

All you need to know about where to sleep, eat, drink, visit and enjoy



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ARRIVING & GETTING AROUND

AIRPORTS

VENICE MARCO POLO AIRPORT
Venice Marco Polo is one of Italy's main airports, serviced by world class airlines from Emirates to Alitalia - the national carrier, flights are available to over 60 international and domestic destinations. Marco Polo is also popular with budget travellers with Easyjet offering numerous domestic and European connections. Marco Polo airport is just across the lagoon from the floating city with water taxis and waterbuses shuttling back and forth between Venice and the airport. Regular taxis and buses also connect the airport with Venice and Mestre.
There are a wide range of shops at the airport offering airport standards from perfume and electronics to international newspapers whilst the regional delicacies on offer including excellent local wines and grappa make for excellent gifts. Foodwise there are a couple of places offering quick pizza and pasta

meals whilst there are also a number of cafes and bars perfect for grabbing a sandwich and that last espresso/Campari of your trip to Venice. ▶ **Via Galileo Galilei 30/1, Tessera-Venezia, tel. +39 041 260 9260, www.veniceairport.it.**

GONDOLA

The gondola is surely the most famous symbol of Venice. Perfectly designed for shunting around the shallows of the Venetian lagoon and the city's narrow waterways, these exquisite handcrafted vessels have been a mainstay of Venetian life and culture for centuries. The gondola may have lost its place as the workhorse of Venice, though fleets of them continue to punt tourists around and come the first Sunday in September they race along the Grand Canal in the classic Regata Storica.
Skipped by the proud (occasionally arrogant), striped shirt wearing gondoliers, today's gondolas are basically just for tourists and yes they can cost an arm and a leg to ride in (though there are ways to keep costs down) however we must admit that a ride in a gondola is a quintessential Venetian experience and great way to explore this wondrous city. The gondolas themselves are

VAPORETTO

Vaporetto or waterbuses are the way the masses travel in Venice, whilst they are not quite as romantic as a gondola they are a fraction of the cost and are a great way to get around and see Venice. The vaporetto network

has some 22 lines (some of which run seasonally) including countless lines along the Canal Grande and connections with practically all of Venice's surrounding islands such as Murano, famous for its blown glass. Single use tickets start from €7 for 60 minutes, while tourist travel cards offer a much better value for most visitors, allowing unlimited travel for periods from 12 hours to 7 days.
Note: remember to stamp your ticket in the yellow machine before getting on the vaporetto. ▶ **www.actv.it**

WATER TAXIS

One of the best ways to see Venice is from the water, and while gondolas may be the traditional favourite (and also the priciest option) the stunning fleets of luxury wooden water taxis have always taken our fancy (and are significantly less pricey). Water taxis don't just offer luxury airport transfers from Marco Polo, they also shuttle visitors around Venice and between its islands, whilst a water taxi guided tour of the sights is a great way to experience the Most Serene Republic.



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