



ITALY

Information on your destination

Documents to take

Passport (or an identity card if you come from a European country within the Schengen treaty). You must be 18 years old to pilot a boat.

Highway Code

Minimum age 18 years, compulsory to wear seatbelts front and back. Speed limits: motorways: 130 km/h – other roads: 90 km/h – in-built up areas: 50 km/h.

Opening Hours

Shops open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 3.30 pm to 7 pm on weekdays, closed on Mondays. Large stores open without a break from 9.30 am to 8 pm.

Phone

The international code for Italy: +39. You keep the '0' for domestic numbers, and for mobile numbers, you leave it.

In case of emergency

Fire: 115

Police:113

Marinerescue:1530

Internationalemergency:112

Fishing

Trolling prohibited. Fishing in the Lagoon of Venice doesn't require a fishing licence. For all the rivers a fishing licence is required. Ordering a fishing licence is complicated. Please contact the base of Chioggia for details.

Advice for navigation

This is a region that requires more attention. The tides play an important role, and the level of the water in the lagoon is generally quite shallow. As this level is not deep, it's very important to respect the buoys and to stay in mid channel. If you don't respect this rule, there is a great risk of running aground. Refloating a boat involves important costs. These are covered neither by the insurance nor by the accidental damage waiver and will be for you to pay should this happen.

Contrary to the canals or tributaries, the breakdown service can only intervene on the lagoon by boat, which means that, depending on the tides. The intervention might only be carried out after several hours and a wait of 4 - 6 hours isn't impossible. You should take this into account. Take note that the navigation on the lagoon is much easier than on the Brenta Canal - where the locks are much narrower with a violent current.

These locks require skilfulness and at least two agile people to help with the manoeuvres. During your initiation, the instructor will go through all the details. On the Brenta Canal and the Sile, some locks and bridges are open at set times. They will be given at the base. Going through the lifting bridges is free except for 'Torre di Fine' (€20 per passage) which is situated between Jesolo and Caorle. The waterway police controls regularly the compliance of navigation restrictions in particular areas (these will be explained at the starting out formalities).

They can also punish an illegal mooring. The captain of the boat is personally responsible to pay the fine for any violation of the rules, even if he didn't steer the boat himself. By signing the hire contract, the captain obligates to respect the navigation rules and to pay for every penalty.