



ITALY BIKE & BARGE OCTOBER 11 – 19, 2019

Cabins purchased after May 21st, 2018
will be on a first come, first served basis and subject to availability.

Sandy Wilson – Trip Leader: 239-961-2681
Naplesskiclub1@comcast.net



Italy / Mantua-Venice

[watch the video \(3 min\)](#)

[CTRL & CLICK on the underline](#)

Or type into your browser <https://vimeo.com/37724869>

Aboard Ave Maria

Blending nature, culture and fine cuisine, this leisurely bike and barge tour along the River Po offers more than just a taster of Northern Italy. It explores celebrated cities of art, one of Europe's prime Nature Reserves, and a wealth of tucked-away rural hamlets, rewarding our daily rides with authentic regional dishes back on board. The tour starts in Mantua – in its heyday a major city state crowned by the Italian Renaissance – progresses to Ferrara and culminates in Venice. Along the way: Adria, once a key Roman port; the natural wonders of the Po Delta, famed for its birdlife; and colorful Chioggia, gateway to the Venetian lagoon. Finally: the glory of Venice herself.

BARGE TRIP PRICE

Standard Double Cabin	\$2,285 per person/dbl occ
Superior Double Cabin	\$2,471 per person/dbl occ
Single Cabin	\$2,763 per person/sgl occ

(for single supplement in Standard Double Cabin \$4,570 per person/sgl occ)

AIR – estimated at \$1,500: To be determined approx. November 2018

Transfer RT airport to barge: \$140 (includes driver tip)

[CLICK HERE FOR TRIP RESERVATION FORM](#) – download and send in today!

Day by Day Itinerary

1. Mantua

We welcome you aboard your new home-from-home from 4.30 p.m. onwards, and then regroup for the introductory briefing – at 6.30 – with your tour leader, skipper and crew, along with a first refreshing aperitivo. After dinner we can stroll into town and savour the historic center at its most evocative: Benvenuti a Mantova!

2. Mantua round tour (35 km)

A day dedicated to the discovery of this little visited cultural gem, its three picturesque “lakes” formed by the Mincio, and its surrounding countryside – once a City State ruled by the Gonzaga family and now considered by many as Italy’s “**Sleeping Beauty**”.

A cruise on a local barge lets us discover a **waterscape** rich in birdlife, lilies and other aquatic flora. This afternoon we meet our Mantuan guide for a walking tour of the historic centre, and enjoy the rest of the day in town, at our own leisure.

3. Mantua – Zelo (50 km)

After breakfast, we set sail from the “lakes” of Mantua and cruise through the lush wetlands that lead to **Governolo Lock**, where Mantua’s River Mincio flows into the Po.

Here, we saddle up and follow the broad sweeps of the levee towards **Ostiglia**, renowned for its medieval fortress and fierce fighting in 1945, as the Allies drove Hitler’s forces back.

Next: **Bergantino**, home of the distinctive **Museum of Fairground Rides** and its collection of street organs, all expertly restored (and thunderous!). This village is also in the heartland of **Grana Padano** – the arch-rival of Parmesan – and a visit to the local cheese factory, sampling some well seasoned Grana, is de rigueur. We catch up with our Ave Maria in **Zelo**, a sleepy village on the Canal Bianco, the waterway which runs parallel to the Po.

4. Zelo – Ferrara – Adria (50 km by bike + 60 km by bus)

This morning we cross the Po and ride southwards through a patchwork of farmland, orchards and hamlets, as far as **Ferrara**. Under its ruling family, the Este, this city state attracted architects, artists and scholars for centuries, pioneering town planning principles that have been emulated worldwide ever since. To this day, Ferrara University ranks among the best, and the town is dubbed the “Cycling Capital of Italy”.

A private bus and trailer then take us back to our floating hotel in **Adria**, an ancient Roman port once washed by the sea which bears its name. Adria is also renowned for its Etruscan and Greek heritage. An after-dinner passeggiata into town for a well-earned grappa or gelato is in order.

5. Adria – Po Delta Nature Reserve – Chioggia/Pellestrina (40 km)

After a short cruise, we cycle into the delta of the life-giving Po. This unique wetland is the prime reserve in Europe for herons and home to a sizeable colony of flamingos. Weather permitting, as we continue towards **Chioggia**, we can also enjoy a break at a fine-sand beach nearby for a dip in the Adriatic – not forgetting a hot savoury piadina! Also known as “Little Venice”, the colourful fishing hub of Chioggia is a great place to “go local”, and what better way than by making your own bigoli for dinner? This quintessentially Venetian type of pasta is at its best when made fresh, and a delicacy served with a creamy baccalà sauce.

