



THE VENICE BIENNALE & FILM FESTIVAL

with Dr Nick Gordon

Experience two of the most prestigious art festivals in the world – the Venice Biennale and International Film Festival – on this new 9-day tour

HIGHLIGHTS

- Admire contemporary art in historic locations, in palaces on the Grand Canal and the medieval Arsenale
- Attend 7 films at the Venice International Film festival, from the glitz and glamour of the red carpet at a world premiere to arthouse cinema from around the globe
- Enjoy a carefully-curated daily program of exhibitions throughout Venice, including a full day in both the Giardini and the Arsenale, each housing over 20 exhibitions
- Take a day trip to Arte Sella, a magnificent contemporary sculpture park nestled in the Italian Alps
- Discover the modern art collections of Venice and their spectacular settings, from the Prada Foundation in its baroque palace to the Japanese minimalism of the Punta della Dogana

IN A NUTSHELL

DATES: 29 Aug – 06 Sep 2024

ITINERARY: Venice – 8 nights

PRICE: \$7,500pp twinshare

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,510 for sole use of a double room

FITNESS: Moderate: some standing in exhibition spaces, getting on and off boats, some late nights

GROUP SIZE: max. 16 places



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LIMELIGHT
ARTS—TRAVEL

OVERVIEW

The Venice Biennale and the Venice International Film Festival are among the most prestigious arts festivals in the world. The former brings with it more than 120 exhibitions of modern and contemporary art staged in Venice's historic spaces, while the latter attracts world premieres by leading directors from around the globe as well as arthouse productions. The combination is truly a feast for the eye and the mind, all set in the festive ambience of Venice.

This new tour combines visits to the best of the Biennale during the day with a curated selection of films at the Venice International Film Festival in the evening. The tour is complemented by a day trip to Arte Sella, a magnificent sculpture park nestled in the Italian Alps, and by visits to key modern art collections around the city.

TOUR LEADER

Dr Nick Gordon studied history and ancient history at the University of Sydney, receiving First Class Honours and the University Medal in 2003, and his PhD in 2008. Nick is also an artist, working across painting, collage, photography and sculpture.

His desire to dedicate more time to these interests led him to pursue a career in cultural travel, where he finds a constant source of inspiration as well as myriad opportunities to communicate more to group members about the cultures and histories they encounter on tour.

Over the past decade, his love of travel, art and education led Nick to design art and history-focused tours to Western and Central Europe, East Asia and Australia, as well as to international art events, including the Venice Biennale, the Venice International Film Festival, and Art Basel in Switzerland and Hong Kong.



Above, from the top: Simone Leigh's sculptures at the Venice Biennale in 2022; cutting-edge "living sculpture" garden at the Biennale, 2022.

Below, your tour leader Dr Nick Gordon.



DETAILED ITINERARY

**** This program will be updated with further information about the artists and exhibitions of the 2024 Biennale, as they are announced throughout 2023. The line-up for the Film Festival will be announced in early August 2024. ****

Thursday 29 August – Palazzo Manfrin (aperitif and *cicchetti*)

The tour begins this afternoon when we gather at our hotel and together visit Palazzo Manfrin, a sixteenth-century palace recently restored by the Anish Kapoor Foundation. The palace opened to the public in 2022 with an inaugural exhibition of Kapoor's work. After our visit, we enjoy welcome drinks and *cicchetti* (traditional Venetian tapas) at a local wine bar. Overnight Venice.

Friday 30 August – The Giardini Biennale (B, L)

In the early twentieth century, the Giardini – a Napoleonic greenspace built over the top of workers' accommodation – became the Biennale's permanent home. Today, its tree-lined avenues are punctuated by pavilions, designed for the display of art by architects such as Alvar Aalto and Carlo Scarpa. We begin the day at the Central Pavilion, whose exhibition takes in masterpieces by artists from around the world and is curated by Adriano Pedrosa, the first person from Latin America (and indeed, the first person based in the southern hemisphere) to be appointed artistic director of the Biennale. We then visit a selection of the Giardini's national pavilions, including the USA, France and Great Britain. A particular highlight is the Australia Pavilion, this year represented by Archie Moore, a Kamilaroi/Bigambul artist who is just the second Indigenous artist to represent Australia at the Biennale with a solo exhibition. We then enjoy a late lunch together before traveling to the Lido by water taxi to attend the first of our selection of films at the Venice International Film Festival. Overnight Venice.

Saturday 31 August – The Arsenale (B, aperitif)

Over the past 40 years, the Venice Biennale has sought to better reflect the international nature of contemporary art by facilitating the representation of a greater number of non-European nations. Doing this meant offering up more exhibition space, and so Venice's historic shipyards, empty for decades, were renovated to create 40,000 square metres of additional room. This morning we discover the Arsenale and its surrounds, exploring the second part of Pedrosa's thematic exhibition before visiting a selection of national pavilions, including Argentina, Ghana, New Zealand and the Philippines. The afternoon is at leisure, and there is the option to continue visiting exhibitions in the Castello district with your tour leader. In the late afternoon, we meet for drinks in the hotel to discuss what we have seen today before taking water taxis to the Film Festival for our next session. Overnight Venice.

