

TRANSPORT

Things Change...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR

Venice is one of Italy's smaller air-traffic centres (there are big plans for expansion). Direct flights from major European centres and New York are available, alongside internal flights from the rest of Italy.

Look out for budget-airline deals from carriers like UK-based Easy Jet and Ryanair, which between them put on cheap flights from a growing list of UK and other European airports respectively to Venice's Marco Polo airport and Treviso's San Giuseppe airport. These and an array of other budget airlines work on a first-come, first-served basis: as flights fill, the price of a ticket rises.

Within Italy air travel is generally expensive. In the northern half of the country it makes more sense to go by train. Alitalia and Air One are the main airlines serving Venice. Most direct flights into Venice come from Rome and Milan, with a handful from Naples, Olbia and Palermo.

Most airlines, especially the budget ones, encourage you to book on their websites. Useful general sites to search for competitive fares are www.planesimple.co.uk, www.cheapflights.co.uk, www.lastminute.com, www.whichbudget.com, www.edreams.com, www.opodo.com and www.expedia.com.

Airlines

Airlines don't bother with shopfront offices in Venice, so you'll need to go online, call the following numbers or try a travel agent (see

p259). More than 40 airlines serve more than 60 destinations direct to/from Venice.

Air Dolomiti (EN; % in Italy 199 400044; www.airdolomiti.it) Airline with flights from Frankfurt and Munich to Venice and Verona, as well as Vienna to Verona.

Air One (AP; % 199 207080; www.flyairone.it) Flights from throughout Italy.

Alitalia (AZ; % 06 2222; www.alitalia.it, in Italian) Flights from Rome, Milan and other Italian centres, as well as from many European hubs.

Alpi Eagles (E8; % 899 500058; www.alpieagles.com) Has flights from many Italian cities, as well as Athens, Barcelona, Bucharest and Tirana (Albania).

BMI (BD; % 0870 607 0555; www.flybmi.com) Flights to Venice from London Heathrow.

British Airways (BA; % in UK 0870 850 9850, in Italy 199 712266; www.britishairways.com) From the UK.

Delta (DL; % in USA 800 241 4141, in Italy 848 780376; www.delta.com) Direct flights from New York.

EasyJet (U2; % in UK 0871 244 2366, in Italy 899 234589; www.easyjet.com) Flights from London Gatwick, Bristol and East Midlands.

Flybaboo (BBO; % in Switzerland 0848 445445; www.babooairways.com) Flights from Geneva to Venice.

Germanwings (4U; % in Germany 0900 191 9100, in Italy 199 404747; www15.germanwings.com) Flights between Cologne and Verona.

Jet2 (LS; % 0871 226 1737; www.jet2.com) Budget airline that flies from Leeds and Manchester to Venice.

MyAir (8i; % 0931 41 99 37; www.myair.com) A budget Italian airline with flights between Venice and destinations in Bulgaria, France, Morocco, Romania and Spain.

Qantas Airways (QF; % in Australia 13 13 13, in Italy 848 350010; www.qantas.com.au) Flights from Australia to Italy in codeshare.

Ryanair (FR; % in Ireland 0818 303030, in UK 0871 246 0000, in Italy 899 678910; www.ryanair.com) Flights from Brussels, Dublin and Shannon, Frankfurt (Hahn), Girona (for Barcelona), Liverpool, London (Stansted), Paris (Beauvais) and Rome to Treviso. Ryanair also flies to Brescia airport, reasonably handy for Verona.

Sky Europe (NE; % in Hungary 06 1777 7000, in Italy 166 205304; www.skyeurope.com) Flights to Venice from Budapest and to Treviso from Budapest, Cracow and Vienna.

Sterling.dk (DM; % in Denmark 70 10 84 84, in Italy 02 6963 3595; www.sterling.dk) Flights from Copenhagen to Venice.

Transavia (HV; % in Netherlands 0900-0737, in Italy 02 6968 2615; www.transavia.com) Low-cost flights from Amsterdam to Treviso and Verona.

Tuifly (X3; % in Germany 0900 109 9595, in Italy 199 192692; www.tuifly.com) Flights from Berlin and other German cities to Venice.

US Airways (US; % in USA 800 622 1015; www.usairways.com) Direct flights from Philadelphia to Venice.

Vueling (VY; % in Spain 902 333933, in Italy 800 787788; www.vueling.com) Flights from Barcelona and Madrid.

Wind Jet (IV; % 899 809060; www.volawindjet.it) Flights to Venice from Catania and Palermo.

Airports

Venice's **Marco Polo airport** (VCE; % 041 260 92 60; www.veniceairport.it) is 12km outside Venice and just east of Mestre. Some flights, notably those of low-cost airline Ryanair, use Treviso's minuscule **San Giuseppe airport** (TSF; % 0422 31 51 11; www.trevisoairport.it), about 5km southwest of Treviso and 30km (about an hour's drive through traffic) from Venice.

