



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

The Venice Biennale & Beyond

Palaces & Private Collections

October 17 - 23, 2026



With Jennifer Dasal, *Lecturer*



Traveling With *You*

Jennifer Dasal is an art historian, lecturer, and tour director. She is the author of the book *ArtCurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History* (Penguin). She is also beloved as the creator/host of the worldwide hit podcast [ArtCurious](#) (2016-23). Her second book, *The Club: Where American Women Artists Found Refuge in Belle Époque Paris*, was released by Bloomsbury in July 2025. She previously served as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art for 13 years. She earned a B.A. from the University of California, Davis, and an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, both in art history. She also completed Ph.D. coursework in art history at Pennsylvania State University.

Trip Highlights

Join Jennifer Dasal, art historian and creator/host of the *ArtCurious* podcast, for a two-day guided look at the **2026 Venice Biennale**, the world's most prestigious event devoted to contemporary art.

Gain entry to the **Doge's Palace**, the masterpiece of Venetian Gothic architecture, during a special after-hours tour when it is closed to the public.

View Tintoretto's monumental **Paradiso**, one of the world's largest paintings on canvas, during your exclusive tour of the Doge's Palace.

Enjoy an exclusive pre-opening visit to the **Peggy Guggenheim Museum** to see 20th-century masterpieces in the private setting of the **Palazzo Venier dei Leoni**.

Visit a historic Venetian villa and its private art collection in the company of the owner.

Experience an immersion into Venetian painting from the Renaissance through the 18th century during a guided visit to the **Gallerie dell'Accademia**, featuring Titian's *Pietà*.

Discover the gourmet side of Venice at a traditional **bacaro**, tasting *cicchetti* with a glass of local wine.

Dear National Trust Traveler,

The enchanting city of **Venice**, Italy, is well-known for its iconic waterways and rich maritime history. Also known as “the floating city,” Venice features gondolas and *vaporettos* that transport locals and visitors from all over the world who come to marvel at its architectural landmarks, like the Rialto Bridge.

The Venice Biennale, a landmark event for international art and culture, celebrates top contemporary artists from across the globe. From **October 17 to 23, 2026**, join **Jennifer Dasal**, art historian, author, and creator/host of the *ArtCurious* podcast, to experience this historic festival, which Dasal calls “the ultimate crossroads of contemporary art.”

You will also share behind-the-scenes access to Venice’s leading art spaces and private palaces that once sheltered emperors and eccentrics, now intimate settings for world-class art. Take an exclusive, before-hours look at the **Peggy Guggenheim Museum’s** 20th-century masterpieces, set in a palace on the Grand Canal. Enjoy a guided tour of the **Gallerie dell’Accademia**, bringing you up close to the world’s most comprehensive collection of Venetian paintings, and tour the **Doge’s Palace** after hours.

Please call National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785 to reserve your place today. I invite you to join us for this remarkable journey into Venetian art and culture.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours



Gondolas, Grand Canal

To secure your place,
please call National Trust Tours at
888-484-8785.

A deposit of \$2,000 per person
(of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for
administrative fees) is required.