6. Chioggia/Pellestrina – Venice (30 km)

Venice beckons, but first another world altogether: Pellestrina, the first of two islands we traverse today – a humble and tranquil fishing backwater, picturesque as ever with its cottages, boats and nets. A short island-hop by ferry lands us on the Lido. Fashionable in high society ever since the Belle Époque, the Lido di Venezia is now home to the International **Venice Film Festival** and its galaxy of stars. After rejoining our Ave Maria, an unrushed cruise takes us to our final destination. After dinner we can savour Venice at night, now free of the crowds and at her most romantic: Benvenuti a Venezia!

7. Venice

After breakfast – and perhaps following a wander off the beaten track with your tour leader – we all meet up with our Venetian guide for a tour through the historic centre. Christened La Serenissima (“The Most Serene”), the Venetian Republic held sway over much of the Mediterranean (and beyond) for centuries – both as a military power and a beacon of culture, her explorers reaching as far as China and Newfoundland. After your guided tour, you have the afternoon free to enjoy the city at your own pace.

8. Venice

Departure after breakfast.

The programme has been planned to feature navigation along the Fissero/ Bianco canal, which runs parallel to the Po river and connects Mantua to the Adriatic Sea. Due to organizational reasons, weather conditions or provisions issued by local authorities, the itinerary may be subject to some changes before and/or during the holiday. Issues with high and low water, as well as logistic obstacles such as officially ordered - previously not announced - repair work on locks or bridges can modify some of the daily stretches or overnight stays and may even request a transfer by bus. These decisions are only taken by the boat’s captain.



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Trip Reservation Form

Sandy Wilson – Trip Leader: 239-961-2681 Naplesskiclub1@comcast.net

*Must be a member of the SWFL Ski Club or FSC member to participate in our trips
Separate Reservation Required for each Person*

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- 7 overnights
- Full board (breakfast, dinner and a self-made packed lunch)
- Coffee and tea and other hot drinks on board
- Unisex bike rental
- Sheets and towels
- Courtesy kit (soap, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner)
- Daily short cleaning of the cabin
- Travel Guide, Maps, Roadbook
- English speaking tour leader
- Second tour leader with a minimum of 25 people
- Guided visit in Venice and Mantua
- Visit of a cheese factory with tasting of typical Grana Padano
- Visit of Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum
- Harbor charges
- Bus transfer Zelo-Ferrara/ Zelo-Adria

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- E-bike (limited amount available)
- Beverages on board
- Museums, fees and extras in general
- Ticket for public transportation in Venice
- Tips



BARGE – PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

DEPOSIT – due at time of reservation: \$1,000 plus insurance premium (in separate check) if purchasing group policy

FINAL: Balance due April 1st 2019

- Standard Double Cabin \$2,285 per person (dbl occ) \$_____ Barge
- Superior Double Cabin \$2,471 per person (dbl occ)
- Single Cabin \$2,763 per person (sngl/occ)
- (for single supplement in Standard Double Cabin \$4570 (\$2285x2) (sngl/occ) \$_____ single supp

AIR – estimated at \$1,500 to be determined approx. November 2018 \$ TBA Air RT

- Air Roundtrip
- Transfer roundtrip airport to barge \$140 (incl tip for driver) \$_____ TRANSFER

- eBike Rental** - \$138 (Rentals will be secured April 1st 2019. Separate check for rentals will be due at that time) \$_____ ebike
(Unisex bike is included in trip fee)
- Helmet Rental – \$19 \$_____ helmet

- Trip Insurance is highly recommended – 6% of barge price for group policy
All insurance needs to be paid at time of reservation with a separate check – payable to Naples Ski Club
- (\$2,285 Standard Double \$138.00 insurance \$_____ insurance
- \$2,471 Superior Double \$149.00 insurance
- \$2,763 Single Cabin \$166.00 insurance
- (for single supplement in Standard Double Cabin \$4570 \$275.00 Insurance) \$_____ single supp ins

- Trip insurance - I will secure individual trip insurance policy through Travel Guard or similar; optional
- TOTAL TRIP COST:** \$ _____
Minus Deposit: - \$1,000.00
BALANCE DUE: \$ _____ Bal due 4/1/2019

Pricing subject fuel surcharges and are based on current tariffs/exchange rates in effect as of the printing date. Prices of all trips are subject to change due to unforeseen increases