Arrivi (arrivals) at Marco Polo airport is on the ground floor, where you will also find an Azienda di Promozione Turistica (APT) office, numerous car-hire outlets, hotel-booking agencies, bureaux de change, *deposito bagagli* (left luggage) and *bagagli smarriti* (lost lug-

gage). Check-in and departures are on the 1st floor. You'll find banks, ATMs, cafés and shops on both floors.

At Treviso's San Giuseppe airport, the arrivals hall boasts a small, thinly stocked regional tourist information booth, a lost-luggage office next to it, a bureau de change and several car-hire outlets. Next door in departures you'll find an ATM and a couple of tour and airline offices (including Ryanair). There is no *deposito bagagli* service.

There are several options for getting to Venice from Marco Polo airport, from the super-expensive water taxi to the cheap and prosaic bus.

BICYCLE

Cycling (hardly feasible anyway) is banned in Venice. On the Lido and Pellestrina it can be a pleasant option. A couple of hire places are clustered around the Lido vaporetto stop on Gran Viale Santa Maria Elisabetta (Map p116). You'll pay around €10 per day.

BOAT

Minoan Lines (www.minoan.gr) and **Anek** (www.aneitalia.com) run regular ferries to Venice from Greece (Corfu, Igoumenitsa and Patras). **Venezia Lines** (www.venezialines.com) runs high-speed catamarans between Venice and six destinations, including pretty Pula, along the Istrian coast (once part of La Serenissima's merchant empire) in Croatia. Check also the Venezia

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

GETTING TO/FROM THE AIRPORTS

Boat

Alilaguna (☎ 041 523 57 75; www.alilaguna.com) fast ferries from Marco Polo airport to Venice (€12), the Lido (€12) and Murano (€6) operate approximately once an hour. The main difference between the *rosso* (red) and *blu* (blue) lines is that the *blu* stops at Fondamente Nuove (€6) and Stazione Marittima (€15), but not at Zattere or Arsenale. Travelling to the airport, you can pick up an Alilaguna ferry at several stops, including Zattere (Map pp76–7), San Marco (Map pp62–3), San Zaccaria (Map pp62–3) and Arsenale (Map pp100–1). The *arancia* (orange) line runs from the Guglie stop (Map pp92–3) via Madonna dell'Orto (Map pp92–3) and Murano to the airport. A faster direct service (the *oro*, or gold, line) from San Marco (stopping only at nearby San Zaccaria) costs €25 and runs eight times a day. Note that, coming from the airport, the *rosso* ferry runs to Murano (the Museo stop), the Lido, Arsenale, San Zaccaria, Piazza San Marco and Zattere in that order. The journey to Piazza San Marco takes one hour and 10 minutes (a few minutes longer on the *blu* line).

A **water taxi** (☎ 041 522 23 03, 041 522 12 65) is luxury. The standard official rate for the ride between Piazzetta di San Marco and Marco Polo airport is €45. To/from the Lido costs €55. Watch for night and baggage surcharges. In reality, a group of up to four people will pay around €90 for the ride to San Marco from the airport.

Bus & Train

Azienda Trasporti Veneto Orientale (ATVO; ☎ 041 38 36 72; www.atvo.it) buses run from Marco Polo airport to Piazzale Roma via Mestre's train station (€3, 20 minutes) – they're also known as Fly buses. There are around 27 to 30 departures a day. A separate service runs to/from Mestre train station (€2.50).

Azienda Consorzio Trasporti Veneziano (ACTV; ☎ 041 24 24; www.actv.it) city bus 5 runs between Marco Polo airport and Piazzale Roma (€1). It makes more stops and takes closer to 30 minutes.

Eurobus buses (run by ATVO) connect Piazzale Roma with flights at Treviso's San Giuseppe airport (one way/return €5/9, one hour five minutes). The return ticket is valid for one week. Alternatively, local Treviso bus 6 goes to the main train station in Treviso. From there you can proceed to Venice by train.

Helicopter

HeliAir Venice (☎ 041 527 47 62; www.heliairvenice.com) offers people in a hurry quick transfers to/from the Nicelli aerodrome on the Lido (where they are based), Marco Polo airport, nearby cities and the chic ski resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo (for up to six passengers around €2500, 45 minutes). It also does tours; see p255.

Taxi

Normal land taxis cost around €35 one way from Marco Polo airport to Piazzale Roma (15 to 20 minutes). From Treviso's San Giuseppe airport (€75) they can take an hour in traffic.

Terminal Passeggeri website for information on sea connections (www.vtp.it).

Gondola

A gondola ride is the quintessence of romantic Venice, but few people use them for practical transport purposes (such as getting from the train station to your hotel). And at €80 for 40 minutes (€100 from 7pm to 8am) the official price is a rather hefty return from the clouds to reality. The rates are for a maximum of six people – less romantic but more affordable. After the first 40 minutes you pay in 20-minute increments (€40, or €50 from 7pm to 8am). Several travellers have reported successfully negotiating below the official rates. Gondola rides are no doubt touristy, and

some might even agree with Oscar Wilde, who found his gondola experience akin to a promenade 'in the sewers on board a coffin'. But it is a unique experience for all that.

