

Everything to Know About Venice

When to Go

Spring and autumn are usually the best times to go, although November can bring high-tide flooding—the streets filled with water, which can be messy. Summer can mean steamy heat, mosquitoes, and the city crowded to the rafters. In midwinter, Venice is a little quieter and extremely cold but with crystal-clear skies, although some hotels and restaurants close down.

Celebrate

The world-famous Venice Carnival (February) spells not only fun with masks and costumes but also an awful lot of people. Vogalonga (May) is a non-competitive celebration of rowing as thousands of colorful small boats follow a 30-kilometer circle from Venice and out around the islands. The Regata Storica (September) is a parade of beautifully decorated boats rowed along the Grand Canal and bearing local people in costumes.

What to Eat

As a snack, try mouth-watering cichetti: a kind of bread topped with salted fish, goat cheese or dried tomato, to name a few. For dinner, order le seppie in summer and autumn. Wintertime is good for radicchio, then spring for local carciofi, tiny purple artichokes (法国百合) from the nearby islands.

WeChat-Worthy View

The broad waterfront Riva degli Schiavoni (near Piazza San Marco) is a good spot for sunset light over the lake and city, and during daylight hours, the Accademia bridge spells excellent Grand Canal shots with the iconic ferries and boats included.

Other Travel Tips

There is no reason to purchase bottled mineral water. The city water is both safe and regularly checked, and drinking fountains and taps are all around the city. Tap water can be requested in restaurants. Avoid taking the big cruise ships (游轮) that may soon be forbidden from entering the Venice Lagoon. They are huge polluters and out of scale (比例) with this unique city.

4. When should you go if you want to attend the Venice Carnival?
A. In February. B. In May. C. In September. D. In November.
5. What is recommended for dinner in winter?
A. Cichetti. B. Le seppie. C. Radicchio. D. Carciofi.
6. Why are visitors advised to avoid the big cruise ships?
A. They are too ugly. B. They are unsuitable for picture-taking.
C. They are not safe enough. D. They are not good for the environment.

C

Here are some New Year traditions from around the world that are likely different from what you're used to.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, there is a local New Year tradition called Survakane. In the morning of January 1, children across Bulgaria go from house to house offering to hit the adults on the back with decorated cherry branches (called Surwatschki). It is believed that this act ensures good health and a long life ahead for the adult victims. In return, the kids are rewarded with small cakes, nuts, dried fruits, and other small gifts.

Spain

In Spain, when midnight arrives, you should eat 12 grapes (each eaten with every strike of the clock). When eating each grape, people are also encouraged to make a wish for the new year ahead. If you find yourself in Spain on New Year's Eve and you don't have any grapes on hand, don't panic—you can easily find them on sale in all shops and pubs in every town. Handily, these grapes even come in packs of 12!

Italy

If you're celebrating the New Year in Italy, you need to make sure that your underpants (内裤) are red. In Italy, wearing red underwear guarantees good luck and success for the year ahead! That's why shortly after Christmas, Italians rush to department stores across the country in order to get their hands on some "lucky" red underpants.

Brazil

If you're ever lucky enough to find yourself on a beach in Brazil on New Year's Eve, then you've to make sure that you celebrate the new year like the locals do—by jumping into the sea when the clock strikes 12! You have to jump over seven waves, making a New Year's wish every time you clear a wave. If you really want to make sure that these wishes come true, then you should wear different-colored underwear for each wish. Yellow for money, red or pink for love, green for hope, and white for peace. And all the underwear should be brand new!

7. What can children do in the morning of January 1 in Bulgaria?
- A. Put on colorful underwear to swim. B. Ask for snacks and other small gifts.
C. Hit the adults with cherry branches. D. Make twelve wishes for the new year.
8. In which country do the people eat grapes to celebrate the new year?
- A. Bulgaria. B. Spain. C. Italy. D. Brazil.
9. What is a New Year's bestseller in both Italy and Brazil?
- A. Red underpants. B. Yellow underpants.
C. Green underpants. D. White underpants.

D

If you want to know more about paintings which are famous worldwide, here are four you can't miss.

