



Mantua - Venice, MS Vita Pugna

IN THE POPLANE FROM MANTUA TO VENICE

Blending nature, culture and fine cuisine, this leisurely bike and barge tour along the waterways of the River Po offers more than just a taster of Northern Italy. It explores celebrated cities of art, one of Europe's prime Nature Reserves and a wealth of tucked-away rural hamlets along the route, rewarding our daily rides with authentic regional dishes back on board of the MS Vita Pugna. From the glory of Venice, the lagoon leads us to colourful Chioggia. Next up, the natural wonders of the Po Delta, famed for its birdlife. Then Adria, once a key Roman port, and onwards to Ferrara and Mantua – once major city states crowned by the Italian Renaissance.

- Get all information and many more tour tips for our tours with [Bike & Boat in Southern Europe](#).

Easy



8 Days / 7 Nights



Guided Group Tour

To the online version



Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrival to Mantua

We welcome you aboard your new home-from-home from 4.30 p.m. onwards, and then regroup for the introductory briefing – at 6.30 – with your tour leader, skipper and crew, along with a first refreshing aperitivo. After dinner we can stroll into town and savour the historic centre at its most evocative: Benvenuti a Mantova!

DAY
2

Mantua round tour | approx. 35 km

A day dedicated to the discovery of this little visited cultural gem, its three picturesque “lakes” formed by the Mincio, and its surrounding countryside – once a City State ruled by the Gonzaga family and now considered by many as Italy’s “Sleeping Beauty”. This afternoon we meet our Mantuan guide for a walking tour of the historic centre, and enjoy the rest of the day in town, at our own leisure.

DAY
3

Mantua – Governolo – Zelo | approx. 50 km

After breakfast, we set sail from the “lakes” of Mantua and cruise through the lush wetlands that lead to Governolo Lock, where Mantua’s River Mincio flows into the Po. Here, we saddle up and follow the broad sweeps of the levee towards Ostiglia, renowned for its medieval fortress and fierce fighting in 1945, as the Allies drove Hitler’s forces back. Next: Bergantino, home of the distinctive Museum of Fairground Rides and its collection of street organs, all expertly restored (and thunderous!). This village is also in the heartland of Grana Padano – the arch-rival of Parmesan – and a visit to the local cheese factory, sampling some well seasoned Grana, is de rigueur. We catch up with our barge in Zelo, a sleepy village on the Canal Bianco, the waterway which runs parallel to the Po.

DAY
4*Zelo – Ferrara – Adria*

approx. 50 km by bike and 60 km by bus

This morning we cross the Po and ride southwards through a patchwork of farmland, orchards and hamlets, as far as Ferrara. Under its ruling family, the Este, this city state attracted architects, artists and scholars for centuries, pioneering town planning principles that have been emulated worldwide ever since. To this day, Ferrara University ranks among the best, and the town is dubbed the "Cycling Capital of Italy". A private bus and trailer then take us back to our floating hotel in Adria, an ancient Roman port once washed by the sea which bears its name. Adria is also renowned for its Etruscan and Greek heritage. An after-dinner passeggiata into town for a well-earned grappa or gelato is in order.

DAY
5*Adria – Porto Viro – Chioggia/Pellestrina*

approx. 40 km

After a short cruise, we cycle into the delta of the life-giving Po. This unique wetland is the prime reserve in Europe for herons and home to a sizeable colony of flamingos. Weather permitting, as we continue towards Chioggia, we can also enjoy a break at a fine-sand beach nearby for a dip in the Adriatic – not forgetting a hot savoury piadina! Chioggia is also known as "Little Venice", a colourful fishing hub. The overnight takes place on the Island Pellestrina, just in front of Chioggia.

DAY
6*Chioggia/Pellestrina – Venedig*

approx. 30 km

Venice beckons, but first another world altogether: Pellestrina, the first of two islands we traverse today – a humble and tranquil fishing backwater, picturesque as ever with its cottages, boats and nets. A short island-hop by ferry lands us on the Lido. Fashionable in high society ever since the Belle Époque, the Lido di Venezia is now home to the International Venice Film Festival and its galaxy of stars. After rejoining our barge, an unrushed cruise in front of St Mark's square takes us to our final destination. After dinner we can savour Venice at night, now free of the crowds and at her most romantic: Benvenuti a Venezia!

DAY
7*Venice*

After breakfast – and perhaps following a wander off the beaten track with your tour leader – we all meet up with our Venetian guide for a tour through the historic centre. Christened La Serenissima ("The Most Serene"), the Venetian Republic held sway over much of the Mediterranean (and beyond) for centuries – both as a military power and a beacon of culture, her explorers reaching as far as China and Newfoundland. After your guided tour, you have the afternoon free to enjoy the city at your own pace.



Departure

Embarakation until 09:30!

Tour character

This cycling tour is largely along the flats of the Po plains, and the daily stages vary from 25 to 55 km – mostly on tarmac cycle paths along rivers and canals, or quiet country roads.

Prices and events

Place of arrival: Mantua

	Season 1	Season 2	Season 3	Season 4
	01.04.2023 15.04.2023 Arrival Saturday	29.04.2023 08.07.2023 22.07.2023 05.08.2023 19.08.2023 Arrival Saturday	13.05.2023 27.05.2023 10.06.2023 24.06.2023 Arrival Saturday	02.09.2023 16.09.2023 30.09.2023 14.10.2023
Bike & boat Mantua to Venice, 8 , MS Vita Pugna, 8 days, IT-ABSMV-08G				
Base price	1,030.00	1,350.00	1,400.00	1,470.00
Surcharge 2-bed-cabin single use	870.00	870.00	870.00	870.00

Our rental bikes

	Filter
27-gear unisex	100.00
E-Bike	250.00

Prices per person in EUR

Services and infos

Services

Included:

- Program as mentioned in the tour course
- 7 overnights in cabins with shower/toilet/air-condition in the booked cabin category
- Full board: 7x breakfast, 6x small lunch or lunch package for your bike tour, 7x three course dinner
- coffee and tea on board
- Daily cleaning of cabins
- Change of towels and bed linen if required
- Daily bike tour briefing
- Harbour fees
- Guided visit in Venice and Mantua
- Visit of a cheese factory with tasting
- Visit of Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum
- Bus transfer Ferrara-Zelo / Ferrara-Adria
- Travel Guide, Maps, Roadbook
- English speaking tour guide within an international group
- Second tour leader with a minimum of 25 people

Infos

Arrival / Parking / Departure:

- Unguarded parking spaces free of charge near the harbour
- Guarded parking space also near the harbour approx. € 8,-/day. reservation under info@albergobianchi.com in advance necessary.

Number of participants:

- min. none, guaranteed departures

Notes:

- Further important information according to the package travel law and additional information about your bike and boat trip can be found [here!](#)

Accommodation

MS Vita Pugna

Once used as a cargo ship, the MS Vita Pugna today exudes a unique family flair.

Beds: 21

Cabinsize: 8 m²

Length: 36 m

Width: 5,4 m

Draught: 1.6 m

Contact & booking

Do you still have questions about the tour? We are happy to help and look forward to your inquiry.



Christine Pölzleitner, Travel specialist



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Book now

