

Murano, Burano & the Northern Islands

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

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Engaging with vivid biblical tales at **Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta** (p149), 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** (p151) and rewarding their

originality with your purchases.

3 Basking in sun and culinary glory on the vineyard patio at **Venissa** (p157) or beneath the rose pergola at **Locanda Cipriani** (p157).

4 Watching colourful houses wiggle with delight at their reflections in the canals of **Burano** (p151).

5 Exploring religious retreats, deserted islands and ruined Forte Sant'Andrea by **barge** (p150), **batèla** (p154) or **kayak** (p159).



For more detail of this area see Map p285 and p286 ➔

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. Hit the outer islands first (boats to Torcello take 50 minutes) before *vaporetti* get crowded, then work your way back to Murano, aiming to hit the shops as crowds start to thin out in the early evening. Murano is only 10 minutes from Venice, so it's fast and easy to reach if you need to return for more glass.



Best Places to Eat

- Venissa (p157)
- Locanda Cipriani (p157)
- Acquastanca (p156)
- Trattoria al Gatto Nero (p157)

For reviews, see p156. ➡



Best Places to Drink

- Venissa (p157)
- Il Certosino (p156)
- Acquastanca (p156)
- Caffè-Bar Palmisano (p157)

For reviews, see p156. ➡



Best Lagoon Photo-Ops

- Houses reflected in Burano canals (p151)
- Far-flung lagoon views from the belltower of Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta (p149)
- Cormorants holding their wings out to dry on Mazzorbo (p151)

For reviews, see p149. ➡

Explore Murano, Burano & the Northern Islands

A multitude of small islands dot the northern lagoon like shards of green glass 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 hand-cut 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.

Travel between these two islands and you'll pass the haunting cemetery of San Michele, lagoon gardens on Sant'Erasmo and colourful fishermen's houses on Burano – and with fresh-caught seafood, island-grown vegetables and even local vineyards, you may find you'll want to linger longer on the lagoon.

Local Life

➤ **Lunch hotspots** Pack a picnic to enjoy on Mazzorbo, in the meadow behind Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta (p149) on Torcello, or among the picturesque ruins of Forte Sant'Andrea on Le Vignole.

➤ **Lagoon pastimes** Make a beeline for the beach scene on Sant'Erasmo, sign the kids up for an archaeological dig on Lazzaretto Nuovo or head out on a lagoon safari with Venice Kayak (p159).

➤ **Overnight retreats** Quit worrying about ferry schedules and enjoy a relaxed stay at affordable rates at Locanda Cipriani (p198), Villa Lina (p198) or Venissa (p198).

Getting There & Away

➤ **Vaporetto Murano** Services to Murano run every 10 minutes before 10pm and every 20 to 30 minutes thereafter. The most regular services are the 4.1 from the train station via Fondamente Nove and the 4.2 from San Marco. Line 3 is a direct service from the train station and seasonal Line 7 runs from Murano-Colonna to San Marco between 10.30am and 5.30pm.

➤ **Vaporetto Mazzorbo, Burano & Torcello** Line 12 from Fondamente Nove serves Mazzorbo, Burano and Torcello between 9am and 11.15pm.

➤ **Vaporetto Le Vignole & Sant'Erasmo** Line 13 serves Le Vignole and Sant'Erasmo from Fondamente Nove via Murano-Faro.

➤ **Alilaguna** Boats run from Marco Polo airport to Murano-Colonna (€8 one-way).