



Venice to Athens

VENICE PRE-CRUISE VACATION PACKAGES

olivia™

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Venice by night



Venice, the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region, is built on more than 118 small islands that are separated by canals and linked by bridges in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. It has no roads, just canals – including the Grand Canal thoroughfare – lined with Renaissance and Gothic palaces.

Many consider this fascinating city to be the “City of Water”; the lagoon and part of Venice are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is truly a city that is defined by water, is synonymous with romance and is fascinating in its culture and handicraft artwork. The islands are located in the shallow Venetian Lagoon, an enclosed bay that lies between the mouths of the Po and the Piave Rivers.

Venice is renowned for the beauty of its settings, architecture, and artwork. The central square, Piazza San Marco, contains St. Mark's Basilica, which is tiled with Byzantine mosaics, and the Campanile Bell Tower offering views of the city's red roofs. With so many charming, narrow streets steeped in history, architectural feats, and lined with stores and galleries that showcase traditional Venetian artwork, Venice is truly a captivating city that should be given due time to explore and visit.

THREE-NIGHT VENICE PACKAGE (OCTOBER 3 – 6, 2018)

\$1869 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - SUPERIOR ROOM

\$2399 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - SUPERIOR ROOM

\$1999 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - DELUXE ROOM

\$2499 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - DELUXE ROOM

\$2149 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - CANAL ROOM

\$2699 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - CANAL ROOM

INCLUDED

- Three nights at the Splendid Venice Hotel inclusive of a full buffet breakfast
- Hotel check-in is at 3 pm (October 3)
- St. Mark's Basilica & Venice Walking Tour with Skip the Line entrance into St. Mark's Basilica (October 3)*
- 30-minute Gondola Tour (October 3)
- Doge's Palace Tour and Its Secret Itineraries (October 4)
- Guided Walking & Private Mask Making Tour (October 5)
- Private Cooking Course in a Venetian Palace with three-course dinner (October 5)

- Murano, Burano & Torcello Islands Tour inclusive of lunch and transfer to ship (October 6)
- Hotel dates are October 3 - 6, 2018 with checkout on October 6
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Round-trip hotel luggage portage
- Olivia staff assistance throughout

NOT INCLUDED

International air, transfer from Venice International Airport (VCE) to hotel, meals where not listed.

**The St. Marks Basilica & Venice Walking Tour with Skip the Line entrance into St. Marks Basilica will depart the hotel at 3 pm on October 3. To participate in this tour, you must arrive to the hotel prior to the tour departure time of 3 pm.*

ACTIVITY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS - IMPORTANT

This pre-package does require a HIGH LEVEL of mobility as Venice is a pedestrian city and no vehicles are allowed in the areas we will be touring and is not recommended for guests with limited mobility. All tours require extensive walking (on cobblestone streets, uneven ground, up and down stairs) and standing for long periods of time. If you do have a slight amount of limited mobility and feel that you are still able to do the activity level requirements, you are required to travel with someone who can assist you.

TWO-NIGHT VENICE PACKAGE (OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2018)

\$1489 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - SUPERIOR ROOM

\$1849 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - SUPERIOR ROOM

\$1599 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - DELUXE ROOM

\$1949 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - DELUXE ROOM

\$1649 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - CANAL ROOM

\$2049 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - CANAL ROOM

INCLUDED

- Two nights at the Splendid Venice Hotel inclusive of a full buffet breakfast
- Hotel check-in is at 3 pm (October 4)
- St. Mark's Basilica & Venice Walking Tour with Skip the Line entrance into St. Mark's Basilica (October 4)*
- 30-minute Gondola Tour (October 4)
- Guided Walking & Private Mask Making Tour (October 5)
- Private Cooking Course in a Venetian Palace with three-course dinner (October 5)
- Murano, Burano & Torcello Islands Tour inclusive of lunch and transfer to ship (October 6)
- Hotel dates are October 4 - 6, 2018 with checkout on October 6
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Round-trip hotel luggage portage
- Olivia staff assistance throughout

NOT INCLUDED

International air, transfer from Venice International Airport (VCE) to hotel, meals where not listed.

