



LIFESTYLE HOLIDAYS - ITALY

Bike & Boat from Venice to Mantova – 8 days ex Venice



Discover the magic of Venice and learn about the unique ecosystem of the lagoon and the Po Delta area. This 7 day bike and boat trip takes you to the heart of the Po plain, up to Mantova where many world-famous artists left their masterpieces thanks to the financial support of the famous Gonzaga family.

Learn about the unique ecosystem of the Venice Lagoon Our route begins in the charming lagoon of Venice, meanders its way along the Rivers Po and Mincio deep into the beautifully cultivated Italian countryside, and ends in Mantova. Much of this area have been reclaimed from the marshes for many centuries and is framed by green pine-woods, offering protection for numerous species of birds and animals. The man-made work overlaps with nature in a twist of roles; reclaimed land alternates with natural canals, fishermen's huts are camouflaged in the reeds, and bridges formed from boats reduce the distances between strips of sand.

Our accommodation is a beautiful 'floating hotel': Overnight you sleep in a comfortable and stylish 'floating hotel' and during the day cycle to a new location to re-board the boat again. This is a wonderful relaxing way to experience Italy. Our boat is called Vita Pugna meaning, 'Life is a battle', it is 36 metres long and 5.4 metres wide Dutch barge boat. The 11 cabins can accommodate up to 25 guests. Each cabin has twin beds and private bathroom with shower. The barge also has a dining room with a spacious outside deck area which is ideal for parking your bikes and of course sunbathing.

Relaxed cycling: The tour is entirely on the flat, including cycling alongside rivers & canals on tarmac cycle paths or quiet roads. We cycle between 30km and 55km on five of the tour days. The boat will sail some of the way during breakfast or evening meal to make getting out of the towns easier or to shorten the stages.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1. Venice - Arrival Day

Welcome aboard! Vita Pugna is moored at the Giudecca Island, not far from St. Mark's square. Cabins will be available from 4 pm. At 7 pm you will meet the tour leader and crew over dinner.

Accommodation: Vita Pugna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: None

Day 2. Venice

Today is a free day at your disposal to discover Venice. Wake up to a wonderful view over the Venice Lagoon. Spend the day discovering the wonderful historical centre of the capital of the 'Repubblica Serenissima', or its wonderful islands.

Accommodation: Vita Pugna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: None

Day 3. Venice – Chioggia

Today is one of the most exciting days of the tour, riding along the two little narrow islands which border the Adriatic Sea and the lagoon. From Lido, one of the most impressive resorts and seat of the cinema exhibition of Venezia, you ride up to Malamocco, the first seat of the republic of the Doges. A short boat ride will then take you to the isle of Pellestrina with its nature reserve of Ca' Roman and after the final few kilometres the boat will then take you to the lively fishing harbour of Chioggia.

Accommodation: Vita Pugna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: 30km



Day 4. Chioggia – Albarella

You will leave the so called 'small Venice' going south along the Po-Brondolo waterway and through the mouth of the River Adige. Pedalling between the wonderful nature reserve of the Po Delta, with its array of bird life, you will then reach the island of Albarella.

Accommodation: Vita Pugna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: 40km

Day 5. Albarella – Porto Levante – Adria

You go deep into the maze of the Po Delta, pedalling in amongst the middle of nature. The destination today is Adria, an ancient Greek port, famous for trading amber coming from the Baltic.

Accommodation: Vita Pugna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: Approx 55km

Day 6. Adria – Ferrara – Zello

After a short navigation in the morning, you start cycling towards Ferrara, 'the town of the bicycles', which is still surrounded by the spectacular old city walls. In the afternoon a short bus transfer will bring you up to Bergantino, for a visit to a cheese factory and a tasting session, before reaching Zello.

Accommodation: Vita Pugna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: Approx 40km (35km by bus)

Day 7. Zello–Mantova

A short stretch of your legs brings you to Torretta on the Fissero/Bianco canal. You cycle following the River Po as far as Ostiglia, a small village with the ruins of a medieval fortress. After a few kilometres you finally reach Mantova, one of the most beautiful Renaissance towns of Northern Italy.

Accommodation: Vita Pugna Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Cycling: 50km



Day 8. Mantova - Departure day

End of Tour after breakfast unless booked for another night.

Accommodation: None Meals: Breakfast Cycling: None

Please note: This tour can also be done in the reverse direction Mantova - Venice

Accommodation – VITA PUGNA

Technical Details:

Length: 36m - Width: 5.4 m - Draught: water rod: 1.60 m, air rod: 3.90 m

Cabins:

10 double cabins (one of these can be sold as triple) of 7/8 m²

21 guests max capacity

Each cabin boasts twin low beds, en-suite facilities and portholes. The cabins can use the air conditioning of the corridor along which they are located.

Beds: Bed size is 1.90/2 m x 0.75/0.80 m

The Living Room: A spacious air-conditioned living room with 5 tables, accommodating up to 23 guests.

Additional Features: Sundeck, Internet point with a computer available, free Wi-Fi, large 37" flat screen TV



Tour Information

Included in the tour price:

- 7 nights' accommodation in double or twin share cabins on board Vita Pugna
- Breakfast buffets, packed lunches and dinners on board daily (beverages excluded)
- Support vehicle in the area (not following the riders)
- Tour documentation: route descriptions & maps
- Tour guide

Not included in the tour price

- International flights and/or Travel visas (where applicable)
- Single Supplement
- Meals not included above
- Travel Insurance
- Tips for guides and restaurant / hotel staff

Tour Grade

This tour is graded 1/2 or Easy (on a scale of 1 – 10, with 9/10 being Extreme).

Fitness Required

A low level of fitness is required, exercising at least once a week prior to the tour.