

THE KIRKER JOHN HALL VENICE COURSE

Week 1: Art & History

A FIVE NIGHT RESIDENTIAL COURSE | 16 NOVEMBER 2025



the itinerary

DAY 1 Fly to Venice and transfer by private water taxi to the 4* Nani Mocenigo Palace, a wonderfully restored hotel located by a small canal in Dorsoduro, one of the quietest and most characteristic districts of Venice. A welcome dinner is included this evening.

DAY 2 Charlie Hall will introduce the course, then in the afternoon we visit the Accademia, the 'National Gallery of Venice', which houses Venetian paintings from the 14th to the 17th century. This evening we have a private visit to St Mark's Basilica after it has closed to the public – a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the spectacular illuminated interior in the tranquillity it deserves.

DAY 3 Dr Andrew Hopkins, will speak this morning about Venetian architecture before a walking tour beginning at Vivaldi's parish church. We continue to the Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni to see Carpaccio's cycle of the story of St. George, and Campo Santi Giovanni e Paolo to visit the great Dominican church with sculpture by Alessandro Vittoria and paintings by Giovanni Bellini, Lorenzo Lotto and Piazzetta.

DAY 4 Beginning the day with talks on the History of Art by Charles Hope, we will then visit the Ca' Rezzonico, a beautiful palace built by Longhena, that houses the recently restored Museum of 18th century Venice with works by Canaletto, Tiepolo and Longhi amongst others. It contains frescoes, ornaments, costumes and ceramics of the 18th century and boasts a magnificent ballroom with *trompe l'oeil* from top to bottom.

DAY 5 We will spend the day in Ravenna, known for its late Roman and Byzantine architecture, as well as its wealth of early Christian sites. Highlights include the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia and the Basilica di San Vitale, which features the only contemporary depiction of the Empress Theodora. After lunch we will move onto the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, with its procession of 26 martyrs and 22 virgins, followed by the Basilica di Sant'Apollinare in Classe.

DAY 6 Those who are staying for the full duration will have a day at leisure in Venice today. For those departing, we travel to the airport by private water taxi for our flight back to the UK.

The first of our two weeks in Venice with Charlie Hall provides a fascinating in-depth introduction to the art, architecture and history of La Serenissima in the company of world-class experts, as well as a day in Ravenna, last capital of the Western Roman Empire. The John Hall Course was founded in 1965 and provides in-depth residential courses for gap year students in Venice. Our special itinerary, hosted and designed by Charlie Hall, incorporates the highlights of their six-week course in a shorter format, either five nights, eight nights or a comprehensive 13-night tour. We visit during the winter season, when the city is at its most alluring, with fewer visitors and an atmospheric mist rolling in from the lagoon. Over the course of our stay, we will enjoy talks from a range of renowned speakers, as well as visits to museums, art galleries and churches, and a number of included dinners at some of our favourite Venetian restaurants.



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COMBINED TOUR: THE KIRKER JOHN HALL VENICE COURSE

Combine both 'Art & History' and 'Venice & Beyond' for a comprehensive 13-night immersive Venetian experience.

The price to join both tours is £7,598 per person (single supp. £1,586).



LECTURE PROGRAMME

Monday 17 November

Charlie Hall: *The History of Venice* - Charlie has known Italy intimately since his father set up the John Hall Venice Course and he now runs the programme, as well as leading tours for Kirker. He is a lecturer for The Arts Society and has designed courses for Christie's Education, the Serpentine Gallery and for Soho House. He will introduce the Kirker course and talk about the history of the city from its origins to the present day.

Tuesday 18 November

Dr Andrew Hopkins: *Architecture in Venice* - Professor of Architectural History at the University of L'Aquila, Dr Hopkins was Assistant Director of the British School at Rome, from 1998 to 2002. Part of his PhD on Venetian architecture at the Courtauld Institute was awarded the Essay Medal by the Society of Architectural Historians.

Wednesday 19 November

Charles Hope: *Art History* - Art historian and author Charles Hope is a former Director of the Warburg Institute, and Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford University. Charles was an organiser of the *Genius of Venice* exhibition at the Royal Academy and is a world authority on Titian. He will give a talk this morning on the history of Venetian art.

WHAT WE INCLUDE

- Return flights
- Five nights' accommodation with breakfast
- Meals as described
- Lectures as per programme
- All sightseeing, entrances fees and gratuities
- Services of Charlie Hall and a Kirker tour manager

TOUR INFORMATION

DATE	PRICE	SINGLE SUPP
16 November	£3,126	£614

Our prices are per person, based on the shared occupancy of a classic twin/double room. Supplement for single occupancy as shown.

Flights with British Airways:

Depart Heathrow 12:50, arrive Venice 16:05

Depart Venice 12:40, arrive Heathrow 14:10

Flight times subject to change – regional departures available on request.



JOHN HALL VENICE

Kirker

FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS