







Boat and Bike MS Vitag Pugana | From Venice to Mantua

Boat and bike Italy

Rich Italy on the river

Blending nature, culture and fine cuisine, this leisurely bike and barge tour along the waterways of the River Po offers more than just a taster of Northern Italy. It explores celebrated cities of art, one of Europe’s prime Nature Reserves and a wealth of tucked-away rural hamlets along the route, rewarding our daily rides with authentic regional dishes back on board. From the glory of Venice, the lagoon leads us to colourful Chioggia. Next up, the natural wonders of the Po Delta, famed for its birdlife. Then Adria, once a key Roman port, and onwards to Ferrara and Mantua – once major city states crowned by the Italian Renaissance.

Italy

Easy

8 Days / 7 Nights

Guided group tour

To the online version



Itinerary

Day 1**Arrival Venice**

We welcome you aboard your new home-from-home from 4.30 p.m. onwards, and then regroup for the introductory briefing – at 6.30 – with your tour leader, skipper and crew, along with a first refreshing aperitivo. After dinner we can savour Venice at night, now free of the crowds and at her most romantic: Benvenuti a Venezia

Day 2**Venice**

After breakfast – and perhaps following a wander off the beaten track with your tour leader – we all meet up with our Venetian guide for a tour through the historic centre. Christened La Serenissima ("The Most Serene"), the Venetian Republic held sway over much of the Mediterranean (and beyond) for centuries – both as a military power and a beacon of culture. The guided tour will start from Piazza San Marco with a brief description of the monuments around it; then the walk continues towards the biggest "sestiere" of the city, Castello, up to Campo dei Santi Giovanni e Paolo with its imposing gothic church and the Scuola Grande di San Marco (today city hospital). The guided tour ends at the Rialto Bridge; you have the afternoon free to enjoy the city at your own pace. (The programme may be subject to changes).

Day 3**Venice – Pellestrina**

approx. 30 km

Leaving Venice behind after a gentle cruise in front of St Mark's square, our first stop will be on Murano island, where we will visit a historic glass factory, with a glassblowing demonstration by a master artisan. Then our cycling adventure starts on the Lido, the first of two islands we traverse today. Fashionable in high society ever since the Belle Époque, the Lido di Venezia is now home to the International Venice Film Festival and its galaxy of stars. A short island-hop by ferry takes us into another world: Pellestrina, where we ride past the picturesque cottages and boats of this humble fishing backwater. We rejoin our barge just in front of Chioggia – a bustling and colourful fishing hub known as "Little Venice".

Day 4**Pellestrina – Porto Viro – Adria**

approx. 40 km

We open the day with a stroll through Chioggia, followed perhaps by a visit up the millennial clock tower – the oldest in the world – for some breathtaking views. Weather permitting, we can also bask in the sun at a fine-sand beach nearby: a dip in the Adriatic, a hot savoury piadina – and you are well and truly local! Then onwards into the delta of the life-giving Po. This unique wetland is the prime reserve in Europe for herons and home to a colony of flamingos. We moor for the night in Adria, a key Roman port, once washed by the waters of the sea which bears its name. Adria is also renowned for its Etruscan and Greek heritage. An after-dinner passeggiata into town for a well-earned grappa or gelato is in order.

Day 5**Adria – Ferrara – Zelo**


approx. 35 km by bike + 35 km by Bus

After a short cruise we saddle our bikes and, following the Po through farmland and hamlets, we reach Ferrara. Under its ruling family, the Este, this city state attracted architects, artists and scholars for centuries, pioneering town planning principles that have been emulated worldwide ever since. To this day, Ferrara University ranks among the best, and the town is dubbed the "Cycling Capital of Italy". A private bus and trailer take us back to our floating hotel in Zelo, a sleepy village on the Canal Bianco, the waterway which runs parallel to the Po.

