

VIENNA TO VENICE

by rail, coach and luxury cruise

AUSTRIA, SLOVENIA, ISTRIA (CROATIA), ITALY
Vienna, Lasko, Opatija, Pula, Rovinj, Trieste, Novo Gorica,
Bled, Ljubljana, Padua, Mazzorbo, Burano, Chioggia, Venice

Tuesday 15 September to Tuesday 13 October 2026



Join us on a twenty-six day tour to explore from Vienna, Austria, through the extraordinary beauty of Slovenia and the Istrian Region of Croatia, to Venice, Italy. We travel by scheduled rail services, on regular and chartered ferry, by private coach and aboard the luxurious SS Venezia – our home on the Venetian Lagoon. You'll see highlights in each of these places, stay in quality hotels, as well as some special locations where the hotels have a fascinating history and style. The tour is led by Owen Johnstone-Donnet and Takako Ishige of SJR, and we are accompanied by local European travel expert Martin Kopetschke. (+) Martin was instrumental in the planning and led our East German rail tour in 2016 and 2025, and our Eastern European tour in 2019 - his in depth knowledge of the countries we are visiting, makes this unique itinerary compelling.

ITINERARY

The itinerary for the tour, with key activities, is below. On some days additional activities are possible, some at no extra cost, others at additional cost. Meals included are shown as Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D.) The tour is limited in size to 24 guests, with bookings confirmed on receipt of a deposit.

Tuesday 15 September 2026 – Australia to Vienna (in flight meals)

Depart from Australia and fly to Vienna, Austria. Emirates, Qatar and Qantas code-share services offer convenient departures. We'll discuss your travel preferences with you. Overnight aboard the flight.

Wednesday 16 September 2026 – arrive Vienna (in flight meals)

On arrival in Vienna transfer to our hotel. Our accommodation is conveniently located adjacent to the Wien Hauptbahnhof, convenient for access from the airport on arrival, and for our departure south on Friday. Depending upon your flights and arrival time, explore Vienna before dinner at leisure. Overnight Vienna. (If you wish to arrive Vienna earlier to explore the city or region further, you may like to stay in a mid-city centre location, or in an historic and iconic hotel like the Hotel Sacher for a few nights prior to the tour commencing.)

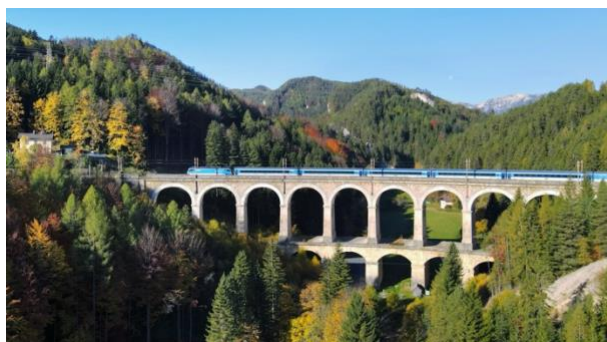
Thursday 17 September 2026 – Vienna (B/D)

Enjoy a day of sightseeing in Vienna – begin with a walk along Ringstrasse, where you can admire the baroque architecture, before walking through the historic city centre for a coffee and pastry at a traditional café. From there, wander past the ornate façade of the Vienna State Opera and into the Hofburg Palace complex to explore its museums and courtyards, then continue to St. Stephen's Cathedral to take in its intricate Gothic details. In the afternoon, enjoy the artistic treasures of the Belvedere—home to Klimt's *The Kiss*—before ending your day in the Museums Quartier, soaking up the vibrant mix of culture, music, and classic Viennese charm. This evening enjoy a 'welcome dinner' together before retiring and overnight in Vienna.



Friday 18 September 2026 – to Laško, Slovenia (B/D)

An early departure for Slovenia - our train journey from Vienna through Graz to Laško crosses the Semmering - one of the most beautiful and historically significant rail rides in Europe - gliding through a landscape that feels both dramatic and serene. Departing Vienna, the scenery shifts from gentle plains to steeper, forested hills, and soon you're climbing the famous Semmering Railway—a UNESCO World Heritage marvel of 19th-century engineering. The route winds over graceful stone viaducts and through short tunnels, offering sweeping views of deep valleys, rocky outcrops, and alpine villages tucked into the mountainside. After cresting the Semmering Pass, the line descends into the open, sunlit landscapes of Styria, where vineyards and soft green hills signal your approach to Graz, Austria's warm, Mediterranean-feeling second city. From Graz the train rolls through Styria's soft green hills, dotted with vineyards, orchards, and red-roofed farmhouses, before following the Sava and Drava river valleys toward the Slovenian border. After crossing into Slovenia, the landscape becomes even more tranquil, with wooded slopes, broad fields, and small rural towns passing by the window. As you continue toward Celje, the hills tighten into a narrower valley, and the Savinja River begins to accompany the line. The final stretch into Laško is especially picturesque: the river curves below forested hills, old mills and farmsteads appear along the banks, and the town's brewery and thermal-spa buildings signal your arrival in this peaceful Slovenian spa town. We transfer to our hotel for two nights, with dinner included, and overnight in Laško.



