



Italy – Venetian Highlights

Enjoy the full variety of Italian nature during a week long cycling holiday; visit lagoons and beaches, the foothills of the Alps, the soft landscape of the Monti Berici and Euganese hills and the green riversides of rivers Adige and Brenta. What about cultural highlights? Well, how about Venice, Vicenza – city of Palladio and Padua – and the city of St. Anthony with the second oldest university town in Italy? Little towns and villages are scattered across the countryside and the recreational thermal spa of Abano completes this tour.

Duration: 8 days, 7 nights

Day 1 - Individual arrival in Venice (Mestre). Welcome meeting and fitting of rental bicycles. Take the opportunity to visit the lagoon city of Venice which is easily reached by public transport in about 20 min. from the hotel.

Day 2 - Mestre – Venice – Chioggia / Sottomarina. Start the day by crossing the Freedom Bridge into Venice. Take the ferry to the famous Lido then cycle via Palestrina with wonderful views of the sea to Chioggia. This is a quiet little town, full of history and a number of delightful fish restaurants. Ride on to Sottomarina with its large sandy beach where you will spend the night.

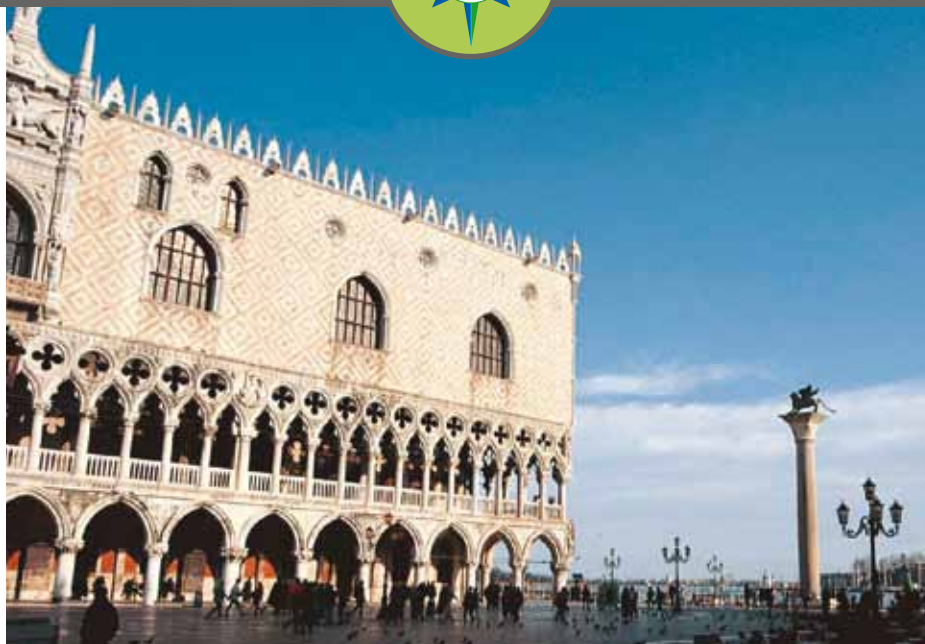
Day 3 - Chioggia / Sottomarina – Rovigo Cycle along quiet roads to the river Adige. Enjoy the local area with its melon plantations before continuing on your way to Rovigo where you will stay for the night. Soak up the atmosphere of this charming town with its narrow alleyways, large squares, comfortable cafes and friendly people.

Day 4 - Rovigo – Vicenza. Start the day with a train journey to Monselice. Cross the rolling Euganese hills to Arquà Petrarca. This little town has maintained its medieval character over the centuries. Continue along quiet roads to the foot of the Berici Mountain (Monti Berici) and follow these on into the centre of Vicenza and your hotel. Explore the old town where you can still see the influence of Palladio, a famous medieval architect.

Continued overleaf...

Includes:

- Welcome meeting
- Accommodation in selected hotels of 3*** and 4**** category
- Breakfast buffet style or substantial breakfast
- 24-hour ticket for Venice (public transport, bike tickets for about €3 are not included)
- Train ride Rovigo - Monselice
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Tour pack including maps, route description, places of interest, telephone numbers etc (one per room)
- E-signposting
- Hotline



Continued from previous page...

Day 5 - Circular ride to Lago di Fimon. Spend today exploring Vicenza and enjoying the unique architecture of the city. The Basilica and Teatro Olimpico are only two examples of the striking architecture on display here. Or why not take the opportunity to enjoy the idyllic setting of Lake Fimon? Cycle on quiet roads to the lake where you can enjoy a dip (don't forget your towel) then take a tour around the shore before returning to Vicenza. Come to think of it, why don't you treat yourself to both?

Day 6 - Vicenza – Abano Terme. Leave Vicenza and follow the banks of the river Bacchiglione to Abano Terme, home of a famous thermal spa with its hot springs and mud baths, where the waters reach temperatures of around 80°C. In the town you will find the Montirone Gallery, housing works of Il Moretto, Palma the Younger, Guido Reni, Giandomenico Tiepolo and others, and Abano Cathedral, which was erected in 1780. The bell tower has parts from the 9th, 10th and 14th centuries.

Day 7 - Abano Terme – Venice (Mestre). Cycle from Abano Terme through pastures and fields (usually with a warm following wind) back to the sea. Continue along the coast back to the start of the tour in Venice.

Day 8 - Individual departure or extra days.

7 nights B&B price £683.00

Supplement for a single room £195.00

(Prices are per person, based on two people sharing twin or double room).

Dates for 2011:

Every Saturday
from 16th April to
2nd July and
20th August to
24th September

Special
arrangements
available for
groups of 6 or
more upon request.

Ride info:

The tour is mostly
flat with a few
gentle undulations.

A few steep but
short climbs.

Mainly on asphalted
roads; partly on
good surfaced
nature roads.

Easy cycling.