





©1995 Magellan Geographic<sup>SM</sup> Santa Barbara, CA

## PLACES OF INTEREST

**1 Piazza San Marco** (St. Mark's Square) is the center of life in Venice, a popular meeting place where people can stroll, listen to the musicians outside the coffee houses, browse in the shops in the Piazza's arcades or feed the large numbers of pigeons that congregate there.

**2 Bell Tower**, near the center of St. Mark's Square, is actually a copy of the original 9th century Bell Tower which collapsed in 1902. An elevator will take you to the top for magnificent views.

**Clock Tower**, across from the Bell Tower, was built in 1499 by Mauro Coducci. Giant Moors strike the hour on the great bell. There is also a zodiac clock on the Tower, showing the time in arabic and roman numerals.

**3 St. Mark's Basilica** is truly a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture. Built in 830, it was originally a chapel for the Doges. The present Basilica dates from the 11th century and contains some magnificent mosaics, precious art and rare marbles.

**4 Palazzo Ducale** (Doge's Palace), situated next to the Basilica, was both the residence of the Doges and the seat of government. The finest room in the Palace is the grand Council Chamber, containing paintings by Tintoretto and Veronese.

**Bridge of Sighs** (Ponte del Sospiri) is a baroque stone bridge built in the 17th century, connecting the Doge's Palace with the old prisons. It was named after the despair of prisoners who were led across to be executed or incarcerated.

**Grand Canal** is the main waterway of Venice, approximately 2 miles in length, it is lined with some 100 marble palaces, built between the 12th and 18th centuries.

**5 Rialto Bridge** (Ponte di Rialto) spans the Grand Canal at about its midway point, built in 1588 by Antonio da Ponte. The double row of shops that line the bridge are a great tourist attraction.

**6 Ghetto** – this was the first Jewish Ghetto, giving its name to all other confined Jewish communities. The word comes from the verb 'gettare', to cast, as there was originally a foundry on this area, near the present day Campo del Ghetto. In 1492 many Jews were expelled from Spain and central Europe and came to Venice. In 1516 a decree moved all Jews to the area of the 'New Ghetto'. As the settlement grew, it spread, reaching the 'Old Ghetto' by 1541 and even further by 1633 to the 'Newest Ghetto'. The buildings here are unusual as they are mostly 7 stories high, the City's highest buildings. Five synagogues are to be found in the area, the oldest being the German Synagogue which was built in 1528 and now houses the Jewish Museum.

**7 Frari Church** (Chiesa di S. Maria Gloriosa dei Frari) is considered by many to be the most splendid church after St. Mark's, and contains two masterpieces by Titian, as well as his tomb.

**8 Galleria dell'Accademia** (Gallery of Fine Arts), located on the Grand Canal by the Accademia Bridge, contains a marvelous collection of Venetian art by Canaletto, Guardi, Bellini and others, such as Tintoretto and Titian.

**9 Guggenheim Collection** – American; Peggy Guggenheim bought the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on the Grand Canal in 1951, to house her collection of modern art. Included are works by Picasso, Chagall and Klee.

**10 Great School of San Rocco** (Scuola Grande di San Rocco) is located at Campo San Rocco. This building was once one of the great Venetian charitable guilds, and houses 56 Tintoretto paintings in its opulent interior.

**11 Museo Correr**, housed in a section of the buildings around St. Mark's Square, it is the City Museum of Art and Venetian History.

**12 Museum of 18th Century Venice** is housed in a 17th Century palace called 'Ca Rezzonico' on the Grand Canal, and contains Venetian furnishings and paintings.

### Beyond Venice

**Murano** has been the island of Venetian glass-making since the 13th century and visitors can see some of the several hundred furnaces which produce today's Venetian glass. The Museo Vetrario is located on Murano, displaying some 4,000 glass exhibits.

**Burano** is another island in the lagoon with a colorful fishing village, now a well-known center for lace-making, an industry originally started by the fishermen's wives.

**Torcello** was one of the most prosperous islands in the lagoon during the 5th and 6th centuries, but as the size and importance of Venice grew, Torcello declined, and it is now almost deserted. All that remains today is its Cathedral which has several fine Byzantine mosaics, a few shops and restaurants.

**Padua**, located a short distance from Venice on the mainland is known for its university and the Sant' Antonio Church. The remains of St. Anthony can be found here. Beautiful palaces, squares and markets add to the splendor of this city.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit Venice and its surroundings we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining:** There is little or no opportunity to bargain in Venice.

**Tippling:** Restaurant bills generally include a service charge but it is customary to leave an additional 10%.

**Local Cuisine:** Rice is more popular in Venice than pasta and risottos quite common. Fegato alla Veneziana is a local specialty; thin strips of calves liver grilled with onions, served with Polenta; the main accompaniment, either maize or cornmeal cakes. Fish is plentiful, try Pasticcio di Pesce; a Fish Pie.

**Drink Specialties:** There are several good wines produced in the region surrounding Venice, perhaps the best known reds are Valpolicella, Bardolino, Cabernet and Merlot. Soave, Pinot, Tocai and Verduzzo are the best known white wines produced locally.

Bottled water is recommended.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Shops are generally open from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, 3:30 p.m – 7:30 pm Monday through Saturday. Many of the more touristic stores open on Sunday.

The main shopping area of Venice stretches from Piazza San Marco to the Rialto Bridge. There are a maze of small shopping streets leading off one another, with everything from souvenirs to high-fashion boutiques. The most interesting of local crafts being Venetian glass, the theatrical carnival masks and hand-made lace. Prices in Venice are relatively high.

Some tourist orientated stores may accept U.S. Dollars, most accept major credit cards.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Non-E.C. visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.