 ca. 35 km + Busfahrt
Day 6**Zelo – Mantua**


approx. 50 km

This morning we head for the village of Bergantino, home of the distinctive Museum of Fairground Rides and its collection of street organs, all expertly restored (and thunderous!). But first things first: we are in the heartland of Grana Padano – the arch-rival of Parmesan – and after visiting the local cheese factory, we enjoy a degustazione of sharp and seasoned Grana, washed down with a glass of Valpolicella. After our customary picnic lunch, we leave Bergantino and follow the river to Ostiglia, famed for its medieval fortress and the fierce fighting that took place here in 1945, as the Allies and partisans drove Hitler's forces back. We ride on and rejoin our barge at Governolo Lock, where Mantua's River Mincio flows into the Po. Veering north, we cruise through the lush wetlands that finally emerge into the glorious "lakes" of Mantua.

 ca. 50 km
Day 7**Round trip Mantua**

approx. 35 km

A day dedicated to the discovery of this cultural gem, its three picturesque "lakes" formed by the river Mincio and the surrounding countryside. This afternoon we meet our Mantuan guide for a walking tour across the historic centre: starting from Piazza Sordello with its magnificent cathedral and Palazzo Ducale, we will walk through the city centre up to Piazza delle Erbe. Here we will admire the Clock Tower, the Rotonda di S. Lorenzo (the oldest church in town) and the Cathedral of St. Andrew, a jewel of Renaissance art and architecture. We will learn why Mantua, once a City State ruled by the Gonzaga family, is now considered by many as Italy's "Sleeping Beauty". (The programme may be subject to changes).

 ca. 35 km
Day 8**Mantua**

Departure after breakfast. Embarkatio till 09 a.m.

Tour character

Along cycle paths and on secondary roads with little traffic. Most of the stages are flat, with a few short sections on unpaved roads.

➤ **Explore the area on Google Maps**

Prices and events

Place of arrival: Venice

| | Season 2 20.04.2024 29.06.2024 13.07.2024 27.07.2024 10.08.2024 | Season 3 04.05.2024 18.05.2024 01.06.2024 15.06.2024 19.10.2024 | Season 4 24.08.2024 07.09.2024 21.09.2024 05.10.2024 |
|---|---|--|--|
| Bike & boat Venice to Mantua, 8 , MS Vita Pugna, 8 days, IT-ABSVM-08G | | | |
| Base price | 1,400.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,600.00 |
| Surcharge 2-bed-cabin single use | 900.00 | 900.00 | 900.00 |

Our bookable bikes

| | Price |
|----------------|--------|
| 27-gear unisex | 110.00 |
| E-Bike | 270.00 |

Prices per person in EUR

Services and extras

Services

- 7 overnights
- Full board (breakfast, dinner and a self-made packed lunch)
- Coffee and tea and other hot drinks on board
- Sheets and towels
- Complimentary courtesy kit
- Daily short cleaning and mid-week cabin cleaning service and towel change
- Bike helmet
- Travel Guide, Maps, Roadbook
- English speaking tour leader within an international group
- Second tour leader with a minimum of 25 people (only aboard Ave Maria)
- Guided visit in Venice and Mantua
- Visit of a cheese factory with tasting of typical Grana Padano
- Visit of Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum
- Visit of a historic glass factory on Murano island
- Harbour charges
- Bus transfer Ferrara-Zelo / Ferrara-Adria

Not included

- Beverages on board
- Museums, fees and extras in general
- Ticket for public transportation in Venice and lagoon (we suggest the ACTV 48hticket, 30 €)
- Tips
- Everything not mentioned in the section "Included"

Infos

Arrival/Departure

- By plane to Venice and by water taxi to the ship
- By train via Mailand to Mantua

Notes

Further important information according to the package travel law can be found [here!](#)

Accommodation



MS Vita Pugna

The slightly simple equipped ship for a maximum of 20 guests is equipped with a sun deck and an air-conditioned living room.

Contact & booking

Do you still have questions about the tour? We are happy to help and look forward to your inquiry.



**Theresa
Hengst**

Book now