THE PEARLS OF THE PO
From Venice to Parma Aboard La Venezia
With Harvard Study Leader Joyce E. Chaplin
May 9–17, 2020
This spring, aboard the luxurious, newly renovated supership La Venezia, embark on a rare cruise along the legendary Po River from Venice to Parma, savoring la bella vita in northern Italy. The Po Valley has produced some of Italy’s most notable cuisine, as well as spectacular art, architecture, and music. Padua, Parma, Mantua, and Ravenna are towns that have inspired the likes of Shakespeare, yet their historic treasures remain underexplored. On this weeklong tour, the first of its kind in over a decade, discover the abundance of the Po River and its surroundings.

Begin with a scenic tour of the Venetian Lagoon before gliding into the picturesque fishing village of Chioggia. In Padua, view frescoes by Giotto, bronzes by Donatello, and spectacular architecture and scenery. Next, sail to Ferrara to marvel at its stunning palazzi and cathedral. In Parma, explore a Romanesque Cathedral, admire awe-inspiring works of art at the National Gallery, and enjoy an exclusive tour of one of Italy’s most renowned opera houses. In Mantua, enter two exquisite palazzi to view precious objects, grand architecture, and art masterpieces. Byzantine and early Christian mosaics await your discovery in Ravenna.

On return to Venice, select one of three private tours to conclude your journey: explore the city’s grand museum with an art historian; go behind the scenes at its famous opera house; or discover the famous modern art collection at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum. Extraordinary cuisine and luxurious accommodations make this trip a true delight for all the senses. An optional prelude to Asolo and the Palladian Villas is also available.

Activity Level 2: 🚶‍♂️ 🚶‍♀️ 🚶‍♂️ 🚶‍♀️ 🚶‍♂️

WHAT TO EXPECT
I enjoy walking up to a couple of miles a day, but my pace is more stroll than scamper. I can get on and off a tour bus or boat, and standing for a period of time in a museum or historic site is about as much as I can handle.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL

Study Leader
Joyce E. Chaplin is the James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History at Harvard University, where she teaches the histories of science, climate, colonialism, and environment. She is also an affiliated faculty member in Harvard’s Department of the History of Science, an affiliate of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, a faculty member of Harvard’s American Studies Program, and a faculty associate of the Harvard University Center for the Environment. She serves on the faculty executive board of the Harvard Museums of Science and Culture and is a trustee of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the first historical society in the United States (founded 1791). A former Fulbright Scholar to the United Kingdom, she has taught at six different institutions. Professor Chaplin has led several Harvard Alumni trips and her lectures often feature topics where humans and nature meet, including subjects in history, intellectual history, the history of science, and environmental history.
Schedule by Day

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner

SATURDAY, MAY 9
Departure
Depart for Venice on an overnight flight.

SUNDAY, MAY 10
Venice, Italy / Embark
Arrive at Venice’s Marco Polo International Airport, where you will be transferred to the boat. Unpack, relax, and enjoy your first evening on the Venetian Lagoon. This afternoon, embark on an optional walking tour through the Cannaregio neighborhood, known for its local flavor and picturesque squares and canals. Alternatively, go out and explore the city at your leisure. Tonight, enjoy an exclusive, after-hours visit to St. Mark’s Basilica, with its spellbinding, glittering mosaics.

MONDAY, MAY 11
Venice / Chioggia
Take a scenic cruise through the historic Venetian Lagoon to the picturesque fishing village of Chioggia, then choose among three options today. You may enjoy a gentle bike ride along the waterways and through the town of Chioggia. Or you may choose to travel to Padua for a guided stroll through the Old Town, including visits to the Scrovegni Chapel, famous for its rich and elaborate frescoes by Giotto, and the Basilica of St. Anthony, with its bronzes by Donatello. Finally, your third option is a guided visit of Villa Valmarana, one of the grand villas along the bucolic Brenta Canal, opened exclusively for us. Enjoy a festive captain’s welcome reception and dinner this evening.

TUESDAY, MAY 12
Ferrara
Disembark this morning for an excursion to Ferrara, once a center for the arts ruled by the Este family. Meticulously designed by urban planner Biagio Rossetti, Ferrara was the first fully executed concept of an ideal city during the Renaissance. Explore its pioneering layout during guided walks around the city. Walk the cobbled streets of the UNESCO-designated city center, full of grand palaces including the Palazzo dei Diamanti, whose façade is studded with marble blocks carved to resemble diamonds. Stroll through the ancient Jewish quarter, whose community has lived here continuously since the Middle Ages, and visit the newly opened Jewish Museum. Admire the 12th-century cathedral, which combines Romanesque and Gothic styles in its three-tiered pink and white marble façade. Return to the ship in the late afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13
Parma
Today journey to Parma, which has existed since Roman times and is famous for producing two of Italy’s most iconic foods: Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese and prosciutto. Take a tour exploring the town’s rich culinary traditions, sampling the local specialties along the way. Alternatively, marvel at the architectural highlights of the historic city of Parma: from the Romanesque cathedral whose cupola by Correggio is a masterpiece of perspective to the octagonal Baptistery, considered one of the finest medieval buildings in Italy. Explore the 13th-century San Giovanni Pharmacy, filled with apothecary jars on ancient wooden shelves. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the famous Teatro Regio, one of the country’s most renowned opera houses, linked with great composers like Verdi and Rossini (pending final confirmation). Stroll through vibrant Piazza Garibaldi, and step inside the Basilica di Santa Maria della Steccata to marvel at the work of Parmigianino. At the National Gallery of Parma, admire works by Parmigianino, Correggio, and Tintoretto.