Saturday 19 September 2026 (B) – Laško

Laško, Slovenia, is famed as a spa town. We begin with a riverside walk along the Savinja and an exploration of the compact town centre, stopping at the historic Laško Brewery for a tour and tasting that reveals the town's long brewing tradition. A short uphill stroll takes us to Tabor Castle, where you'll find sweeping views over the valley and charming historic architecture. After luncheon, unwind at the Thermana Laško spa complex, soaking in warm thermal waters beneath its striking glass dome. As evening arrives, enjoy dinner at leisure at a local restaurant overlooking the river, letting the calm of the valley bring your day to a peaceful close. Overnight in Laško.



Sunday 20 September 2026 (B/D) – to Opatija, Croatia

A late morning departure from Laško by train takes us across the Slovenian / Croatian border to the Istria region of Croatia - once part of the Venetian Empire, and only a few kilometres from the Slovenian border. The region of Istria was already established in ancient times when people started inhabiting an island which later became a peninsula. In written form, it was mentioned for the first time in the 6th century. The region developed thanks to its favourable position; it was on the way of Aquileia founded by the Romans as their military base for Istria and the Northern Adriatic. Istria was under the rule of many different empires, but today the region is known for its beautiful scenery, truffles, olive and wine growing. We transfer to our hotel on the shores of the Adriatic, and enjoy dinner together. Overnight in Opatija.

Monday 21 September 2026 (B/L) – exploring the Istria region to Pula

We depart by coach from Opatija to Pula – with a wonderfully varied journey along the Istrian coast, blending elegant seaside scenery with ancient history. We follow winding coastal roads and glimpses of the Adriatic's deep blue before reaching Pula, where the city's Roman heritage immediately sets the tone. A highlight is the magnificent Pula Arena, one of the world's best-preserved Roman amphitheatres, which you can walk through to feel its scale and atmosphere. From there, wander the old town's marble streets to the Forum, the Temple of Augustus, and the Arch of the Sergii, stopping for coffee or gelato in one of the shaded squares. After a relaxed seaside lunch, we head to Pula's waterfront for a final dose of history before driving back toward Opatija, where the late-afternoon light over the Kvarner Bay makes for a beautiful return. Enjoy an evening stroll or swim from our hotel, and then dinner at leisure. Overnight Opatija.



Tuesday 22 September 2026 (B/L) – Rovinj and Buzet

We travel by coach and boat to explore more of the Istrian Peninsula. Rovinj is perhaps coastal Istria's star attraction – an intensely charming place, the old town is contained within an egg-shaped peninsula, webbed with steep cobbled streets and small squares, and punctuated by a tall church tower rising from the highest point. Originally an island, it was only connected to the mainland in 1763 when the narrow channel separating it was filled. Buzet is Istria's gastronomic heart, offering plenty of original local food that is prepared traditionally in atmospheric taverns and acclaimed restaurants. Buzet is a town of truffles, and this highly valued food item is used in many dishes, giving them a specific taste and a breath of luxury, just like the acclaimed olive oil which is used in all Istrian dishes. In Buzet you will be offered biska, local rakija (spirit) made of komovica, white mistletoe and four types of herbs or liqueurs from medicinal herbs. The tasty dishes go well with Istrian wines - the local Malvasia and red Teran. We enjoy a lovely luncheon of local produce at Stara Ostarija in Buzet, and return in the late afternoon to our accommodation in Opatija. Dinner is at leisure.



Wednesday 23 September 2026 (B/L) – Umag and Istrian wines

We travel by coach A to explore Umag and its surrounding region - coastal beauty, historic charm, and a taste of Istria's laid-back lifestyle. On arrival we will wander through Umag's compact old town, where narrow stone lanes lead to the small harbour and the Church of St. Peregrine. Enjoy a coffee by the waterfront as fishing boats come and go. From there, we head north along the rocky coastline to explore the clear coves and beaches that give Umag its resort atmosphere — perfect for a swim or a quiet walk by the sea. In the afternoon, we venture into the inland hills to experience Istria's countryside, visiting the village of Grožnjan, known for its artist studios, stone houses, and sweeping views over vineyards and olive groves, then stop at a local winery to sample regional Malvazija and Teran. Returning to Opatija in the evening, perhaps enjoy a seafood dinner at leisure overlooking the Adriatic. Overnight Opatija.



Thursday 24 September 2026 (B/D) – to Trieste, Italy

After a relaxed breakfast we head to Trieste, Italy. Trieste is a unique and atmospheric port city where Italian, Slavic, and Austro-Hungarian influences blend into a character found nowhere else in Europe. Set between the Adriatic Sea and steep limestone hills, it feels both grand and slightly nostalgic, with wide Habsburg-era boulevards, elegant cafés, and the vast Piazza Unità d'Italia opening directly onto the waterfront. The city's multicultural past is visible in its mix of neoclassical palaces, Orthodox and Catholic churches, and the imposing Castello di San Giusto overlooking the harbour. Trieste's literary heritage—linked to writers like James Joyce and Italo Svevo—adds an intellectual charm, while the surrounding Carso cliffs and nearby seaside villages give the city a dramatic natural backdrop. This afternoon we will explore nearby our hotel, before some free time and a relaxing dinner overlooking the Gulf of Trieste.

