



Venice: The Paradise of Cities with Visits to Trieste and the Julian Alps of Slovenia

September 15-24, 2026



Venetian Canal Photo by Mary Rachun

The cities of the world take on their unique characteristics in large part from their geography. This is especially true of Venice, which is poised between the cultures of the East and West and whose merchants plied the seas and served as a bridge between two cultures. A view of the city from the waters of the Adriatic reveals structures that could as easily be in Istanbul. The wealth generated through trade and conquest created a city of beautiful art and architecture,

a city that is one of the most romantic and mysterious on earth. The old historic center is situated on 118 islands connected by an intricate lattice of canals. The Grand Canal, with its bobbing boatmen winds around the largest of the squares, Piazza San Marco. This is Venice, with its famous cafes and its Byzantine Basilica. We've selected each day's guided tours to bring you to different areas of the city and its lagoons.

This is the second time Edventures travels to Venice and we have designed the trip to provide stimulating group activities as well as private time that allows you to find your favorite cafe, wine bar, or island.

As a prelude to Venice, we will explore additional cities of northern Italy, as well as the beauty of Slovenia. Only 100 miles from Venice, the country offers a completely different geography and experience, combining the best of the Italian, German and Slavic worlds. Formerly the westernmost territory of Yugoslavia, Slovenia offers visitors vistas of the Julian Alps and villages, lakes and picturesque castles. Edventures staff visited Slovenia in 2022 and is eager to share its special beauty with our travelers.

We have selected local guides in each location who will bring the past and present alive.

In addition, Liz Mitchell, who is a favorite tour leader of Edventures, will be our tour manager throughout. Travelers praise her intimate knowledge of our destinations, the ability to supply key historical and contemporary information in a highly intelligible manner, her mastery of every logistical detail and her maintenance of a calm, pleasant and cheerful manner.



DAY 1: Tuesday, September 15

Depart for Slovenia

Edventures will arrange group travel from the Saratoga Springs and Albany areas (optional coach to JFK) and group flight from JFK to Ljubljana, Slovenia.

DAY 2 Wednesday, September 16 Arrive in Ljubljana

We arrive in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, and transfer to our hotel after an arrival of 12:30 p.m. We will settle into our rooms when they are available and travelers can rest before an orientation meeting with Liz Mitchell at approximately 6:30 p.m. Our welcome dinner will be at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Ljubljana for 3 nights at Hotel M

Meals: Onboard our flight and welcome dinner

Day 3 Thursday, September 17 Exploring the capital city

As the capital city of Slovenia, Ljubljana is especially vibrant and the Ljubljanica River provides the perfect setting for picturesque streets, pastel-colored buildings, and captivating architecture. We will have a half-day morning guided tour with the afternoon available for continuing your own leisurely tour. Beginning in 1335 and continuing for six centuries, Slovenia was ruled by Hapsburg emperors and imposed Austrian culture on its inhabitants. You will notice Baroque facades from the 16th and 17th centuries in the Old Town. As you stroll through the city, you will also notice Viennese Art Nouveau architecture, which appeared after an earthquake destroyed major parts of the city in 1895. There are numerous museums, markets, and shopping opportunities to enjoy.



Overnight: Ljubljana

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 Friday, September 18 Excursion to the Julian Alps

Today's visit takes us to the snow-capped alpine mountain area of northwest Slovenia for a full-day excursion to Bled which is located in the foothills of the stunning Julian Alps. We begin with a visit to the imposing 11th century Bled Castle, perched on a steep cliff high above the lake, creating a dramatic backdrop to the city. We will explore the castle grounds and visit the museum to gain insight into the history of the castle and the surrounding area.



We will continue the day on Lake

Bled aboard a *pletna*, a traditional rowing boat, for a visit to Bled Island and the Church of the Assumption, home to a wonderful art collection.



In the afternoon we will visit the small medieval town of Radovljica where we will enjoy a traditional lunch at Gostilna Lectar with a selection of traditional Slovenian dishes and wine.

The evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Ljubljana

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Saturday, September 19, From Ljubljana to Lipica and Trieste

As we head to the Karst region of Slovenia, we are drawing closer to Italy. The Karst region is a unique landscape formed by the dissolution of soluble bedrock, featuring caves, sinkholes, underground rivers and springs. As we travel through this area, we will visit the farm where Lipizzaner horses are bred and trained. Most of us associate Lipizzaner horses with the famed Spanish Riding School of Vienna, but their origin is Lipica, where in the 16th century the Austrian Habsburgs established a stud farm for classical dressage.

We will observe the methods and approaches for training these unique horses. The whole experience is designed around the horses and their history and we'll learn about their breeding, training and daily life. Under the watchful eye of the main trainer, the riders will perform all the movements you can see in the Lipica Riding School's show.

