

# Giudecca, Lido & the Southern Islands

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

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1** Immersing yourself in the bright serenity of Palladio's **Chiesa di San Giorgio Maggiore** (p160) and admiring the classical proportions of Longhena's elegant library, now part of the **Fondazione Giorgio Cini** (p162).

**2** Ascending San Giorgio Maggiore's soaring **cam-**

**panile** (p160) to gain purchase on the labyrinth that is Venice.

**3** Renting a bike on the **Lido** (p168) and pedalling your way along the seafront promenade to the **Alberoni pine forest** (p163) at the southern tip.

**4** Rubbing elbows with locals at Giudecca's **farm-**

**ers market** (p161) and **El Pecador** (p166), the Lido's double-decker food bus.

**5** Feasting on prize Malamocco artichokes at **Le Garzette** (p166) and the freshest lagoon-sourced molluscs at **da Celeste** (p166).



## Explore Giudecca, Lido & the Southern Islands

Other cities have suburban sprawl; Venice has primordial 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 welcome natural beauty after the urban rigours of the Rialto.

Smaller islands dot the foreground of remarkable views back across the lagoon to San Marco: Sacca Sessola, San Lazzaro degli Armeni, San Servolo and San Giorgio Maggiore. In the past they served the Republic well as quarantine islands, convents for wayward nuns, hospitals and mental asylums.

In the shadow of San Giorgio Maggiore lies La Giudecca, Venice's unofficial seventh *sestiere*. It was once an aristocratic retreat and later the city's industrial centre, the redeveloped Molino Stucky flour mill standing in counterpoint to Palladio's Chiesa di San Giorgio. You can easily visit both islands in half a day – weekends are best, when you can also visit the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

Note that many island restaurants close from November to March, especially on the Lido.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Cicheti hot spots** Join artists and rough-and-ready locals for generous *cicheti* at Al Pontil Dea Giudecca (p165), Jeroboam (p167), Al Ponte di Borgo (p166) and al Mercà (p165).
- ➔ **Cocktails with a view** Even Venetians head to Skyline Rooftop Bar (p167) for the views, while Lido alternatives take a break in double-decker bus El Pecador (p166).
- ➔ **Off-the-beaten-track beaches** Pack a picnic and head for the dunefields of Alberoni (p163), and enjoy the winter sun with Lido families at the Blue Moon (p168).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Vaporetto Giudecca** *Vaporetto* lines 2, 41, 42 and N (night) make Giudecca an easy hop from San Marco or Dorsoduro.
- ➔ **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.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

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

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ I Figli delle Stelle (p165)
- ➔ La Favorita (p166)
- ➔ Le Garzette (p166)
- ➔ El Pecador (p166)

For reviews, see p165 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Skyline Rooftop Bar (p167)
- ➔ Harry's Dolci (p165)
- ➔ Jeroboam (p167)
- ➔ Lion's Bar (p167)

For reviews, see p167 ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Giudecca 795 (p162)
- ➔ Fortuny Tessuti Artistici (p161)
- ➔ Monastero di San Lazzaro degli Armeni (p164)

For reviews, see p162 ➔