Friday 25 September 2026 (B) – Trieste

Our day of sightseeing combines a rich blend of seaside views, grand architecture and cultural depth. We start the morning at Piazza Unità d'Italia, one of Europe's largest seafront squares, where you can enjoy a coffee at an historic café while watching the light shift across the Adriatic. From there, we wander through the elegant streets to the Canal Grande, crossing little bridges and perhaps visiting the Serbian Orthodox Church with its bright mosaics. Climb or take the elevator up to San Giusto Hill to explore the cathedral, ancient ruins, and the castle, all offering sweeping views over the red-tiled city and port. In the afternoon, catch a bus or tram out to Miramare Castle, a fairy-tale 19th-century residence set in a lush coastal park that's perfect for a peaceful walk. Return to the city as evening falls for a seafood dinner along the waterfront, and finish your day with a leisurely stroll on the Molo Audace, where the sea breeze and soft lights give Trieste its quietly romantic atmosphere. Dinner at leisure and overnight Trieste.



Saturday 26 September 2026 (B) – Trieste to Gorizia, Italy / Novo Gorica, Slovenia

After a relaxed start to the day we board our train for Gorizia, on the Italian / Slovenian border. Gorizia is a small but historically rich town with a compact old town characterised by winding streets, pastel-coloured buildings, and the imposing Gorizia Castle, which overlooks the town and offers sweeping views of the surrounding Friulian plain and the Slovenian hills beyond. The town's architecture reflects its multicultural past under the Habsburg Empire, blending Italian, Austrian, and Slavic influences in churches, palaces, and civic buildings. Along the riverside and in the squares, cafés and trattorias give a relaxed, small-town feel, while nearby vineyards and the gentle slopes of Collio invite exploration of the region's celebrated wines. Gorizia's proximity to the border also gives it a subtle international flavour, where Italian and Slovenian cultures meet in a quiet, scenic setting. Dinner is included tonight, and overnight Gorizia / Novo Gorica.

Sunday 27 September 2026 (B) – Gorizia and Novo Gorica

Today we explore Gorizia and adjacent Novo Gorica. In contrast to Gorizia, Novo Gorica is a modern Slovenian town that emerged after World War II, built just across the border from Gorizia, Italy, and designed as a counterpart to its Italian neighbour. Unlike the historic charm of Gorizia, Novo Gorica has a more contemporary, planned feel, with wide boulevards, open squares, and modernist architecture reflecting its postwar origins. The town is known for its cultural venues, including theatres and galleries, and surrounding the town, the gently rolling Goriška Brda hills offer vineyards, orchards, and scenic walking paths, providing a peaceful contrast to the urban layout. Dinner tonight is at leisure, and overnight Gorizia / Novo Gorica.



Monday 28 September 2026 (B/D) – to Bled, Slovenia

After breakfast we depart our hotel for the railway station in Novo Gorica. Experience the Bohinj Railway, the shortest railway route from the Adriatic Sea to central Europe. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Soca River valley on the 90 minute journey with beautiful scenery of mountains, nature and the emerald colours of the Soca River.

Just after departure from Nova Gorica the train crosses the river and you will have a wonderful view of the famed arched bridge. The Bohinj Tunnel was created in 1904 and it is still the longest railway tunnel in Slovenia today (6327 m). Another attractive feature is the bridge across the River Soča near Solkan. The Solkan Bridge is the largest stone railway bridge in the world! Its main arch, with an 85-metre span, was built in 1906. It includes 45 33 limestone blocks from nearby Nabrežina. If we are fortunate, the journey may be by heritage steam train, however the dates of operation in 2026 are yet to be finalised. A Slovenian resort town in the foothills of the Julian Alps, Bled is set along the edge of the glacial Lake Bled. We check into our hotel for the next three nights, near the edge of Lake Bled, and dinner is included. Overnight Bled.



Tuesday 29 September 2026 (B) – Bled

We begin our sightseeing with a morning stroll along the serene Bled Lake, taking in the emerald waters and the iconic Bled Island with its picturesque church perched atop a small hill. The Pilgrimage Church of the Assumption of Maria is famed for its steep staircase and bell tower. Join a traditional wooden pletna boat to reach the island, ring the church bell for good luck, and explore the tiny interior. Afterwards we visit the 11th century Bled Castle, which clings dramatically to a cliff above the lake; explore the attached museum, printing workshop, and walk the terrace for panoramic views of the lake and the Julian Alps. In the afternoon, there is some free time to appreciate the lakeside promenade, perhaps sampling the town's famous Bled cream cake at one of the cafes. Dinner is at leisure, Overnight Bled.



Wednesday 30 September 2026 (B/D) – Vintgar Gorge and the Hotel Triglav, Bled

This morning we head the short distance to Vintgar Gorge for a walk in nature, before returning to Bled for some culinary delights at the Hotel Triglav. The hotel offers an immersive culinary experience rooted in history, local ingredients, and refined hospitality. At its heart lies Restaurant 1906, named after the hotel's founding year, where Chef Aleš Fende leads a kitchen that weaves together traditional Slovenian dishes and French-inspired techniques. The cuisine also carries a personal touch: Chef Fende draws on recipes passed down from Nežka, the great-grandmother of the hotel's owner, whose mushroom soup, beef brisket ("bržola"), and walnut štruklji still appear in the menu. In addition to food, the hotel's wine cellar is a hidden gem: you can join tastings of more than 150 Slovenian wines, with expert sommeliers guiding you through the region's terroir. We plan to offer a culinary experience today, with details to be confirmed. Dinner is included and overnight, Bled.