After the visit to the farm, we continue to Trieste, Italy, located on the shores of the Adriatic Sea and boasting a unique blend of Italian, Astro-Hungarian, and Slovenian cultures.

Overnight: Trieste, Italy

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Starhotels Savoia Excelsior Palace

Day 6 Sunday, September 20

Miramare Castle, Wines of Friuli Region, Trieste





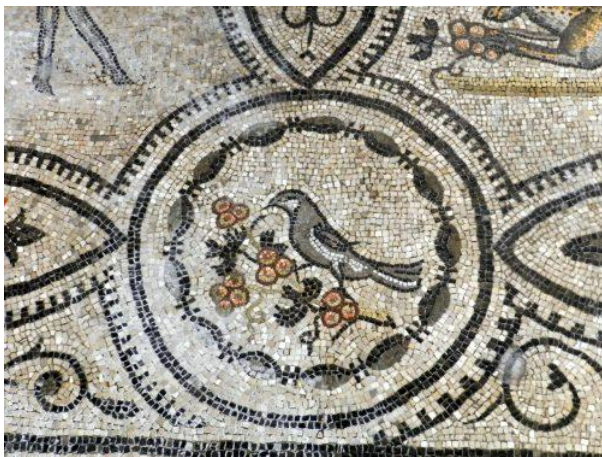
We will get taste of the beauty of the waters of Trieste with a visit to the 19th century Miramare Castle, which overlooks the Gulf of Trieste. The castle was built by the ever-present Habsburgs, this time Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, who built it for his wife with the goal of providing maximum vistas accompanied by impeccably manicured gardens. After exploring the castle's interior, we will stroll through the gardens and take in the beautiful scenery.

We will have lunch and sample local wines in a countryside estate before returning to Trieste. The afternoon will be free to explore the beautiful city of Trieste.

Overnight: Trieste

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **May 7 Monday, September 21** Ancient Aquileia, Grado and Venice

The entire area we have visited so far was once part of the Roman Empire and until now we have seen no signs of it. That changes today on our way to Venice when we stop at Aquileia, a major port city of the Roman Empire which once had a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants and served as a major center of Christianity. That all ended in 452 when Atilla the Hun sacked and destroyed the city.



Today the city is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site both for the remnants of the Roman city, but more importantly for the exquisite mosaic floor in the Basilica of Sant Maria Assunta, which we will visit.

Atilla's ravaging of Aquileia had important consequences for the founding of Venice. Refugees from Aquileia sought safety in a new lagoon where they began the construction of a new city: Venice.

After visiting Aquileia, a short drive will take us to the charming town of Grado where you can spend free-time exploring on your own before continuing to Venice where we will arrive in the late afternoon and check into our hotel. Grado, Italy, known as the Island of the Sun, is special for its unique blend of sandy beaches, a charming Venetian-style pedestrian Old Town and the pristine Grado Lagoon. In Venice, we will transfer by boat to our hotel for the next three nights.

Overnight: Venice

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Eurostars Residenza Cannaregio

Day 8 Tuesday, September 22 Tour of Venice

Our discovery of Venice begins with a walking tour with our local guide through the maze of narrow alleyways and bridges to St. Mark's Square, where we can see its most prominent monuments: the pink marble Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and the golden Basilica of San Marco.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will explore the Venetian Lagoon by transferring to a boat which will take us to Mazzorbo, a small island, and the winery Venissa where we will explore the land and taste its wines.

Overnight: Venice

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9 Wednesday September 23 Day at Leisure

Today you are free to explore Venice on your own. We will have a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Venice

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

**Day 10 Thursday September 24**

Depart

Transfer to Venice Marco Polo Airport for flight to JFK

Meals: Breakfast, lunch on our flight home

Trip Price

The land and air price is **\$6520**

The single room supplement is **\$1100.**

The reservation deposit fee is **\$750.**

Small Group fee: If the group number is less than 20, there will be a fee of **\$300.**

Payment Schedule:

\$750 deposit due at registration

\$1000 payment due on March 31, 2026

Balance due on May 17, 2026

Refunds:

- \$500 of the original deposit is non-refundable.
- If you cancel your trip on or up to 91 days pre-departure (June 15, 2026), Edventures will refund 50% of your payments excluding \$500 of your deposit.
- If you cancel 90 days or less prior to start date, you will forfeit the entire balance.

These guidelines are due to the non-refundable deposits Edventures must make to hotels, restaurants, coach services and other suppliers.

