



Venice Carnival

Country

Italy

Region

Venice

Instructor

Jonathan Maher

Dates

19 Feb > 25 Feb 09

Price

£1470.00

Overview

The Venice Carnival Workshop is one of our most popular workshops, and we believe it deserves its reputation. Central to our philosophy in offering great photographic experiences, is ensuring we deliver to our participants something they would not be able to see or experience on their own. A large number of photographers visit Venice each year for the Carnival, indeed many workshops too.

For one, it is our home. We know Venice intimately and each year run more than five Masterclasses and Workshops in the city. We don't let you simply roam the streets, hoping to bump into people in costume. What we offer is quite different from the average photo tour. We have dedicated models who pose for us on private shoots in carefully chosen locations around Venice. Our models perform professionally, and each year design and create for us extravagant costumes. We also rent a 15th Century Palace overlooking the Grand Canal, in which we do a shoot with models in period costume.

Itinerary

What is Included

- All tuition & critique sessions
- Private Models and Palace hire
- Accommodation in single room with en suite bathroom (no single room supplement required)
- Breakfasts
- Meet and greet at Venice Marco Polo airport by VSP staff upon arrival (only on feb 19th)
- Transportation to and from Venice airport into Venice
- Transportation around Venice during Workshop
- Farewell dinner on last night

What is Not Included

- International air travel into Italy
- Lunches & dinners except first and last night
- Photographic materials & processing

Calendar



Thursday 19 February 2009 - ARRIVAL DAY

Once you arrive in Venice and have had time to relax we'll meet in the lobby of the hotel to break the ice with a drink and then we'll go out to dinner together

Friday 20 February 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 1

In the morning there will be a briefing and introductory talk by VSP founder and Workshop leader Jonathan Maher We'll walk to the Rialto area for a quick lunch exploring the city's principle market and then travel a short distance to a secluded part of Venice to meet up with our models. They will be dressed in colourful abstract Carnival costumes designed especially for VSP Workshops.

We'll walk back to the hotel and take some time to download our images and relax before going out to dinner together.

Saturday 21 February 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 2

After the crowds and the activities of the past days we'll enjoy a quiet sunrise shoot in San Marco, when only the masks and really dedicated photographers are out.

Back to hotel for breakfast

Today we will take part of the Carnival activity in streets and piazzas of the city, masks, passers-by, photographers, stands and lots of pigeons all conveniently in front of our cameras. We will also have the chance to meet with our models in a secluded part of Venice to take some more costume shots but in our time.

Break for lunch

Image review session back at hotel

After a break to relax we will go out for dinner

Sunday 22 February 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 3

Today will be a treat! Right after breakfast we take a boat to the colourful island of Burano where we'll meet our models. Today they will have different Carnival costumes designed especially for VSP Workshops and chosen especially to be modelled in the colourful streets of Burano.

Lunch

Continue shoot in Burano

After a break at the hotel we'll head out for dinner together.

Monday 23 February 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 4

Today we will go to one of our favourite location. We'll have the chance to photograph inside a stunning 15th century Venetian Palace overlooking the Grand Canal. Here we'll have the use of the whole palace, the sumptuous reception, the balcony, the drawing room and the bedroom. Our two models in period costumes will make sure you'll go away with the most stunning images.

Quick lunch nearby

Palace shoot continued - we will explore the use of artificial lighting and location portrait considerations.

Back to hotel for review session

Dinner together

Tuesday 24 February 2009 - WORKSHOP DAY 5

This morning we will meet again with our models that will perform in more new costumes for us. In a secluded location we'll ensure you get truly unique shots in stunning areas of the city not everybody gets to see

Break for lunch

Final image review session & workshop conclusions back at hotel

Farewell dinner & good-byes

Wednesday 25 February 2009 - DEPARTURE DAY

Check-out from hotel - no activities planned

Accommodation

The Best Western Hotel Ala is among the most outstanding of 3 star Superior hotels in Venice. What is now Hotel Ala was in fact a proprietarily house, of which historical traces exist from the early eighteenth century, as can be seen on paintings, including one by Canaletto. The building was made into a hotel only in the 1960s. Regularly renovated, the rooms are decorated in both a modern and functional style and in lacquered Venetian baroque style. All rooms have every modern comfort, equipped with air conditioning, mini-bar, safety box, direct telephone, satellite TV.