Thursday 1 October 2026 (B) – to Ljubljana

After a relaxed morning we depart from our hotel to the railway station for the short journey to Ljubljana. Ljubljana's history is a tapestry of ancient roots, medieval resilience, and cultural reinvention shaped by the many powers that passed through the crossroads of Central Europe. Originally settled by prehistoric tribes and later home to the Roman city of Emona, the area evolved into a medieval trading hub under the protection of a hilltop castle. Through the centuries, it came under Habsburg rule, becoming an important provincial centre known for its baroque churches, scholarly life, and growing artisan class. Devastating earthquakes, especially in 1511 and 1895, reshaped the city and paved the way for architectural renewal, most notably through the visionary designs of 20th-century architect Jože Plečnik, who gave Ljubljana its distinctive urban identity.



In the modern era, Ljubljana became the cultural and political heart of Slovenians, later serving as the capital of independent Slovenia after 1991—an evolution that reflects both its strategic location and its enduring creative spirit. Dinner tonight is at leisure and overnight Ljubljana.

Friday 2 October 2026 (B/D) – Ljubljana

Ljubljana is a charming, human-scaled capital where elegant architecture, leafy riversides, and a lively cultural scene blend into one of Europe's most inviting small cities. The Ljubljanica River winds through the center, lined with outdoor cafés and crossed by distinctive bridges like the Triple Bridge and the Dragon Bridge, all watched over by the hilltop Ljubljana Castle. Its old town is a mix of Baroque churches, colourful façades, and cobbled lanes, while the surrounding neighbourhoods reveal the playful, modernist touch of architect Jože Plečnik. With its abundant green spaces—especially the vast Tivoli Park—and a relaxed, youthful energy driven by its university population, Ljubljana feels both sophisticated and warmly intimate, a place where history and creativity meet in a gentle, welcoming atmosphere. Today we begin joining with some elements of our cruise/tour to Venice.



A walking tour introduces you to the city - as you stroll through the attractive, pastel-hued streets of Ljubljana, it should come as no surprise to learn that it was once an acclaimed centre of art and learning. In the 15th century, scholars, sculptors, and other artists came from across Europe to live in Slovenia's capital, and with them came a penchant for the Baroque and Renaissance styles that define the Ljubljana you see today. The Fountain of the Three Carniolan Rivers, a masterpiece by Venetian sculptor Francesco Robba that stands before the distinctive face of the Town Hall. On your local-led tour, you'll also get to see the open-air market, parliament, congress square, and the Triple Bridge. The tour ends with a ride in a glass-walled funicular up to Ljubljana Castle to tour the historic fortress and enjoy its famous panoramic view over the city. We return to the hotel for an included dinner, then overnight Ljubljana.

Saturday 3 October 2026 (B) – Slovenia's medieval towns – Radovljica and Kranj

Today we visit two nearby medieval towns - Radovljica is a beautifully preserved medieval town in northern Slovenia, known for its charming old town perched on a terrace above the Sava River and framed by views of the Julian Alps. Its narrow streets are lined with colourful Renaissance and Baroque houses, with Linhart Square at the heart of the town, home to museums, artisan shops, and lively cafés. Radovljica is especially famous for its long tradition of beekeeping, showcased in the Museum of Apiculture, and also boasts of its gingerbread museum! Nearby Kranj is a vibrant historic town set dramatically on a rocky promontory above the confluence of the Sava and Kokra rivers, with views toward the soaring peaks of the Julian Alps and Karawanks. Its compact old town is a blend of medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture, anchored by the imposing St. Cantianus Church and lined with colourful façades, cafés, and boutique shops. Beneath the streets lies the fascinating Kranj Tunnels, a network of WWII-era shelters open to visitors, adding depth to the town's layered past. Known as the cultural heart of the Gorenjska region—and closely associated with Slovenia's national poet France Prešeren—Kranj today combines a lively arts scene with a relaxed, local feel, making it a charming mix of history, creativity, and alpine character. We return to Ljubljana and dinner is at leisure. Overnight Ljubljana.



Sunday 4 October 2026 (B/L/D) – Postojna Caves and to Venice to board S.S. La Venezia

We join our coach for the scenic drive to Postojna Cave, and the exploration of this underground marvel aboard the world's first underground cave railway. Postojna Cave is the only place where you can see the most precious **Brilliant** in the form of a cave formation - the caves boast towering mountains, murmuring rivers and vast subterranean halls. It is a real challenge for explorers and the cradle of speleobiology. See cave fauna known as **olms** which have been captivating people's imagination since time immemorial and legend has it that they are actually baby dragons. They remain something of a mystery even today and are considered the largest cave-dwelling animal that can go without food for up to 10 years.



We then stop at a nearby restaurant for a rustic lunch prepared with local and seasonal ingredients before continuing our journey to Venice to embark on the **S.S. La Venezia**. Uniworld's **S.S. La Venezia** offers an enhanced luxury experience inspired by Northern Italy. The design of the ship draws influence from the fine Fortuny fabrics displayed prominently onboard. Murano glass, gilded accents, and artistic etched elements pay homage to popular Venetian aesthetics of the early 20th century, creating an onboard atmosphere that is at once elegant and nostalgic.

