OUTDOOR TRAVEL
THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

# BIKE & BARGE HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE

2027

## ITALY – VENICE, THE LAGOON & PO RIVER DELTA

**8-day / 7-night *PREMIUM PLUS* cycling cruises from Venice to Mantova or return**

Venice has been a mecca for tourists for centuries and we stay here for two nights with free time for you to explore the city. We explore the Venice Lagoon, the Lido, the estuary of the Brenta River and the Po River delta with their splendid villas, market towns and colourful fishing villages. We wind our way along the Mincio and Po, deep into rural Italian countryside through land reclaimed from the marshes for centuries. Framed by pine-forests this area is a haven for numerous birds and animals. Discover fish markets, sandy beach resorts, ancient castles, taste typical cheeses, Italian cuisine and of course the wine enroute to the beautiful city of Mantova.

Bike & Barge cruising combines two popular ways of exploring Europe, cycling and river cruising. It allows partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists or enthusiasts). You unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided, ideal for the terrain. The cycling is fascinating and varied with free time at each day's destination.

We offer two Premium Plus barges, each with 12 or 17 cabins, with twin beds which can be pushed together as a double, and a private bathroom with a shower and toilet. Four of the cabins are upper deck Superior cabins which are available for a supplement. One barge has three lower deck single cabins, these are very popular, so book early. The barges also have a saloon with bar/restaurant and there is a spacious outside deck area.

**Departures:** Weekly every Saturday from 20 March to 23 October 2027 ***Early bookings essential***

| **Cost from:** | | |
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| **Early Season:** | $2745 per person twin share | 20- 27 March |
| **Low Season:** | $3470 per person twin share | 3 July - 21 August |
| **Mid Season:** | $4015 per person twin share | 3 - 24 April, 5 - 26 June, 16 - 23 October |
| **Reg Season:** | $4380 per person twin share | 1 - 29 May |
| **High Season:** | $4560 per person twin share | 28 August - 9 October |

Single cabin supplement from: $730 (limited). Double cabin for single use supplement from: $2365
Superior cabin supplement: $570 per person.

**Includes:** 7 nights' accommodation in twin cabin with private bathroom; 7 breakfasts, 6 picnic lunches, 6 dinners; hybrid bicycle hire & pannier, bike insurance; bike helmet (if requested when booking); experienced multi-lingual tour guide; digital route information & maps; coach transfer from Ferrara-Zelo / Ferrara-Adria; guided tour in Mantova; traditional *Grano Padano* cheese-tasting; glass factory visit on Murano Island; fairground museum visit in Bergantino; harbour fees.

**Not Included:** Entrance fees, transfer to/from the barge, public transport in Venice and lagoon (we recommend the ACTV 48hour ticket), Venice Municipality Access fee (paid locally), ferry in Pellestrina, gratuities, drinks, personal expenses, 1 dinner (day 2).

A limited number of **E-bikes** are available at extra cost – request early to avoid disappointment

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on *1800 331 582* for details or reservations**

**Cycling route:** The itinerary offers mostly flat terrain, daily cycling stages vary from 30km to 50km. Much of the riding is along towpaths beside rivers and canals, on sealed cycle paths or roads with a low volume of car traffic.

**Suggested itinerary Venice to Mantova: ***

**Day 1: Arrive Venice**
In Venice, the barge is usually moored at a lagoon island marina, reached by *vaporetto* (ferry) or water taxi from Piazza San Marco, Santa Lucia train station or Venice's Marco Polo Airport. Your cabin will be ready from 5.00pm. Meet the cycle tour leader and the crew at dinner at 6.30pm.

**Day 2: Venice** **no cycling**
Wander off the beaten track this morning with your tour leader. Known as "La Serenissima" (The Most Serene) the Venetian Rebuplic held sway over much of the Mediterranean (and beyond) for centuries. Afterwards there is free time to soak up the city's timeless beauty or explore its many islands. Dinner at own arrangements.