Sunday 01 September – Contemporary art in the San Marco district (B, aperitif)

As the Biennale has grown, it has helped transform Venice into a playground for modern and contemporary art, attracting numerous exhibitions of international standing each year. Today we visit some of these exhibitions in historic locations in Venice, such as the Doge's Palace. After a break for lunch, we visit the Olivetti showroom designed by Carlo Scarpa, and then a selection of smaller exhibitions in the San Marco neighbourhood, ending at the Palazzo Grassi. This eighteenth-century palace was transformed into an art gallery by FIAT magnate



Gianni Agnelli, and was later sold to François Pinault who uses it to host exhibitions of leading contemporary artists. After visiting the exhibition, we return to freshen up before our evening's films. Overnight Venice.

Monday 02 September – San Giorgio Maggiore (B)

The island of San Giorgio Maggiore, home to a Benedictine monastery for over 1,000 years, has become a key venue for exhibitions during the Venice Biennale. This morning our visit to the island includes the contemporary art on display in Palladio's monumental Abbey of San Giorgio Maggiore, an exhibition of glass art at the Stanze del Vetro. After a break for lunch, we visit the Fortuny Museum, which integrates superb contemporary art exhibitions into its permanent collection of the house, textiles and design of Mariano Fortuny. In the late afternoon, we meet at our hotel to take water taxis to the Lido for the next of our selection of films. Overnight Venice.

Tuesday 03 September – Arte Sella and the Tomba Brion (B, L)

Today we take a day trip outside of Venice by private coach. Our first stop is at the Tomba Brion, a monumental tomb designed by Carlo Scarpa for the Brion family in the late 1960s. The tomb complex fuses Scarpa's elegant mid-century modernism with the rich symbolism of life and death, creating a peaceful place of meditation. We then continue into the Alps, where we enjoy an early lunch in a local restaurant before visiting Arte Sella. This little-known but outstanding contemporary sculpture park hosts large-scale works and land art that take full advantage of the tranquil alpine forests and mountain views. In the late afternoon, we return to Venice. Overnight Venice.

Wednesday 04 September – Art around town (B)

The success of the Biennale has transformed Venice into a city of modern art, with multiple museums hosting excellent exhibitions during the event. Today we visit exhibitions across the city, including solo exhibitions by leading artists in historic locations and a curated selection of national pavilions, which are often in palaces not usually accessible to the public. The afternoon is at leisure, before we attend the Film Festival this evening. Overnight Venice.

Thursday 05 September – Ca' Pesaro and the Prada Foundation (B, L)

This morning we take a leisurely stroll through the Rialto markets to Ca' Pesaro, Italy's first public museum of modern art. The museum's permanent collection grew from acquisitions during the first decades of the Biennale and places modern Italian art in its broader European and American contexts. We then visit the Prada Foundation in the restored seventeenth-century Palazzo Corner della Regina, which hosts exceptionally well-curated art exhibitions during the Biennale. After lunch together at a local restaurant, the afternoon is at leisure before we attend our final film at the Festival. Overnight Venice.

Friday 06 September – Departure (B)

The tour concludes after breakfast in the hotel this morning.



INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights' accommodation in a 4-star hotel
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches, plus welcome drinks, aperitifs and *cicchettis* as listed in the itinerary
- Entry fees and tickets to sites mentioned in the final itinerary
- Tickets to at least 7 films screening as part of the Venice International Film Festival
- 9 days of access to Venice's public transport network
- Guided tours and entrance fees as mentioned in the final itinerary, and tipping
- Talks and expertise of an Australian tour leader throughout

HOTELS

Hotel Al Codega 4*, Venice, 8 nights

<https://www.hotelalcodega.com>

The four-star Hotel Al Codega is ideal for a long stay in Venice. It is a family-run establishment with just 21 rooms, meaning our group will occupy most of the hotel. Located in a hidden courtyard between St Mark's and the Rialto, it is both quiet and central. Its breakfast, with pastries and other tempting delights still made in-house, is legendary.

FINAL PROGRAM

Nations and museums participating in the Venice Biennale will announce their 2024 exhibitions throughout 2023. The itinerary will be updated with details of specific exhibitions when these become available.

The Film Festival line up will be announced in early August 2024. Our selection of films will include a world premiere, major productions and arthouse cinema from around the globe. Films whose primary language is not English have English subtitles.

TOUR DETAILS

DATES

29 August – 06 September 2024

TOUR LEADER

Dr Nick Gordon

ITINERARY

Venice – 8 nights

PRICE

\$ 7,500pp twinshare

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$1510 for sole use of a double room

FITNESS

Moderate: some standing in exhibition spaces, getting on and off boats, some late nights

GROUP SIZE

Maximum 16 places

DEPOSIT

\$1,000pp at the time of booking

FINAL PAYMENT DUE

14 June 2024

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By booking on this tour, you accept our terms and conditions, which can be found on our website:

<https://www.limelight-arts-travel.com.au/terms-and-conditions-tours>

