

# Veneto & Surroundings

For Information and Reservations, Contact:

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**Day 1 - DEPART USA** - This afternoon we leave New York, JFK on our way to Venice.

**Day 2 - PADUA** – This morning we arrive at Venice airport and will transfer to our hotel in Padua. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Day 3 - VENICE** - Our walking tour begins in St. Mark's Square, called the "living room" of Europe. Dominating the Square is the Basilica of St. Mark, adorned with magnificent Byzantine Mosaics. Continue to the Doge's Palace, decorated by the 16th century artists Titian, Tintoretto and Veronese. We'll walk across the "Bridge of Sights", connected to Piombi Prison. One can still imagine the lamentation of prisoners, who walked across the

bridge to their final sentencing, suspended between hope and terror. Before your free time for lunch or to explore Venice on your own, we will enjoy a Gondola ride through the canals of Venice. Return to our hotel in Padua for dinner and overnight.

**Day 4 – BOLOGNA** - Morning departure for Bologna. Upon arrival we will see the highlights of Italy's gastronomic capital, Piazza Maggiore, Piazza Nettuno and the Basilica of San Petronio. Today we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Return to our hotel in Padua for dinner and overnight.

**Day 5 – FERRARA** - Lying in the middle of the Po Valley, Ferrara still has the atmosphere of the past, which harmoniously blends with the lively atmosphere of the present. Ferrara's grand Renaissance, the Estensi age, have left indelible signs of splendor everywhere: churches, palaces, galleries. Our visit today will include the Cathedral, the Estensi Castle and the Schifanoia Palace. Return to Padua for dinner and overnight.

**Day 6 – PADUA** – This morning we will take a walking tour of our host city Padua: we will visit the Basilica of St. Anthony and its art, including the largest bronze works of Donatello. Afternoon free to explore on your own. Dinner will be

available at hotel for those who choose to dine with us. Overnight at our hotel.

**Day 7 – VICENZA** – An age-old tradition in goldsmith makes Vicenza the world point reference for the area. Vicenza is also an attractive town, bound indissolubly to the aesthetic genius created by Andrea Palladio, the Architect par excellence, who left his town of adoption in the 16th century a precious inheritance of villas and palaces of such extraordinary beauty to make Vicenza deserve the title of UNESCO World Heritage.

Amongst these jewels we will visit the Olympic Theatre, the only theatre of that period in wood still existing in the world, and the Villa Rotonda, of symbolic beauty.

Lunch at a typical local restaurant. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 8 – VERONA/MANTUA** – This morning we will visit the charming Verona made famous by Shakespeare's famous tragic couple, Romeo and Juliet. A guided tour will include the Roman Arena, one of the largest and best preserved Roman Amphitheaters. It is still used today for Verona's prestigious operas, performed in this classical setting. Continue through Verona's cobbled streets to the colorful Piazza del Erve, the former Roman Forum, lined with vegetable stands, café's and restaurants. Our tour concludes at Juliet's Balcony, perhaps one of the most romantic spots in the world. This afternoon we continue our trip to Mantua, one of the most important Renaissance cities in Italy which deserves the title of UNESCO World Heritage. We will visit the Palazzo Te and the historical city centre. Return to our hotel in Padua for dinner and overnight.

**Day 9 – RETURN TO THE USA** - Today we make our way back to New York, JFK with memories of a lifetime.

