

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips



### INSIDER TIP Charming views

Whether a morning stroll or festive evening reception, rowing regatta, ball game, funeral or procession of penitents: the picture gallery in the delightful *Museo Querini Stampalia* throws light on Venetian everyday life in the 18th century → p. 43

### INSIDER TIP Little-known Tintoretto

The Gothic *Madonna dell'Orto* church is the home of an exquisite collection of paintings, including several by Tintoretto → p. 48

### INSIDER TIP A charitable feast

At the youthful and inviting restaurant *Fantàsia*, run by a charity organization, you can enjoy pizzas, pasta dishes or fish specialities while also helping those suffering from rare diseases or other handicaps → p. 69

### INSIDER TIP There's no place like home!

Giuseppe Galardi's *Osteria Al Assassini* serves up daily specials *alla casa* → p. 63

### INSIDER TIP Model ships as souvenirs

From fret saw kits for children to painstakingly detailed replicas of large sailing ships and galleys that have taken hundreds of hours of work: *Gilberto Penzo* creates fascinating boats and ships en miniature in his workshop → p. 75

### INSIDER TIP Dining on Murano

For creative cuisine and excellent wines, head to *Vecchia Pescheria* in a stylishly renovated old factory and its idyllic terrace → p. 67

### INSIDER TIP Smart slip-ons

Cooler than the coolest flip-flops: the non-slip, velvety-soft shoes worn by the gondolieri in *Piedàterre* → p. 75

### INSIDER TIP Music lovers, take note!

Operas in historic costumes are staged in the lovely *Scuola Grande dei Carmini* → p. 53

### INSIDER TIP A treat for the eyes and taste buds

Individualists and gourmets have made themselves at home on the garden island of Mazzorbo in *Ostello Venissa*, just 30 minutes by boat from San Marco (photo below) → p. 89

### INSIDER TIP Bed & breakfast on the Lido

Enjoy the personal service and charm of staying at the *Angelika* → p. 87

### INSIDER TIP On the heels of maritime greatness

Admire the collection of historic sailing vessels at the *Ships Pavilion* → p. 43

### INSIDER TIP A picture book trattoria

*Piatti tipici*: enjoying seasonal delicacies among the many local guests at *Vini da Gigio* → p. 68

### INSIDER TIP A gem of a church – over 1000 years old

The church of *San Giacomo dell'Orto*, whose interior exudes a fascinating medieval atmosphere, is located in the heart of the *sestiere* San Polo on one of the most atmospheric squares in the city → p. 51

### INSIDER TIP Gelato perfetto

Eccentric flavours such as ginger, liquorice, artichoke and cardamom or classics like vanilla and hazelnut: in his mini-shop, appropriately named *Alaska*, Carlo Pistacchi whips up the most delicious ice cream in town (photo left) → p. 64

### INSIDER TIP Discover the secrets of the lagoon with the kids

*Bragozzi*, nostalgic wooden barges, will take you to the hidden areas of the lagoon: to small islands such as San Francesco del Deserto, past fishermen's pile huts, old salt works and fortresses and through the tranquil labyrinth of the canals → p. 102



# BEST OF...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

### ● *San Marco – the treasure chest*

Admission to the grand, richly ornamented *St Mark's Basilica*, this orgy of gold, silver and precious stones, is free -- not only that, but from spring to autumn, guided tours to the gorgeous stone mosaics don't cost anything either → p. 33, 36

### ● *Tête-à-Tête with death*

What do the composer Igor Stravinsky, the poet Ezra Pound and the dancer Sergei Diaghilev have in common? They and many other famous people have found their final resting place on the cemetery island *San Michele*. Visit their graves and be captured by the atmosphere of this freely accessible site (photo) → p. 57

### ● *Partying under the stars*

Chatting with the locals while enjoying a glass of wine is easy, weather permitting, as many of the squares turn into proper open-air party venues where you don't have to buy drinks. Some of the most popular spots are the *Campi Santa Margherita* and *San Bartolomeo* → p. 80

### ● *Museum of harmony*

Listen to the hits of days long gone as Baroque music fills the air while you explore the exhibition of well-crafted flutes, violas, violins and lutes in the church of *San Maurizio* in the heart of San Marco → p. 36

