



Exploring the Lagoon of Venice

In the Lagoon of Venice, land and water mingle with the ancient rhythm of the tides. A rich and complex environment to be explored slowly: on foot, by boat or by bicycle.

On foot

Here are a few examples of itineraries on foot on the islands. The starting points you find on the map can all be reached with public transport.

- **Altino - Burano - Torcello - Mazzorbo S.Francesco**
- **S. Erasmo - Lazzaretto Novo - La Certosa**
- **S. Zaccaria - San Servolo - S.Lazzaro degli Armeni**
- **Chioggia - Pellestrina**

By bicycle

Along the coastline and the lidos, in the midst of the lagoon wetlands and also on an island, Sant' Erasmo, you can pedal along many cycle itineraries. Stop for a break on the banks of rivers and fishing valleys, on the beaches and in the little villages and you will be rewarded with views suspended between the sea and the lagoon. Here are a few suggestions (see numbers on the map):

- Ⓐ **From Torre Caligo to Valle Dogà**
- Ⓑ **Around the lagoon by bike and boat: Lido di Jesolo, Torre Caligo, Lio Maggiore, Cavallino**
- Ⓒ **The cycle route of the North Lagoon: Punta Sabbioni, Batteria Pisani, Lio Piccolo**
- Ⓓ **Between the Brenta Riviera and the Lagoon: Fusina-Mira-Giare**
- Ⓔ **Fogolana and Cason delle Sacche**
- Ⓕ **Chioggia: from the Lagoon to the mouth of the river Adige**

Regional cycle paths: **E5 - I3**

By boat

Canals, ghebos, lagoon islets: water flows in and out every six hours, embroidering the brackish waters with barene, flaps of semi-submerged land or sandbanks. By boat is the best way to visit the island. You can be accompanied by an expert guide on a bragozzo, the traditional boat, rent a canoe, kayak, houseboat, electric boat or one with old-style lug sails. All of these boats don't make waves and so they won't disturb the fragile equilibrium of the Lagoon's ecosystem. If you arrive in the Lagoon with your own boat you may moor it in one of the many marinas, but remember: always keep to speed limits and respect blue areas!

For further information, interesting facts and a list of services provided by Sustainable Tourism companies and professionals, go to the website www.lagoonofvenice.org



1 Chioggia - D1

Chioggia is also known as "Little Venice" for its architectural heritage reminiscent of the calli (narrow alleys) of the Lagoon's capital. Chioggia also includes a rural area between the river Brenta and the river Adige, where the verdant plain extends right up to the sea with numerous natural reserves, rich in biodiversity.

★ Civic Museum of the South Lagoon, Clock Tower, "Olivi" the Museum of Adriatic Zoology, Dei Rossi Picture Gallery, Church of San Domenico, Fish Market, Murazzi dykes, beach of Sottomarina, Fish Festival (July), Palio di Marciliana (June), Bussolai breadsticks, Radicchio di Chioggia and Ciosota Cake, Bosco Nordio Nature Reserve



2 Millecampi Valley - B2

It stretches for about 1600 hectares, is criss-crossed by winding lagoon canals that have crept in between islets, sandbanks and extensive reed beds. You can admire it along some itineraries on the lagoon flats, until you reach Cason delle Sacche, once a hunters' refuge. Casone Millecampi is situated on a motta (tiny island) in the middle of the lagoon. The Casoni di Fogolana, on the other hand, were built recently following the ancient plans of fishermen's houses.

★ Cason delle Sacche, Casone Millecampi, Asparagus Festival (April-May), Radicchio Festival (September-October), Birdwatching, the beach of Boschettona, Millecampi Valley



3 Oasi Ca' Roman - D2

Connected to Pellestrina by dykes "murazzi", Cà Roman has been a protected oasis since 1989, it is one of the few intact coastlines of the upper Adriatic and the habitat of an extraordinarily varied fauna: in fact, it is situated on an important migratory route and many species of birds stop here on their journey. The beach is one of the now rare nesting sites of the Fratino (Kentish plover) and the Fraticello (Little tern) species.