Activity Level:
Intermediate



Pace Level:
Moderato



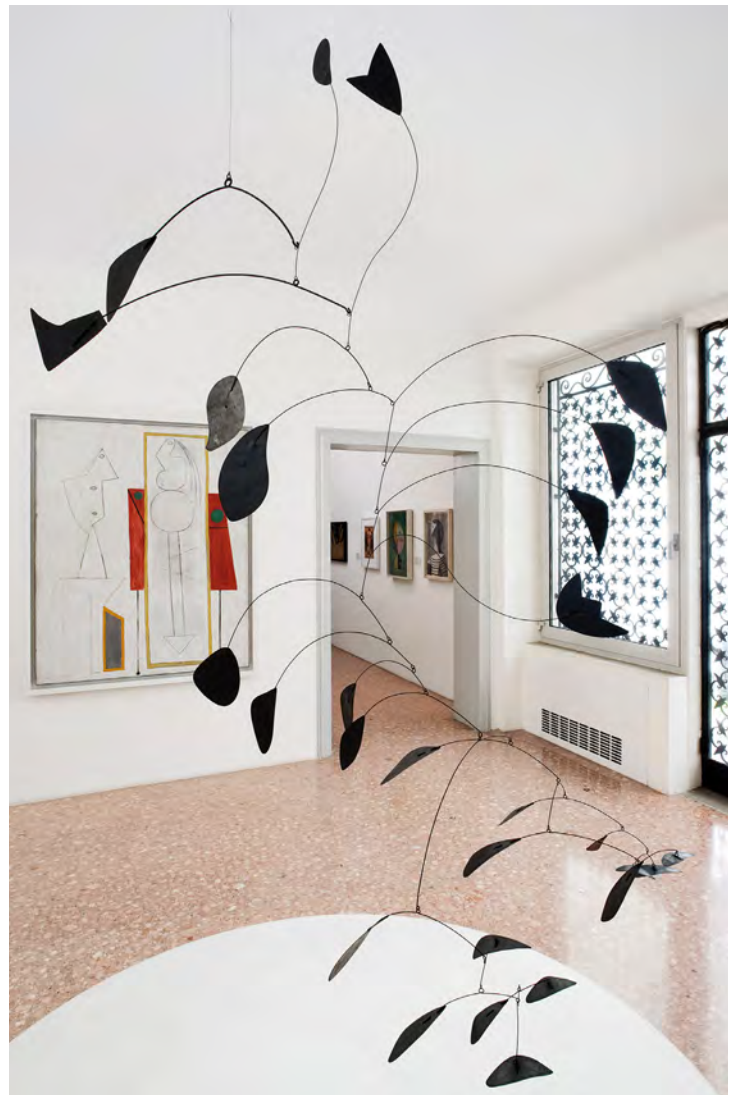
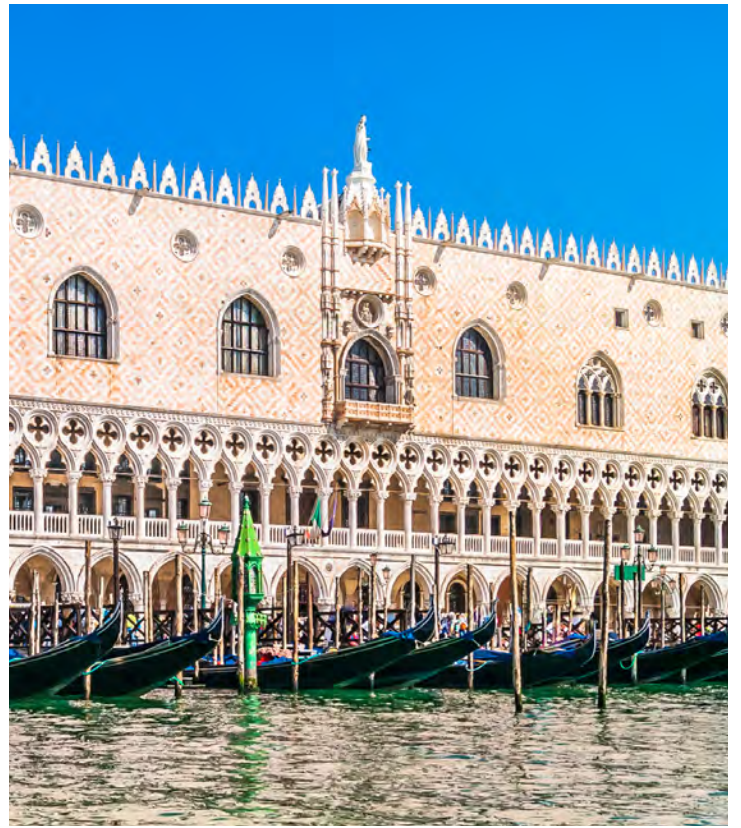
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Photos clockwise from top right: Doge's Palace; Alexander Calder, *Arc of Petals*, 1941, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, photo © Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, by AndreaSarti/CAST1466; View from the Doge's Palace; and Ian Davenport, *Cascade*, 2017, 57th Venice Biennale.

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Saturday, October 17:

Departure

Depart on an overnight flight to Venice.