Hotel Ala (<http://www.hotelala.it/>)

Travel

The main international airport in Venice is 'Marco Polo'. You should arrive on or before the 19 February 2009 and your day of departure should be 25 February or later. Upon booking you will be sent details of how to get from the airport to your hotel.

Companions

Photography is a passion that touches millions of people, but that doesn't always mean that it is shared throughout your family! A great many of our participants choose to travel with their husbands, wives or partners, and we make every effort to make them just as welcome as everybody else. Should you wish to attend with your partner and require a double room upgrade, please contact us for a quote and further details.

The Photography

Photography

On the surface, Carnival is all about colour, costumes, celebrations. Without doubt, our participants will go home with a collection of impressive images. This is part of the reason why we go to such lengths to arrange unique shoots, models, costumes and locations. We want to ensure that you go home with shots that nobody else visiting Carnival will have, whether it be for hanging on your wall at home, or for commercial purposes. However, beneath the vivid appeal of the spectacular images you may take, is also a serious opportunity for learning many photographic skills.

The Carnival Workshop raises challenges such as portraits, communicating with models, basic lighting, documentary, story-telling. Each person's photographic interests and style will create a multitude of very different results. Some of you may be interested in vivid portraits, other's a more abstract approach. Some may be interested in the event, the people and the story unfolding over the days and its relationship with Venice. There are many ways to interpret Carnival, and we welcome the diversity of approach which we so often see.

Teaching

Carnival presents a number of important skill-sets that we tackle through a structured approach to teaching. Experience allows us to find the right balance between a degree of flexibility for impromptu demonstrations or photo opportunities, and the structure needed for ensuring we effectively deliver a fully rounded tuition. Teaching takes the form of out in the field practice, demonstrations and critiques. You'll be out shooting nearly all the time, either indoors or outside. When we arrive at each shoot location, the instructor will discuss considerations, and you will often be split into two or three groups, allowing time to work with each of the models. The critique sessions happen on nearly all of the days and are the most crucial part of the learning process. We sit down as a group and view and discuss a selection of each participant's images.

Is this for me?

Our Venice Carnival offering is what we call a 'Workshop'. This means that it is open to all skill levels. Our Workshops involve critique sessions on most days, and our emphasis is on the photography first and foremost. We try to strike a balance between showing our participants important places and landmarks, whilst avoiding going down the route of a 'tour' company. Travel is very often an integral part of workshops, and when we design our itineraries,



we keep this in mind. We design our days to be full so that for those with the energy - they will never be bored - and those who wish to adopt a slower pace - they can do so by opting out of certain activities.

Our passion is photography, and we welcome all of you that share this love. One of the great benefits of learning in a group, is the knowledge you also gain from those around you. New ideas, shared critiques and a good sense of camaraderie are ingredients we actively try to encourage in all of our trips.

Inspiration

Introduction

Below you will find a collection of photographers, writers and films chosen to awaken your senses. They may inspire you about the location or they may just intrigue you. Either way please use this as an insight into the experiences and impressions of others. International travel is so easy these days. The pace at which one travels and 'sees' the world gets faster and faster. If you feel like it, take a moment to slow the process down.