★ Sand dunes, Coastal woodland, Birdwatching
ACTV Route: 11



4 Pellestrina - D3

There is an island of fishermen, which still preserves its traditions, among which are lace made with spindles and the characteristic "bussola" bread. Worth a visit are the charming hamlet of San Pietro in Volta, among the oldest villages of this corner of the Lagoon, and the cheerful inhabited area of Pellestrina, with a marked maritime character.

★ San Piero in Volta, Portosecco, Hamlet of Pellestrina, Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Apparition, Murazzi, Feast of the Apparition (August), Regatta of Pellestrina (August), Bussolai, spindle lace
ACTV Route: 11



5 Valley Averta Oasis - B3

The Averta valley is a WWF oasis. It still preserves the morphology of a Fishing valley and the old casone has been restored. It's a perfect stopover for several species of birds, it includes large pools of brackish water, reed beds and canals, which offer fascinating landscapes, especially at sunset. Managed Area restricted access to the public only: Please check opening days and times.

★ Rich biodiversity, Birdwatching Averta Valley Oasis



6 Alberoni Oasis - C4

Located at the southern end of Venice Lido and in the vicinity of the ancient hamlet of Malamocco: A place dear to Venetians with a landscape characterised by free and natural beaches with high sandy dunes. The Alberoni Oasis, now a WWF protected area, is a precious container of biodiversity of rare value in the upper Adriatic.

★ Dune, Birdwatching



7 Venice Lido - C5

Venice Lido is one of the best known islands, a sandy coastline that acts as a 'watershed' between the lagoon and the open sea. The centre of Lido seduces visitors with its gardens and charming Art Nouveau villas.

★ Church and Convent of San Nicolò, Seafront promenade, Art Nouveau Villas, ancient village of Malamocco, Murazzi, Peocico (mussels) Festival (end of August, beginning of September), Film Festival (end of August, beginning of September)

ATCV Routes: 1, 5.1, 5.2, 6, 10, 14, 17 and seasonal routes Lido di Venezia

THE TREASURES OF THE LAGOON



8 San Lazzaro degli Armeni - C5

San Lazzaro degli Armeni is a treasure chest of inestimable artistic and cultural value, still guarded today by a community of Armenian monks. Until a few decades ago, it was also home to a well-known multilingual printing works. The library still preserves rare manuscripts and inside the museum you can admire a series of artistic works of great value. Managed Area restricted access to the public only: Please check opening days and times.

★ Armenian Mechitarian Monastery

ATCV Route: 20 San Lazzaro degli Armeni



9 San Servolo - C5

The island has a large architectural complex surrounded by a beautiful park. It was the seat of monastic communities until the beginning of the XVIII century, when the Serenissima republic turned it into a hospice for mentally ill patients from the noble classes. It continued to function as a psychiatric hospital until the Basaglia reform of 1978. Today it is home to the Venice International University.

★ Permanent exhibition of contemporary art, the Museum of Madness, Cloister and Church of the 1700s
ATCV Route: 20 San Servolo



10 San Giuliano Park - B6

Large verdant area of Mestre and the eighth largest urban park in Europe, it offers an articulated network of pedestrian and cycle paths. From here you can admire the skyline of Venice, quickly reachable on public transport. Just a short distance away is Forte Marghera, the main focus of the nineteenth-century Entrenched Field in Mestre, which today offers many recreational and refreshment areas.

★ Public park, Sports Clubs (rowing, sailing) San Giuliano Park



11 Certosa - C6

The name derives from the Carthusian fathers who inhabited it for many centuries. Thanks to a complex recovery project, today the island is home to a large public park, a marina with about 300 moorings, a hotel-restaurant, a nautical shipyard. You can explore the island on foot or hire a kayak or a small electric motor boat to explore the lagoon.

★ Casello delle polveri gunpowder depot, Casa Dell'ortolano, the Park, the Marina, Kayaks and electric boats to rent
ATCV Routes: 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2 Certosa



12 San Nicolò Oasis - C6

Natural Oasis located in the northern part of Venice Lido, named after the nearby church of San Nicolò (XI century), where some of the relics of the homonymous saint are preserved. It is a coastal area full of heritage for the presence of the typical habitats of the sandy coast of the upper Adriatic and well suited for the nesting of the protected bird life that populates it, like the Kentish plover and the Little tern.

