



'Support', Lorenzo Quinn, 2017

VENICE BIENNALE, The Veneto and Verona

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

Dr Fiona Pardington will represent Aotearoa New Zealand at La Biennale in 2026 with **Taharaki Skyside**. Explore her work in New Zealand's own pavilion (location announced very soon!) and experience much more from around the world in La Biennale across the Giardini and the Arsenale and find collateral exhibitions throughout Venice and her lagoon.

This tour will include time at **La Biennale** as well as other historical sites around Venice. Contemporary galleries are also on the list, along with a visit to the craft exhibition by **Homo Faber**. Expect day trips into the Veneto to Verona and **Carlo Scarpa's Brion Tomb**.

TOUR DATES

22 September - 1 October
2026

LOCATIONS

Venice, The Veneto, Verona

TOUR PRICE

Approx \$9999 twin share.

TOUR DEPOSIT

\$2500 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

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 01

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

ARRIVAL VENICE

Check in to our hotel.

Our first visit will be to **Dr Fiona Pardington's** (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Mamoe, Ngāti Kahungunu, Clan Cameron of Erracht) presentation. Entitled **Taharaki Skyside**, and curated by Chloe Cull and Felicity Milburn in conjunction with CNZ and Christchurch Art Gallery.

Her major new work for Venice builds on the content of her 2024 series Te taha o te rangi, 'the edge of the heavens' which consists of photographs of Aotearoa New Zealand birds preserved as taxidermy specimens in museum collections.

Welcome drinks and an orientation walk around our neighbourhood of Castello are included.

DAY 02

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

VENICE

La Biennale Giardini - We will visit the central pavilion where the Biennale's central theme is showcased in the International Exhibition.

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.

DAY 03

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER BRION TOMB AND THE VENETO

Today we'll leave Venice by water taxi and then travel by private coach to 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.





Palladio's Teatro Olimpico, Vincenzo



Villa La Rotonda, Vincenzo

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

This morning 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.

Still on the island, we'll walk to the Palladian church of **San Giorgio Maggiore** for a collateral event of La Biennale (yet to be announced). We'll then return via water bus to Castello for an afternoon of free time or further independent exploring.

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 canal-side 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.

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** before returning to our hotel.

Enjoy a free evening.



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 that the Peggy Guggenheim Museum is likely to be closed for renovations.

The rest of the afternoon and early evening is free.



DAY 08

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER VERONA

Today we are hopping back on our private coach for a day trip to **Verona**.

Verona is renowned for its rich history, captivating architecture, and association with the love story of Romeo and Juliet. It's a UNESCO World Heritage site, famed for its well-preserved Roman ruins, particularly the Arena di Verona, the third-largest surviving Roman amphitheatre. Beyond the Roman past, Verona boasts stunning Romanesque and Gothic churches, picturesque piazzas, and the charming Adige River.

We will first make a stop in the periphery of the city and 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 trip into the historic centre to the beautiful Piazza Delle Erbe. After free time for lunch around the Piazza, we will re-group and walk via the Arena di Verona to the **Castelvecchio Museum**.

The museum is housed in the rather foreboding Scaligeri Castle, built in the 14th century as a defensive citadel over Roman walls on the banks of the rushing Adige River. The museum houses an extensive collection of medieval, International Gothic and Renaissance works, but is also notable for the architectural interventions of **Carlo Scarpa** in the 20th century.

It is widely considered to be one of Scarpa's most important works, particularly of his ability to create sophisticated work within a complicated historical context and one of the finest examples of Scarpa's sensitivity towards the nature of materials.

On the way back to Venice, we hope to stop at Pieropan winery in the beautiful countryside near Soave before returning to our hotel back in Venice.





DAY 09 WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER VENICE

Today is our last day in Venice and we'll stay in the Castello district.

After a later start in the morning (and maybe a sleep in), we'll walk from our hotel to the **Foundation Querini Stampalia**. 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, we'll pass the **Libreria Acqua Alta** before we arrive at the home of **OCEAN SPACE**, in the deconsecrated church of San Lorenzo. This is a foundation geared towards art and science.

The rest of the day is free before we enjoy a last meal in Venice at a local restaurant and celebrate La Serenissima.



DAY 10 THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER DEPART VENICE

This morning we say farewell to Venice and to each other before departing for home or further travels.

YOUR ART TOUR GUIDE

Claire Chamberlain (MA Art History, PGDipEd) is an art historian and educator with over 25 years' experience. She teaches at Te Tuhi, Co-Chairs the Patrons of NZ at the Venice Biennale, and has led international art tours.

A passionate advocate for Aotearoa artists, she makes art history engaging and accessible.

WEATHER

Venice in late September to early-October is mild and comfortable, with temperatures ranging from 14–22°C (57–72°F). Pack light layers, a warm sweater or jacket for the evenings, comfortable walking shoes, and a compact umbrella just in case.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Expect moderate daily walking, especially around museums, parks, and historic sites. Comfortable footwear is essential.



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