

Ā M A N
V E N I C E

Activities Guide





Built on water, steeped in history and synonymous with romance, Venice is a fabled destination with a glorious past. Built atop 118 small islands, separated by winding canals and linked by arching bridges, this legendary Italian city was once a major power in the Mediterranean and a flourishing trade centre between Western Europe and the rest of the world. Today it is known for the beauty of its setting, its architecture and its artworks: The entire city along with its lagoon is listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site. Home to the Piazza San Marco and St Mark's Basilica, Venice is perhaps best known for its iconic Grand Canal.

Meandering in a sinuous s-shape, the city's main thoroughfare is plied by gondolas and vaporetti (water buses) and lined with more than 170 gracious buildings between 200 and 700 years old. Physical reminders of the city's grand heritage, most were built to demonstrate the wealth and artistry of the Republic of Venice in its heyday. It is in one of these regal old homes that Aman Venice is housed, ideally placed for those wishing to explore the history, culture and modern day magic of the 'Floating City'.



Revisit the Past

Already a city state with impressive naval and commercial powers between the 9th and 12th centuries, Venice became an imperial power after the sacking of Constantinople in 1204, when much of the plunder was brought to its shores. By the late 13th century, Venice was the most prosperous city in all of Europe, dominating Mediterranean commerce. During this time, the city's most powerful families tried to outdo each other by building the grandest palaces possible, and supporting the work of the most talented artists. Many of the results of this competitive spirit survive today, and can be admired on personalised excursions with experienced guides.



Explore the Palazzo

The 16th-century palazzo in which Aman is housed was completed in 1570 by the architect Gian Giacomo dé Grigi, as commissioned by the Coccina family. The Coccinas were wealthy traders and seafarers who had recently moved to Venice from Bergamo. Some of Italy's most celebrated artists were employed at different times to add unique decorative touches such as painted ceilings and carved fireplaces. These included Jacopo d'Antonio Sansovino (1486-1570), Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1696-1770) and Paolo Veronese (1528 - 1588).

The palazzo changed hands several times between 1837 and 1864 when it was acquired by the Papadopoli, the family was native from Corfu in Greece, they were bankers (Nicolo and Angelo Papadopoli). Count Nicolo married Maddalena Aldobrandini who came from a wealthy family of intellectuals, descendant of the pope Clemente VIII. Nicolo offer her the palazzo and set about an ambitious renovation. In 1865 they hired architect Girolamo Levi, and entrusted the internal decoration of the piano nobile – the main living area of the palazzo – to Michelangelo Guggenheim.

Guggenheim was a leading exponent of the NeoRenaissance and Rococo styles, and he reinvented the space, turning the palazzo into one of the most significant examples of these styles in Venice. The palazzo was reimagined as the perfect home for entertaining, with access from the side canal for all services and deliveries. It also featured one of the first elevators in Venice, as well as electric chandeliers and an internal phone system. The brothers also created the palazzo's two gardens, unusual features in the city even today. By 1882, Palazzo Papadopoli was hosting the highest echelons of Venetian society.

At the close of the 19th century, Vera Papadopoli Aldobrandini married Count Giberto Arrivabene with the palazzo as part of her dowry. Today, the palazzo is still owned by the family. A historic oasis alive with the gentle sounds of water all around.

Every new guest adds to the rich tapestry of the palazzo's history, with their voices and presence added to the generations that have gone before.

While staying at Aman Venice a personal tour is offered to explore the Palazzo and its history.





Get lost in Venice

Aman Venice overlooks the Grand Canal in San Polo, the smallest of the six sestieri (districts) of Venice. Named for the Church of San Polo, it is also one of the oldest parts of the city, known for its beautiful palaces, churches and market. We highly recommend “getting lost” in this area, just head out the back gate of the Palazzo and start wandering. It really doesn’t matter which way you go; there is beauty in every direction over the district’s 35 hectares. If you would like a map, we will happily provide one. Otherwise simply follow the signs for Rialto Bridge, the oldest of the four bridges spanning the Grand Canal, located a five-minute stroll from the palazzo. Over the bridge, the wonders of San Marco are a 15-minute walk away. These include Piazza San Marco and St Mark’s Basilica.