Public spaces



Cielo's (S.S. La Venezia)



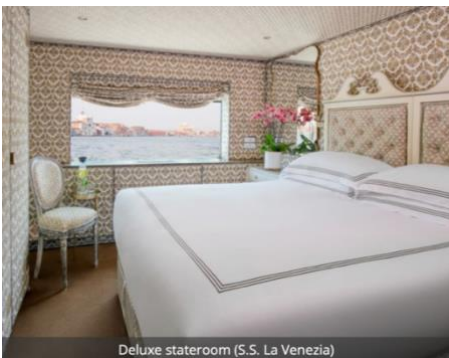
La Cantinetta (S.S. La Venezia)



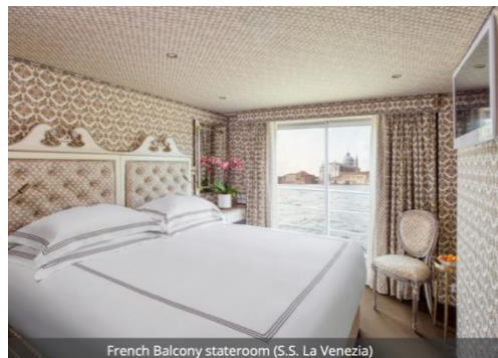
Lido di Venezia sun deck (S.S. La Venezia)

Accommodations

The S.S. La Venezia offers accommodation in riverview staterooms, lavishly appointed with handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England, high thread count 100% Egyptian cotton sheets and European duvets, and a menu of pillow options, with free wi-fi. All dining aboard is included, prepared using the finest and freshest ingredients - 10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners, a Captain's Welcome and Farewell Reception, Welcome and Farewell Gala Dinners and unlimited beverages onboard, including fine wine, beer, spirits, specialty coffee and tea, soft drinks, and mineral water.



Deluxe stateroom (S.S. La Venezia)



French Balcony stateroom (S.S. La Venezia)



Suite (S.S. La Venezia)

Deluxe staterooms include: luxurious riverview stateroom (14 sq m); Handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England, built-in closet, hair dryer, safe, individual thermostat, and flat-screen TV with infotainment centre; Marble bathroom with Asprey bath and body products, plush towels, comfortable bathrobes and slippers, heated mirror, and backlit magnifying mirror. **Deluxe staterooms are included in the tour price.**

French Balcony staterooms include: Luxurious riverview stateroom (14 sq m) with a French balcony; Handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England, closet, hair dryer, safe, individual thermostat, and flat-screen TV with infotainment centre; Marble bathroom with Asprey bath and body products, plush towels, comfortable bathrobes and slippers, heated mirror, and backlit magnifying mirror. **Upgrade at an additional cost based on availability.**

Suites include: luxurious riverview suite (20 sq m) with a French balcony; Handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England, closet, hair dryer, safe, individual thermostat, and flat-screen TV with infotainment centre; Marble bathroom with Asprey bath and body products, plush towels, towel warmers, comfortable bathrobes and slippers, heated mirror, and backlit magnifying mirror. Additional amenities and services, include: in-suite butler service; packing and unpacking assistance; in-room breakfast; daily fruit and cookie plate, and an elegant evening snack; Nespresso coffee machine and fine teas; fully stocked mini bar; bottle of wine upon arrival; shoe shine and free laundry service. **Upgrade at an additional cost based on availability**

Grand Suites include: lavishly appointed riverview grand suite (28 sq m) with a French balcony and a spacious living room; Handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England, closet, hair dryer, safe, individual thermostat, and flat-screen TV with infotainment centre; Marble bathroom with Asprey bath and body products, plush towels, towel warmers, comfortable bathrobes and slippers, separate bathtub, heated mirror, and backlit magnifying mirror. Additional amenities and service include: in-suite butler service; packing and unpacking assistance; in-room breakfast; daily fruit and cookie plate, and an elegant evening snack; Nespresso coffee machine and fine teas; fully stocked mini bar; bottle of wine upon arrival; shoe shine and free laundry service. **Upgrade at an additional cost based on availability.**

Excursions and gratuities

The cruise tour includes nine days of excursions, all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts, with state-of-the-art Quietvox portable audio-headset systems, with the optional use of Nordic walking sticks. Gratuities for onboard personnel (ship staff, crew, Cruise/Tour Manager) are included during the cruise/tour; as is cultural enrichment and including captivating onboard local entertainment.

After embarkation, unpack for the next seven nights, relax, and enjoy your first evening on the Venetian Lagoon. A compulsory safety drill and briefing, along with the welcome briefing, will be organised shortly before your first dinner aboard, paired with wines – a perfect start to your Venetian experience. Overnight S.S. La Venezia.

Sunday 5 October 2026 (B/L/D) – the Doges Palace, Castello District, St Mark's Square and Basilica



With an early morning arrival at Doge's Palace, you'll be able to marvel at the estate in total peace. Wander through a Venetian neighbourhood and experience daily life in an authentic Venetian residential quarter. Later in the evening, cap the day off with a private once-in-a-lifetime experience at an after-hours lighting ceremony inside St. Mark's Basilica without the crowds. Venice has no need to designate a pedestrians-only historic district because no cars are permitted within the island city - all transportation is by foot or water.

This morning arrive at the Doge's Palace and most famous plaza in Italy - St. Mark's Square. Venetians elected their first doge, or duke, in AD 697 and began building the palace around AD 800.

The palace complex, as it exists now, mostly dates to the 14th and 15th centuries, and it brims with jaw-dropping artistic gems, including Tintoretto's wall-sized Paradise and works by Veronese, Tiepolo and Titian. Throughout its history, Venice has been a supremely political city. Those convicted of crimes were led across the Bridge of Sighs to prison. Follow their footsteps to the prison and gaze into the cells. Casanova escaped from one of these cells. Other less-fortunate prisoners whiled away their time by inscribing graffiti on the walls, which you can still read.