**Day 3: Venice - Chioggia - Pellestrina Island** **cycling @ 25km**
Cruising out of Venice at a gentle pace, we stop at Murano Island to visit a historic glass factory with a glass blowing demonstration. We start our cycling on the Lido, an island fashionable with the artists and aristocracy of the Belle Époque. The Lido di Venezia is now home to the International Venice Film Festival and its galaxy of stars. A short island-hop by ferry (ticket not included, cost approximately €9 per person) takes us to Pellestrina, where we cycle towards the Ca' Roman nature reserve, past fishers' cottages and boats. We rejoin the barge at Chioggia – a bustling and colourful fishing harbour known as "Little Venice".

**Day 4: Pellestrina Island - Adria** **cycling @ 40km**
A morning stroll through Chioggia and perhaps a visit of the millennial clock tower, regarded as the oldest in the world. We cycle southbound, into the delta of the imposing Po River. This unique wetland park is the prime reserve in Europe for herons and home to a colony of flamingos. We overnight in Adria, in Greek and Roman times a port much closer to the shores of the sea which bears its name, also renowned for its Etruscan heritage.

**Day 5: Adria - Ferrara - Zelo** **cycling @ 35km + bus 35km**
After a short cruise we ride following the Po through farmland and hamlets, to Ferrara. Once controlled by the Este family, this ancient City State attracted influential architects and artists for centuries. A private bus takes us back to our barge in Zelo, a sleepy village on the Canal Bianco, the waterway which runs parallel to the Po.

**Day 6: Zelo - Mantova** **cycling @ 50km**
After a few kilometres on our bikes, we reach the village of Bergantino where we visit the charming Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum. The day's other highlight is a tasting of Grana Padano at a cheese factory. We follow the river through Ostiglia (famed for its medieval fortress and floating mill) and on to Governolo Lock. Once a vital staging post for local navigation, this is where the River Mincio flows into the Po, creating the largest inland basin in Italy. Leaving the Po behind, we reach Mantova in the afternoon.

**Day 7: Mantova** **cycling @ 35km**
An entire day dedicated to the discovery of this wonderful city, once a city-state ruled by the Gonzaga family, with its three picturesque 'lakes' formed by the River Mincio, which we explore on a boat excursion. In the late afternoon a local guide will lead you through the town's most famous highlights.

**Day 8: Tour ends in Mantova**
Tour arrangements end after breakfast in Mantova. The barge is usually moored near the town centre, around 2km from the central train station. There are frequent train connections to most cities in Italy via Verona or Modena.

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**Suggested itinerary:** (on alternate weeks this tour runs from Mantova to Venice) *

**Day 1: Mantova**
The boat is moored at Porto Catena near the town centre and cabins are available from 5.00pm. This evening just before dinner at 6.30pm, you will meet your tour leader and crew.

**Day 2: Mantova** **cycling @ 35km**
An entire day dedicated to the discovery of this wonderful city, once a city-state ruled by the Gonzaga family, now considered to be Italy's 'Sleeping Beauty', with its three picturesque 'lakes' formed by the River Mincio. In the afternoon we are treated to a guided walking tour with a local through the historic centre starting at Piazza Sordello. Dinner at own arrangements.

**Day 3: Mantova - Governolo - Zelo** **cycling @ 50km**
We cruise to Governolo, stronghold of the Mincio Pirates, where there is the biggest inland basin of Italy, built to control the Mincio River. We then ride to the village of Bergantino where we visit the charming Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum and sample some Grana Padano cheese. From here we ride following the River Po until we reach the village of Ostiglia, with the ruins of a medieval fortress. Following the 'Canal Bianco' we reach Zelo, where the barge will be moored, in time for a shower and dinner on board.

**Day 4: Zelo - Ferrara - Adria** **cycling @ 50km + bus 60km**
After breakfast we cycle towards Ferrara - known as the "*city of bicycles*" - still surrounded by the old city walls, with time to explore the historical centre. From Ferrara a private coach transfer will bring us to Adria, an ancient Greek port, once famous for trading in amber that was collected in the Baltic region of northern Europe.

