

VENICE.

VENICE IN BRIEF:

Venice is built on 117 islands; it has 150 canals and 400 bridges. The hub of public life is Piazza San Marco, where tourist and citizens sit on the terraces of the famous Florian, is the best-known café, and Quadri Cafés. The shops in San Marco have sumptuous window displays of lace, jewellery, mirrors and the famous glassware from Murano. The Mercerie, shopping streets, lead to the Ponte di Rialto. Quartiere de' Frari and Santa Maria Formosa have a certain peaceful charm with their brick facades and silent canals. Meals in the trattorie are among the attractions of Venice. Consist in sea-food accompanied by the pleasant local wines. For centuries gondolas have been the traditional means of transport in Venice. Now they are the quintessence of Romantic Venice.



Is a old church, it was built by Venetian and Lombard workers. Built on the plan of a Greek cross, the Basilica is crowned by five bulbous domes. The five large doorways are adorned with variegated marbles and sculptures. Behind the altar is the exquisite Pala d'Oro, a gold, enamel and jewel-encrusted altarpiece, a masterpiece of Gothic art.

The first Harbour of Venice. It was built in stone, dates back to the second half of the 16th century, while the previous ones were made of wood.



A masterpiece of marble, sculpture and priceless artefacts, it consists of three large bodies, which have absorbed and unified previous buildings. Is the most ancient construction, was rebuilt from 1340. Interior: the cloister on the ground floor, the loggias on the second floor, the apartment of the doge with works by Titian, Veronese, Tiepolo and Tintoretto.

Referred to by most locals as simply Salute, sits on a narrow strip of land between the Grand Canal and the St. Mark's Basin. It was proposed in 1630 by the Venetian Senate in response to a particularly terrible wave of the plague, which had already killed about a third of the city's population. The Senate promised to build the church in honor of Mary if she would free the city from the plague. After the epidemic had subsided, the Senate kept its promise and construction of the church soon started.

