

# Cycling Safaris

## VENICE LANDS TOUR 2010



Nestled between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea this tour explores the Veneto (Venetia) region of northern Italy. This area has always had a key strategic significance, its location forming a gateway between the Mediterranean region and northern and eastern Europe.

Peddalling through vineyards, mountain backdrops and on two tiny islands, this journey brings you through a lovely mixture of scenery and explores some of Italy's true classics.

We cycle along lagoons, rivers and the sea, through quiet planes and bustling towns, and experience a unique fusion between the old and new Italy.

The region being the birthplace of the famous architect Andrea Palladio (16<sup>th</sup> Century) you are spoilt for stunning architecture that characterises the beautiful villages and also the many "Palladio Villas" along the way.

With an almost completely flat itinerary this tour is suitable for everyone. You will cover 283 km in 6 stages riding on cycle paths or level roads with low traffic volume. Your ride on secondary roads with low traffic or paved bike paths.

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Arrival in Vicenza

The tour begins with a meeting in the first night's hotel where the guide will give the group an introduction talk. The group then enjoy a relaxing dinner together.

*Dinner included*

#### Day 2 Vicenza to Bassano del Grappa 25 miles / 40km

On our first day on the bike we cycle to the foothill of the Alps until we reach the castle village of Marostica, characterized by the surrounding castle walls and its Chess square where human chess games takes place. We finally reach Bassano del Grappa, a charming town situated on the Brenta River, and famous for its marvellous wooden bridge and the "Grappa".

*Dinner included*

**Day 3 Bassano del Grappa to Treviso 39 miles / 62km**

One of the tour's scenic highlights, today we cycle the only uphill section of the tour: the 1km climb that takes us to the beautiful village of Asolo. From here there is a nice downhill section and we continue through the Prosecco vineyards and on to Maser. In the afternoon we reach Treviso where we stay the night.

*Dinner included*

**Day 4 Treviso to Mestre/Venice 24 miles / 38km**

Departing from the centre of Treviso, the cycling track takes us along the course of quiet river Sile towards Casale village where you have the opportunity to enjoy the local cuisine through wine and cheese tasting. The cycle continues towards Mestre where we spend the night.

Today's cycle is a deliberately short one so as to give us plenty of time to explore Venice, the "city on water" where an evening of narrow streets and canals awaits.

A supplement applies for accommodation in Venice.

**Day 5 Mestre/Venezia to Chioggia 20 miles / 33km**

One of the most exciting days of the tour, today we pedal along two tiny Islands that divide the sea from the lagoon. In the morning we leave Mestre and cycle along the 4km bridge "Della Libertá" towards Venice and Tronchetto harbour where we find our ferry connection. The ferry takes us to along the canal Giudecca to the island of Lido with the sea on one side and the lagoon on the other. The next ferry takes us to the picturesque Island of Pellestrina where you cycle through the little colourful village laid out along the peaceful lagoon. The final boat connection brings us to our overnight stay in Chioggia, also referred to as "little Venice".

*Dinner included*

**Day 6 Chioggia to Padova 37 miles / 60km**

Today we pedal along Bacchiglione and Brenta, the two rivers used to carry trade in and out of Venice.

The cycling continues along quiet roads where we embrace the rustic charm of the Italian countryside.

We eventually reach Stra where you can stop for lunch and also have the opportunity to visit the famous Villa Pisani of Stra. When arriving at the vivacious city of Padova the beautiful sight of the basilica dedicated to St. Anthony meets us. Known to have one of Europe's oldest and most glorious universities this city is renowned for its rich history and culture. We enjoy a traditional Italian dinner where you have the opportunity to try Padova's trademark drink the "spritz".

*Dinner included*

**Day 7 Padova to Vicenza 30 miles / 48km**

The Bacchiglione River points the way out of the city towards Costozza, a small town situated at the foot of the Berici hills. The village is famous for the bar "botte del covolo" that, in the past, was used to conserve ice. Further along the way we pass Villa Rotunda, the most famous of the Palladian villas. Just before entering Vicenza we see the Villa Valmarana ai Nani with its marvellous frescoes by Tiepolo.

The group have their final meal in the cosy and historical city of Vicenza.

*Dinner included*

**Day 8 Homeward Bound**

After breakfast we head home

## GROUP TOUR DATES

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### Saturday

May 8

June 19

July 3

July 17

Aug 28

Sept 25

(all departures are from Vicenza)

## GROUP TOUR PRICE

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€955.00 per person sharing

€1135.00 for single occupancy

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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- 7 nights hotel accommodation
- Breakfast buffet
- 7 Dinners
- Guide cycling with the group & support van
- Route descriptions & maps
- Luggage transportation
- 21-speed touring bike
- Excursions and visits

Helmets are **not** included in the price, but can be purchased for 10 euro on arrival from our representative.

## TOUR ACCOMMODATION

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The accommodation is in 3/4 \* Hotels mostly in a central location.

We ensure private facilities and air conditioning.

## WHAT TO BRING

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- Waterproof windbreaker or poncho (recommended in spring time)
- Sunglasses and Hat
- High protection sun cream and after sun cream
- Insect repellent
- Swimming costume for 4<sup>th</sup> day from Venice to Chioggia
- Casual clothes for evening. You may be grateful for something warm with long sleeves.

## BIKE / FITNESS

**Bike hire is included in the tour package.**

### Details:

Gel saddle  
Shimano Deore 27 gear  
4bis. Grip shift gear  
28" tyre  
Shimano v-brake  
Anti-slip pedal

### Also Provided:

Handlebar bag (female bikes)  
Map rack (on male bikes)  
Back panniers  
Padlock  
Water-bottle  
Helmet



### Level of difficulty

This is ultimately a relaxing tour with easy cycling on all stages, which gives you the opportunity to take in the surroundings. The only climb on the tour is on day 3 with the 1km slope in Asolo.

## GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

The group size typically varies from 6 to 15 people. Each person has their own route details, as well as a guide who cycles with you, and there is a guide in a support van nearby who also delivers your luggage.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

It is up to you to make your way to and from the tour.

The starting point of Vicenza is well connected with the following airports: Venezia (VCE), Verona (VRN), Treviso (TSF), Bergamo (BGY-150min).

### Venezia Marco Polo Airport

ATVO provides a "Fly Bus" from the airport to the train station of Venezia Mestre. Bus departs every 25/30 minutes and journey time is approx 20 minutes. Ticket price is €3.00:

<http://www.atvo.it>

From Mestre train station there are regular trains to Vicenza:

<http://www.trenitalia.com/en/index.html>

### Verona Villafranca Catullo

Every 20 minutes from 6:30am to 11:35pm a bus departs from the airport to Verona Porta Nuova station. The trip takes about 30 minutes and ticket price is €4.50: [www.aeroporto.verona.it](http://www.aeroporto.verona.it)

From Verona there are numerous train connections to Vicenza, journey time approx. 50min:

<http://www.trenitalia.com/en/index.html>