Trip Insurance: Edventures strongly recommends that travelers purchase trip insurance. Some purchase it through their AAA office, which sells Allianz. To get the best rates, you can compare costs online through agents like Squaremouth.com, InsureMyTrip.com, or Totaltravelinsurance.com, which offer side-by-side comparisons. Prior to purchasing, review the fine print to determine what is covered in your policy. Remember: trip insurance must be purchased prior to your final payment and sometimes immediately upon making your first payment. Please contact Edventures prior to purchasing trip insurance to assure that the trip is a "go."

The following elements are included in the price of the trip:

- *Full time tour escort;*
- *Professional guides who will make local history and culture come alive;*
- *Gratuities for local guides, coach drivers, hotel and restaurant staff and tour manager;*
- *Four and five-star lodging;*
- *Daily breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners;*
- *Private motor coach transportation throughout the trip;*
- *Assistive listening devices;*
- *Pre-departure documents; and*
- *Memories to last a lifetime!*

SCHEDULE: To secure your place, reservations are due ASAP.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES: The average high in Venice in September is 70F with a low of 58F.

Do you still have questions about the tour? Email goedventures@gmail.com for answers.

Edventures is pleased to partner with the Academy for Lifelong Learning, which encourages learning throughout life. For additional information, see www.allsaratoga.com



How much walking are we doing?

Throughout Europe tourist buses can only drop off and pick up passengers at certain points, so often we will walk to and from the designated stop to get to the town center. Alpine areas will have gentle hills. We will be visiting old cities devoted to remaining old, and in order to experience their pleasures we will be walking on uneven ground, on uneven steps, over cobblestone streets and sometimes up and down hilly terrain. In Venice guests must be nimble enough to get on and off boats and to walk up and down numerous bridges.



goedventures@gmail.com

TOUR RESERVATION FORM

***Venice: The Paradise of Cities
with Visits to Trieste and the Julian Alps of Slovenia***

September 15-24, 2026

***Send your deposit check of \$750 (sorry, no credit cards) to
Edventures, PO Box 99, Trumansburg, NY 14886-0099***

Names(s): EXACTLY as they appear on your passport

1. _____

2. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ *State/Zip:* ____

Telephone: _____ *Email 1* _____

Email 2 _____

Cell phone 1: _____ *Cell phone 2:* _____

Name of roommate _____

Passports must be valid for six months beyond travel dates.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Name(s)</u>	<u>Title</u> (e.g., Jr., I, II) Ms.	<u>Date of Birth</u> Day/mo/yr example 05/July/42	<u>Passport No.</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u> Day/mo/yr example 15/March/29

Country that issued your passport: _____

Check those that apply:

- I prefer a single room for an added cost of \$1100.
- I would like Edventures to arrange my airfare.
- I will make my own air reservations.
- I will use the bus to and from departure airport. (Fee will be added and is based on how many travelers sign up for the airport transfers)
- I understand if I make my own air reservation, I am responsible to pay for transfers such as from the airport to hotels.

Will you require vegetarian meals? _____Yes _____No

If you are signing up to take the Edventures bus from Saratoga Springs or Albany to and from the airports, then list:

The make and model of your car _____

Your license plate number _____

I understand the coach to and from the airport will pick me up either at the Albany Airport or in Saratoga Springs. Pick me up (check one) _____in Albany _____in Saratoga Springs.

In the event of an emergency, please list the name, phone number and email of the person you want us to contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email address: _____

What is their relationship to you? _____

Is it best to phone or email this person? _____

To assure your space on the trip, reserve early!

*Please read the Conditions and Responsibilities page and sign below.
We have read and agree to the Conditions and Responsibilities Policy.*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Conditions and Responsibilities Agreement

Edventures, LLC, Saratoga Arts (SA) and Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL)

DEPOSITS, CANCELLATIONS, AND REFUNDS

Payment in full is required when bookings are made less than 75 days before the departure date. Notification of cancellation must be made in writing, with the cancellation date being the postal service postmark date. At the time we receive your notification, the following charges apply: (charges are per person): \$500 of the original deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel up to 91 days pre-departure, Edventures will refund 50% of your payments excluding \$500 of your deposit. If you cancel 90 days or less prior to start date, you will forfeit the entire balance. Sixty days or earlier before departure you may transfer the reservation to another person.

TOUR AND AIR RATES

The right is reserved to change any route or arrangements should conditions necessitate, to offer substitutes of equal value, or to cancel the operation of any scheduled excursion. Individual transfers for those arriving or departing independently are not included in the land cost unless otherwise stated. Air fares may be increased because of tariff changes or fuel surcharges. All rates quoted are based on current tariffs and on the current value of foreign currencies in relation to the United States dollar, and are subject to adjustment in the event of changes before the departing dates.

