GENERAL INFORMATION
Situated in a lagoon on Italy’s north-eastern Adriatic Coast, Venice is one of the most beautiful, romantic and best loved cities in the world. This truly unique city, a maze of waterways, walkways, narrow streets and small squares, is built on approximately 117 islets which are separated by 177 canals and spanned by some 400 bridges. The buildings are supported by literally millions of poles driven into the marshy sediment.

A 3 mile bridge reaches across the lagoon connecting Venice to the mainland, while a narrow sandbar, the famous Lido, forms a natural breakwater which protects Venice from the force of the Adriatic Sea. There are, of course, no cars or buses in the main city and transport for visitor or Venetian alike, is either on foot, by Vaporetto (water bus), private launch, water taxi or the traditional, graceful Gondola.

Venice was the home of Marco Polo and later in history, that of Casanova who was imprisoned here. Many famous people have visited Venice, including Kings, Queens, Emperors and Popes. Lord Byron, Charles Dickens, Ruskin, Mark Twain, Henry James and Ernest Hemingway, among others, all stayed in Venice. Vivaldi worked here as a Concert Master and Richard Wagner stayed in Venice while composing Tristan and Isolde, and numerous artists have immortalized its charm and beauty. Today tourism is a very important industry for the City, followed by maritime and port services.

SHORE EXCURSIONS
To make the most of your visit Venice and its surroundings we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

Vaporetto, water buses that run up and down the Grand Canal and across the City, followed by maritime and port services.

CONCERT Master and Richard Wagner stayed in Venice while composing Tristan and Isolde, and numerous artists have immortalized its charm and beauty. Today tourism is a very important industry for the City, followed by maritime and port services.

LOCAL CURRENCY
The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES
The main Post Office is located in the area of the Rialto Bridge.

The Telephone (Telecom) Office is also located in the vicinity of the Rialto Bridge. Public phones accept coins or phone cards from the Telecom Office, Post Office or Tobacconists.

TRANSPORTATION
The main mode of transport in Venice is the Vaporetto, water buses that run up and down the Grand Canal and across the City. There are a number of different lines, their schedules posted at the landing stages. The fare is standard and quite reasonable.

The Gondola is the main attraction, but a Gondola ride can be quite expensive, an alternative is a Traghetto, a two-man Gondola that ferries people across the Grand Canal at various places, look for the sign.

Taxis are available for fares outside the City and the majority will accept U.S. Dollars.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES
Yes • Si
No • No
Good Day • Buon Giorno
Good-bye • Ciao
Thank-you • Grazie
You’re Welcome • Prego
POMELLATO JEWELS - Calle Larga XXII Marzo 2031
Pomellato is a niche brand of fashionable and collectable fine jewelry. Pomellato jewels are designed like prêt-a-porter pieces...designer fashions to be enjoyed every day. When you wear a Pomellato piece of jewelry you create a unique style. The combination of designs and stones give each piece its own recognizable and distinctive seal. The collection includes a sporty chain necklace of gold and wood together with delicate drop earrings with an exquisitely cut precious gemstone. Rings are created with colored semiprecious stones, cut and set as if they were solitaire diamonds with no visible means of support on the sides. Admirers collect them and wear three or more at a time on the same finger. Chains with beautifully crafted flexible links and nearly invisible clasps are only a few of Pomellato's signature creations.

AL DUCA D’AOSTA - 284 Calle Larga San Marco & San Marco 4946

CONTINI ART GALLERY - Located near St. Mark's Square
A - San Marco - Calle Larga 2288
B - San Marco - Calle dello Spezzer 2765
Representing an unsurpassed national and international standard for prestigious artists, painters and sculptors of modern and contemporary art. At the Contini Art Gallery you can find the works of world renowned artists such as Fernando Botero, Julio Larraz, Igor Mitroj, Enzo Fiore and many more.

DO FORNI RESTAURANT - 457 Piazza San Marco
Do Forni's traditional Venetian cuisine includes fish, mollusks and shellfish. Do Forni’s restaurant is a charming boutique where shoppers can select from a wide collection of quality household linens and delicately hand embroidered lace. Dalla Olga carries on that tradition by offering a wide selection of Murano glass-making which have been passed down from generation to generation by the renowned Master Glassmaker, Afro Celotto. Additional masters officially represented by the gallery include the famous Pino Signoretto, Dino Rosin, Adriano Dalla Valentina and others. Linea Murano Art is the European importer and distributor for Korite International Ammolite Jewels and Diora Lidia Merletti also has a wonderful little museum which displays numerous pieces of antique lace dating as far back as the 16th century.

LINEA MURANO ART - Located on Murano island
One of the oldest galleries and glass factories in Murano. With over 30 years experience in art selection, Linea Murano Art specializes in chandeliers and distinguished fine art. Linea Murano Art is the exclusive gallery for stunning pieces by the renowned Master Glassmaker, Afro Celotto. Additional masters officially represented by the gallery include the famous Pino Signoretto, Dino Rosin, Adriano Dalla Valentina and others. Linea Murano Art is the European importer and distributor for Korite International Ammolite Jewels and a matching line of art pieces from the Ammolite Collection by Afro Celotto.

FERRO & LAZZARINI - Located on Murano island
One of the oldest glass factories on Murano. These modern glassmakers are proud of their family tradition. Visitors to the factory have the opportunity to see an amazing exhibition of glass-working by exceptional artisans. From traditional to modern, from hand-cut crystal to the most fashionable creations, Ferro & Lazzarini are true Masters of Murano.