Pricing reflects a 3.0% cash/check discount. SWFL Ski Club accepts Credit Card payments. Credit Card and Check Payments cannot be combined. How you make your deposit, dictates how you will pay all subsequent payments

DEPOSIT MUST BE RECEIVED AT TIME OF RESERVATION

- I will be paying by check. Make checks payable to: NAPLES SKI CLUB
- I will be paying by credit card. You will be invoiced to pay online
- Mail/email your Reservation Form to the trip leader as soon as you complete the form – (Reservation Process outlined on next page)

- Check if you are currently a member of the SWFL Ski Club
- If not a current member, please print membership form and include with the trip reservation along with a **separate check of \$50**. Other FSC club members pay \$1 reciprocal membership fee. Click here for membership form.

Passport Name _____

Local Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth _____

Telephone – Land line _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Roommate Preference _____

eBike Rental: Yes No Helmet: Yes No

Frequent Flyer # _____ Known Traveler # _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact Phone (Cell # preferred): _____ Email: _____

Passport # _____ Expiration Date _____

*****Include copy of passport with application**

AIR TRAVEL INFORMATION: TBD November, 2018

PARTICIPANTS SEEKING A ROOMMATE:

For participants seeking a roommate to share the cabin expense, SWFLSC will make every effort to find a roommate suitable to both parties, however, SWFLSC is not guaranteeing that a roommate will be found. Should a roommate not be found the participant must be prepared to assume the expense of paying the cost of a single room – if available due to limited availability. Once single cabins are sold – you are responsible to pay the cost of 2 travelers for a double.

TRIP INSURANCE: SWFL Ski Club **strongly advises that members consider purchasing trip insurance because cancellation policies will be strictly enforced.** Our tour operator can provide trip insurance coverage or you can secure independent trip insurance to offer all inclusive coverage through Travel Guard or similar. However, be aware that all policies differ regarding coverage so please review all terms carefully prior to purchasing a policy. Individual Trip insurance generally needs to be purchased upon making the deposit for a trip.

Click here for trip insurance detail as offered by the operator www.trippreserver.com or type this web address into your browser. Group insurance policy is offered through the tour operator and premium is due with the initial deposit.

CANCELLATION POLICY: *Cancellations must be made in writing to the Trip Leader. Our trips have cancellation policies based on when cancellation takes place. Any refunds are subject to a \$100 club cancellation fee and any cancellation fees from the trip operator and barge company. You should not assume that you will be able to obtain a refund from the club for deposits or trip payments. Any refunds will be made after conclusion of the trip and all bills have been paid minus any non-recoverable expenses. In the event the SWFL Ski Club has to cancel the trip all deposits will be refunded to participants.*

The SWFL Ski Club will make a reasonable effort to find a replacement for this cabin. However, the club is not obligated to find a replacement and is not responsible for any monies forfeited by the participant. The participant is also encouraged to find a replacement.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: All U. S. Citizens participating in this tour program are required to have a **U. S. Passport valid for at least 6 months beyond the return date of the tour.** If you do not have a passport, or your passport has expired, apply for a passport at the nearest Post Office ASAP or online. Any non-U.S. Citizens participating in this tour must check with the appropriate consulate for all countries being visited and transited, to ensure that they have met all entry requirements. It is the participant's responsibility to be sure that all proper entry requirements are met and that they have all the appropriate documents necessary. **NOTE:** Generally, convicted felons are not admitted to foreign countries. Please keep this in mind before booking a trip to a foreign country, as the club cannot be held responsible should you be denied access. Prior to your trip departure date, make a copy of your passport and give it to your Trip Leader

RESERVATION PROCESS – submit the following forms:

Click on web address or type into your browser and scroll to the very bottom to download the forms needed.

<https://www.swflskiclub.com/Ski-Trips.html>

1. Trip Reservation Form – scan or take a picture with your phone and email to the trip leader at: Napleskiclub1@comcast.net
2. Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement
3. Code of Conduct Agreement
4. Roommate Agreement – if applicable
5. Copy of Passport
6. **Membership Application** with \$50 payment - if your membership is not current
7. Mail your completed and signed forms to Sandy Wilson, PO Box 1008, Naples, FL 34106. All payments are made payable to: Naples Ski Club,
 - If you do not receive a CONFIRMATION EMAIL for receipt of your check, please contact Sandy 239-961-2681

I agree to sign the SWFL Ski Club Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, The Code of Conduct and Roommate Agreement (if applicable); and to abide by all terms of these agreements

Signature: _____ Date: _____