**The St. Marks Basilica & Venice Walking Tour with Skip the Line entrance into St. Marks Basilica will depart the hotel at 3 pm on October 4. To participate in this tour, you must arrive to the hotel prior to the tour departure time of 3 pm.*

ACTIVITY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS - IMPORTANT

This pre-package does require a HIGH LEVEL of mobility as Venice is a pedestrian city and no vehicles are allowed in the areas we will be touring and is not recommended for guests with limited mobility. All tours require extensive walking (on cobblestone streets, uneven ground, up and down stairs) and standing for long periods of time. If you do have a slight amount of limited mobility and feel that you are still able to do the activity level requirements, you are required to travel with someone who can assist you.

ONE-NIGHT VENICE PACKAGE (OCTOBER 5 – 6, 2018)

\$919 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - SUPERIOR ROOM

\$1119 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - SUPERIOR ROOM

\$949 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - DELUXE ROOM

\$1219 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - DELUXE ROOM

\$969 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - CANAL ROOM

\$1319 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - CANAL ROOM

INCLUDED

- One night at the Splendid Venice Hotel inclusive of a full buffet breakfast
- Hotel check-in is at 3 pm (October 5)
- Private Cooking Course in a Venetian Palace with three-course dinner (October 5)
- Murano, Burano & Torcello Islands Tour inclusive of lunch and transfer to ship (October 6)
- Hotel dates are October 5 - 6, 2018 with checkout on October 6
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Round-trip hotel luggage portorage
- Olivia staff assistance throughout

NOT INCLUDED

International air, transfer from Venice International Airport (VCE) to hotel, meals where not listed.

ACTIVITY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS - IMPORTANT

This pre-package does require a HIGH LEVEL of mobility as Venice is a pedestrian city and no vehicles are allowed in the areas we will be touring and is not recommended for guests with limited mobility. All tours require extensive walking (on cobblestone streets, uneven ground, up and down stairs) and standing for long periods of time. If you do have a slight amount of limited mobility and feel that you are still able to do the activity level requirements, you are required to travel with someone who can assist you.

ABOUT YOUR TOURS



Marvel at St. Mark's Basilica



Explore inside St. Mark's Basilica



Go on a Gondola Ride

ST. MARK'S BASILICA & VENICE WALKING TOUR WITH SKIP THE LINE ENTRANCE INTO ST. MARK'S BASILICA (With Two- & Three-Night Packages)

After arriving, getting checked in and refreshed, you will go on a short walking tour of Venice and visit the St. Mark's Basilica. It's great way to get acquainted with the twisting, narrow, cozy pedestrian streets of this romantic city.

Explore the wonders of this picturesque city on a walking tour as we visit some of the sites of Venice. St. Mark's Basilica is an intricate 11th-century Byzantine church decorated with marble and mosaics overlooking St. Mark's Square, the social, religious, and political center of Venice. For more than fifteen centuries, Piazza San Marco has been home to some of the world's most stunning works of architecture. All the most important events are celebrated here, including the spectacular carnival of Venice.

Upon arrival to St. Mark's Basilica, you will be able to pass the line of people waiting to get in with your "skip the line" entrance tickets. Your guide will take you through this famous church that is adjacent and connected to Doge's Palace. At the end of the visit to St. Mark's Basilica, you will walk under the Doge's Palace, where you will be able to view and take photos of the external noble façade, that overlooks the lagoon.

You will then be guided into the back streets of St. Mark's Square, towards Bacino Orseolo, where you will enjoy a 30-minute gondola ride – there is a maximum of six people per gondola – and discover Venice from the water.

You'll then walk the short distance back to your hotel where you will have your evening free to enjoy Venice on your own.

DOGE'S PALACE TOUR AND ITS SECRET ITINERARIES (With Three-Night Package Only)

This morning after a nice buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will meet in the lobby for your walk to Doge's Palace and its Secret Itineraries.

Doge's Palace was built in Venetian Gothic style, and is one of the main landmarks of the city of Venice. The palace was the residence of the Doge of Venice, the supreme authority of the former Republic of Venice, and opened as a museum in 1923.