Piazza San Marco

The principal public square of Venice, Piazza San Marco is the city's social, religious and political centre. Once called 'the drawing room of Europe' (reputedly by Napoleon), it is surrounded by the city's most magnificent buildings.

St Mark's Basilica

The most famous of Venice's churches and the city's cathedral since 1807, St Mark's Basilica is one of the world's best-known examples of Italo-Byzantine architecture. Its opulent design, gold mosaics and status as a symbol of Venice's historic wealth and power resulted in its nickname 'Chiesa d'Oro' or 'Church of Gold', which it has been known as since the 11th century. It lies at the eastern end of Piazza San Marco, adjacent and connected to the Doge's Palace.

Doge's Palace - Palazzo Ducale

For more than 1,000 years, from 697 to 1797, the Republic of Venice was governed by a Doge, elected for life by the city-state's aristocracy. The Doge headed up the Council of Ten, who were voted for by a senate of 200 to 300 men. The Doge's Palace was the seat of power until Napoleon's invasion unceremoniously ended the Republic. One of the wonders of Venice, the original palace dates back to the ninth century, but the existing structure was built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1340. A museum since 1923, guests can explore its hidden corners with a specialist guide. A very special private visit is possible for Aman Venice guests after closing time.

One and a half hour private tour, available at 6.30pm - after closing time (up to five people)

St Mark's Clock Tower - Torre dell'Orologio

The Clock Tower is a masterpiece of Renaissance technology and engineering dating back to 1499. For more than 500 years its clock has measured out the flow of life and history within the city both for Venetians and visitors. Aman Venice can arrange a private visit to climb the tower to view the workings of the clock and enjoy its views.

The ticket purchased for the Clock Tower tour also grants access to the three main museums of Piazza San Marco: Museo Correr, Museo Archeologico Nazionale and Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana.

Visit with a private guide for a one hour tour (up to five people)

Lido Beaches

The Venice Lido is the long sand bank of an island that protects Venice from the Adriatic Sea. It has been a famous beach resort since the 19th century and was the star of the novella and film 'Death in Venice' by Thomas Mann. The Lido offers an old-fashioned beach experience, with grand hotels and long lines of cabanas along its sandy shores. Sea walls along the extent of the island make wonderful cycle paths. The Lido is also home to Ca' del Moro Tennis Club and Circolo Golf Venezia Golf Club.

Aman Venice can arrange bike rental for cycling excursions along the Lido.



Cultural Insight

The mystique of Venice has long held authors, poets, artists and travellers in its thrall. The birthplace of Marco Polo and Casanova, Venice has also been a setting for countless fictional heroes, from Shakespeare's Othello to Voltaire's Candide. A large part of the city's allure is its rich culture, apparent today in its architecture, interior design, music, art, glass, festivals and fashion.



Treasures of San Polo

Venice has always been one of Europe's major art centres, especially during the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque periods when it was common for wealthy Venetians to become patrons of the arts. Early masters were Giorgione and Titian, followed by Tintoretto and Veronese. The advent of printing also raised the city's profile, as by the end of the 15th century Venice had become one of the first cities in Italy to have a printing press, after those established in Germany.

Enjoy a guided walking tour of San Polo with one of our art experts. Highlights include the churches of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, as well as the Scuola Grande di San Rocco with its notable collection of Tintoretto paintings.

The guided walking tour is up to five people



Modern Art

Today Venice is a centre of the modern art world, and Aman Venice's art experts are equally adept at revealing the city's modern masterpieces. Amongst the most important museums in Italy for European and American art of the first half of the 20th century, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection features pre-war art of Pablo Picasso, Constantin Brâncuși, Jackson Pollock, Max Ernst and many more. Then there is Ca' Pesaro, a magnificent monument and museum overlooking the Grand Canal: Since 1902, it has been the permanent seat of the International Gallery of Modern Art in Venice. Consisting of more than 3,000 works from the 20th and 21st centuries, the Pinault Collection is housed in two exceptional buildings: Palazzo Grassi, inaugurated in 2006, and Punta della Dogana, opened in 2009. These sites were restored by Japanese architect Tadao Ando, a Pritzker Prize laureate, and exhibitions include the works of artists such as Donald Judd and Jeff Koons.

