Venetoinside.com offers you a little ‘guide’ to help you visit Venice in a more attentive way with regards to the environmental, economic and social life of this enchanting city. Its history and its fragile urban structure is unique in the world.

From our direct experience in the area, we have created a real handbook that aims to help you learn more about Venice, its peculiarities and its inhabitants so that you have a more interesting and knowledgeable experience.

So, here is our “10 Things to Know about visiting Venice”: recommendations on how to address various issues that you may encounter, tips to save time or money, alerts to avoid unpleasant surprises or scams as well as simple steps and tips to follow in order to enrich and improve your holiday in Venice.

**ACCESS**

In the historic centre of Venice, with the exception of Piazzale Roma and Tronchetto, access by any means of transportation is forbidden, including bicycles. Therefore, you can easily walk around on foot, but be careful not to get lost!

The maze of streets, bridges and squares throughout Venice makes it virtually impossible to rely only on your sense of direction alone: a detailed map of the city will prevent unpleasant situations occurring, such as, being late for a booked tour: guides do not wait!

The streets are quite narrow, so when you walk around Venice, keep right and do not stand in the crossing points (streets and bridges) to avoid annoying the local Venetians: you can take a picture or even walk safely without blocking the way!

**MEANS OF TRANSPORT**

Water buses are used daily by many people, both tourists, workers and residents, so try to abide by the signs: do not block the entrance or exit and stow suitcases, bags and backpacks in the spaces provided (if they are not listed, ask the crew). If you plan to often travel around by public transport, we recommend that you purchase time tickets beforehand: they cost much less than a single trip and allow unlimited rides for the entire period of validity, not to mention that some types also include transfers from / to Venice Marco Polo airport.

The water taxis are another important means of transport, although they are not available to everyone because they are more expensive than public transport: make sure you ask the driver to turn on the meter and to respect the speed limits; at the end of the journey a receipt must be issued.

**FLOODS**

Venice is often partially submerged in water due to high tides. Many tourists believe it is a real show (and no one can contradict them, since it is the only city in the world that can ‘boast’ this particular phenomenon), but it often creates serious problems for travelling around! In the event of high water walkways are put in place: keep on the right hand side and continue without stopping until it ends as the walkways are narrow and when people stop walking it creates problems for the people behind!

Taking a dip in the water or the removal of shoes to walk barefoot is not a good idea: the water is dirty and often ‘inhabited’ by many rats. For the same reasons we advise you not to go down the steps of the banks (either submerged or not), as they are usually very slippery with a high risk of accidental falls in the water!

**PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE**

As well as a tourist destination, Venice is a city where people live and work: therefore it is important that tourists and inhabitants respect each other alike to enable a peaceful coexistence!

Noise should be significantly reduced after 11pm and people should not be dressed in costumes or be shirtless, if you want to treat yourself to a day by the beach the Venice Lido is just a short journey away by public transport.
EATING AND DRINKING
If you opt for the 'DIY' method then it is important to remember that you cannot stop just anywhere to eat a packed lunch! For example, it is forbidden to have a picnic in the St Mark’s area (St Mark’s Square, Piazzetta San Marco, Piazzetta dei Leoncini, and the Pier) but you can stop further on at the Royal Gardens, or one of the many benches outside the above area. You are also advised to avoid the steps of the bridges and the banks of the canals as these areas are not very clean (thousands of people pass by every day, not to mention animals) and there is also the risk of blocking the passage to people in transit. Please do not share your lunch or a snack with the pigeons - these animals are carriers of diseases and contribute to the destruction of buildings. Venice is a beautiful city and it would be a shame to pollute it so please find and use the waste bins provided!

PERIODS OF LARGE TURNOUT
Venice is crowded 365 days a year, but during major events, such as Carnival, the Biennale, the Redeemer or the Historical Regatta, the flow of tourists increases considerably. Be armed with patience and prepared for long queues to visit the most important attractions, namely St Mark’s Square!
Do not forget that venetoinside.com offers various services to greatly reduce the waiting times to enter many sites which will enable you to have more time to visit the city, including the privileged access service to the St Mark’s Basilica, museums and public transport tickets. A quick booking online could save you time and endless queues!

UNAUTHORISED DEALERS / ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES
Unfortunately, in Venice, like other cities around the world, there are many unauthorised activities ready to attract unsuspecting tourists to offer services or counterfeit goods.
You are advised not to approach those pretending to be authorized porters who offer to help you carry your suitcases. This entails a high fee being requested at the end of the service and your luggage withheld until you pay. In fact, they are illegal and mainly present near the Constitution Bridge - commonly called Calatrava Bridge, between Piazzale Roma and Venice St Lucia train station - and ask for a lot of money just to cross the bridge! Instead, if you need assistance only ask an authorized porter, which can be recognized by the uniform and the trolley they use. It also pays to give full attention to your purchases. If you buy counterfeit goods you could put one's health at risk, not to mention that it affects the honest sellers. It is a crime punishable by fines of up to €500! For any purchases, remember to ask for the receipt and verify its validity.

GONDOLA RIDE
Even the gondoliers are not exempted from issuing a receipt of payment! Each gondola station must expose a price list with the rates in force and the duration provided. If you want to avoid unpleasant negotiations on the spot, venetoinside.com offers different types of gondola rides, both collective and private. Once you have made your booking online all you will need to do is introduce yourself to the station indicated and enjoy the gondola ride.

PICKPOCKETS
As in all large cities, and also in Venice there are many pickpockets. Avoid keeping too much cash on you or storing your wallet in outside pockets. It is always better to keep your money in a closed bag or a backpack with a zip. Pickpockets strike especially in crowded places, including the ferries!

CURiosITIES AND EVENTS
Before organizing your tour itinerary please see the sections entitled: ‘Events’ and ‘Anecdotes and curiosities’. The first details exhibitions, shows and concerts to keep you updated on what is happening in the city; the second provides interesting insights to discover a hidden Venice, including mysteries, legends and hidden treasures.