RESPONSIBILITY

Edventures, LLC, of Saratoga Springs and Trumansburg, NY, ALL and its agents act only as agents for the various companies whose facilities are made available through the program. Edventures, and ALL assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any hotel, lodge, aircraft, vessel, carriage or other conveyance that is used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers; neither will they be responsible for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or accommodations or for any reason whatsoever, or through the neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved in the tour. The right is reserved to decline or retain any person as a member of any tour at any time, without a refund to the person. The right is reserved to cancel any tour before departure, in which case Edventures will provide a refund to the greatest extent possible from funds returned by suppliers. This refund will constitute full settlement to the participant. Although every care is taken, Edventures, LLC and ALL, its agents and suppliers cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to baggage. It is therefore advisable to effect separate baggage insurance or include it as part of trip insurance. Edventures, LLC, and ALL can accept no responsibility or liability for any monetary, physical, or psychological injuries of any nature whatever arising from or caused by acts of God, acts of government, force majeure, or civil unrest, terrorism, civil strife and disturbances, war, insurrection, or other upheaval and unrest of whatever kind and nature that may occur during the tour.

Edventures, LLC, and ALL, its agents and suppliers can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. All tickets, coupons, and orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to the foregoing and to any and all terms and conditions under which the means of transportation and/or other services provided thereby are offered and/or supplied. The airlines providing air

transportation are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their aircraft or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passengers.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I am aware that travel, whatever it may be and by whatever means, contains some inherent risks of injury, illness or death, which may be caused by forces of nature, negligence or actions of others, or other agencies. I recognize that such risks may be present at any time before, during and after the trip in which I am participating, arranged by Edventures, LLC and ALL. I am aware that medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during some or all of the time during which I am participating in the trip. I have read the schedule of activities and other information provided and recognize and accept risks thereof. I understand and agree on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, administrators, and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth under the "Conditions and Responsibilities Agreement" and to release and hold harmless Edventures, LLC, and ALL and any of its officers, employees, agents, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of or damage to property, however occurring in relation to the trip.

GROUP HARMONY

To ensure the desired group harmony, Edventures and ALL reserves the right to accept, reject or expel any individual who is deemed disruptive or incompatible with the interests of the group, including, but not limited to, individuals who are intoxicated and/or under the influence of drugs leading to a negative experience for the remainder of the group. Expenses, including cancellation fees and/or costs for alternate travel plans or to return home, will necessarily be borne by the passenger. All unused services are non-refundable.

SEVERABILITY

Every provision of this document, Conditions and Responsibilities Agreement, is intended to be severable. If any term or provision hereof is illegal or invalid for any reason whatsoever, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this document, Conditions and Responsibilities.

GENERAL SUPPLEMENTAL RELEASE REGARDING COVID-19

This Release is supplemental to the Conditions and Responsibilities Agreement, which I previously executed. In the event of a conflict between that Agreement and this Supplemental Release, the terms of this Supplemental Release shall prevail. In all other cases, the Agreement remains in full effect. In addition, both the Agreement and this Supplemental Release relate to any postponed or replacement trip.

I am aware that while on or traveling to or from my trip, I might be exposed to COVID-19 from other people, animals or objects. I assume all risk of any such contacts, including sickness, incapacity or death and agree to hold harmless Edventures, LLC from any such developments. In addition, I recognize that the U.S. Department of State as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may have warnings concerning same. See <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/> and <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>

I also accept the following risks of participating on this trip including, without limitation:

All other risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) including preclusion from public or private buildings, land or areas, inconvenience, limitations and closures, etc.;

Risk of my travel insurance not covering COVID-19 related claims;

All risks regarding transportation problems including, without limitation, entry into or exit from any country and/or entry into the United States and/or difficulties with or closure of transportation systems or the unavailability of other features or attractions within the country where my trip takes place;

The likelihood that at some or all destinations or facilities and/or on cruises, motor coaches or at hotels or restaurants I may be required to undergo a temperature check, wear a mask while in public and observe social distancing requirements and/or produce evidence of a vaccination against COVID-19;

The potential for being quarantined, even if I am not symptomatic and/or do not have COVID-19 and/or the possible requirement that I have a negative COVID-19 test immediately before or on or after arrival at my destination;

Any expenses incurred, including but not limited to medical expenses, testing fees, quarantine and evacuation expenses as a result thereof are to be borne by the participant.

Signature: Date: Select and sign off on one option:

1) I have been advised to obtain travel insurance and I am declining purchase of travel insurance.

Traveler 1 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Traveler 2 Signature: _____ Date: _____

OR: 2) I have obtained travel insurance.

Traveler 1 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Traveler 2 Signature: _____ Date: _____