GALLERIA SAN MARCO - Located in Piazza San Marco, 1811
Offering a fascinating demonstration of the creation process for wondrous pieces of glass art, Galleria San Marco proudly preserves the treasured traditions of Murano glass-making which have been passed down from generation to generation for over 1,000 years. From traditional to modern, we create elegant chandeliers, shimmering mirrors, fashionable jewelry, and objects d’art in all sizes. Each piece is decorated and engraved in the artistic tradition of Murano. The friendly, professional staff is ready to assist you as the Master Glassmakers of the Galleria San Marco keep “la fornace” burning.

DAVILLA LIDIA MERLETTI - Located on Burano island
A charming boutique where shoppers can select from a wide collection of quality household linens and delicately hand embroidered lace. Dalla Lidia Merletti also has a wonderful little museum which displays numerous pieces of antique lace dating as far back as the 16th century.

DALLA OLGA - Located on Burano island
You are invited to visit Dalla Olga, a time-honored lace shop located on the Venetian island of Burano. Burano has been a lace-making center for over 500 years. Dalla Olga carries on that tradition by offering a wide selection of the finest hand-made lace and embroidered linens. Visitors to Dalla Olga will have the opportunity to watch a highly skilled and experienced lace-maker practice an art which has been passed down for centuries.
The SIGHTS of VENICE

1. PIAZZA SAN MARCO (St. Mark’s Square) is the center of life in Venice, a popular meeting place where people can stroll, listen to the musicians outside the coffee houses, browse in the shops in the Piazza’s arcades or feed the large numbers of pigeons that congregate there.

2. BELL TOWER, near the center of St. Mark’s Square, is actually a copy of the original 9th century Bell Tower which collapsed in 1902. An elevator will take you to the top for magnificent views. Clock Tower, across from the Bell Tower, was built in 1499 by Mauro Coducci. Giant Moors strike the hour on the great bell. There is also a zodiac clock on the Tower, showing the time in arabic and roman numerals.

3. ST. MARK’S BASILICA is truly a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture. Built in 830, it was originally a chapel for the Doges. The present Basilica dates from the 11th century and contains some magnificent mosaics, precious art and rare marbles.

4. PALAZZO DUCALE (Doge’s Palace), situated next to the Basilica, was both the residence of the Doges and the seat of government. The finest room in the Palace is the grand Council Chamber, containing paintings by Tintoretto and Veronese. Bridge of Sighs (Ponte del Sospiri) is a baroque stone bridge built in the 17th century, connecting the Doge’s Palace with the old prisons. It was named after the despair of prisoners who were led across to be executed or incarcerated. Grand Canal is the main waterway of Venice, approximately 2 miles in length, it is lined with some 100 marble palaces, built between the 12th and 18th centuries.

5. RIALTO BRIDGE (Ponte di Rialto) spans the Grand Canal at about its midway point, built in 1588 by Antonio da Ponte. The double row of shops that line the bridge are a great tourist attraction.
The SIGHTS of VENICE

6. Ghetto – this was the first Jewish Ghetto, giving its name to all other confined Jewish communities. The word comes from the verb ‘gettare’, to cast, as there was originally a foundry on this area, near the present day Campo del Ghetto. In 1492 many Jews were expelled from Spain and central Europe and came to Venice. In 1516 a decree moved all Jews to the area of the ‘New Ghetto’. As the settlement grew, it spread, reaching the ‘Old Ghetto’ by 1541 and even further by 1633 to the ‘Newest Ghetto’. The buildings here are unusual as they are mostly 7 stories high, the City’s highest buildings. Five synagogues are to be found in the area, the oldest being the German Synagogue which was built in 1528 and now houses the Jewish Museum.

7. Frari Church (Chiesa di S. Maria Gloriosa dei Frari) is considered by many to be the most splendid church after St. Mark’s, and contains two masterpieces by Titian, as well as his tomb.

8. Galleria Dell’Accademia (Gallery of Fine Arts), located on the Grand Canal by the Accademia Bridge, contains a marvelous collection of Venetian art by Canaletto, Guardi, Bellini and others, such as Tintoretto and Titian.

9. Guggenheim Collection – American; Peggy Guggenheim bought the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on the Grand Canal in 1951, to house her collection of modern art. Included are works by Picasso, Chagall and Klee.

10. Great School of San Rocco (Scuola Grande di San Rocco) is located at Campo San Rocco. This building was once one of the great Venetian charitable guilds, and houses 56 Tintoretto paintings in its opulent interior.

11. Museo Correr, housed in a section of the buildings around St. Mark’s Square, it is the City Museum of Art and Venetian History.

12. Museum of 18th Century Venice is housed in a 17th Century palace called ‘Ca Rezzonico’ on the Grand Canal, and contains Venetian furnishings and paintings.

Beyond Venice

Murano has been the island of Venetian glass-making since the 13th century and visitors can see some of the several hundred furnaces which produce today’s Venetian glass. The Museo Vetrario is located on Murano, displaying some 4,000 glass exhibits.

Burano is another island in the lagoon with a colorful fishing village, now a well-known center for lace-making, an industry originally started by the fishermen’s wives.

Torcello was one of the most prosperous islands in the lagoon during the 5th and 6th centuries, but as the size and importance of Venice grew, Torcello declined, and it is now almost deserted. All that remains today is its Cathedral which has several fine Byzantine mosaics, a few shops and restaurants.

Padua, located a short distance from Venice on the mainland is known for its university and the Sant’ Antonio Church. The remains of St. Anthony can be found here. Beautiful palaces, squares and markets add to the splendor of this city.