You will continue this exploration by strolling through the historic Castello district. It's the largest of Venice's six districts. Back in the 13th century the Castello district was home to the Arsenal, where Venice's ships were built. (Venetians boasted that they could build a complete ship in a single day.) This is also where the famous Biennale art exhibition now takes place. As you pass 800-year-old homes, you'll hear the murmur of the soft local dialect through the open windows. Clothes flap from lines strung over tiny canals and kids kick soccer balls along cobbled alleys. It's a real, living, breathing neighborhood, not just a historic site.

In addition to its well-known museums, Venice is also home to some highly specialized ones: Displays at the Correr are devoted to the history of Venice; the Museo della Musica contains 17th and 18th-century musical instruments and exhibits about composer Antonio Vivaldi. Known as the Red Priest for his hair colour, Vivaldi taught music to the daughters of Venetian noblemen. The Museo Ebraico examines the history of the Jewish community that was confined to an island known as Ghetto Nuovo. The latter was one of Europe's wealthiest and most cultured Jewish communities, made up in part with refugees from the Spanish Inquisition.

In the evening visit Saint Mark's Basilica. The doors of this icon are specially opened for you tonight. You will see the glorious church in the evening light and without the crowds. You'll find it almost impossible not to gaze heavenward as you enter St. Mark's. High overhead, magnificent domes are sheathed in mosaics telling the story of the New Testament, but don't miss the intricate pattern of marble and mosaic tile under your feet. Ahead of you is the famous altarpiece made by 10th-century Byzantine artisans who gilded it and decorated it with precious gems, some of which were subsequently stolen by Napoleon. The building, which exemplifies the city's historic connection to Byzantium and the Eastern Mediterranean, was finished in the 11th century and incorporates the remnants of earlier churches.

Golden glass-tiled mosaics line the interior walls and cupolas, giving the church its nickname, Church of Gold. It houses treasures collected by Venetians over the centuries. The relics of St. Mark, patron saint of the city, were stolen from Alexandria, and the Tetrarch, a group of four crowned figures, was looted from Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade. Every successful Venetian voyager returned with something to decorate the basilica—a frieze, a statue—and the result is one of the most stunning works of art and architecture in this amazing city. *(Note – in the event of a special event and access is not possible, an alternate experience will be provided.)* Overnight S.S. La Venezia.

Monday 6 October 2026 (B/D) – Vicenza or Padua, and Burano

Start your morning in one of two of the Veneto region's UNESCO World Heritage cities, Vicenza or Padua. In the afternoon, you'll reboard the ship for scenic sailing across the lagoon as we head towards Mazzorbo and Burano. In the evening, you may wish to take your free time to stroll into town to appreciate this charming island when most of the tourists have left for the evening. Burano's brightly painted fishermen's cottages are an artist's dream —hot pink, chartreuse, orange, lemon yellow, and more.

Set out for Vicenza, a beautiful town famous for its shopping, its architecture, and for being the home of the Teatro Olimpico. Considered by many to be one of the greatest masterpieces of famous 16th-century architect, Andrea Palladio, the Teatro Olimpico is the oldest Italian Renaissance theatre still in existence. A first of its kind, this indoor theatre was crafted in wood, stucco, and plaster, with seating room for 400. Enjoy a captivating light and music show while you're here—an absolute must-see. Afterwards, enjoy lunch on your own in town.

Or head to Padua - join your local guide on a walking tour of medieval Padua. Discover the city's great squares, churches and palaces. Padua flourished as a hub of learning and discovery in the 13th and 14th centuries. The second-oldest university in Italy was founded here in 1222, hosting such students as Copernicus and faculty as Galileo. Immediately outside the Palazzo del Bo, the university's first home, you'll see a cafe where revolutionaries met to plot an uprising against Austrian invaders in 1848. Stroll past the largest public square in Italy, Prato della Valle, originally laid out by the Romans and transformed in the 18th century into a graceful, elliptical open space with a serene canal and statues of local nobles. Gaze upon the Byzantine-influenced domes and towers of the vast Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua, where you'll often find a crowd waiting to offer thanks or prayers. You will have some free time to explore Padua on your own, perhaps stopping for lunch at one of the many delicious eateries in town.

Return to the ship, and stroll into town with your Cruise Manager just before dinner to appreciate this charming island when most of the tourists have left for the evening. Burano's brightly painted fishermen's cottages are an artist's dream. Burano is known for its lace-making tradition, handed down from mother to daughter since the first workshop was set up at the end of the 16th century. While you're here, you'll visit a historic lace-making atelier to see some of their delicate work. Then a special Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner back on board. Overnight S.S. La Venezia.



Tuesday 7 October 2026 (B/L/D) – Mazzorba , Burano, and Murano

Spend the day exploring the northern lagoon of Venice and its captivating islands. Start with a visit to Torcello's famous basilica with an art historian, then stroll through the agricultural island of Mazzorbo and the rainbow-hued island of Burano during your free time after lunch. Alternatively, you can take the afternoon to see the renowned glassblowing artisans of Murano at work. Settled before Venice was founded, Torcello was once the greatest, most populous city in the lagoon. Now, however, only a handful of people live there. Its centerpiece is the basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, the oldest church in the lagoon and a monument to Torcello's lost might.