★ Church and Convent of San Nicolò, Birdwatching in San Nicolò Oasis



13 S.Michele In Isola - C6

The island is home to the city's urban cemetery and is also known as "Cavana de Muran", as it was used as a refuge for the boatmen who would cross the lagoon. Here lie famous celebrities and illustrious personalities including Igor Stravinsky and Ezra Pound.

★ Cemetery, Monastic Complex, Church of San Michele
ATCV Routes: 4.1, 4.2



14 Le Vignole - C6

The island of Vignole, once called "Island of the seven vines" is little known to the general public, with a handful of houses dotted around here and there separated by vegetable fields, it is home to very few inhabitants. Not far away is the Fort of St. Andrea, built in the middle of the XVI century.

★ Church of St. Eurosia, Vegetable patches, Fort of St. Andrea
ATCV Route: 13



15 Murano - C6

Murano is actually a small archipelago, that, from 1291 onwards, became a real "glassworks district". It attracts visitors and admirers from all over the world who are fascinated by the artistic creations of master glass artisans who are usually pleased to open the doors of their workshops and their furnaces to visitors.

★ Glass Museum of Murano, Glass Factories, Church of St. Pietro Martyr, Cathedral of Santa Maria and Donato, Murano Blown Glass demonstrations
ATCV Routes: 3, 4.1, 4.2, 12,13 plus seasonal routes 7, 18



16 Lazzaretto Novo - C6

The island of Lazzaretto Novo was an ancient quarantine site for goods and equipment coming in from the orient and was created to safeguard the city from being contaminated by pestilence. During the guided tours visitors may access the sixteenth century "Tezon Grande", the walls of which are covered in the graffiti of the merchants who had to deposit their wares inside. Managed area restricted public access only: please check opening days and times.

★ Tezon Grande, Vera Da Pozzo, Sandbank Pathway
ATCV Route: 13



17 Sant'Erasmo - C6

Sant'Erasmo is nicknamed "the vegetable garden of Venice". Since the Middle Ages it has provided Venice with fruit, vegetables and legumes and still today preserves its horticultural vocation. Its famous violet artichokes farmed by the local Consortium have been recognized by the Slow Food association. Ancient vineyards on the island have been recuperated and you may taste and purchase the local wine at several wineries.

★ Vegetable gardens, Artichoke fields, Vineyards, Massimiliana Tower, Church of Cristo Re, Artichoke festival (May), Must Festival (October), Regata of Sant'Erasmo (June)
ATCV route: 13



18 San Francesco del Deserto - C7

The island of San Francesco del Deserto is an oasis of peace and meditation. On this strip of land on the edge of the lagoon, from the XIII century there has been a convent of Franciscan friars dedicated to prayer and contemplation which open its doors to visitors who wish to learn more about the establishment of their cenobium. Reachable by private or rental boats. Managed area restricted public access only: Please check days and opening times.

★ Franciscan Convent, Oratory of St. Francis
Route: Seasonal route from Burano



19 Mazzorbo - C7

Vegetable gardens and Vineyards punctuate this tranquil corner of the Lagoon, with its characteristic hamlet built along the shores of the canal that crosses the island. The ancient Church of Santa Caterina preserves the most ancient bell of the Lagoon. A characteristic wooden bridge – called ' Ponte Longo ' – links Mazzorbo to the better known Burano.

★ Church of S. Caterina, Tower of S. Michele Arcangelo, New houses by Giancarlo De Carlo, Municipal Vegetable Gardens
Linee ATCV: 12



20 Burano - C7

The colourful houses, the fishing boats that return to the harbour, the steeply leaning bell tower, are the salient features of Burano, a picturesque island of the northern Venetian Lagoon, where you can still practise the ancient art of needle lace and where you can taste "bussolai" and "esses", the island's traditional biscuits.

★ St. Martin's Church, the Crooked Bell Tower, the Oratory of Santa Barbara, the Lace Museum, Da Romano Art Gallery, Bussolai, lace, fishing tours and Line Fishing Techniques
Route: Seasonal route from Altino, 12, 14 seasonal route from Venice Lido



21 Torcello - C7

Torcello was the ancient port area of Altino and where the Roman populations moved to also due to the barbarian invasions. During the late Middle Ages it became a "mega emporion" and the episcopal seat. It houses an important Byzantine religious complex, famous for its mosaics of the XII-XIII centuries, among them the majestic "Universal Judgement".

