

3-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

3 Day Venice Itinerary: Rialto, San Marco & the Frari

A 3 day Venice itinerary with one neighborhood a day: the Rialto and the bacari, Piazza San Marco and its monuments, then the Frari and the Gallerie dell'Accademia across the canal.



AT A GLANCE

01*Day One***The Rialto & the Bacari**Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo / Gelatoteca Suso /
Rialto Bridge**02***Day Two***The Piazza & Its Monuments**

Piazza San Marco / Doge's Palace / St. Mark's Basilica

03*Day Three***San Polo & Dorsoduro**Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari / Ponte
dell'Accademia / Gallerie dell'Accademia

RIALTO · SAN POLO · SAN MARCO

Day One: The Rialto & the Bacari

Today we're arriving in Venice through Piazzale Roma, then walking toward Rialto. We'll climb Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo, grab gelato at Suso, and cross Rialto Bridge before stopping for cicchetti at dai Zemei. Dinner is beside the Grand Canal at Saraceno.



STOP 1 / 11:00 AM

Airport Bus to Piazzale Roma

If you are flying to Venice, you will likely land at Marco Polo Airport, this means you need to cross the bridge over to Venice island. The airport bus gives you...

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STOP 2 / 12:30 PM

Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo

Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo is a distinctive spiral staircase hidden in a narrow alleyway. It really is a lil hidden gem. Climb 80 steps through open arche...

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STOP 3 / 1:00 PM

Gelatoteca Suso

Suso is an artisanal, takeaway-only gelateria near the Rialto Bridge, known for signature flavors like Pistacchio Assoluto, Opera, Gianduja, and Tiramisù, plus rotating seasonal creations. It became my FAVORITE gelato stop in...



STOP 4 / 1:30 PM

Rialto Bridge

Rialto Bridge gives you that classic view straight down the Grand Canal, with boats and waterways spreading out below its raised central portico. It is the oldest of the 4 bridges cross the Grand Canal. We arrived at sunset,...

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STOP 5 / 2:00 PM

Ostaria dai Zemei

Ostaria dai Zemei is a Venetian bacaro built around wine by the glass and cicchetti, with classics like baccalà beside mackerel, pickled onion, and cured meats. This was my FAVORITE meal in Venice, hands down-probably my...

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STOP 6 / 7:00 PM

Ristorante Caffè Saraceno

This Grand Canal restaurant sits right beside Rialto Bridge, with a waterside terrace looking directly toward the bridge and passing boats. We stopped here for our first meal in Italy, and it became one of our favorites of the...

SAN MARCO · CASTELLO

Day Two: The Piazza & Its Monuments

Today we're exploring San Marco and Castello. We'll start in Piazza San Marco and tour the Doge's Palace, stop for lunch at La Piazza, then visit St. Mark's Basilica. From there, we're browsing Libreria Acqua Alta before ending with a gondola ride.



STOP 1 / 8:30 AM

Piazza San Marco

Piazza San Marco is a huge plaza that holds all of the main Venice landmarks - St Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace, the Campanile, and Bridge of Signs. You can also see the clock tower ringing while its two figures at the top...

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STOP 2 / 10:00 AM

Doge's Palace

Doge's Palace pulls you inside the political heart of the Venetian Republic, moving from the courtyard and doge's apartments into the rooms where Venice was governed and judged. You'll pass through the Great Council, Senate,...

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STOP 3 / 12:00 PM

Ristorante La Piazza

La Piazza is a lively two-floor restaurant just steps from Piazza San Marco. We had a reservation and received a little glass of prosecco during our brief wait, which was such a nice touch. It has a lively, warm ambience with...



STOP 4 / 2:30 PM

St. Mark's Basilica

St. Mark's Basilica is a monumental complex you can explore through the church itself, then continue into the Pala d'Oro, museum, and Horses Loggia. The Pala d'Oro combines gilded silver with roughly 250 cloisonné enamels and...

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STOP 5 / 3:30 PM

Libreria Acqua Alta

Libreria Acqua Alta is the unusual Venice bookshop where bathtubs and a full-size gondola hold books above passing floodwater. In the courtyard, unsellable books become a staircase you can climb for a look over the wall toward...



STOP 6

Ride a gondola

When in Venice, you have to ride a gondola! Here are some options you can take. And if you want to spice it up, there are also sunset catamaran cruises with cicchetti and prosecco if you're looking to ride into the sunset with...

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SAN POLO · DORSODURO

Day Three: San Polo & Dorsoduro

Today we're walking from San Polo into Dorsoduro. After coffee and the Frari, we'll explore the Leonardo da Vinci Museum and follow two neighborhood bridges toward the Grand Canal. We're ending with Venetian masterpieces at the Gallerie dell'Accademia.



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Bottega del Caffè Dersut

Bottega del Caffè Dersut is a modern coffee bar directly in front of the Frari basilica. The apricot cornetto was probably the best one we had in Italy! It wasn't too sweet and was somehow moist while still feeling crispy. The...



STOP 2 / 10:00 AM

Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari

Basilica dei Frari is a vast Franciscan church in San Polo, rooted in the order's thirteenth-century foundation in Venice. Inside, Titian's Assumption rises over the...

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STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Leonardo da Vinci Museum

At Venice's Leonardo da Vinci Museum, you can try out working models of his inventions and see how the mechanisms move. Flying machines and war machines give you plenty to explore, with explanations that help you follow the...

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STOP 4 / 1:00 PM

Ponte de Cà Foscari

This was one of my favorite hidden gem bridges that I stumbled upon. A completely unknown bridge without a crowd of tourists, but with the best views of the canal and a gorgeous sunset. And even better for photos without being...



STOP 5 / 2:30 PM

Ponte dell'Accademia

Ponte dell'Accademia is one of only four bridges crossing Venice's Grand Canal, linking Dorsoduro and San Marco near its southern end. The wooden arch began as a temporary 1933 replacement for an 1854 steel bridge and was...



STOP 6 / 3:00 PM

Gallerie dell'Accademia

Gallerie dell'Accademia takes you through Venetian painting across 37 rooms, covering the fourteenth through the eighteenth century. Inside, you'll meet major works such as Giorgione's The Tempest, Titian's Pietà, Carpaccio's...

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