

## Venice January 2020

Following our Grand Italian adventure in October 2019 we decided that the one stand out place that we did not include was Venice. Seeing what the queues were like in Rome in October and having read about longer queues expected in Venice we decided that the best time of year for our visit would be January (and in 2020 it was a wise decision with the lack of travel possibilities that followed!!)



We therefore set out to Venice on a Thursday morning in January 2020 from [Southend Airport](#) (which happens to be our favourite airport to fly from). Southend Airport is a relaxing, non-stressful, compact airport and has few flights but has a couple of nice restaurants available to fill the time between check in and departure, it's a lot less crowded than Stansted.

On arrival in [Venice Treviso](#) airport we transferred to Venice by coach, or at least as far as the coach can get towards the centre of Venice which only allows boats to access through the extensive waterways. We then took the ferry to the nearest dock to our little hotel, [Hotel Malibran](#), situated close to Rialto Bridge.



Hotel Malibran was a very pleasant hotel with a fantastic restaurant and included a substantial self service breakfast. The staff were very friendly and helpful and spoke good English.



Navigating around Venice is easy by boat, but not so easy on foot!!! The many alleyways all look very similar and we managed to get lost few times whilst we were there, even with the aid of a small Venice street map from the [Venice tourist board](#) which the hotel kindly gave us.

There are no roads in the centre of Venice, on one occasion we saw a gentleman delivering a fridge using a hand trolley up and over the steps of the bridges!!

The city is known as a very romantic place to visit and there is certainly a very charming appeal to it. We had been told to expect smells in Venice, but whether it was the time of year we choose to go or not, we did not find any unpleasant smells at all.

Whilst in Venice we took a [Gondola ride](#), our Gondolier was very informative about the places we were passing, without being too intrusive. The ride was quite expensive but it was an experience that we wanted to do just once.



Another expensive item was Coke, we decided to have a soft drink in a restaurant near Rialto Bridge one morning and it would have been cheaper to have had an alcoholic beverage!!

We visited many of the sights in Venice and much like Rome all of them were in easy walking distance of each other – once you had worked out the route to take!!

We decided to travel a little further afield for one day and visited [Verona](#), with it's amphitheatre and being the setting for William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, you are able to visit Juliet's house with the famous balcony and also Romeo's family home too. As you can imagine these sights were very popular even on a very wet day in January.



On our final full day in Venice we took a full day boat trip to visit some of the islands in the Venetian lagoon, Murano and Burano. We thoroughly enjoyed this day, on the island of Murano we visited a [glass blowing factory, Colleoni](#), home



to the famous Murano Glass, and even made a substantial purchase of a decanter and six glasses, which was nicely arranged to be sent to us at home. On the island of Burano we visited a traditional lace making shop and had a lovely lunch. The houses of many different colours were very pretty on Burano. We would recommend a similar boat trip to anyone visiting Venice, it was certainly well worth the money.

Finally it came to time to leave Venice and return home, we enjoyed our time very much, could probably have done with another couple of days, but do not feel that we need to go back there for a second visit.