★ Cathedral of S. Maria Assunta, Church of Santa Fosca, Torcello Museum, Casa Andrich, Devil's Bridge, Artichoke fields
Route: 12, Seasonal route from Altino



22 Swamp of Cona - C8

The wetland area near Altino, at the mouth of Dese, is one of the points of access to the banks of the lagoon, from which you can observe the typical landscape of the swamp affected by the tides and characterized by large reed beds, sandbanks and shallow waters. Good point for observing the lagoon birds.

★ Birdwatching, Lagoon Landscape



23 Lio Piccolo - D7

Lio Piccolo is a charming area in the heart of the North Lagoon. A small road winds through the Fishing Valleys and the cultivated fields of violet artichokes until you reach the ancient village, with the small church of Santa Maria della Neve and the rural houses of Mesole. In every season it is an excellent place for spotting many species of birds, most notably the flamingos.

★ Gardens, Fishing Valleys, Ancient Village, Birdwatching

Missing and abandoned islands

24 - C7 25 - C8

Costanziana, Ammiana, La Cura, Sant'Ariano, Madonna del Monte, S. Giacomo in Paludo and others. In the lagoon you may come across islands that have been abandoned since the Middle Ages because of difficult environmental conditions. Some have even disappeared, erased by the water. Today, thanks to finds recovered during archaeological excavations it is possible, accompanied by experts, to locate them in the midst of the marshes and sandbanks.



26 Altino - B8

Altino, an ancient inhabited area of Paleovenetian origin, acquired importance during the Roman dominion, until it was to become a strategic commercial port for the whole upper Adriatic. Today it houses a prestigious archaeological museum, and the pier on the adjoining canal is an excellent starting point for those who wish to discover the Lagoon.

★ National Archaeological Museum, Archaeological Excavations, Marsh of Cona

Route: Seasonal route to Burano, Torcello and S. Francesco del Deserto



27 Lio Maggiore - D8

The fishing valleys, the agrarian landscape of the coastal vegetable gardens and the sandbanks: these are the features of the landscape of Lio Maggiore, a place suspended between land and water and populated by numerous species of birds, making it an ideal place for those who love birdwatching.

★ Torre Caligo, Fishing Valleys



28 Val Paliaga - D9

Small freshwater wetland at the mouth of the Dese River, a precious stopover area for migratory birds. Among the meadows and fruit trees you may observe and photograph the birdlife of the Lagoon all year round. The particular care with which the area is managed makes it a real oasis of natural and agricultural biodiversity. Managed Area restricted access to the public only: please check opening days and times.

★ Birdwatching, Nature Photography, Butterflies, Fruit Trees, Reed Beds



IAT Tourist Information Offices



Info-point of the Lagoon. Check the list on: www.lagoonofvenice.it

IAT Venezia Piazza San Marco 71/f
IAT Venezia Piazzale Roma (Autorimessa Comunale)
IAT Venezia Stazione FS Santa Lucia Railway Station (binario n. 2 / platform n. 2)
IAT Aeroporto Internazionale Marco Polo International Airport (area arrivi / Arrivals)
IAT Mestre via Lazzari 32 (Piazzale Cialdini)
www.veneziaunica.it info@veneziaunica.it ☎ +39 041 2424

IAT Jesolo Piazza Brescia, 13 - 30016 Jesolo (VE)
☎ +39 0421 370601 Fax: +39 0421 370608
info@turismojesolo.it - www.jesolo.it
IAT Quarto d'Altino
Piazza San Michele, 1 Quarto d'Altino
c/o Biblioteca Comunale – Centro Culturale Tina Merlin
info@altinumwelcomecard.it - www.altinumwelcomecard.it

IAT Cavallino Via Fausta, 406/a ☎ +39 041 8626322
IAT Punta Sabbioni P.le Punta Sabbioni
☎ +39 041 966010
IAT Museo Batteria Pisani Via Vettor Pisani, 40
☎ +39 041 2909555
info@cavallino.info - www.cavallino.info