The Kiss

Artist: Gustav Klimt

Estimated date: 1907 to 1908

From Klimt's work, Byzantine artistic influences can be seen in the highly decorative robes(长袍) worn by the passionate, life-sized couple. The museum says that with *The Kiss*, Klimt makes a unique statement about love being at the heart of human existence.

Guernica

Artist: Pablo Picasso

Date: 1937

This is the most recent painting on this list, and it shows the German bombing of the town of Guernica in the Basque region during the Spanish Civil War. The painting has that distinctive Picasso style, and its serious examination of the horrors of war made it an essential part of the 20th century culture and history.

The Birth of Venus

Artist: Sandro Botticelli

Estimated date: 1485

It was probably created by a member of the wealthy and art-loving Medici family, which ruled Florence and nearby areas for centuries. Marrying a renewed interest in classic Greek culture with Early Renaissance style, Botticelli creates an unforgettable figure with the Goddess of Love emerging from a huge seashell.

Girl With a Pearl Earring

Artist: Johannes Vermeer

Estimated date: 1665

This fantastic favorite often gets compared with the *Mona Lisa* by Leonardo da Vinci. Besides the stylistic differences, technically *Girl With a Pearl Earring* isn't even a portrait (肖像), but a "tronie"—a Dutch word for a painting of an imaginary figure with impressive features. The oil on the masterpiece is brilliant in its simplicity. The girl—wearing a blue and

gold turban (头巾) and an oversized pearl earring—is the entire focus with only a dark backdrop behind her.

10. Who is the creator of *The Kiss*?
- A. Leonardo da Vinci.

B. Sandro Botticelli.

C. Johannes Vermeer.

D. Gustav Klimt.
11. What is the painting by Pablo Picasso about?
- A. A cruel war.

B. A happy couple.

C. A royal family.

D. A lovely girl.
12. Of the following works, which is the oldest?
- A. *The Kiss*.

B. *Guernica*.

C. *The Birth of Venus*.

D. *Girl With a Pearl Earring*.

E

The following small European villages will provide you with a chance to experience the beauty of nature and a sense of adventure, from climbing a mountain to taking a dive in the ocean.

Deià, Spain

Hidden between the towering Tramuntana Mountain and the blue Mediterranean, the village’s natural beauty inspires not just writers and painters, but adventure-seekers, too. From this peaceful village, cyclists can ride across this mountainous but bike-friendly region. After working up a sweat, they can go to the best beach, Cala Deià, in Spain. Its waters are perfect for giving the tired muscles a break with a relaxing dive.

Mürren, Switzerland

In Mürren, the fun starts before you arrive. This beautiful Swiss village sits on a Bernese Oberland mountain shelf so high that travelers must arrive by cable car. Like many mountain resort towns these days, Mürren offers year-round activities. Besides downhill skiing in winter, brave climbers can enjoy themselves from June to October, with or without a guide.

San Gimignano, Italy

In the Middle Age, wealthy families of this hill town went on a tower-building competition. At one point there were more than 70 towers, some of which were nearly 200 feet in height. Initially built as defenses in wars with neighboring villages, the towers became symbols of wealth and fame. Today, the village draws both history and wine lovers. Visitors can enjoy the famous white wine, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, at the tasting centers which overlook the surrounding grape hills.

Chipping Campden, England

Arguably the loveliest village in England, Chipping Campden isn’t just a photographer’s dream. It is also known for the annual Olimpick Games in summer, a 400-year tradition that copies the Greek Olympics. It includes horseracing, coursing, jumping, backswords and country dancing. But the highlight is the wrestling that thankfully has never caught on anywhere else.

13. What can visitors do in Mürren?
- A. Ski and climb mountains.

B. Ride bikes and dive in the sea.

C. Enjoy the Olimpick Games.

D. Learn from writers and painters.
14. Which place is most likely to be a wine lover’s top choice?
- A. Deià.

B. Mürren.

C. San Gimignano.

D. Chipping Campden.
15. What is the unique game at the Olimpick Games?
- A. Horseracing.

B. Coursing.

C. Wrestling.

D. Jumping.

选择题答题栏

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答案															