**Note exhibitions are temporary and subject to change*



Gallerie dell'Accademia

Join one of our art experts to fully appreciate this museum gallery known as the essential one-stop shop for pre-19th-century Venetian art. The Gallerie dell'Accademia is without doubt one of the world's greatest art treasure houses with paintings by Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese, Bellini, Carpaccio, Giorgione and Canaletto to name but a few.

Two hour private tour for up to two people, €340

Each additional person, up to a maximum of five, €25 each

Currently closed on Mondays

Cancellation policy: cancel by 6:00pm local time 72 hours prior to avoid full penalty

Teatro la Fenice

Teatro La Fenice is one of the most famous opera houses in the world, and has hosted many opera premieres since its foundation in 1792, including Verdi's Rigoletto and La Traviata. The Opera has been true to its name - the Phoenix - and has risen from the ashes on three occasions. It was completely rebuilt after the fire of 1996, and restored to its former glory. On selected dates Aman Venice guests have access to a private box, allowing a privileged view of the iconic stage. The experience includes boat transfers and aperitivi.

Musica a Palazzo

A cultural association of classical musicians who produce opera performances in the piano nobile of Palazzo Barbarigo Minotto, Musica a Palazzo follows the 19th-century Italian practice of Salotto Musicale, performing without a stage with the audience becoming part of each scene. The program changes nightly, including such famous operas as La Traviata, The Barber of Seville, Rigoletto, Tosca and Don Giovanni.

Venice of the Artisans

Venice of the Artisans Tour takes guests on a guided three-hour tour to discover the incredible work of Venetian craftsmen's ateliers. Over the centuries, the marvellous floating city has provided superior handicrafts, prized for their artistic and craftsmanship excellence and thus exported all over the world. The splendour of its glory days still shines in its ateliers, where local artists and craftsmen keep centuries-old traditions alive. Aman Venice offers guests a unique opportunity to venture off the beaten track and explore the treasures of Venice's alleyways, meeting local artisans in their workshops and hearing the stories of their ancient craft traditions. Discover the pearls of Venice's craftsmanship, admire the expertise of local artisans and make shopping here a real education. From the famous Murano glass to gold artwork and mosaics, the tour includes some of the city's most hidden, magical and unique ateliers, allowing guests to explore and experience Venice like never before.

During the tour, subject to availability, you can visit two of the following ateliers: Mario Berta Battiloro's workshop (gold producer), the Forcole workshop (oarlock maker), the Squero (gondola boatyard), Fornace Orsoni (mosaics) and Tessitura Bevilacqua (woven fabrics and velvets).

Three hour walking tour for up to four people



Outdoor Adventures

With balmy weather for much of the year, the Veneto region and its capital city is primed for outdoor exploration and activities, whether on the water in Aman's private boat or in Venice's secret gardens, island villages and open-air piazzas.

Boating Excursions

Aman Venice can arrange personalised boating excursions on a variety of vessels, including the hotel's own sleek speedboat when available. Designed and built especially for Aman Venice, Aman is the hotel's elegant 1930's art-deco-style Venetian launch, inspired by an old photograph found in the apartment of the Count and Countess Arrivabene Valenti Gonzaga, the owners of the palazzo. The boat has three cockpits - one for the Captain and two for guests' use. Longer and wider than the usual Venetian water taxis, it features original hardware and every modern comfort. Sound-proofed, air-conditioned and heated, the spacious cabin is furnished with sofas and armchairs. It also has a music system, fridge and hot towel cabinet. The stern of the boat opens to allow easy access for swimming.

Island Hopping

Enjoy a tailor-made excursion discovering the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello.

Murano has been a glassmaker's paradise since 1291, when glass production was transferred from Venice to the tiny island in order to prevent fire damages. Venice benefited from the sacking of Constantinople in 1204 by offering safe haven to many artisans including glassworkers. This happened again in 1453, and by the 16th century, Murano artisans were producing some of the finest, most colourful and decorative glasswork in Europe.

Burano is the island of colours and lace, of fishermen and tradition. In the morning, enjoy a bustling fish market; in the late afternoon, sunset over the lagoon when water and sky creates a kaleidoscopic backdrop to the Venetian skyline. Enjoy an aperitivo and dine at Trattoria al Gatto Nero.