THURSDAY MAY 14
Mantua
Step off the ship today to discover Mantua, called La Bella Addormentata, or “Sleeping Beauty.” You will visit the stunning Palazzo Ducale, created by the powerful Gonzaga family, the largest residence in Italy after the Vatican. With

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more than 500 rooms, a basilica, courtyards, and gardens, the palace contains precious tapestries based on cartoons by Raphael, spellbinding frescoes by Andrea Mantegna, and extraordinary murals by Pisanello. A short distance away, explore Giulio Romano’s awe-inspiring creation Palazzo Te, a fine example of mannerism in architecture. Inside, admire the painted Hall of the Horses and the Chamber of the Giants.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Ravenna

Get an in-depth look at the UNESCO-listed Byzantine and early Christian mosaics in Ravenna, capital of the Western Roman Empire from 402 to 476 A.D. Visit Sant’Apollinare in Classe, with its glorious 6th-century apse covered in brilliant mosaics. Then see the mausoleum of Galla Placidia and Theodoric the Great’s churches—San Vitale and Sant’Apollinare Nuovo—with their extraordinary mosaics. This evening, we will dine al fresco as La Venezia sails from the Venetian Lagoon along the shores dotted with picturesque fishing villages.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

Venice

Docked in Venice, choose among several options to savor this beautiful city: take a tour led by an art historian of the Accademia, Venice’s grand museum housing masterworks by Tiepolo, Veronese, and Bellini; explore Venice’s famous opera house, La Fenice, on a behind-the-scenes tour; or take a guided tour of the Peggy Guggenheim Museum to view its fascinating modern art collection. Return for lunch on board and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. This evening, attend the captain’s farewell reception and dinner.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

Venice / Return

Disembark in Venice this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home.
Ship Details

The 130-passenger La Venezia, undergoing a total interior renovation that will be completed in March 2020, is filled with light and color. The redesign of the super ship will be inspired by Venetian culture, and La Venezia will feature six elegantly appointed suites; three dining venues, including an Italian kitchen on the upper deck; spa; library; lounge and bar. Relax in riverview staterooms and suites with marble bathrooms and handcrafted Savoir® of England beds. Experience a meticulous standard of hospitality including 24-hour room service and concierge services, with butler service in all suites. Savor gourmet dining with unlimited beverages, including premium spirits, beer, and wine. NOTE: As La Venezia is undergoing extensive renovations until early 2020, photos may not reflect the ship’s final appearance.

Rates Per Person

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CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare, and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

INSURANCE We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/venetian-lagoon-2020. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 671-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

Questions Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 671-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

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City streets of Parma, photo by Adrian Scottow
Trip Sampling

**LAND & RAIL**

- **Journey in Greece** for Students & Alumni
  JAN 10–19, 2020
  Keith Stone

- **Tanzania Migration Safari**
  MAR 6–16, 2020
  Joseph Henrich

- **HMSC Colombia: From Bogota to Cartagena**
  MAR 12–23, 2020
  Jeffrey Quilter

- **Detroit, The Motor City: Then & Now**
  MAY 14–18, 2020
  Alice DeLana

- **The Holy Land: Israel & Palestine**
  SEP 6–16, 2020
  Peter Machinist

- **HMSC Silk Road Odyssey: The Five 'Stans**
  OCT 5–23, 2020
  Alexandra Vacroux

- **Kumano Kodo: The Sacred Sites & Pilgrimage Routes of the Kii Mountains of Japan**
  NOV 6–14, 2020

**CRUISES**

- **Mediterranean Masterpieces: Cádiz to Nice on Sea Cloud II**
  APR 16–25, 2020
  Joseph A. Greene

- **Crossroads of Cultures: Canary Islands, Morocco, & Iberia on Sea Spirit**
  APR 17–30, 2020
  Susan G. Miller

- **Sailing Ancient Trade Routes: Helsinki to Copenhagen on Sea Cloud II**
  JUN 27–JUL 9, 2020
  Timothy Colton

- **Celtic Classics on the Irish Sea on Sea Cloud II**
  AUG 8–16, 2020
  Catherine McKenna

- **Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Catania on Sea Cloud II**
  OCT 4–12, 2020
  Lino Pertile

- **Sicily by Sail: Catania to Naples on Sea Cloud II**
  OCT 11–19, 2020
  Diana Sorensen

- **New Year’s Galapagos on Origin**
  DEC 26, 2020–JAN 4, 2021
  James Costa

**RIVERS & LAKES**

- **Elbe River Cruise on Elbe Princesse II**
  MAR 31–APR 11, 2020
  Thomas F. Kelly

- **Great Journey Through Europe: The Rhine River and Switzerland**
  JUL 17–27, 2020
  Christie McDonald

- **Iconic Christmas Markets: Vienna to Nuremberg on AmaViola**
  DEC 6–14, 2020

**FAMILY ADVENTURES**

- **Egypt & The Nile: A Journey into Antiquity on Sanctuary Sun Boat III**
  DEC 26, 2020–JAN 6, 2021
  Jay Ellison

- **Egypt & the Nile** (A Family Adventure)
  on Sanctuary Nile Adventurer
  DEC 27, 2019–JAN 5, 2020
  Noel Michele Holbrook

- **Greece Family Odyssey: The Peloponnese on Running on Waves**
  JUN 18–27, 2020
  James Simpson

- **Japan Family Adventure (Tokyo, Kyoto & Hiroshima)**
  JUN 27–JUL 8, 2020
  Ted Gilman
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