

10

top eating and
drinking tips in
VENICE

1. Stand up – at many local bars you pay a premium for sitting down!
2. Dodge the ropey pizza stands and savour proper pizza at Sansovino on Calle Zaguri.
3. For a picnic, head to the Rialto Market for fresh fruit and vegetables.
4. Enjoy a coffee in the cafes at Mark's Square – but your bill will be bumped up at night with a live music charge.
5. The islands of the lagoon offer some interesting dishes. On Burano it's all about the seafood.
6. Nico makes a superb selection of ice cream – and it has a waterfront terrace too.
7. Chicchetti – keep an eye out for bars that offer this Venetian version of tapas.
8. Sample local wine right by the vineyards on Mazzorbo at Vinessa.
9. Perfect pizzeria – for a sitdown pizzeria you cannot beat Pizzeria Anfora.
10. Watch that cover – most Venetian restaurants charge a cover fee per person.



grown-ups!

(water ferry) right into landmark St Mark's Square.

En route I rediscovered the city through the eyes of my daughters Tara, seven, and Emma, four.

They were mesmerised that everything and everyone, including the police and fire brigade, travels by water!

They also loved St Mark's Square. We returned here at night to splash out on coffees with live classical music.

The girls loved this as they danced together in the elegant piazza once hailed by Napoleon as the 'Drawing Room of Europe'.

Far from being bored by Venice, my girls were entranced by all the shops that lined our route to the Rialto.

They were then amazed at this striking 'shop bridge' where we picked up a little mask for each of them for three euros. The masks are now in pride of place in their bedrooms at home.

I had feared Venice would just be too dull for kids. Of course they were not always as keen to check out the famous art galleries and museums as daddy, but there was endless entertainment.

They were thrilled for example to spot gondolas and then follow them under the city's bridges, winning smiles from the gondoliers as they went.

Over our week we flitted in and out of Venice three times and the girls loved the contrast it offered to the holiday park.

In the mornings we swam in the sea or at the water park and then headed into the city when it had cooled down.

Also cooler than the centre were the islands of the lagoon, which we explored.

Many visitors leave Venice without realising these wee islands even exist.

We shopped for glass souvenirs on Murano, picked up some lace on Burano and

then headed for a slap-up meal on local favourite Torcello. The kids loved nipping around by boat.

After a week my wife was utterly won over by our family break in Venice, especially with daddy's sneaky booking at a beachside holiday park.

The girls were firm converts too, both of the holiday park and a mesmerising city that beguiles families far more than a week at a beach resort on the Costas ever could.

▼ You'll be amazed by how engaging Venice is to young ones.

FACT BOX

Robin flew to Venice with easyJet from Edinburgh via London. (easyjet.com)

A week at Marina di Venezia with Al Fresco Holidays in a two-bedroom Rossini starts from £353. (alfresco-holidays.com/campsite/marina-di-venezia)

The Venetian Tourist Office is available at en.turismovenezia.it