Torcello was one of the first lagoon islands to be populated in 400 AD by those fleeing the mainland due to recurring invasions from the north. It is now one of the lagoon's most charming islands, crowned by the Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta, a church boasting beautiful mosaics. Dine at the famous family restaurant, Locanda Cipriani, among lovely gardens.

Boat per hour: €200 (up to four people)

Each additional person, up to a maximum of six, €25 each plus 20% after 10pm (does not include meals and entry tickets)

Cancellation policy: cancel by 6.00pm local time 48 hours prior to avoid full penalty

Sites and Secrets

Visit both well-known sites and the lagoon's best-kept secrets on this tailor-made boat tour into the heart of the Venetian Lagoon. Before exploring the remote islands that make up the lesser-visited half of this enchanting city, cruise first to the island of Murano, the centre of Italy's artisanal glass blowing industry since 1291. Murano is also home to two spectacular churches, the Basilica of Santa Maria e San Donato, and San Pietro Martire. Then head to La Certosa, a small island first settled in 1199, and later towards idyllic Sant'Erasmo for a picnic lunch amid its vineyards. Continue your journey to peaceful San Francesco del Deserto with its monastery surrounded by large cypress trees.

Five hour tour for up to four people

Not available on Mondays

Lagoon Sunrise

Leave before dawn and cruise down the Grand Canal and out into St Mark's basin, reaching the islands of the southern lagoon as the rising sun gilds the city a brilliant gold.

One hour cruise for two people

Additional persons, up to a maximum of six, available at an extra charge

Departure time suggested depending on sunrise, return around 8:30am



La Giudecca and San Giorgio Maggiore

This walking tour takes in two islands and includes a boat ride with a chilled bottle of Prosecco – ideal for toasting the Venetian skyline. First explore La Giudecca, renowned for its patrician mansions, gardens and relaxed ambience. Discover the magnificent Chiesa del Santissimo Redentore, as well as the charming boutiques that line the island's waterfront. As you return over the water, glass in hand, detour to the isle of San Giorgio Maggiore and climb its bell tower for mesmerising bird's eye views of the Venetian lagoon. The small island is also home to the Cini Foundation, a non-profit cultural institution that supports research and houses substantial collections from diverse fields including the visual arts, music, drama, literature and the history of the Venetian state.

Three hour tour up to four people

Birdwatching, Burano and Torcello

Renowned for its variety of habitats and prolific birdlife, the Venetian Lagoon is the largest wetland along the Mediterranean coastline. Embark on this half-day adventure with an expert birdwatcher aboard a private boat. You'll pass immaculate sandbars, remote fishing villages and entrancing islands where time appears to have stalled, and in each setting, you will identify the different bird species and learn more about the area's flora, fauna and current environmental issues. The experience will be rounded off with stops on colourful Burano and bucolic Torcello (thought to be the first populated island in the lagoon).

Four hour tour available May - October, up to four people,

Sant'Erasmo – Vines and Monasteries

Known as the 'vegetable garden' of La Serenissima, Sant'Erasmo is an island dedicated to cultivating the land. Narrow lanes wind through endless fields and vineyards with breathtaking views of nature and the lagoon at every turn. The largest island in the Venetian Lagoon, it provides a largely tourist-free refuge for all those seeking peace and quiet. Cycle through the flat landscape dotted with farms and rural small-holdings, then pause for a delicious lunch and sample the island's local farm-to-table products from artichokes to honey and wine. On your return boat journey, it is possible to visit San Francesco del Deserto, a monastery island still inhabited by Franciscan monks, or, alternatively, Lazzaretto Nuovo, whose history is strongly tied to the Black Plague of 1468. The latter island was mainly used as a quarantine port to isolate incoming ships arriving from various Mediterranean ports.

