

MARY PADGETT

FINE
ART



Opening Doors in Venice



Itinerary

Please note this is an initial itinerary of what to expect. Changes may occur if scheduling adjustments or unforeseen circumstances arise closer to May 2024. Every effort will be made to maintain this itinerary.

21 May Tuesday

Our welcome reception and dinner takes place in an elegant 15th-century palazzo overlooking the Grand Canal, the home of Mimi Todhunter. It is the perfect place to begin our Venetian experience! *Originally from New Zealand, world traveler Mimi Todhunter has lived in London, Paris, Milan, Tuscany, Sydney, Somerset, and in Venice for the past eighteen years. She is a gracious hostess who enjoys sharing both her home and life with her guests.*

22 May Wednesday

Our day begins with a private guided visit to the State Archive of Venice where we will see rare books and treasures dating from the 1100 year span of La Serenissima Repubblica di Venezia, or Serene Republic of Venice. We will stop in the Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari where Paola will point out extraordinary works by Titian, Bellini, Veneziano, and Donatello. We will visit the Scuola Grande di San Rocco to see Tintoretto's colossal cycle of fifty-four paintings covering the walls and ceilings. With Paola we will have a walking tour of the Jewish Ghetto on our way to Orsoni, the last mosaic-maker in Venice and the only one allowed to keep its furnace on. Painters will have an opportunity to paint in the Cannaregio sestiere, or neighborhood, of the city.

23 May Thursday

This morning we will board a private boat with guide Luca Zaggia for a day exploring Venice's lagoon. Luca is an oceanographer who will tell us the science and secrets of the Venetian lagoon. Our first stop will be at the Arsenale, Venice's vast former shipyard. Next we will go to the island of Lazzaretto Nuovo where the Venetians first invented the quarantine system. At the island of Torcello we will see exquisite Byzantine mosaics before enjoying a luncheon feast at Osteria al Ponte del Diavolo. Our final stop will be on the fishing and lace-making island of Burano. We will have time here to shop and for the painters to paint the island's brightly colored houses. *Luca is a geologist who has been working for the last fifteen years as a coastal oceanographer for the National Research Council of Italy, Institute of Marine Science, Venice. His research has been focused on many aspects of the management of the lagoon ecosystem. More recently, with his*



staff of technicians, he has been involved in studies on the hydrodynamics and transport of sediments in the tidal channel and shallow water areas of the lagoon, as well as the monitoring of the environmental effects of MOSE for the protection of Venice and its lagoon from floods.

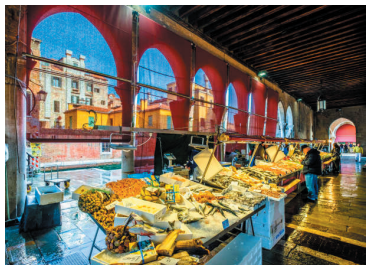
24 May Friday

We will meet our guide, art historian Susan Steer, PhD, for private visit to Palazzo Ducale before the museum is opened to the public. The palazzo was once the seat of the Venetian Republic's government and home to the Doge. She will then guide us through the 1,000 year old Basilica of San Marco to experience its extraordinary interior adorned with mosaics, marble, and gold. Next will be a tour with a local guide of San Marco's clock tower, the Torre Dell'Orologio. Afterward our group will stop at Tessitura Bevilaqua, the oldest silk-weaving factory on the Grand Canal. The remainder of the afternoon will include a gondola ride and optional visits to a glass blowing factory and mask making atelier. Those wishing to paint will have the opportunity to do so while others enjoy free time. *Susan is an art historian specializing in Medieval and Renaissance Venice. As a postdoctoral researcher, she contributed extensively to the national catalogue of European paintings held in United Kingdom museums and also worked as an editor on the same project. She has also published on Italian art in the leading specialist journals. She works for "Venice in Peril," a nonprofit organization in charge of restoring many masterpieces in the city.*



25 May Saturday

We will begin our day in the Dorosoduro sestiere with a private visit to Squero San Trovaso, the oldest boatyard making and repairing gondolas in Venice. On the Grand Canal we will visit Fondaco dei Tedeschi, a luxury mall with an historic past. During the Renaissance it was the German trading headquarters in Venice. We'll enjoy the best views of the city and surrounding islands from the building's panoramic terrace. Our final stop will be the historic Rialto Market, adjacent to the iconic Rialto Bridge, where we can shop and have lunch. The remainder of the day is free for painting, shopping, or exploring. We suggest two other worthwhile museums to visit today, Ca Rezzonico and Museo Fortuny while painters will enjoy painting in Dorosoduro.



26 May Sunday

This morning we will have a guided visit with museum staff of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. This superb collection of mid 20th century art includes works by Picasso, Dali, Magritte, Mirò, Rothko, and Pollack. We will travel by vaporetto to the Giardini to visit the 60th Venice Biennale Arte, the world's oldest international biennale. The 2024 theme is "Foreigners Everywhere" with the main exhibition reflecting on themes of migration and exile. This visit and the remainder of the afternoon will be on your own. Painters can take advantage of the ideal location for painting Venice's Guidecca and Grand Canals. Our farewell dinner will take place at Antica Sagrestia, a favorite of Paola's and of many celebrities, among them Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, and Rick Steves. The cuisine is the best traditional Venetian.