Sunday, October 18:

Venice, Italy

(R)

Upon arrival, take a comfortable transfer by boat to the **Hotel Gabrielli Venezia**. This evening, we will all attend a festive welcome reception. **R**

Monday, October 19:

Venice

(B,L,D)

A guided tour introduces us to Venice's singular urban layout, a city of 118 islands connected by man-made canals. Afterwards, we will be initiated into a cherished local ritual at a **bacaro**, one of the city's traditional wine bars. Here, we will taste *cicchetti*, Venice's answer to *tapas*, perhaps sampling classics like *baccalà mantecato* (whipped salt cod) or *sarde in saor* (sweet and sour sardines).



Map of the region



Canal to the Giardini

This afternoon, we will enjoy an **exclusive visit to a historic Venetian palace and its private art collection** in the company of the owner. A group dinner is planned for this evening.

Tuesday, October 20:

Venice / Venice Biennale

(B)

Our first of two days exploring the **Venice Biennale** begins in the **Giardini**, the city's first public park, created by order of Napoleon in 1807. Since 1895, this space has served as the heart of the exhibition, a unique architectural park where 30 countries have built permanent national pavilions.

On a private, expert-guided tour, we will explore this open-air museum of modernism, from the Palladian classicism of the United States pavilion to the organic modernism of Sverre Fehn's Nordic Pavilion, built around the garden's existing trees. With free time for lunch, the rest of the day is at your leisure.

Wednesday, October 21:

Venice / Venice Biennale

(B,D)

Our guide leads us into Venice's **Arsenale**, the world's first integrated industrial complex, where a pioneering moving assembly line and standardized parts once allowed 16,000 workers to construct a fully armed war galley in a single day.

Today, the Arsenale's cavernous historic boathouses and ropewalks have been repurposed as a primary exhibition space for the Biennale. After experiencing the exhibits and free time for lunch, the afternoon is at your leisure.



May You Live In Interesting Times, 59th Venice Biennale, 2019



Doge's Palace

We will gather for dinner this evening, followed by a special after-hours tour of the **Doge's Palace**, the city's first ducal residence. In this 14th-century masterpiece of Venetian Gothic architecture, we will explore the seat of the Republic's power, from the grand chamber of the Great Council to the infamous Bridge of Sighs, an enclosed, white limestone bridge built in 1614.

Thursday, October 22:

Venice

(B,L,D)

An exclusive, pre-opening visit awaits at the **Peggy Guggenheim Collection**. Housed in the **Palazzo Venier dei Leoni** on the Grand Canal, this is the former home of Guggenheim, the visionary American collector who famously saved countless masterpieces from the Nazis. Here, we will see seminal works of Cubism, Surrealism, and Abstract Expressionism, including masterpieces by Picasso and Jackson Pollock.

This afternoon is devoted to the **Gallerie dell'Accademia**, the world's most comprehensive collection of Venetian painting. In the company of a curator, we will see how the city's unique, hazy light was translated onto canvas in works like Giorgione's enigmatic *Tempest* and Titian's final, haunting *Pietà*. This evening, we will celebrate our journey at a festive farewell dinner.

Friday, October 23:

Venice / Return

(B)

After breakfast, transfer to the Venice airport for your flight home.



Germaine Richier, *Tauromachy*, 1953, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, photo © Peggy Guggenheim Collection / Matteo De Fina

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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Giorgione, *The Tempest* (detail), 1508, Gallerie dell'Accademia

Program Rate
\$9,999 per person, double rate
\$13,399 single rate

Rate Includes

- Five nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at all included lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all participants
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations



Hotel Gabrielli Venezia

Hotel Gabrielli Venezia

Experience Venice's majesty from this elegant, historic retreat, which is housed in a 14th-century palace right on the Riva degli Schiavoni. Its superb location places you within a short walk of the Arsenale and a quick water taxi ride from the Giardini, the two main venues of the Venice Biennale. Enjoy its stunning lagoon views and refined Venetian hospitality.



Hotel Gabrielli Venezia city view (top) and restaurant (above)



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Front cover: A. M. Quinn, bronze sculpture, 2013 Venice Biennale.
Back cover: Peggy Guggenheim Collection (bottom) and the Arsenal (top).
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