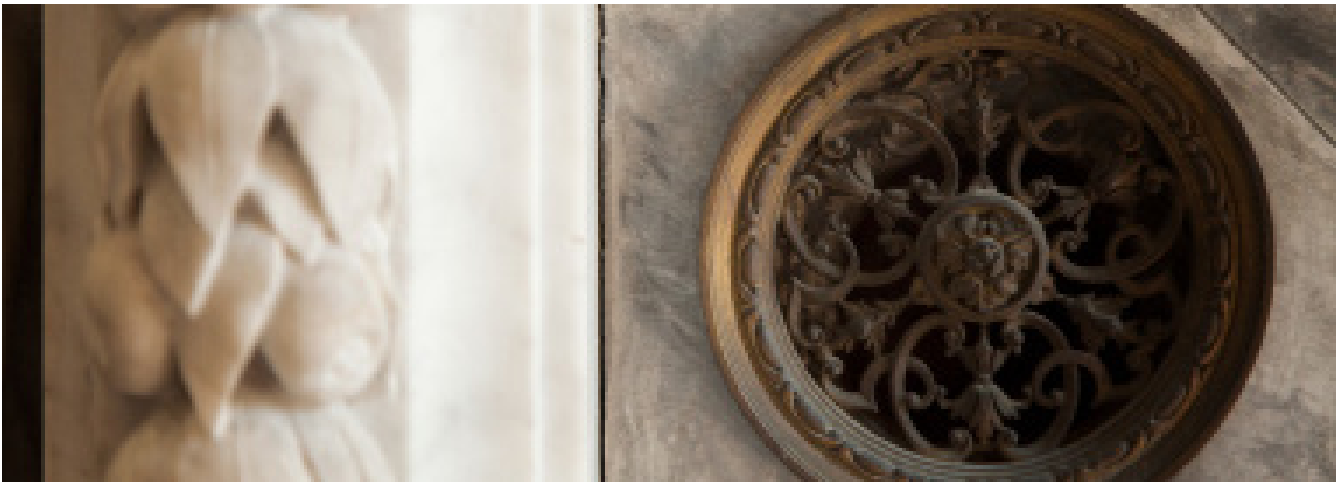
Four hour tour available May - October, up to two people,

Lagoon Aperitivo

In the late afternoon, head west down the Grand Canal and wind through the smaller canals out to the Giudecca and into the lagoon. Take your aperitivo with a selection of delicious Venetian cicchetti and enjoy the views of fishermen hauling in their nets as the sun begins to set behind distant islands.

One hour cruise includes one bottle of Prosecco and Venetian cicchetti for two people

Additional persons, up to a maximum of six, available at an extra charge



Palladian Villas of Veneto

The Veneto mainland is home to some of the most beautiful villas in Italy, in particular those by Andrea Palladio (1508 -1580). An Italian Renaissance architect considered to be one of the most influential individuals in the history of architecture, Palladio was strongly influenced by Roman and Greek architecture. Designed for rich and powerful Venetian merchants and bankers, his 24 Palladian Villas of Veneto are Unesco-protected and known for their beautiful frescoes by painters such as Veronese and Tiepolo and surrounded by spectacular landscaped gardens.

The villas can be visited on half- or full-day trips from Aman Venice that can also include private tours or alternatively, a lunch or dinner at the Margherita restaurant at Relais & Chateaux Villa Franceschi. Welcomed by the Dal Corso Family, guests can explore the 17th century villa set by in a tranquil river which contrasts its rich façade, stone balcony and gable, as stated by Sansovino. Built facing the waterway to show-off to those passing in the boats, the true opulence of the villa and its classical elegance can be enjoyed, accompanied by a menu of local produce from land and sea.

*Four- or eight-hour chauffeur-driven tour for two people.
Not available on Mondays
A supercar can also be organised upon request*

Hidden Gardens

In a city of stone discover oases of green that thrive amid the dense alleyways and canals of the city, often tucked away in private residences and noticeable only for the wisteria cascading over balustrades. Garden tours include powder-pink rose gardens, manicured hedgerows at the childhood home of Casanova, a family garden shaded by a Canadian maple, beds of lavender, and Virginia creeper climbing up loggias and vegetable gardens.

*Walking Three-hour tour (two people)
Additional person, up to a maximum of six, available at an extra charge*

Secret Architecture Tour

Alongside an experienced guide, guests will learn about some of the city's most impressive structures on a three-hour walking tour.

*Three-hour tour (up to four people)
Entry tickets to be charged locally
Each additional person, up to a maximum of ten, available at an extra charge*



Culinary Discovery

Dining at Aman Venice is a must for gastronomes visiting the city. Both guests and non-residents of the hotel are welcome to experience the ever-changing seasonal menus at Arva curated by Executive Chef Matteo Panfilio and renowned Michelin-starred Chef Norbert Niederkofler, Aman Venice's creative culinary consultant. The hotel also offers a number of other unique culinary experiences, both on the property and further afield.