A masterpiece of Gothic architecture, it is an impressive structure composed of layers of building elements and ornamentation, from its 14th and 15th century original foundations to the significant Renaissance and opulent Mannerist adjunctions. You will get to pass over the Bridge of Sighs, an enclosed bridge made of white limestone, that has windows with stone bars, and passes over the



Take in the beauty of Doge's Palace



Tour Doge's Palace



Pass over the Bridge of Sighs

Rio di Palazzo and connects the New Prison to the interrogation rooms in Doge's Palace. It is said that the view from the Bridge of Sighs was the last view of Venice that convicts saw before their imprisonment. The bridge's name, given by Lord Byron as a translation from the Italian "Ponte dei sospiri" in the 19th century, comes from the thought that prisoners would sigh at their final view of beautiful Venice through the window before being taken down to their cells.

You will also enter the Secret Itineraries of Doge's Palace which covers the rooms and chambers where the delicate work of some of the most important bodies in the Venetian administration was carried out. These spaces offer an interesting insight into and acknowledgement of the civil and political history of the Republic of Venice, its public organizations, and institutional bodies deputed to government and justice. After your time in Doge's Palace is complete, you will walk with your guide back to your hotel. You will have the remainder of the day and evening to explore Venice on your own.

GUIDED WALKING TOUR & PRIVATE MASK MAKING TOUR (With Two- and Three-Night Packages)

After a relaxing breakfast, you will meet your guide in the hotel lobby to discover Venice's intricate beauty and hidden treasures on your guided walking tour on your way to your private mask making venue.

Your walking tour of Venice will take you "off the beaten track" as you start off towards the ancient Church of Santa Maria del Giglio, whose name translates to St. Mary of the Lily and is known for its baroque façade, made by Giuseppe Sardi. Here you will be able to take in the façade from the outside as it is an imaginative expression that forms a majestic monument of the Barbaro family, representing portrait statues of the five brothers and illustrating maps of the various places in which Antonio Barbaro served the Venetian Republic.

You will continue through Campo Santo Stefano, Venice's most prestigious neighborhood, and cross the Grand Canal over the famous wooden Accademia Bridge, to one of the most picturesque districts of the Island, Dorsoduro.

As you walk through the Dorsoduro district on your way to the Ca' Macana workshop you will learn about some of the town's great art showcases, such as the Accademia art gallery, Peggy Guggenheim collection, Santa Maria della Salute Church and Ca' Rezzonico, once a palazzo but today is a museum exploring 18th century Venice (and rumored to be where the poet Robert Browning died).

Dorsoduro is also where the Ca' Macana workshop is located. Here, you will be welcomed by the mask artisans, who will introduce you to the tradition and history of the Venetian masks, before starting the workshop. Venetian masks are a centuries-old tradition of Venice. The masks are typically worn during the Carnival of Venice. They also have a long history of being worn on many other occasions in the past, usually as a device for hiding the wearer's identity or social status or to hide their identity during promiscuous or decadent activities. Venetian masks have been worn in Venice since antiquity.



Walk over the Accademia Bridge



Masks at the Ca'Macana Workshop



Stroll by Scuola Grande di San Rocco

You will have the opportunity to choose one mask from 60 different models, all handmade from papier-maché, that you'll be able to decorate with one of the different techniques explained by the local artisans. You will have your own mask as an authentic Venetian souvenir!

After making your very own Venetian mask, you'll continue with the guided tour as you make your way back to your hotel, uncovering what is known as Hidden Venice.

You'll walk by Scuola Grande di San Rocco, which used to be the seat of a confraternity established in 1478, named after San Rocco, popularly regarded as the protector against plague and is noted for its collection of paintings by Tintoretto, generally agreed to include some of his finest work.

You can choose to walk back to the hotel with your guide as they speak about more points of interest or branch off to explore more of Venice on your own as you'll have the remainder of the day to take in the sights of Venice!

PRIVATE COOKING COURSE IN A VENETIAN PALACE WITH THREE-COURSE DINNER (With One-, Two- and Three-Night Packages)

This evening you will meet your guide in the lobby to walk to a beautiful Venetian Palace where you will have a traditional Venetian cooking class and three-course dinner. This will be a unique experience as you will be divided into teams to compete in the Culinary Trial-lessons, supervised, of course, by instructors.

