



RAVENNA & VENICE: BYZANTINE TREASURES

WITH CATHERINE OAKES

10 – 17 October 2009 • 8 Days / 7 Nights from £1,795

The World's Finest Mosaics • St Marks Basilica • Byzantine Architecture

Ravenna was the capital of the Byzantine Empire's western regions. It is the best place to see Early Christian and Byzantine church architecture with its stunning marble and mosaic-encrusted monuments. Venice was under the sway of Byzantine rulers in Ravenna for a significant period, and this tour will focus on the resulting blend of architectural and decorative styles.



Basilica Di San Vitale, Ravenna

Day 1 To Ravenna: Fly from London Heathrow to Bologna. Transfer to Ravenna and stay at the Hotel Central Byron for 3 nights. Afternoon visit to Sant' Apollinare in Classe, demonstrating the form of Early Christian basilica churches and glorious mosaics. (D)

Day 2 Ravenna: Visit the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia with its fine early Christian vault mosaics. Continue to San Vitale, one of the most significant Byzantine centrally-planned churches to survive with much of its interior decoration still intact. Afternoon visit to the Residenza dei Vescovo, to see masterpieces from the Museo Arcivescovile, including a 6th century ivory-clad archbishop's throne. (B)

Day 3 Ravenna: Morning visit to the octagonal Orthodox Baptistery, which bears the name of Bishop Neon, who commissioned the interior mosaics and stucco decoration. Visit the cathedral, which contains important Early Christian sarcophagi and a 6th century marble pulpit. Continue to the octagonal Arian Baptistery,

built by Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths. It contains mosaics of Christ's Baptism and a procession of Apostles. Afternoon visit to the basilica of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, built by Theodoric as a palatine church. The splendid mosaics include 26 Christological panels. (B)

Day 4 Pomposa & Venice: Drive to Venice, stopping at Pomposa en route to see the Romanesque abbey. Transfer to the Hotel Bella Venezia for 4 nights. (B)

Day 5 Venice: Morning visit to St Marks Basilica, the finest Byzantine-style church in the west. Continue to the Venice Hellenic Institute with its Byzantine icons. (B)

Day 6 Torcello: Firstly, see the statue of Colleoni, outside the Church of Santi Giovanni

e Paolo (Zanipolo), before crossing to the Island of Torcello, one of the most evocative places in Venice. See the imposing Byzantine baptistery and cathedral with its 12th century mosaics. Continue to the 11th Church of Santa Fosca. (B)

Day 7 Aquileia: Travel to Aquileia to see the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta. Continue to Grado to visit the Basilica of Santa Eufemia, with its magnificent octagonal baptistery and mosaic floor dating from the late 6th century. (B, D)

Day 8 To London: Morning at leisure. Afternoon return flight to London. (B)

Note: If you wish to extend your stay in Venice please contact us for details.

TOUR CODE: BZR

PRICE: £1,795

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: £295

Price Includes: Return flights from London Heathrow with British Airways; accommodation in a 3 & 4 star hotels; transfers; sightseeing; taxes; services of a local Tour Manager. Meal Basis: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.