Chef's Morning Visit to the Rialto Market

Join our chef at 9.30am for a visit to the famous canal-side Mercato di Rialto, one of Europe's longest standing and most iconic marketplaces. You will find yourself enchanted by the colourful stalls, friendly calls of fishermen and vibrant fruit and vegetable sellers. This experience is one of the finest ways to appreciate and understand Venetian cuisine and is a wonderful way to learn how to recognise and choose the very best seasonal produce. The highlight: upon your return to the hotel, our chef will prepare a traditional Venetian lunch or dinner including dishes of your choice using the fresh ingredients chosen at the market.

*Available Tuesday to Saturday (excluding holidays),
3-course lunch or dinner with dessert (excluding beverages)
Available in the Private Palazzo Kitchen at an extra charge*

Palazzo Kitchen Cooking Class

Learn the secret Italian and Mediterranean recipes of our Executive Chef Matteo Panfilio and discover seasonal products from the Venetian lagoon with this intimate cooking class.

The class will start at the Rialto market with a short tour followed by a wonderful culinary experience in the Palazzo Kitchen facing the Palazzo's gardens. Learn how to make fresh pasta and exquisite risotto while enjoying the food along the way.

Four hour experience for one or two people. The cooking class is held either by the Chef Matteo or by an assistant chef minimum of two guests



The Palazzo Kitchen Table

Aman Venice offers a unique private dining setting known as the Palazzo Kitchen Table. Seating just 10 diners, this exquisite, light-filled space just a lawn away from the Grand Canal hosts interactive live cooking sessions by world-renowned chefs throughout the year. These private experiences offer guests the opportunity to witness and participate in each chef's culinary interpretation of local ingredients.

Seasonal tasting menu: Five courses, price upon request

A Sailing Food Experience (Edipo Re Edition)

Experience the summer season in all its glory as Aman Venice takes you on culinary sailing experience to the Grand Canal, providing guests with a matchless culinary experience aboard the famed, historic sailing boat, Edipo Re.

The experience invites guests to enjoy elegant fare cooked fresh before their eyes by Aman Venice's chef, Matteo Panfilio. The menu is created using the seasonal produce available at the market on the day, from fresh fish from the lagoon, provided by a local fisherman, to vegetables from the surrounding islands.

After lunch, guests are invited to relax as the Edipo Re glides through the lagoon, navigating its many islands and giving discreet access to the abundance of nature hidden throughout Venice.

*Five hour experience for up to four people
Additional persons, up to a maximum of eight available at an extra charge*

Available from 1 June - 31 October



Festivals

Venice is known for its festivals and plays host to several internationally-renowned annual events. These include the Venice Carnival, the Art and Architectural Biennales and the Venice Film Festival.



Venice Carnival

In the middle of February, for the 12 days before Ash Wednesday, Venice is packed with party-goers in gorgeous costumes and masks to celebrate Carnival. Traditionally Carnival is the last lavish celebration before devout Catholics give up all things luxurious for Lent. There are improvised street shows all over the city and formal balls in the grand palazzos.

The Carnival is said to have originated from victory celebrations in 1162 when Venice defeated the Patriarch of Aquileia. The Carnival declined during the 18th century and was only reinstated in 1979. Today it attracts millions of visitors and one of the most important events is the contest for best mask – held on the last weekend of the festival and judged by a jury of international costume and fashion designers.

Venetian Biennale and Film Festival

The Venice Film Festival is the world's oldest film festival, and one of its most glamorous. Taking place every year in late August or early September on the island of Lido in the Venice Lagoon, screenings are held in the historic Palazzo del Cinema. Every second year the city hosts the Architecture Biennale and in alternating years, the renowned Art Biennale – one of the city's most important events with a history stretching back over 120 years. Both include multiple exhibitions and international pavilions and usually run between May and November.

St Mark's Day – 25 April

Saint Mark is the patron saint of Venice and his remains are interred within St. Mark's Basilica. His feast day takes place on the 25th of April each year and is also known as 'Il Bocolo'. Men give a rosebud – il bocolo – to the women in their lives. This tradition comes from the tragic legend of Vulcana, the daughter of the Doge, and Tancredi, a brave soldier, whose blood turned a rosebud red. When this sad token was delivered to his beloved, she shed no tear, but was found dead the next morning with the rosebud clasped to her heart.

La Sensa

Symbolising the marriage of the Republic of Venice with the lagoon, La Sensa is an ancient ceremony dating from the 11th century. Held on Ascension Day (usually in May or June) each year, a fleet of traditional Venetian boats accompanies the Bucintoro, the Doge's boat, to the mouth of the lagoon where a golden wedding ring is thrown into the sea to renew the union.

Redentore – 3rd Sunday in July

Redentore is one of Venice's most beloved celebrations, expressing thanks for the deliverance of the city from the plague in 1577. Every year on the third Saturday in July, Venetians and tourists alike moor their decorated boats alongside each other in the basin, drinking and eating typical Venetian dishes before the exciting climax of the evening – an incredible fireworks display over St. Mark's basin. The next day, an extraordinary 330m pontoon bridge is assembled to connect the Redentore Church in Giudecca (built to thank the Redeemer – Il Redentore – for ending the plague) and the Zattere (the south bank of Dorsoduro), so that a pilgrimage can be made on foot.

Aman Venice can arrange boat rentals of every description, depending on the how you prefer to celebrate.

Regata Storica – 1st Sunday in September

Held on the first Sunday in September, the Regata Storica is a rowing event that has been held in Venice's lagoon for hundreds of years. Today it is famed for the impressive water procession that precedes the races, when the city's highest-ranking officials are carried up the Grand Canal in 16th-century-style boats, right past the front door of Aman Venice.



Family Activities

Celebrated throughout the world for its art and architecture, Venice is nonetheless a destination for all ages. Aman Venice offers a range of family activities that can be tailored to suit children, whether learning the arts of La Serenissima or exploring its beaches, islands and waterways.



Arts and Crafts

With masks such a significant part of the famous Venice Carnival, no trip would be complete without painting your own. For many people, masked revellers in ornate costumes are as iconic an image of Venice as gondolas and canals. Traditionally, mask makers enjoyed a special position in society, with their own laws and guild. Masks could be made of leather, porcelain or glass, and often had symbolic functions. Venice is equally famous for its glass. Learning to blow glass in Murano is another memorable family experience, as is learning the art of paper marbling.

Fun on the Water

Aman Venice offers a host of water-based activities suitable for children. These range from gondola tours and island hopping boat trips across the lagoon, to sailing and rowing lessons in historic boats. Competitive regattas are held throughout the year and are great to watch: the Vogalonga, La Sensa and the Regatta Storica are the most famous.

Paper Marbling

More than 1,000 years old, paper marbling is an artistic technique producing beautiful marble-like patterns on paper, historically used in bookbinding and stationery. Guests of Aman Venice can learn this extremely rewarding art in a three-hour hands-on workshop with local experts, Isabella La Torre and Federico Fiorin, at the couple's studio, the renowned Arzanart. Originating in East Asia in the 9th century, paper marbling became popular in Venice in 1600. Today artisans use marbling to decorate wall panels, canvas, fabric and more, reveling in the creative possibilities of the swirling colours. Each print is a unique monotype, and Aman Venice guests take home every print they create during the workshop.

Three hours for two people for a total of up to five people

Bringing History Alive

The Naval History Museum in the historic Arsenale area is a wonderfully old-fashioned museum with 42 exhibition rooms. These include the Ships Pavilion with its collection of historic gondolas.

The Natural History Museum meanwhile focuses on the lagoon's natural and cultural history, housed in the 13th-century Fontego dei Turchi (the former Turkish Trading House). There are exhibitions on dinosaurs and evolution, and on Venice's great age of exploration when adventurers such as Marco Polo fetched peculiar specimens from distant lands.

Game of the Goose in Venice

Suitable for children between 4 and 6 years old

Sightseeing around Venice can sometimes be overwhelming for young children, but this popular game helps them discover the city in an engaging and interactive way. In this real-life Game of the Goose (the earliest commercially produced board game recorded in Italy as early as the 1400s), children will be actively involved and asked to throw the dice and move the tokens on the board. The numbered space in which they land will unveil the name of the destination to be reached.

Step by step, the guide will provide children with several new hints and clues leading them to decipher riddles and enigmas and learn more about Venetian culture, history and art in a fun and entertaining way. At the very end, the board game used during the tour will be yours to keep.