**Day 5: Adria - Chioggia - Pellestrina Island** **cycling @ 40km**
After a short cruise this morning, we ride into the maze that is the Po River Delta, a natural paradise of marshes and lagoons. Suspended between water and land we pedal between the Po River Delta and the mouth of the River Adige. We follow the Po-Brondolo waterway, which links the river to the Venetian lagoon and then continue to Chioggia, a colourful fishing hub, famous as "the little Venice". We overnight on the Island of Pellestrina.

**Day 6: Pellestrina Island - Venice** **cycling @ 25km**
The day starts with a cycle through a tranquil and scenic landscape of cottages, boats and fishing nets, along the new cycle path to the ferry landing stage for a short ferry boat ride (at extra cost approximately €9 per person) to Lido Island. Later we'll enjoy a glass blowing demonstration by a master artisan at a historic glass factory in Murano. After rejoining the barge, we enjoy a leisurely cruise past the famous St Mark's Square before mooring for two nights in a marina in Venice, not far by *Vaporetto* (ferry) or by water taxi to the centre of Venice.

**Day 7: Venice** **free day - no cycling**
A day to explore the city of Venice. After breakfast, your tour leader will take you on a walking tour of the magnificent historical centre of the capital of the "*Repubblica Serenissima*" with St Mark's Square, the Grand Canal and its Gondoliers. The afternoon is yours at leisure; from the lagoon island marina where the boat is moored you can take a ferry to explore the city or the many islands. Discover the inspirational Guggenheim Museum, go shopping or relax with a book on deck in the sun.

**Day 8: Tour ends in Venice**
The tour arrangements end after breakfast in Venice. The barge is moored at one of the many lagoon islands of Venice. You can reach Venice's Santa Lucia train station or Marco Polo airport by vaporetto (ferry) or water taxi

** The daily cycling or cruising itinerary may be adjusted if necessary, at the discretion of the captain or guide. In low-water periods, the River Po is navigable only from the estuary to Polesella so we have an alternative route along the Fissero / Bianco canal, which runs parallel to the Po. We offer this tour as a Bike & Barge cycle cruise, and you can decide each day if you want to join the bike ride or not but whilst there may be guided walks in the evenings there are no sightseeing provisions for non-cyclists during the day.*

**Outdoor Travel** offers Bike & Barge cycling cruises in many areas of Europe including the Amafi Coast in **Italy**, the Loire Valley, Provence and Burgundy in **France**, routes in **Holland** and **Belgium**, in **Germany** along the Saar, Moselle or Rhine or around Berlin or along the Danube in **Austria**, **Slovakia**, **Hungary** or in **Romania**, the **Czech Republic** or in **Scotland**. We also offer Bike & Boat cycling cruises along the spectacular Dalmatian coast of **Croatia**, to the islands of **Greece** or **Turkey** and in **Vietnam**.

**Contact our experienced OUTDOOR TRAVEL staff for more details and reservations:**


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- Web: **http://www.outdoortravel.com.au**
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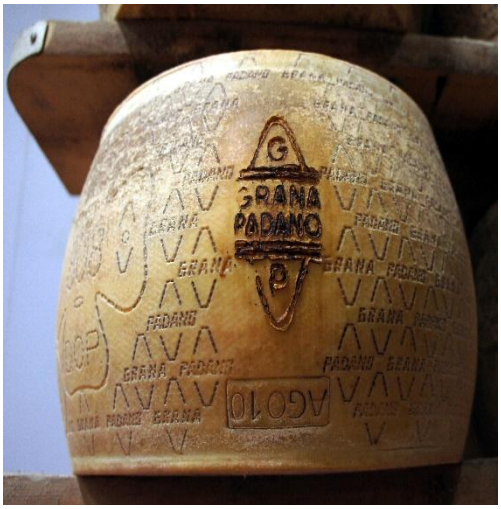

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