Photographers

Bruno Barbey
Fulvio Roiter
Gianni Berengo Gardin
Paolo Pellegrin

Books

Photography Books
'The Italians' by Bruno Barbey (Magnum Photo Agency)
'Secret Gardens of Venice' by Gianni Berengo Gardin(Contrasto Agency) (1995)
'Gianni Berengo Gardin: gli anni di Venezia' by Gianni Berengo Gardin(Contrasto Agency) (1995)
'Venice' by Piero Codato & Massimo Venchierutti (2003)
'Venetian Carnival History & Traditions' by Fulvio Roiter (1985)
'Venice II' photography by Fulvio Roiter (1985)
'I silenzi di Venezia' photography by Giustino Chemello

General Literature
'The tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice' by William Shakespeare 1603
'The merchant of Venice' by William Shakespeare 1597
'Death in Venice' Thomas Mann 1912
'The story of my life' by Giacomo Casanova published 1960/2001
'Million - The travels of Marco Polo' by Marco Polo/Rustichello da Pisa 1298
'Italian Journey' by Johann W. Goethe 1787
'The wings of a dove' by Henry James 1902
'The stones of Venice' by John Ruskin 1885
'The City of Falling Angels' by John Berent 2005

Movies

'Othello' directed by Orson Welles, with Orson Welles and Suzanne Cloutier (1952)



'Summertime' directed by David Lean with Katherine Hepburn (1955)
'Death in Venice' directed by Luchino Visconti with Dirk Bogarde (1971)
'Don't look now' directed by Nicolas Roeg, with Julie Christie and Donal Sutherland (1974)
'The comfort of strangers' directed by Paul Schrader with Christopher Walken, Rupert Everett (1991)
'Blame it on the bellboy' directed by Mark Herman with Dudley Moore, Patsy Kensit (1995)
'Everyone says I love you' directed by W. Allen with Woody Allen, Goldie Hawn, Drew Barrymore, Julia Roberts (1996)
'The story of us' By Rob Rainer with Bruce Willis, Michelle Pfeiffer (1996)
'Dangerous beauty' directed by Marshall Herskovitz with Catherine McCormack, Naomi Watts, Jacqueline Bisset (1998)
'The Talented Mr. Ripley' directed by Anthony Minghella, with Matt Damon, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Cate Blanchett (1999)
'Les enfants du siecle' directed by Diane Kurys, with Juliette Binoche (1999)
'The Merchant of Venice' by Michael Radford, with Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, Joseph Fiennes (2004)
'Casanova' directed by Lasse Hallstrom with Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller, Jeremy Irons (2006)

Forums

We have our own online forum that over the years has proven to be a very popular and useful way of not just keeping in touch after a workshop, but also before. It can be a fascinating source of information for those considering their first workshop with VSP. You will need to register to join the forum, and we recommend the following two sections

Ask a past VSP Workshops participant (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?board=feedback/>)

Discussion board for all participants booked on Venice Carnival Workshop (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1221662860/0#0>)

Testimonials

"What a great week. I have learnt so much about my camera, my photos, my eyes. Thank you for your energy, enthusiasm, careful planning and sense of humour"
Kirsten, USA, 2006

"I have attended Workshops with Maine, Santa Fe and TPW and founded the organisation by VSP to be the best"
David, UK, 2007

"I'm a better photographer and I feel I have more courage and greater awareness and sensitivity to what makes a successful photograph. The course has given me even more enthusiasm for photography"
Ross, USA, 2005

"Very busy schedule, which I enjoyed. VSP takes photo critiques very seriously and helps people of all levels and skills. Overall very much enjoyed the Workshop - best so far!"
Frank, Netherlands, 2007

"If you like to travel and you have the passion for photography, this is the best combination to make your trip a perfect trip! Travel, shoot and enjoy the moment!"
Beatrice, Italy, 2007



"VSP always exceeds my expectations. As a new photographer VSP encourages, challenges and inspires me to take my images to the next level"

Rachel, USA, 2007

"You won't find a more friendly and delightful photo experience on the planet"

Steve, USA, 2007

"Thank you very much for another fantastic workshop. It is so good to be able to spend time thinking about what I love - photography and not having to worry about anything else because you have thought of everything before. I learned a lot, I had a rest, I had a fantastic time with very nice people, I laughed a lot and wasn't thinking about my work - this is priceless! I will check on your web on a regular basis as always and we will definitely meet again - Grazie"

Bob, USA, 2006