Two and a half hour tour, up to four people and minimum one adult



Staying In

While Venice is multi-faceted enough to provide 365 days of exploration for years on end, there are always those times when you just feel like relaxing and absorbing the unique atmosphere of the palazzo itself.



Bar

The ideal setting for afternoon tea, a cocktail or a late-night tippie, the Bar offers unobstructed views of the Grand Canal and the palazzo's private garden from the Piano Nobile. Warm and inviting, with bar seating as well as generous clusters of tables and chairs, the Bar basks in late afternoon sunshine as the sun sets over the Floating City.

Salon

Located on the second piano nobile on the fourth floor is the Salon, a beautiful space overlooking the Grand Canal. Perfect for reading or simply enjoying the quiet of a beautiful room with serene views, it also hosts afternoon tea from 4pm to 6pm in the winter months or when the weather is inclement.

Library

The palazzo's historic Library is also located on the fourth floor, adjacent to the Salon, and is a peaceful retreat housing a selection of interesting books from Count Giberto Arrivabene Gonzaga's personal collection. There are also coffee table books, magazines and daily newspapers available.

Stanza del Tiepolo

Featuring beautiful frescoes by Tiepolo, the Stanza del Tiepolo is the hotel's elegant games room, featuring chess and backgammon boards, as well as card and jigsaw tables.

Rooftop Terrace - Altana

Accessed via stairs and a lift, Aman Venice's roof terrace is intimate in scale with panoramic views of the city's rooftops and St Mark's bell tower. On a clear day, the Alps can be seen on the horizon. Particular peaceful early in the morning, it is also a serene spot for a drink and canapes at sunset.

Spa

The Spa is located, almost secretly, on the third level of the Garden Building. Access is via a small stairwell which leads to a discreet reception area. Dimly lit with low ceilings, the Spa exudes the atmosphere of a sanctuary, and provides three single treatment rooms, each with a dressing area and bathroom. One of the treatment rooms has a deep soaking tub.

Fitness Facilities

The property has a small gym on the fourth level of the Palazzo Building. The facility offers aerobic and strength-conditioning equipment, an area for free weights and stretching, and commanding views over the city's skyline.

Garden Terrace

Fronting the Grand Canal is the Garden Terrace, one of very few private gardens on the canal. Mature trees and a quadrangle of verdant lawn provide the ideal setting for a relaxing hour or two, or an alfresco meal in the warmer months.

Private Garden

Aman has a second hidden Private Garden with soaring trees. This garden provides a serene setting for resort guests as well as walking access to San Polo through a private gate.



Getting Around

Airport, train station and cruise terminal transfers

Experienced Aman Venice guest assistants and porters will meet guests at their point of arrival, assist with luggage, and arrange transfer to the mainland dock in a luxury sedan. From there, a private deluxe water taxi carries guests to the hotel.

- To or from Marco Polo Airport
- To or from Treviso Airport
- To or from Piazzale Roma or Santa Lucia Railway Station
- To or from Cruise Ship Terminal

Water taxi

Aman Venice can arrange a private water taxi to and from San Marco. After 10pm an additional charge applies as well as for delays longer than 10 minutes.

- To or from San Marco

Gondolas

Aman Venice can arrange private gondola rides through the canals starting and finishing at the hotel's own private pier on the Grand Canal. Gondolas can also drop you at various beautiful locations around the city. Please ask the concierge for one-way rates.

- 9.30am to 5.30pm, 30-minute round trip, (available at an extra charge with musician and singer)
- 5.30pm to 9.00pm 30-minute round trip, (available at an extra charge with musician and singer)
- 9.00pm onwards, 30-minute round trip

Vaporetti

The vaporetti are the water buses of Venice, and the closest station to Aman Venice is San Silvestro. Line 1 stops here and goes up and down the Grand Canal. Please ensure you have a ticket as spot checks are common. 24-hour tickets can be purchased through our concierge.

Traghetti

Traghetti are gondolas that exclusively cross the Grand Canal between set locations. Venetians traditionally remain standing for the ride. The most convenient traghetti for Aman Venice connect San Toma to Sant'Angelo and the Rialto Mercato (market) to Santa Sofia (next to Ca' d'Oro).

AMAN

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