

This is just a sample itinerary which was arranged for some of our esteemed American clients. We have many others which we can suggest and tailor-make according to your choice of destination. Everything is booked and arranged for you in advance by your expert guide Siân Walters who will accompany you throughout the tour.

Our fees include Siân's fees, museum entrances, reservation fees and historical tour notes before the trip.

Ground costs such as hotel accommodation can be paid directly by you, although this is flexible.

Please email us to discuss your requirements: info@arthistoryinfocus.com



ITINERARY for MR HEIM AND MRS KENNEDY

Private Tour of Venice and Verona

"There are not enough superlatives to describe our Italy experience, thanks to you! Your wealth of knowledge, enthusiasm and creativity all contributed to a most memorable trip. We are looking forward to next time",

Mr Bob Heim and Mrs Eileen Kennedy

Day One

Arrival at Verona airport

Transfer to the exclusive GABBIA D'ORO hotel in the city centre by private taxi. The hotel is very comfortable with good facilities, and perfectly appointed in the historical centre of town, just next to the delightful Piazza delle Erbe and only a few minutes' walk from the beautiful Piazza Bra (home to the famous Roman amphitheatre). It is set in an 18th-century building and features wooden ceilings, frescoes and antique paintings. Rooms include period furnishings, minibar, flat-screen TV and free Wifi.

Dinner is booked in a delightful trattoria just a few minutes' from the hotel

Day Two

After breakfast we spend the day strolling through the beautiful city of Verona, where our visits include the fine Romanesque church of San Zeno with its magnificent bronze doors and its altarpiece by Andrea Mantegna; the church of Sant'Anastasia with its famous fresco of St George by Pisanello; the Cathedral and the Scaliger tombs. We have a light lunch in the Piazza Bra where the famous Roman amphitheatre is situated. The third largest in the world, the arena attracts music lovers from all over the world during the annual Opera Festival.

There will be some free time in the afternoon to rest before we leave for dinner. I have booked an excellent table in one of the city's top restaurants which is popular with singers during the opera season. The food is delicious and the atmosphere second to none! I have then booked front stalls tickets for you to attend the opening night of the Verona Opera Festival, at a performance of *Nabucco*.

Day Three

In the morning we take the short taxi to Verona train station and then the train (approx. one hour) to Venice. We transfer to our hotel, the Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal, by private water taxi. This is a beautifully-situated 4-star hotel, ideally situated near the Piazza San Marco but on a very quiet side street. The hotel has a pleasant restaurant where breakfast is also served – in fine weather it can be served outside on the terrace overlooking the Grand Canal and opposite the Salute church.

After lunch we spend the afternoon strolling through the San Marco and Castello districts. We will look at the architectural development of the Piazza San Marco and the smaller Piazzetta next door, and after passing the Bridge of Sighs we pop into a tiny Romanesque cloister which is unknown to many visitors to the city, but full of charm. We then explore some of Venice's most beautiful churches including San Zaccaria and Santa Maria dei Miracoli, and a fascinating painting cycle by Carpaccio in the Scuola of San Giorgio degli Schiavoni.

Dinner (a la carte) is arranged at 8.00 at Taverna La Fenice, next to the famous opera house.

Day Four

We take a vaporetto to the Accademia bridge and spend the morning in the Accademia museum looking at masterpieces by artists such as Bellini, Giorgione, Lotto and Guardi. After lunch in the nearby Peggy Guggenheim Museum, where I used to work, I will give a guided tour of the collection there. Later on we see the spectacular series of canvases painted by Tintoretto for the Scuola di San Rocco as well as Titian's Assumption in the Frari church.

Dinner tonight is booked for 8pm at one of Venice's most famous restaurants in the Cannaregio district.

Day Five

Today we travel to Padua where we will visit the Basilica di Sant'Antonio known as Il Santo, built to house the relics of Sant Anthony of Padua whose miracles are recorded on Donatello's superb sculpted reliefs of the high altar. I have also arranged a private visit to the Scuola del Santo which has some little-known frescoes by Titian. We pass the Palazzo della Ragione, the town's medieval law court, which is surrounded by loggias which shelter shops, restaurants and cafes - I have booked a table for lunch in the famous Caffè Pedrocchi. In the afternoon I have make a reservation to see Giotto's magnificent frescoes which cover the walls of the Scrovegni Chapel.

We return to Venice where dinner is served *al fresco* on the hotel's dining terrace.

Day Six

We travel to Venice airport by private water taxi in order to catch our flights home.