

# Venice to Mantova – Boat and Bike

*‘A wonderful route near Venice, on the only boat and bike holiday in Italy!’*



*“Accommodation was excellent in every respect – food was particularly good.”*

Michael & Anne Horsman

Vita Pugna – cruising the canal

- Accommodation on comfortable barge – all cabins with private facilities
- All meals included – breakfast, dinner, packed lunches
- Easy cycling on flat cycle tracks and minor roads
- Spend time in incredible Venice and cycle along the Venice lagoon
- Flexibility – cycle with on board tour guide or on your own, or stay on board!
- Extra nights option in Venice, Verona, or Mantova

This is a ‘different’ sort of holiday, a brilliant combination of cycling in the Venice area and the Po valley and staying on an attractive river barge with modern facilities. The Vita Pugna is a traditional Dutch barge built to carry freight on Holland’s waterways. She retains her traditional, beautiful hull lines but has recently acquired a new superstructure and internal conversion to accommodate today’s discerning traveller.

The start point of this holiday alternates between Venice and Mantova. You take breakfast and dinner on board each day and make up a packed lunch each morning. You will see the marvels of Venice and the attractive towns and scenery of the canals and Po Valley up to Mantova.

The Vita Pugna has ten twin-bedded and one three-bedded cabin (no bunks), and all have private facilities. There is a very pleasant saloon on the upper deck where meals are taken and an ‘honesty’ bar. For good reason this tour proved to be very popular in 2009 when it was first introduced, so book early for your preferred date!



Vita Pugna



The on-board dining area

## ITINERARY

7 nights: Arr ✈ Venice or Verona

This itinerary relates to a Mantova-Venice sailing.

- Day 1 Mantova**  
Transfer from your arrival point of Venice or Verona to Mantova. Our mooring point is Port Catena, just a short walk from the centre.
- Day 2 Mantova – Governolo – Zelo ■ Cycling**  
31m; 50km  
Stay on board to Governolo, then cycle along the Po to Ostiglia with its ruined medieval fortress, and then beside the Canal Bianco to Zelo.
- Day 3 Zelo – Ferrara – Adria ■ Cycling** 31m; 50km, plus Bus 37m; 60km  
Cycle to historic Ferrara, known as the “city of bicycles”, which has a splendid centre enclosed by the city walls. A bus transfer then takes you to Adria, an important port in the time of ancient Greece.
- Day 4 Adria – Porto Viro – Albarella ■ Cycling**  
22/34m; 35/55km  
On board to Porto Viro where you start today’s ride in the maze of the Po delta towards the private island of Albarella. In the event of low water the ride will start from Adria.
- Day 5 Albarella – Chioggia ■ Cycling** 25m; 40km  
Cycle from the Po to the mouth of the Adige, and then follow the Po-Brondolo waterway towards the Venetian lagoon. Overnight in charming Chioggia, known as ‘little Venice’. Try to catch the entertaining fish market early next morning.
- Day 6 Chioggia – Venice ■ Cycling** 19m; 30km  
A superb day as you approach Venice. The boat takes you part way and then you cycle along two islands on the edge of the Venice Lagoon. Tonight’s mooring is the island of Giudecca right opposite St.Mark’s, and just a short ferry ride from the legendary attractions of Venice.

- Day 7 Venice**  
The whole day is at your disposal to discover magnificent Venice. We include a 2-day ticket for the city’s vaporetto ferry boat network – essential for getting round quickly and seeing all the sights on your list! Our tour pack will include some suggested itineraries to get you started.
- Day 8 Venice**  
More time in Venice if you have booked a late flight home. Return to the airport or stay for additional nights in Venice.

**Note**  
For a Venice departure you arrive in Venice on Day 1, then spend Day 2 in Venice, moving off to Chioggia on Day 3.



Cycling along side the canal



Venice

## TOUR & TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Terrain**  
As flat as you can get! The cycle routes follow rivers and canals.

**Daily Mileage**  
19-34m (30-55km)



**Climate**  
Spring and Autumn offer pleasant cycling conditions. High summer temperatures can reach 30°C (85°F).

**Travel Information**  
Flights from the UK are available from a variety of airports to Venice Marco Polo (8 miles from Venice). Check the websites of Easyjet, BmiBaby,Jet2, Thomsonfly, and British Airways for latest schedules and prices. Ryanair fly to Treviso which is 25 miles from Venice.

Flights also available into Verona with British Airways and Thomsonfly, and with Ryanair into Brescia. Please check websites for latest information.

**Transfer Information**  
Venice Airport: Taxi to Mestre railway station, train to Venice, then ferry (vaporetto) to Giudecca, Vita Pugna’s mooring point, OR train to Mantova from Mestre for a Mantova start. Verona Airport: Taxi to railway station. Train to Mantova or Venice according to start point of tour.  
Full joining instructions will be sent to you before departure, presenting the transfer options in full detail.



Ferrara

**PRICES**  
Prices are per person and exclude flights. Board basis is bed & breakfast, packed lunches, and dinner on board for 7 nights. Prices are based on two people sharing a twin cabin.

	MAR, APR, OCT	1 MAY – 30 SEP
ADULT		
7 nights	£ 769	£ 819

Supplement for single occupancy of cabin: £50 per night.

## DEPARTURE DATES 2010

Every Saturday from 27 March to 23 October 2010

**Departures from Venice:**  
March 27, Apr 10, Apr 24, May 8, May 22, Jun 5, Jun 19, Jul 3, Jul 17, Jul 31  
Aug 14, Aug 28, Sep 11, Sep 25, Oct 9, Oct 23

**Departures from Mantova:**  
Apr 3, Apr 17, May 1, May 15, May 29, Jun 12, Jun 26, Jul 10, Jul 24, Aug 7, Aug 21, Sep 4, Sep 18, Oct 2, Oct 16