DAY 7 OF 10 · THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

Venice — *La Serenissima*

DOGE'S PALACE · GRAND CANAL · CICCHETTI · GONDOLA

5AM DEPARTURE — Venice is about 3 hours 40 minutes from the villa. We leave at 5:00 AM sharp. **Pack tonight. Set your alarm tonight.**

DO NOT LEAVE PACKING UNTIL MORNING · BAGS BY THE DOOR TONIGHT

TEMP	SUNRISE	SUNSET	CONDITIONS
10–16°C	6:45 AM	5:02 PM	Overcast likely

WHAT TO WEAR — CRITICAL

Waterproof. Warm. Minimal.

Waterproof footwear — non-negotiable

Venice in late October means acqua alta (high water). Piazza San Marco floods regularly. You will step in water. Waterproof boots or shoes are not optional — regular sneakers become wet and unwearable within minutes of a flood event.

Warm layers — gloves if you have them

10°C on the Grand Canal at 8AM feels colder than it sounds. The water amplifies the cold. A scarf and gloves are not excessive — Venice is not Tuscany.

Small backpack only — no rolling luggage

Rolling luggage is banned on many streets in Venice and is unusable on bridges. One small daypack for the day. Leave everything else in the vehicle with our driver.

PACK TONIGHT

Seven Things — Do It Now

- **Waterproof shoes ON YOUR FEET in the morning** — Don't pack them. Wear them. You'll be in Venice when the markets start opening and water levels may already be rising.
- **Doge's Palace tickets — QR on your phone** — Timed entry, booked online. The queue for non-booked tickets: 1–2 hours in October.
- **Vaporetto day pass (water bus) — downloaded** — €25 for unlimited rides. Download the ACTV app or buy at the terminal. You'll use it to cross the Grand Canal and reach outlying islands.
- **Waterproof phone case or dry bag** — Walking near the canal in wind, boat wakes, bridges — a phone dropped into a canal is gone. Protect it before you leave.
- **Compact umbrella** — Overcast is likely and Venice drizzle turns serious fast. A small umbrella in the bag weighs nothing and saves everything.
- **Cash — €60–80** — Cicchetti bars are cash. The Rialto market is cash. The gondola (€90 per boat) is cash only. San Marco cafés: cash preferred, cards accepted at tourist markup.
- **Phone fully charged + power bank charged** — We leave at 5 AM. You have tonight to charge both. Do it before you sleep.

INSIDER TIPS

Venice as Few People See It

01

Get lost on purpose

Venice rewards wandering. Once you've seen the Doge's Palace and San Marco, put the phone away and walk into the calli (alleyways) of Castello or Cannaregio. The quieter sestieri are where Venice still feels like a city, not a museum.

02

Cicchetti for lunch — not a restaurant

Cicchetti are Venetian tapas — small bites of baccalà, cured meat, bruschetta, fried seafood — eaten standing at the bar for €2–4 each. Lunch is around the Rialto (1:00–2:30 PM): Bar All'Arco for the best crostini, then Cantina Do Spade for meatballs and wine. This is how Venetians eat lunch.

03

Also try the €2 traghetto

Our day plan books a gondola ride for the group. For the local version, also try a traghetto (public gondola ferry): it crosses the Grand Canal for €2 per person, standing up, like locals have done for centuries. Find a traghetto stop near San Tomà or Santa Sofia.

04

Acqua alta warning — how to check

Check the Centro Maree website (comune.venezia.it) or download the "Acqua Alta" app. Alerts come with water level in cm: 80cm is wet shoes territory, 100cm+ means Piazza San Marco is flooded. Elevated platforms (passerelle) are set up automatically.

"Venice is like eating an entire box of chocolate liqueurs in one go."