

# Giudecca, Lido & the Southern Islands

GIUDECCA | ISOLA DI SAN SERVOLA | ISOLA DI SAN LAZZARO DEGLI ARMENI | LIDO DI VENEZIA | PELLESTRINA



## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1 Chiesa di San Giorgio Maggiore** (p138) Immersing yourself in the bright serenity of Palladio's eye-catching church and ascending its *campanile* (bell tower) for spectacular views of San Marco.

**2 Fondazione Giorgio Cini** (p139) Losing yourself in the garden maze, Longhena's elegant library and intriguing contemporary art exhibits.

**3 Giudecca** (p139) Soaking up the island's local-meets-luxe vibe – hopping between hotel spas, craft workshops, art galleries and bars frequented by residents and their four-legged friends.

**4 Monastero di San Lazzaro degli Armeni** (p141) Gaining insights from one of the resident Armenian monks as you tour around their island home.

**5 Chiesa del Santissimo Redentore** (p139) Giving thanks for Venice's ongoing survival in this impressive, art-filled church.

For more detail of this area see Map p283 and p284 ➔

## Explore: Giudecca, Lido & the Southern Islands

Other cities have suburban sprawl; Venice has medieval monasteries floating in teal-blue waters. To the south, the seaward side of the lagoon is sheltered from the Adriatic by the Lido, for centuries the beach and bastion of the city. In the 19th century, it found a new lease of life as a bathing resort and a place of escape from the urban rigours of the Rialto. It's a quick 15-minute boat ride from San Marco, and many people decamp here for weeks in the summer. In winter, it's quiet and shuttered.

Smaller islands dot the foreground of memorable views back to San Marco: Isola delle Rose, San Lazzaro degli Armeni, San Servolo and San Giorgio Maggiore. In the past they served the Republic well as monasteries, quarantine stations, military hospitals and mental asylums.

Next to San Giorgio Maggiore lies Giudecca, Venice's unofficial seventh *sestiere* (district). It was once an aristocratic retreat and later the city's industrial centre; it now maintains an interesting balance between luxury and grit. You can easily visit both San Giorgio and Giudecca in half a day – weekends are best, when you can also tour the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

## Local Life

➔ **Cicheti hot spots** Join artists and locals for generous *cicheti* (Venetian tapas) at La Palanca (p142), Da Cri Cri e Tendina (p144) and al Mercà (p143).

➔ **Island pastimes** Join weekendening locals on the Lido shooting rounds at Circolo Golf Venezia (p145) or, in summer, lazing on the beach.

➔ **Giudecca's back alleys** Step away from the waterfront and discover public parks and tiny squares filled with youngsters kicking balls, oldies holding court on park benches and parents pushing prams.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Vaporetto** Lines 2, 4.1 and 4.2 stop at all four Giudecca *vaporetto* stops. Line 2 also stops at neighbouring San Giorgio Maggiore. San Lazzaro and San Servolo are both served by line 20 from San Zaccaria. Lines 1, 2, 5.1, 5.2, 6, 8, 10 and 14 all call into Lido SME (Santa Maria Elisabetta), the island's main hub. Some seasonal services also stop at Lido San Nicolò and Lido Casino.

➔ **Car ferry** Line 17 connects Tronchetto to Lido San Nicolò and Punta Sabbioni on the mainland.

➔ **Bus** Bus 11 connects Lido to Pellestrina via a ferry.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Instead of braving the lines at San Marco's *campanile* (bell tower), seek out San Giorgio Maggiore's *campanile*, which offers comparable views for a fraction of the wait time.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Trattoria Altanella (p142)
- ➔ La Palanca (p142)
- ➔ La Favorita (p143)
- ➔ Ristorante da Celeste (p143)
- ➔ Magiche Voglie (p143)

For reviews, see p142. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Skyline (p144)
- ➔ La Palanca (p142)
- ➔ Villa Laguna (p144)

For reviews, see p144. ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Fortuny Tessuti Artistici (p144)
- ➔ Artigiani del Chiostro (p145)
- ➔ Cartavenezia (p145)
- ➔ Monastero di San Lazzaro degli Armeni (p141)

For reviews, see p144. ➔