

A scenic view of a Venetian canal with historic buildings and the dome of St. Mark's Basilica in the background. A small white boat is visible in the water.

VENICE BIENNALE Guided Tour



la Biennale di Venezia

27 April - 6 May 2024

Tour Leader: Elfriede Dreyer

Venice Biennale 2024

The world's oldest and arguably its most popular and comprehensive international arts event, the Venice Biennale continues to be an inspirational experience to artists and art lovers alike. Generally speaking, Biennales are important international events, since it entails crucial, public sites for the production, distribution, and generation of public discourse around contemporary art. An art biennale is furthermore an event during which audiences can encounter various forms of art and ideas from all over the world.

The Venice Art Biennale is a contemporary visual art forum consisting of a main exhibition curated by the official Biennale curator (a new one with every Biennale), hosted at two principal sites, Giardini and Arsenale. At these two venues, most countries of the world have permanent exhibition spaces, so-called 'pavilions'. Each country appoints curator(s) who then selects one or more artists to represent their country. The main Biennale curator sets a theme, which the individual regional curators have to respond to in their selection of work. In addition to the main pavilions, there is usually a host of fringe exhibitions in venues scattered all over Venice.

[Read my full article on the Venice Biennale](#)



The 60th International Art Exhibition will take place from Saturday 20 April to Sunday 24 November 2024 (pre-opening on April 17, 18 and 19). It is curated by Adriano Pedrosa who is currently the artistic director of the Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand - MASP.

Pedrosa explains his choice:

«The Biennale Arte 2024 will focus on artists who are themselves foreigners, immigrants, expatriates, diasporic, *émigrés*, exiled, and refugees—especially those who have moved between the Global South and the Global North. ... The figure of the foreigner is associated with the stranger, the *straniero*, the *estranho*, the *étranger*, and thus the exhibition unfolds and focuses on the production of other related subjects: the queer artist, who has moved within different sexualities and genders, often being persecuted or outlawed; the outsider artist, who is located at the margins of the art world, much like the autodidact and the so-called folk artist; as well as the indigenous artist, frequently treated as a foreigner in their own land. ...

The production of these artists is the primary focus of this Biennale and constitutes the International Exhibition's *Nucleo Contemporaneo*. (...)

In addition, a special section in the *Nucleo Storico* will be devoted to the worldwide Italian artistic diaspora in the 20th century: Italian artists who travelled and moved abroad developing their careers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, as well as in the rest of Europe, becoming embedded in local cultures—and who often played significant roles in the development of the narratives of modernism beyond Italy. ... The Biennale itself has always been a platform for the exhibition of works by foreigners from all over the world.»

[Read more](#) about the upcoming Biennale.

Tour Leader

This educational visit to the Venice Biennale is organised and led by **Elfriede Dreyer**. She has been involved in the art world, locally and internationally, for more than 30 years. She is an Extraordinary Professor of Art at Unisa; the Vice-President of SANAVA; the founder/manager of the CAP Institute for Contemporary Art Practice; and an active curator, professional artist and mentor.

Elfriede regularly visits the Venice Biennale and other international art fairs, and she has done guided visits to the Biennale since 2015. Her approach to the tours is to provide background information and interpretation on artworks and artists, and she facilitates an understanding of classic and contemporary culture.

[Read more about Elfriede.](#)

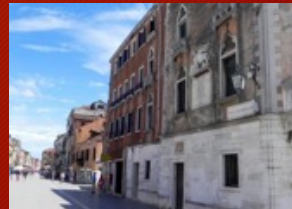


What to expect

Visiting Venice entails an encompassing experience of art, architecture, food and natural beauty.

You will experience the following:

- The best of the international contemporary art through several days of visits to the 60th Venice Biennale, the Olympic Games of Art.
- Although the Venice Biennale with its display of international contemporary art is the main attraction, you will also see Renaissance and Modernist works at Museums and Palaces. You will see the original paintings and sculpture of Italian Old Masters such as Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Tintoretto, Raphael and many others.
- Experience Modernism through original works of Picasso, Pollock, Magritte and others.
- You will see some of the most beautiful Renaissance architecture in the world.
- As a bonus we will visit three nearby islands where Italian lace and glass are produced.
- On the last day we will do a sunset cruise on a catamaran with aperitivo and live jazz music.
- We will stay for eight nights in three different self-catering apartments of the same lodging situated right next to the Arsenale. They are not too expensive or luxurious, but modern, clean and fully equipped.
- Venice is experienced by foot or by boat. Expect to walk quite a lot.