### ● *Superlative painting*

What is supposedly the largest Baroque ceiling painting in the world is hidden behind the modest brick façade of *San Pantalon* church – a colossal work put together out of 40 individual canvas elements, freely accessible → p. 57

### ● *Stroll through luxurious film sets*

The *Grand Hotel des Bains* on the Lido served as the backdrop for Luchino Visconti's world-famous film adaptation of Thomas Mann's "Death in Venice". The terrace, foyer, restaurants and park still exude this glamorous aura of the past and can be toured discreetly without having to pay a cent → p. 58

●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

## ONLY IN VENICE

Unique experiences

### ● *Floating icons of the city*

Many visitors feel that a ride in a *gondola* is the epitome of romance. Anybody who has ever glided over the waters of the peaceful canals will understand why (photo) → p. 110

### ● *Sundowner or dinner at the Rialto*

The district on the *bank of the Canal Grande* between the fish market and *Fabbriche Vecchie* has the reputation of being a really trendy place. You will understand why if you feast on, or sip, the specialties served at one of the tables in the open air → p. 76

### ● *Lively festivals*

The Venetian carnival is known around the world. But, the Venetians also demonstrate their talent for celebrating at several smaller festivals worth attending throughout the year, including the *Asparagus Festival* in Cavallino, the *Fishermen's Festival of Malamocco* and the *Wine Festival on Sant'Erasmus* → p. 104, 105

### ● *The island of the lacemakers*

For centuries, Venetian lace has been known for its quality. If you visit the little picturesque island of *Burano*, you can learn how lace is made at one of the needlepoint schools and admire pieces sewn by local craftspeople in the museum → p. 57

### ● *Bellini, Titian, Tintoretto & Co.*

From momentous Biblical scenes by the great masters of the Renaissance to the genre and landscape paintings of the Baroque and Rococo periods: nowhere else can art lovers find such a wealth from the quintessence of Venetian painting of this quality than in the *Galleria dell'Accademia* → p. 54

### ● *The whole city turned into a masked ball*

Every year, the Venetians revel in a feast for all the senses at the *classic carnival* (Mardi Gras) from the middle of January to Shrove Tuesday – the best time to let yourself be enchanted by Venice! → p. 104

### ● *Long promenade on the waterside*

When there is still snow on the mainland, the first sunrays of spring tickle the skin on the *Zattere* in Dorsoduro. But a walk along the quay with a view over the *Giudecca Canal* is sure to warm your heart → p. 52



# ONLY IN

# DISCOVERY TOURS

1

## VENICE AT A GLANCE



**START:** ① Santa Lucia train station

**END:** ② Art Blu Caffè

Distance:

→ approx. 12 km/7.5 miles

1 day

Walking time  
(without stops)  
approx. 3 ½ hours

**COSTS:** 100–150 euros/person (day ticket for local transportation, admission fees, food, coffee, drinks, evening concert tickets)

**WHAT TO PACK:** rain gear or sun protection as needed

**IMPORTANT TIPS:** you can vary the starting point of this tour depending on the location of your hotel – just start from the closest *vaporetti* stop to your neighbourhood.

You can only tour the **Cathedral** and climb the **Campanile** at the times provided during the main season between Easter and October because these attractions close earlier at other times of the year.

You should try to purchase concert tickets well in advance of your trip.

Cities have many faces. If you want to get behind the scenes to explore their unique charm and head off the beaten track or find your way to green oases, handpicked restaurants or the best local activities, then these tailored Discovery Tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

Get to know Venice at its best in just one eventful day with this tour packed full of the city's highlights.

① Santa Lucia train station



② Caffè del Doge



**08:00am** At the ① **Santa Lucia train station**, take a **Line 1 vaporetto** to **San Silvestro**. In the morning light, the glistening façades of the palaces along the Canal Grande breeze past – there really is no better way to begin a day exploring the grandeur of this city on the lagoon! Stop for a coffee near Rialto bridge at ② **Caffè del Doge** → p. 64. **Then head northwards and go around two or three cor-**