the Palladian cloister to see the Refectory and the newly installed replica of Veronese's "*Miracle at Cana*" purloined by Napoleon (subject to confirmation). Continue by *vaporetto* to the Giudecca to see Andrea Palladio's Chiesa del Santissimo Redentore.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit San Sebastiano to see the newly completed restoration of Veronese masterpieces in the church where he was buried. Continue to the 17th century San Pantaleon to see the great illusionist ceiling painting on 60 canvasses by G.A. Fumiani (1680-1704), before a visit to the Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari to see the newly restored Palo Pesaro, one of Titian's greatest altarpieces. The artist is believed to be buried in this church. The monument to Titian and the tomb Canova designed are among the most important in the church. Private visit and drinks at a Palazzo overlooking the Grand Canal. Dinner independently.

### Day 4: Thursday, 22nd March      Venice

This morning, leave the hotel on foot to visit the Gallerie dell' Accademia to see the new arrangement of the masterpieces of the world famous Venetian School of Painting. It houses the largest collection of Venetian art in existence, and provides a complete spectrum of the Venetian School from the medieval Byzantine period right through to the Baroque and Rococo age. Continue to see the Rialto Market before visiting the Palazzo Mocenigo at San Stae which was recently restored and rearranged by the world famous Venetian scenographer and theatre designer, Maestro Pier Luigi Pizzi. Enjoy a Prosecco reception at the Palazzo Da Silva, the home of our Guest Lecturer and his wife, Lady Rose Lauritzen.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon at leisure. Private evening reception followed by dinner at the Palazzo Alvera.

Day 5: Friday, 23rd March

Venice / London

Depart (with luggage) by private water taxi for the airport for a morning British Airways flight to Gatwick Airport.

# Tour Price

COST PER PERSON: £2,595

Single supplement: £360

A fee of £95 per person will be charged for those who would like to travel out or back separately from the main group.

## The tour cost includes:

- economy class scheduled flights as per the itinerary
- air passenger duty, passenger service charge, airline security charges, airport taxes and fuel surcharges where applicable - currently £46 (liable to change without notice)
- accommodation as shown in the itinerary
- breakfast daily; 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- all visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- all entrance fees
- gratuities in restaurants
- gratuities to guides
- portering
- the services of your tour leader and guest lecturer throughout

## The tour cost does NOT include:

- travel insurance
- theatre tickets
- items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 08.08.17

## Changes to the Itinerary

Please note, that certain elements of this itinerary, and/or the order of events, may well be subject to alteration due to circumstances beyond our control.

## Fitness to travel

Whilst we do not impose any age limitations on joining a tour, participants must be reasonably fit. The very nature of the sightseeing involved in our tours means that a considerable amount of walking and standing is unavoidable on almost all tours. We regret that our tours are not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking, may require wheelchair assistance at any time, or are unable to keep pace with the group. If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a tour, please make this known to us before you book and we will advise you accordingly. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason. Your tour leader may also refuse to take participants on particular excursions if they feel that the rest of the group will be held up.

## Airline Tickets

As a tour operator we have access to special airfares. While these offer good value, they do carry certain restrictions applied by the airline. Please ask us for details.

**Note:** If you are thinking about using air miles to upgrade to a premium cabin on the flights, please check with us first as fare restrictions might not permit this.

## Health Requirements

There are no mandatory health requirements for visitors to Italy, and no inoculations are required.

## Passport and Visa Information

Passengers should hold a full passport. British passport holders do not require a visa to visit Italy. Nationals of other countries should consult their local Italian Consulate. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months from the date of entry.

## FCO Advice

Travel advice issued by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office can be viewed at [www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo).

## Accommodation

Hotels are chosen on the basis of category, character and location. The majority will be at least 4 star, otherwise the best available. The projected size of the group will often rule out the use of luxury boutique hotels. Sometimes the style of hotel will mean that not all rooms are of the same size or have the same outlook.