The doors open early for you, so you can see the stunning 11th-century mosaic of the Last Judgment without the crowds—and with expert commentary from your art historian guide. Murano's glassblowers are renowned for being amongst the best in the world—and how could they not be, with a tradition of craftsmanship dating back eight centuries? Watch a glass-master shape beautiful works of art in their Murano workshop. Before you leave, take some time to roam around the factory's gallery to view works in a wide variety of styles—from tableware to sculptural, traditional to modern. Before we head back to the ship, relax with a cup of coffee at a serene little Osteria on the island. Overnight S.S. La Venezia

Wednesday 8 October 2026 (B/D) – Chioggia

Today you'll admire the sites of charming and coastal Chioggia, one of the most enticing islands of the Venice lagoon. A small fishing port often referred to as a Venice in miniature, with a well-preserved tradition due to its relative lack of crowds. Choose from a range of excursions today, from cycling along the coast; visiting Chioggia's lively markets; board a genuine Adriatic wooden sailing boat, a bragozzo, to take in the island from the clear blue waters of the lagoon, then return to shore for a visit to Tenuta Ca' Zen, a beautiful Venetian villa with a fascinating story. Here, you can explore the expansive grounds, antique stable, family chapel and more before rejoining the group for a tasting of local products, which include organic olive oil, wines, honey and cheeses. Or with a sommelier as your guide, will learn about the long history of winemaking in the Veneto region. Visit Dominio di Bagnoli, one of the oldest wine producing properties in Europe, for a private tasting. A variety of wines are produced here, with the most popular being made from an indigenous grape variety. The beautiful property of Dominio di Bagnoli is also a farm, where rice, grain and other products are grown. Return to the ship for dinner and overnight S.S. La Venezia.



Thursday 9 October 2026 (B/L/D) – Chioggia and to Venice

Set sail today on the waters of Italy's largest nature reserve park, the UNESCO-protected Po Delta. Enjoy refreshments onboard your boat as it meanders leisurely for 2 hours through the scenic wetlands. Nature-lovers and bird watchers will especially enjoy this tour for the opportunity to spot a multitude of beautiful and rare species that call the Po Delta home. Red deer and Camargue horses can be found on the forested land portion of the park, and if you're lucky you might catch them grazing near the water. Easier to spot are storks, purple heron, and a colony of over 10,000 pink flamingos. Alternatively set off for the Euganean hills to discover one of Europe's most majestic castles. Enjoy a guided tour of a palace so beautiful that it became a resort for the Habsburg Dynasty before being returned to Italy following the first world war. After marvelling at its frescoed walls, continue on for a guided walk around its beautiful gardens or take some free time for yourself to explore as you please before returning to the ship for dinner and overnight S.S. La Venezia.



Friday 10 October 2026 (B/L/D) – Venice

As your water taxi glides past narrow side canals and the Canal Grande, you'll arrive in style at the Rialto Bridge. The iconic stone arch bridge sits at the narrowest point of the Canal Grande and holds numerous shops and restaurants. Back when Venice was at the height of its power, only the Rialto Bridge spanned the Grand Canal—and the city's famous Rialto markets for fish and produce have sprawled at its feet as long as the bridge has arched over the water. Here you'll find violet artichokes from the nearby island of Sant' Erasmo, honey from the salt marshes, white asparagus from Giare—and Venetians shopping for their dinners in the historic heart of the city. Join them as you explore the colorful, noisy and fun arcades with your guide (the ship's chef often accompanies this expedition), who knows Venice's culinary arts intimately.



Freshly caught local fish are sold to knowledgeable customers under the Gothic arches of the covered fish market, which was probably originally built in the 11th century. At the end of the tour (and after some free time where you should have plenty of time to enjoy a gondola ride), join your guide at a bacaro (a casual wine bar) for the Venetian version of happy hour, called ombra e cicchetti—a drink (often a glass of prosecco) with a bite of something delicious—perhaps crostini with salt cod spread or another Venetian fish specialty. Alternatively get an early morning start to see a side of Venice most of the tourists miss—The Dorsoduro. One of Venice’s six main sestieri, or districts, The Dorsoduro is quieter than some of the more popular districts and thus has an authentic, easy going atmosphere. Enjoy a walking tour around this picturesque side of town before moving on to visit a gondola artisan. See the craftwork that goes into Venice’s iconic sailing vessels and meet some local masters at work. You can also choose to learn of an integral feature of the Carnival of Venice - masks are known for their intricate beauty and wide variety of styles. See for yourself how these masks are created at one of the top handmade mask ateliers in town. Return to the ship for our final evening aboard – a special Captain’s Farewell Reception and Dinner. Overnight S.S. La Venezia.

Saturday 11 October 2026 (B/L/D) – disembark S.S. La Venezia

After breakfast disembark the ship and our tour concludes. You may like to spend more time in Venice, or head to Milan, Bologna, Florence or Rome for sightseeing. Depart from Venice Airport, or head to Milan for a greater choice of flights.

Sunday 12 October 2026 (inflight meals) – en route to Australia or beyond

Enroute to Australia.

Monday 13 October 2026 (inflight meals) – arrive Australia or beyond

Arrive back in Australia.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation is generally in 4 star hotels – in some locations the best available may be simpler, and in others we stay in 5 star properties. Many meals are included as shown - breakfast is included most mornings, and we have included lunch and dinner on many other occasions. Meals included are indicated as (B) Breakfast, (L) Luncheon, and (D) Dinner.