Venice Biennale 2022



What is included

- **Accommodation** in vernacular Venetian and Roman style. There are three apartments, each with a private bathroom, lounge and fully equipped kitchen. You can choose between a shared double room (with double bed or two single beds); a private room (single) (most expensive option); or a sofa bed in the lounge (all completely private and comfortable).
- **All transport** from and to the airport in Venice via water taxi as well as two full days water taxi tickets.
- **Entry to the 60th Venice Biennale** including Giardini, Arsenale and Dorsoduro, and fringe venues.
- **Entry to the Gothic Doge Palace and the San Marco Basilica.**
- **Entry to the Peggy Guggenheim Museum** with its collection of Modernist artists such as Picasso, Breton, Giacometti and others.
- **Entry to the Francois Pinault Art Collection** at the Punta Della Dogana and Palazzo Grassi.
- **Entry to the Basilicas of San Saccaria and San Giorgio.**
- **A day trip** to the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello.
- **A sunset cruise** on a catamaran with live jazz music and aperitivo.
- **Additional and optional:** Shopping at Rialto Bridge and other shops, restaurants, cafés, gondola rides ...





Peggy Guggenheim Museum. [Read more](#)



Palazzo San Marco and Doge's Palace



Venice: Doges Palace/Palazzo Ducale [Read more](#)



Venice Biennale 2022

Murano Island

The island of Murano is renowned for its long tradition of glass-making. Ferry-loads of visitors come to explore the Museo del Vetro, which tells the story of glass through the centuries, and to shop for locally crafted souvenirs. Built in the Romanesque style, the Church of Santa Maria and San Donato has colourful mosaic floors and is known for its twelfth century Byzantine mosaic. Santa Maria is said to contain the relics of Saint Donatus of Arezzo as well as large bones behind the altar said to be the bones of a dragon slain by the saint.



Burano Island

The picturesque island of Burano is famous for its lace, tapestries and clothing. Originally lacemaking was a pastime for noble women, which spread to hospitals and institutions where women were obliged to take up the occupation. Later there was competition from French lace makers, so much so that the Venetian authorities granted preferential privileges, but demand dwindled so that by the 19th century there were only two lace factories left and lace-making reverted to being a private domestic occupation. A lace-making school was established in 1872, and the Museo del Consortio Merletti di Burano in the main square houses an important collection of collars, parasols, bedspreads, handkerchiefs and lace decorations.





What is not included

- Flight tickets
- Meals and drinks



Full Itinerary

- **Saturday 27 April:** Fly on 27 April to arrive on **Sunday 28 April** at Marco Polo airport in Venice. Try to book an Emirates flight from Johannesburg or Cape Town town that arrives at around 1.25pm. We will meet there to get the water taxi, and will wait until everyone has arrived.
- **Sunday 28 April:** Alilaguna (water taxi) from airport to Arsenale; settling in and scouting around. We are staying right opposite the Biennale! All the apartments are self-catering. Buy groceries at a local store (optional). Dinner at a pizzeria, café or restaurant close to our apartments (optional) .
- **Monday 29 April:** Morning: Boat trip to the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello (ticket included). Afternoon: Walk to San Marco Square listening to live music and admiring the Renaissance architecture. There are many restaurants there or dinner at a pizzeria, café or restaurant close to our apartments, or eat at home.
- **Tuesday 30 April:** Morning - Afternoon: Walk to Venice Biennale (ticket included), Giardini (6 hours).
- **Wednesday 1 May:** Morning - Afternoon: Walk to Venice Biennale (ticket included), Arsenale (6 hours).
- **Thursday 2 May:** Morning: Walk to Palais Ducale (Gothic Doge Palace); San Marco Basilica (tickets included); Church of San Saccaria (several artists, Bellini, Tintoretto, Tiepolo)
- **Friday 3 May:** Morning: (Water taxi) Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute (Titian paintings); San Giorgio; Punta della Dogana (Francois Pinault Collection); Peggy Guggenheim; (Optional) Afternoon: Visit Guidecca for more exhibitions or Boat to Lido island late afternoon.
- **Saturday 4 May:** (Water taxi) Palazzo Grassi (tickets included). Rialto Bridge browsing and shopping. (Optional) Palazzo Bembo (Personal Structures) or (Optional) Gallerie della Accademia.
- **Sunday 5 May:** Walk to other Biennale fringe venues (To be confirmed when the information becomes available). And to close on a high note: 6 pm Catamaran Sunset Jazz Cruise with Aperitivo!
- **Monday 6 May:** Book out and fly back, Alilaguna to airport.

Cost

All prices exclude flights and meals.

Double shared accommodation (double bed) in private room: **R22 100 per person.**

Double shared accommodation (two singles) in private room: **R22 100 per person.**

Single accommodation in private room: **R33 500 per person.**

Private sofa bed in lounge: **R19 800 per person.**

Prices include 2023/2024 price increases in Venice.

Your trip must be confirmed and paid before 31 October 2023. There are between 8 and 17 places, depending on the type of accommodation booked.

Please wait for the go-ahead before payment, a minimum of 8 people is required for the tour to proceed.

Flights are cheaper at the moment so book your flight as soon as possible.

On booking you will be required to sign an indemnity form.

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