Gondolas are available near main canals or can be booked by phoning ☎ 041 528 50 75 or at various *stazi* (gondola stops) such as those in **Rialto** (Map pp62–3; ☎ 041 522 49 04) and at the **train station** (Map pp92–3; ☎ 041 71 85 43).

Hire

The freewheeling tripper with nerves of steel might want to rent a boat. Try **Brussa** (Map pp92–3; ☎ 041 71 57 87; www.brussaisboat.it, in Italian; Fondamenta Labia, Cannaregio 331; 7.30am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 7.30–12.30pm Sat). You can hire a 7m boat (including

fuel) for an hour (€20) or a day (€130), or make an arrangement for a longer period. There are only four boat petrol stations around Venice. You don't need a licence, but you will be taken on a test run to see if you can manoeuvre and park. The boats carry up to six people.

Traghetto

The poor man's gondola, *traghetti*, are used to cross the Grand Canal where there is no nearby bridge. There is no limit (except common sense) on the number of passengers, who stand. The ride costs €0.60.

Traghetti are supposed to operate from about 9am to 6pm between Campo Traghetto (near Santa Maria del Giglio) and Calle de Lanza (Map pp76–7); Calle Mocenigo Casa Vecchia, further northwest, and Calle Traghetto (Map pp76–7); Campo Santa Sofia and Campo della Pescaria (Map pp92–3), near the produce market.

Several other *traghetto* routes operate from 9am to noon only. They include Stazione di Santa Lucia to Fondamenta San Simeon Piccolo (Map pp92–3); Campo San Marcuola to Salizada del Fontego dei Turchi (Map pp92–3); Fondamenta del Vin to Riva del Carbon, near the Ponte di Rialto (Map pp62–3); Campo San Samuele, north of the Ponte dell'Accademia, and Calle del Traghetto (Map pp76–7); and Calle Vallaresso to Punta della Dogana (Map pp62–3). Some may on occasion not operate at all.

Vaporetto

The most common form of transport around Venice, after your feet, are the vaporetti, the city's ferries. Actually, there are at least three kinds of ferry: the standard, ponderous vaporetto (as in line 1 down the Grand Canal), the sleeker *motoscafo*, which also runs local routes, and the *motonave* – big interisland boats that head for Torcello and other more distant destinations. Just to complicate things a little, locals tend to call any public-transport boat a *battello*.

The **ACTV** (☎ 041 24 24; www.actv.it) runs public transport in the Comune di Venezia (the municipality), covering mainland buses and all the waterborne public transport around Venice. You can pick up timetables and route maps from the ACTV tickets and information office on Piazzale Roma (Map pp84–5) and some ticket booths.

Vaporetti get crowded and visitors have a habit of gathering by exits. If you are standing near one, it is common practice on reaching a

stop to get off and let passengers behind you disembark before you get back on.

ROUTES

From Piazzale Roma, vaporetto 1 zigzags up the Grand Canal to San Marco and then on to the Lido. If you aren't in a rush, it's a great introduction to Venice. Vaporetto 17 carries vehicles from Tronchetto, near Piazzale Roma, to the Lido.

Keep in mind that routes and route numbers can change. Not all routes go both ways.

Frequency varies greatly according to line and time of day. Vaporetto 1 runs every 10 minutes through most of the day, while lines such as the 41 and 42 only run every 20 minutes. Services to Burano and Torcello are still less frequent. Night services can be as much as one hour apart. Some lines stop running by around 9pm, so check timetables.

DM (Diretto Murano) Tronchetto–Piazzale Roma–Ferrovia–Murano and back.

Line 1 Piazzale Roma–Ferrovia–Grand Canal (all stops)–Lido and back.

Line 3 Fast circular line: Tronchetto–Ferrovia–San Samuele–Accademia–San Marco–Tronchetto (summer).

Line 4 Fast circular line in reverse direction to line 3 (summer).

Line 5 San Zaccaria–Murano and back.

Line 11 Lido–Pellestrina–Chioggia and back (bus and ferries).

Line 13 Fondamente Nuove–Murano–Vignole–Sant'Erasmo–Treporti and back.

Line 17 Car ferry: Tronchetto–Lido and back (extends to Punta Sabbioni in summer).

Line 18 Murano–Vignole–Sant'Erasmo–Lido and back (summer only).

Line 20 San Zaccaria–San Servolo–San Lazzaro and back.

Line 41 Circular line: Piazzale Roma–Sacca Fisola–Giudecca–San Zaccaria–San Pietro–Fondamente Nuove–Murano–Ferrovia.

Line 42 Circular line in reverse direction to line 41.

Line 51 Circular line: Piazzale Roma–Santa Marta–Zattere–San Zaccaria–Lido–San Pietro–Fondamente Nuove–Ferrovia.

Line 52 Circular line in reverse direction to line 51.

Line 61 Limited-stops weekdays-only circular line: Piazzale Roma–Santa Marta–San Basilio–Zattere–Giardini–Sant'Elena–Lido.

Line 62 Limited-stops weekdays-only circular line, reverse direction to line 61.