



'Support', Lorenzo Quinn, 2017

# VENICE BIENNALE, The Veneto and Milan

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Journey with Claire Chamberlain to the Venice Biennale and beyond in September 2026.

Fiona Pardington is our Venice representative in 2026. Find her work and much much more from around the world in both the Giardini, Arsenale and other sites scattered around Venice and the lagoon.

This tour will include time at **La Biennale** as well as other historical sites around Venice. A visit to the craft exhibition by **Homo Faber** is a must, as well as day trips into the Veneto to Verona and **Carlo Scarpa's Brion Tomb**.

After a week in Venice, we will cross northern Italy and finish in Milan.

A journey from the Renaissance to Contemporary Art with an amazing guide.

## TOUR DATES

September - October 2026

## LOCATIONS

Venice, Vicenza, Verona, Brescia and Milan.

## TOUR PRICE

Approx \$16999 twin share.

## TOUR DEPOSIT

\$4500 payment due on confirmation.

## GROUP SIZE

Minimum 12 and maximum 16.

## INCLUSIONS

All hotels and transport, breakfasts and meals, sightseeing, and galleries. Claire Chamberlain as your tour guide.

## EXCLUSIONS

International flights. Visa and ETAs. Travel Insurance.

\*Subject to change.

# Art Travel

# DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 01 TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER ARRIVAL

Check in to our hotel.

Welcome drinks/orientation walk around our neighbourhood of Castello.

Visit to the Aotearoa NZ Pavilion. We are well placed for our first visit to **Dr Fiona Pardington's** presentation which will be located close to our hotel (the title and specific location of the pavilion will be announced later in May).

## DAY 02 WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER VENICE

**La Biennale Giardini** - International exhibition. We will visit the central pavilion where Koyo Kouoh, director of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa in Cape Town, has curated the 61st International Art Exhibition (the title and themes of La Biennale 2026 will be announced in February). We will also meet the work of Venetian architect Carlo Scarpa (1906-1978) who redesigned the central pavilion and created the sculpture garden within the same buildings.

Next up, we will stop for lunch in the street which divides the two sides of La Biennale, Via Giuseppe Garibaldi.

### **La Biennale Arsenale International exhibition.**

In the afternoon, we'll experience the second half of the international exhibition in the Corderie of the Arsenale.

We will exit back through the entrance bookstore and return to our hotel after viewing any significant collateral exhibitions en route.

There will be free time for dinner or further sightseeing.

## DAY 03 THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER BRION TOMB

Today we'll leave Venice by water taxi and then travel by private coach for Carlo Scarpa's **Brion Tomb** and Sanctuary, widely considered the Venetian architect's masterpiece.

En route, we'll make a short stop in Treviso for morning tea and a walk around the central square.

After our visit to the Brion Tomb, we will make the short journey to **Bassano del Grappa**, an historic town in the Venetian Prealps. Located on the Brenta River, it's famous for its bridge originally designed by Andrea Palladio (1508-1580). We will have lunch in the town and visit the small Museum of the Alpino Bassano which looks at experiences in World Wars I and II and enjoy the architecture of the central square. Then we will make our return to Venice with free time for the remainder of the day.



Pursuit of Venus, Lisa Reihana, 2017



Central Pavilion, Venice Biennale



La Biennale Arsenale





Palladio's Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza



Basilica Palladiana, Vicenza



Villa La Rotonda, Vicenza

## DAY 04

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER VENICE

This morning we'll return to the **Giardini** and La Biennale and concentrate on the highlights amongst the national Pavilions. We'll walk around as a group, but then break for lunch within the Giardini after which you can return to those Pavilions we've missed.

You're welcome to meet your guides for a return to our hotel for a rest or explore further. In the late afternoon, we'll re-group and return to the Arsenale to view the national Pavilions there.

We'll stop for a recuperative drink near the famous crane and enjoy the setting sun before continuing to the close of the Arsenale exhibition and exiting through Giardino delle Vergini all'Arsenale to make a local stop for dinner or a return to the hotel.

