

# THE KIRKER JOHN HALL VENICE COURSE

## Week 2: Venice & Beyond

AN EIGHT NIGHT RESIDENTIAL COURSE | 21 NOVEMBER 2025

*The second of our two weeks in Venice with Charlie Hall will take you beyond La Serenissima itself, to the islands of the lagoon, Giotto's magnificent frescoes in Padua and the Palladian villas of the Veneto. The John Hall Course was founded in 1965 and provides in-depth residential courses for gap year students in Venice. Our special itineraries, hosted and designed by Charlie Hall, incorporate the highlights of their six-week course in a shorter format: either five, eight or 13 nights in total. 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 daily talks from a range of renowned speakers on Venetian culture and history, as well as visits to museums, art galleries and churches, and excursions to Padua, Asolo, the Veneto countryside and the islands of the Venetian lagoon.*



### 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** We head out of Venice and travel by train to Padua. We explore the art and architecture of the city, including the magnificent Scrovegni Chapel, with its moving and colourful frescoes by Giotto illustrating scenes from the life of Christ.

**DAY 3** Today we will be joined by journalist, broadcaster and art critic Louisa Buck, who will talk about modern art in Venice and introduce the unique story of Peggy Guggenheim. In the afternoon, we visit the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni where Peggy's collection of modern art is displayed in a magnificent setting overlooking the Grand Canal.

**DAY 4** Opera expert Patrick Bade joins us today for two talks on the history of Italian Opera and the great composers Verdi, Puccini and Rossini. Afternoon visit to the Church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari to see works by Titian, Giovanni Bellini, Alessandro Vittoria and Donatello and the tomb of Canova.

**DAY 5** The islands of the lagoon form a key part of the Venetian experience and today we visit Torcello, Burano and Murano. Torcello was one of the first inhabited lagoon islands and home to the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, founded in 639. On Burano we see the brightly painted fishermen's houses, before visiting one of Murano's traditional glass-blowing workshops.

**DAY 6** This morning we are joined by Gregory Dowling, who will give two talks on the Romantics in Venice. Shelley called Italy "a paradise of exiles" and, along with Byron and Keats, spent much time in Venice. We will hear about the places and artworks that inspired them.

**DAY 7** Today is dedicated to Venetian cuisine, in the company of chef Marika Contaldo Seguso who runs her internationally renowned cookery school on the Venetian Lido. She will lead a morning cookery class, ending in a delicious lunch. The afternoon will be free.

**DAY 8** Our first stop is Villa Emo, before we continue to Asolo for a delicious lunch. Next we go to Maser to Palladio's wonderful villa decorated with frescoes by Veronese and sculpture by Alessandro Vittoria, followed by a visit to Carlo Scarpa's extraordinary Brion Mausoleum. We return to Venice for a farewell dinner this evening.

**DAY 9** We travel to the airport by private water taxi for our flight back to the UK

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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

**Sunday 23 November**

**Louisa Buck: Venice & Modern Art** - Journalist, broadcaster and art critic, reviewer for Radio 4's "Front Row" and Contemporary Art Correspondent for The Art Newspaper, Louisa will give a talk on modern art in Venice and the iconic collector, Peggy Guggenheim.

**Monday 24 November**

**Patrick Bade: Italian Opera** - One of our most popular tour lecturers, Patrick joins us for two talks on the history of Italian Opera and the great composers Verdi, Puccini and Rossini. Patrick has worked for the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, taught courses on the history of opera and leads our annual visit to the Verdi Festival in Parma.

**Wednesday 26 November**

**Gregory Dowling: the Romantics in Venice** - Author, translator and Associate Professor at the University of Venice, Gregory has written several thrillers set in Venice. He will give two talks on the links between the Romantic Poets and Venice, and the locations which inspired their work.

**Thursday 27 November**

**Marika Contaldo Seguso: Venetian Cuisine** - Marika graduated as a chef from the Institute of Culinary Education in New York, before working at 'Chanterelle' restaurant. She now runs a renowned cookery school on the Lido and will give a cooking class this morning.

## WHAT WE INCLUDE

- Return flights
- Eight 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
21 November	£4,948	£982

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 13:40, arrive Venice 16:55

Depart Venice 12:45, arrive Heathrow 14:15

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



JOHN HALL VENICE

**Kirker**  
FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS