

Murano, Burano & the Northern Islands

TORCELLO | BURANO & MAZZORBO | MURANO | ISOLA DI SAN MICHELE | SANT'ERASMO | LE VIGNOLE | ISOLA DELLA CERTOSA

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Engaging with vivid biblical tales at **Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta** (p171), where devilish imps steal all the attention away from a glittering, golden heaven.

2 Witnessing artistry in action at the glass-blowing showrooms in **Murano** (p180) and rewarding their

originality by making purchases.

3 Basking in sun and culinary glory on the vineyard patio at **Venissa** (p179) or beneath the rose pergola at **Locanda Cipriani** (p179).

4 Watching colourful houses wiggle with delight at their reflections in the canals of **Burano** (p172).

5 Exploring religious retreats, off-the-beaten track beaches and ruined **Forte Sant'Andrea** by sailboat, barge (p172) or *batèla* (p174).



For more detail of this area see Map p325 and p326 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Plan your trip carefully around your priorities – or it can be tricky to squeeze in Murano glass, Burano photography, Mazzorbo lunches and Torcello nature and history between the *vaporetto* hours (9am-5.30pm). Hit the outer islands first, and work your way back to Murano – it's faster and easier to reach from Venice if you need to return for more glass.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Venissa (p179)
- ➔ Locanda Cipriani (p179)
- ➔ Acquastanca (p178)
- ➔ Trattoria al Gatto Nero (p178)

For reviews, see p178 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Terrazzamare (p181)
- ➔ Venissa (p179)
- ➔ Caffè-Bar Palmisano (p178)
- ➔ Terre di Venezia (p178)

For reviews, see p181 ➔

Best Lagoon Photo-Ops

- ➔ Brightly painted houses reflected in Burano canals.
- ➔ Poses in Attila the Hun's throne in Torcello.
- ➔ Flowers on poets' graves at Isola di San Michele. (p174)
- ➔ Cormorants holding their wings out to dry on Mazzorbo.
- ➔ Rock-star shots at ruined Forte Sant'Andrea on Le Vignole.

For reviews, see p172 ➔

Explore Murano, Burano & the Northern Islands

A multitude of small islands dot the northern lagoon, shards of greenery splintering off the mainland. The earliest Venetian refugees were able to island-hop to safety on Torcello in the 5th century when Mongol hordes threatened to overwhelm the Roman stronghold of Altinum. There they raised the first church of the lagoon, Santa Maria Assunta, decorating it with glittering mosaics telling cautionary tales in over a million handcut glass *tesserae*. As vivid as these mosaics, the glass workshops of Murano continue to conjure writhing chandeliers, swirling goblets and gem-bright jewellery from their red-hot furnaces, tempting a more modern type of pilgrim. Between these two islands you'll pass the haunting cemetery of San Michele, lagoon gardens on Sant'Erasmo and colourful fishers' houses on Burano – and with fresh seafood, island-grown vegetables and even local vineyards, you'll want to linger longer on the lagoon.

Local Life

- ➔ **Picnics** Lunch is a highlight of sunny northern lagoon days, even without reservations at Venissa (p179). Pack a picnic to enjoy on Mazzorbo, in the meadow behind Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta (p171) on Torcello, or among the picturesque ruins of Forte Sant'Andrea on Le Vignole.
- ➔ **Local lagoon hideouts** Make a beeline for the beach scene on **Sant'Erasmo**, sign up for sailing lessons at Vento di Venezia (p178) and wander through the long grasses on Le Vignole to a homemade lunch at Agriturismo da Zangrando (p175).
- ➔ **Islands after hours** Stores and restaurants close up shop quickly once day-trippers clear out around 5.30pm, but stick around to enjoy happy hour with the crowd at Caffè-Bar Palmisano (p178), Gelateria al Ponte (p178) or Acquastanca (p178).
- ➔ **Overnight retreats** Quit worrying about ferry schedules and enjoy a relaxed stay at affordable rates at Locanda Cipriani (p224), Murano Palace (p224) or Venissa (p224).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Vaporetto** To reach Murano, the most regular services are the DM line from Ferrovia and lines 41 and 42 from Fondamente Nuove. To reach Burano and Mazzorbo, take the LN line from Fondamente Nuove or from the Murano-Faro stop. From Burano, the T line is a short hop to Torcello. Line 13 heads from Fondamente Nuove to Murano and onward to Le Vignole and Sant'Erasmo.