Alternatively, you can jump in a buggy and make a return to the beginning of the Arsenale and exit through the gift store. Please note the Arsenale is open until 8 pm if you'd like to stay later.

## DAY 05

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER VENICE

We'll hop over to the island of San Giorgio via vaporetto (water bus) for **Homo Faber** at the Cini Foundation. Homo Faber is a biennial exhibition of global art and artisanship and literally means 'human as maker'. It is an extensive exhibition throughout the luxurious buildings and gardens of the Foundation.

In the Palladian church of San Giorgio Maggiore, we will visit a collateral event of La Biennale (yet to be announced).

Next, we'll hop back on a water bus and make our way to Palazzo Grassi for a contemporary art exhibition presented by The Pinault Collection. Enjoy a free evening once back at our hotel.

## DAY 06

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER VENICE

This morning we will travel to the **Ghetto**, the original Jewish Quarter of Venice and be guided to various sites within the quarter.

We'll stop for a canalside lunch at one of the famed local osteria (casual restaurant) before continuing to **AMA Venezia**, a new private art foundation which opened in early 2025. It houses a significant collection of contemporary art, with a particular emphasis on American artists from the 1960s to the present.

Then, it's by vaporetto to the **Rialto Bridge** where we'll walk back to the Castello sestiere (district) to visit the **Foundation Querini Stampalia** to one side of the campo with a break in the on-site café. Our focus is the renowned Carlo Scarpa watergate and garden.

We'll then make our way to Campo S.S. Giovanni e Paolo where Claire will introduce us to The Equestrian statue of Bartolomeo Colleoni sculpted by Andrea del Verrocchio in the late 15th century.

En route to our final visit for the day, OCEAN SPACE we'll pass the Libreria Acqua Alta before we arrive at the home of OCEAN SPACE, the deconsecrated church of San Lorenzo. This is a foundation geared towards art and science.



Peggy Guggenheim, Venice



Pala di San Zeno by Andrea Mantegna



Castelvecchio Museum, Verona

## DAY 07

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER VENICE

The Biennale di Venezia is closed today, so we will instead depart by vaporetto to the Dorsoduro side of the Grand Canal. After a quick caffeine fix, we will visit the **Gallerie dell'Accademia**, where Claire will lead us on a tour of some of the highlights of the Venetian Renaissance.

After visiting the Accademia, we'll stop for a bite at either one of two nearby bacaro - Enoteco Schiavo or Osteria al Squero, both look out on a famous ship building site.

We'll then retrace our footsteps to continue on the so-called Dorsoduro Museum Mile. We will make a stop at **Palazzo Cini** for a La Biennale collateral event before continuing to **Punta della Dogana**, a contemporary art museum in one of Venice's old customs buildings. Please note the Peggy Guggenheim Museum is likely to be closed for renovations. The rest of the afternoon and early evening is free before we enjoy a last meal in Venice at a local restaurant and celebrate La Serenissima.

## DAY 08

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER VERONA

Today we leave Venice. Please be ready to depart at 8.30 am and meet in the reception with your luggage. A private water taxi will take us to Tronchetto where we will catch a private bus to the famed city of Verona.

Before we check into our second hotel, we'll make a stop in the periphery of the city and enjoy lunch in a local trattoria before we visit the majestic Romanesque church of **San Zeno** with its vast bronze doors and a frescoed interior rich in religious art, including Andrea Mantegna's extraordinary 1460 altarpiece still located at the high altar.

It's then a short further bus ride to our hotel in the heart of the city. After checking in and getting settled, we'll re-group for a walking tour of the historic centre.

Verona is renowned for its rich history, captivating architecture, and association with the love story of Romeo and Juliet. Beyond the Roman past, Verona boasts stunning Romanesque and Gothic churches, picturesque piazzas, and the charming Adige River.

Before returning to our hotel, you may like to enjoy a spritz in one of the many bars that line Piazza Delle Erbe. The rest of your evening is free.