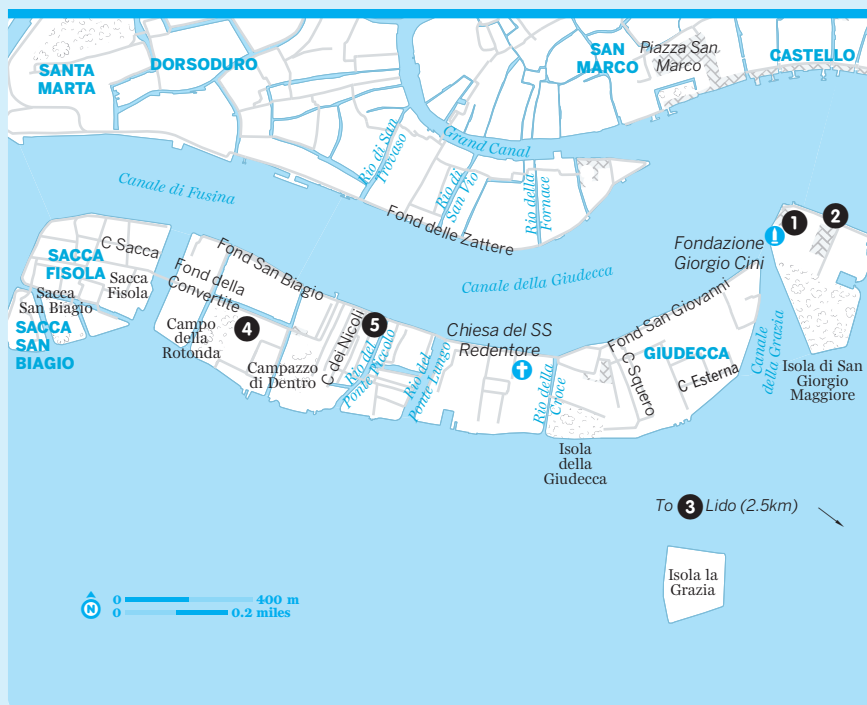


Giudecca, Lido & the Southern Islands

ISOLA DI SAN GIORGIO MAGGIORE | GIUDECCA | LIDO DI VENEZIA | ISOLA DI SAN LAZZARO DEGLI ARMENI | ISOLA DO SAN SERVOLO

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Immerse yourself in the bright serenity of two Palladio masterworks – **Chiesa di San Giorgio Maggiore** (p147) and **Chiesa del SS Redentore** (p148).
- 2 Ascend San Giorgio Maggiore's soaring **campanile** (p147) to gain purchase on the labyrinth that is Venice.
- 3 Rent a bike on the **Lido** (p149) and pedal your way along both the seafront promenade and the island's pastoral byways.
- 4 Rub elbows with locals at Giudecca's **farmer's market** (p152) featuring organic produce grown inside Giudecca's women's prison.
- 5 Suck on lagoon-sourced molluscs at one of the **unassuming eateries** (p151) along Giudecca's canalside promenade.



Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Instead of braving the lines at San Marco's campanile, seek out San Giorgio Maggiore's campanile (p147), which offers comparable views for a fraction of the wait time.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ I Figli delle Stelle (p151)
- ➔ La Palanca (p152)
- ➔ La Favorita (p153)

For reviews, see p151 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Skyline Rooftop Bar (p153)
- ➔ B.each (p153)
- ➔ Harry's Dolci (p151)

For reviews, see p153 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Galleria Santa Eufemia (p149)
- ➔ Giudecca 795 (p149)
- ➔ Fortuny Tessuti Artistici (p148)

For reviews, see p148 ➔

Explore: Giudecca, Lido & the Southern Islands

Other cities have suburban sprawl; Venice has primordial monasteries floating upon a teal-blue lagoon. A welcome break from the human congestion of Venice proper, the islands do require negotiating Venice's *vaporetti*, but the views back to San Marco alone are worth the hassles. Note that some island restaurants and bars close down from November to March, especially on the Lido.

Across from Piazza San Marco lie the restrained Palladian splendours of San Giorgio Maggiore. A few more minutes by *vaporetto* lands you on Giudecca, the unofficial seventh *sestiere*. An aristocratic retreat, then industrial centre, Giudecca is now in its third act as factories become artists' lofts. Visit both islands in half a day – weekends are best, when you can also visit the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

Beyond Giudecca lies the Lido, a svelte barrier protecting Venice from the hazards of the Adriatic. In fine weather, the Lido is worth the trip, whether it's to lie lizardlike on the sand or pedal around the island's back roads. Come for a few hours or the whole day. You can also make it your cheaper, roomier base for excursions into Venice.

Closer by, San Lazzaro degli Armeni, a refuge for 18th-century monks escaping Ottoman persecution, remains an important repository of Armenian culture. A working monastery, it can only be visited by organised tour. On the way, consider stopping at Isola di San Servolo, an insane asylum until 1978 and now a leafy university campus and home to the Museum della Follia (Madness Museum).

Local Life

- ➔ **Eating** Slick artists join rough-and-ready locals for generously served lunches at La Palanca (p152) and Al Pontil Dea Giudecca (p152).
- ➔ **Drinking** Even Venetians head to the rooftop Skyline Rooftop Bar (p153) for vast views and a vacation vibe.
- ➔ **Hangouts** Rub elbows with Venetian artists at the galleries (p149) along Giudecca's waterfront promenade.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Vaporetto Giudecca** *Vaporetti* lines 2, 41, 42 and N (night) make Giudecca an easy hop from San Marco or Dorsoduro, and handy to Piazzale Roma and the Lido.
- ➔ **Vaporetto San Giorgio Maggiore** Line 2 leaves from San Zaccaria.
- ➔ **Vaporetto Lido** Lines 1, 2, 51, 52, 61 and 62 connect the Lido with all major stops in Venice.
- ➔ **Vaporetto San Servolo & San Lazzaro** Line 20 from San Zaccaria serves both these islands.