PERSONAL SERVICE AND MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

SJR prides itself on its personal service and attention to detail. The tour is escorted by the organiser/s of the itinerary. You are assured of the utmost service and our commitment to your satisfaction. We recognise that each passenger has different interests, and we will aim to provide the opportunity to allow you to rest from the group, explore by yourself or visit special sites you’ve read about – if you wish. Detailed advice and assistance will be given to help you, and most travel requirements can be made for you.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour is limited in size, with a maximum of 20 participants, with bookings confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$3,000 per person. **The tour fare is from \$22,880* per person (twin share) plus airfares from Australia, and includes a Deluxe Stateroom on S.S. La Venezia. Sole use of hotel rooms and sole use of a Deluxe Stateroom on the cruise is available at a supplement from \$9,880 pp.** The tour fare includes all hotels and sightseeing, rail and coach travel as indicated, all bus, tram, metro and light rail transfers when part of the group; all accommodation on a double/twin share basis (single accommodation is available on payment of the single supplement); sightseeing and entrance fees to sites as indicated, and meals as shown in the itinerary for each day. The fare does not include meals not identified, drinks, excess baggage charges, gratuities, telephone calls, laundry, any items of a personal nature, travel outside the organised group. Due to the variety of interests of individuals, and the range of sites, museums etc. available for inspection on some days, we have included key features in the tour cost. Inspection and entry fees when not part of the planned group activity are not included in the tour cost. **(Note – as cruise fares are priced dynamically, and subject to availability on the Uniworld S.S. La Venezia, they can change until payment is made and stateroom is confirmed.)**

Superior Staterooms on the S.S. La Venezia – you may like to upgrade to a superior cabin for the seven nights aboard the S.S. La Venezia. The upgrade cost is

- \$2,300 per person (based on double/twin share) in French Balcony Suite
- \$6,000 per person (based on double/twin share) in Suite
- \$11,300 per person (based on double/twin share) in Grand Suite

- \$3,500 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in French Balcony Suite
- \$16,500 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in Suite

Note + Martin Kopetschke joining the tour depends on a minimum of ten paying guests.

Additional or optional activities or entrance fees (shown as (O) in the itinerary, are not included in the cost. Bookings should be made on the attached form. The deposit of \$3,000 per person should be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer:

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033 364
Account Number: 612826
Reference: Your name and 'Venice'

When paying by EFT, include the reference above and your surname, and email to sjr@digitor.com.au to advise you have paid. Please forward the booking form to the postal address above.

Debit/credit card payment is available, with merchant fees of 1.00% for Visa, MasterCard and 1.8% for American Express. Please call us to make payment by debit/credit card.

You can also pay by cheque, payable to Scenic Journeys by Rail, and sent along with the booking form, to:

SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. **Changes to the itinerary** - as the tour involves a range of scheduled rail operations, and coach charters, some in regional parts of Slovenia and Croatia, where accommodation and travel options maybe limited, the tour organiser reserves the right to change and amend the itinerary at his sole discretion based on necessary changes to travel plans due to air, sea, land and rail operation schedule changes and hotel availability. **Currency fluctuations** – until final payment, the tour organiser reserves the right to adjust the tour price based on significant foreign exchange movement between the Australian Dollar and the Euro. **Cancellation** fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. After further payment towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$1000 per person; within three months, \$2000 per person. No refund will be made for cancellations after 1 June 2026. All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger. **Responsibility** - St James' Rail acts only as the organiser of the tour. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, pandemic, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. **Passports, visas, vaccinations, health requirements** – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. Obtaining all visas, vaccinations or other health requirements to meet the expectation of airlines or foreign governments is your responsibility. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport, visa, vaccination or health documents. **Special conditions relating to Government restrictions** – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers. **Full details of terms and conditions:** if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. If you cancel your participation in the tour, either prior or during the tour, cancellation costs will apply. An insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, MTA Travel, for your consideration. Obtaining insurance cover is your responsibility. In the event of hospitalisation or prolonged medical care, you are responsible for managing your own situation. The tour leaders cannot provide an extended (more than six hours) of personal care to assist you in the event of medical care.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call us on (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838, email at sjr@digitor.com.au or visit www.stjamesrail.org

MAP



VIENNA TO VENICE

by rail, coach and luxury cruise

Tuesday 15 September to Tuesday 13 October 2026

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

Address: Suburb: Postcode:

Home tel: Work tel: Mobile:

Email:

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in the passport:)

Passenger 1 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Frequent Flyer: Airline No:

Passenger 2 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Frequent Flyer: Airline No:

PAYMENT

..... I have paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as described previously. Please email SJR to advise and send this form.

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033 364
Account Number: 612826
Reference: Your name and 'Venice'

..... I have enclosed \$ as deposit (\$3,000 per person) for the above booking. Please make cheques payable to St James Rail.

An email will be sent acknowledging receipt of your deposit and providing further details.

AIR TRAVEL TO VIENNA / FROM VENICE/MILAN

..... Please call me to discuss air travel options.

..... I will make my/our own air travel arrangements and meet you in Vienna on Wednesday 16 September 2016.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms: Double rooms: Twin (two bedded) rooms:

A single supplement is payable for sole use of hotel rooms and sole use of a Deluxe Stateroom on S.S. La Venezia.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please indicate any dietary or any other sort of special request :

.....
.....

INSURANCE

..... Please send an insurance policy from Sarah Manche, MTA Travel.

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent Sarah Manche, MTA Travel.

Telephone 0418 585 838

Email sjr@digitor.com.au

Web

www.stjamesrail.org

November 2025