After being broken into your team of 10 - 13 people, you'll come up with a team name and will be taken to your team station. Here your team will create various appetizers, using fresh vegetables, cold cuts and cheese, as well as fresh stuffed pasta. You'll want to make sure you bring your cooking prowess as at the end of the activity each team will present their creations to the jury, who will taste your creations and crown one team the winner! Of course, this is all in fun!

After showing off your cooking expertise, you will enjoy an aperitif before having a wonderful three-course dinner in a typical Venetian atmosphere.

MURANO, BURANO & TORCELLO ISLANDS TOUR INCLUSIVE OF LUNCH AND TRANSFER TO SHIP (With One-, Two- and Three-Night Packages)

Directly following breakfast at the hotel, you will board the private boats for your tour of Murano, Burano & Torcello before being transferred to the ship for your next adventure on board the Azamara Quest.



Enjoy cooking with fresh pasta



Take part in a Venetian cooking class



Enjoy a traditional three-course dinner

Famous for its glass making, Murano was a commercial port in the 7th Century, and by the 10th Century it had grown into a prosperous trading center with its own currency, police force, and commercial aristocracy. However, in 1291, the Venetian Republic ordered glassmakers to move their foundries to Murano because the glassworks represented a fire danger in Venice, as there buildings were mostly wooden at the time. Glassmakers soon became privileged citizens by enjoying immunity from prosecution and their children were allowed to marry into Venice's blue-blooded families.

Today, Murano is still an exporter of traditional glassware, mirrors, faucet handles, glass lampshades and more! Here you'll hear the history of Murano on your visit to one of these great glassmaking factories and will have a demonstration and time to do a little shopping.

Burano is known for its small, brightly painted houses, which are popular with artists. The colors of the houses follow a specific system originating from the golden age of its development. If someone wishes to paint their home, they must send a request to the government, who will respond by making notice of the certain colors permitted for that particular lot. It is situated near Torcello at the northern end of the lagoon, and is also known for its lace work. The primary economy today is tourism as visitors arrive for sightseeing and to purchase lace goods.



Tour Murano's glass making factories



Stroll through colorful Burano



Take in the views from Torcello

Torcello is a sparsely populated island and was first settled in the year 452. It is older than Venice and has been referred to as the parent island from which Venice was populated. Torcello is known for its glittering Byzantine mosaics in its cathedral and its breathtaking views. On the ten-minute walk to the main plaza you'll pass the Devil's Bridge, built in the 15th century, complete with a wafer-thin span of brick and stone and no railing.

Before leaving Torcello, you will enjoy lunch at Restaurant Ponte del Diavolo. The Osteria provides a simple environment dominated by wooden ceilings, terracotta bricks covering the walls and is decorated in Venetian bas-reliefs. After a wonderful lunch, you will be transferred directly to Venice Port, where you will embark your next adventure.

ABOUT YOUR HOTEL



The Splendid Venice Hotel



Main Lobby



Deluxe Room

THE SPLENDID VENICE HOTEL

Just a few steps from some of the world's greatest sights, the Splendid Venice is a charming luxury hotel, as elegant as Venice itself. In the sixteenth century, it was an inn; today, it is a residence of rare refinement overlooking the canals and the Mercerie, the age-old streets, or calli, that link Piazza San Marco and the Rialto bridge.

In-room amenities include television with premium channels, in-room climate control, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, coffee/tea maker and turndown service.

Hotel amenities include a restaurant, bar, coffee/tea in common area, complimentary Wi-Fi in the lobby, library, terrace, laundry facilities, complimentary newspapers in the lobby and lobby fireplace.

NEED MORE INFO? READY TO BOOK?

Our Travel Consultants can be reached at reservations@happygaytravel.com Due to high demand, our vacation stretchers sell out very quickly!

DEADLINE TO BOOK IS FEBRUARY 28, 2018 OR UNTIL SOLD OUT.

Cancellation Policy: Olivia Companies, LLC is required to honor their contractual agreements with hotels, ground operators, and other outside vendors; therefore, the following cancellation fees apply: All Vacation Stretcher packages are non-refundable. A handling fee of \$75 will be charged for any name changes to hotel and tour packages. Your booking/payment for vacation stretchers with Olivia Companies, LLC indicates your compliance with the above policies.