

Arriving in Venice

The Marco Polo Airport serves the city of Venice and is located on the mainland, near the town of Mestre, just across the lagoon. The major island of **Venice (Venezia)** is connected by a bridge to the mainland, and is served by a local train station and a large bus station. A city bus or taxi can be taken over this bridge directly into Venice from the airport. One can also take a taxi ride to the train station in the nearby town of Mestre on the mainland. The trains in Mestre connect with towns on the mainland as well as to the Santa Lucia station in Venice.

Unique to Venice are the water ferry and water taxi. Take the yellow **Alilaguna** water ferry to Saint Mark's Square in Venice or to the beaches of the island of Lido from the Marco Polo Airport by following the covered walkway from arrivals to the near-by dock. The walk takes about 10 minutes, so it may be necessary to hire a taxi if you have a lot of baggage or have difficulty walking. Tickets can be purchased at the arrivals desk in the airport or at the dock once you arrive and are about 15€ one-way. The trip takes 1- 1½ hours, depending on the number of stops made along the route. Also along the same dock are smaller, private water taxi boats that can take travelers directly to their destination.

Once in Venice proper, purchase an **"imob.Venezia"** card for the length of your stay (4 days, 7 days, or longer) for the public **ACTV** water bus system to get to all of the major sites on the islands. This card can also be used on the local bus system on the Lido island. Private water taxis are also available at most docks on all the islands of Venice. And, of course, for a leisurely ride through the smaller canals, try the classic sleek, black **gondola** piloted by one oar by one of the trained **gondolieri** in their black and white striped uniforms!