San Marco Royal Tour

Dogi and dignitaries had the run of San Marco for centuries, and now it’s your turn. Follow this royal tour that ends with your own palace intrigue.

**Start** Piazzetta San Marco  
**Distance** 2.5km  
**Duration** 1-1¾ hours

**Take a Break...** Pause for a coffee at 18th-century Caffè Florian.

1. **Venetians still hurry past the granite Columns of San Marco, the site of public executions for centuries.**

2. Punishments were once publicly announced on the **loggia** (balcony) of the Palazzo Ducale before they were posted on the palace door.

3. In **Piazza San Marco** find Basilica di San Marco, the Campanile, Ala Napoleonica (now the entry to Museo Correr) and Mauro Codussi’s 16th-century Procuratie Vecchie.

4. **The bell tower of 15th-century Chiesa di Santo Stefano** leans 2m, as though it’s had one *spritz* too many. The church’s brick facade features marble Gothic portals by Bartolomeo Bon.

5. **La Fenice** was faithfully reconstructed in 1996 after an arson attack.

6. Kissing in *campi* (piazzas) is such an established pastime it’s surprising the dogi didn’t tax it – but duck into Renaissance Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo courtyard for privacy.

**Classic Photo** The view across Venice from the Campanile.