

THE PHENOMENON OF HIGH WATER, WE MAKE CLARITY!

High water, a phenomenon to which the Venetians have always been accustomed, is nothing more than a high tide peak that affects the city in certain periods of the year when it is combined with the sirocco winds.

Usually the high water remains in Venice for about 3-4 hours, during this time the city is always passable thanks to the walkways on catwalks. Once the water level has fallen, the city returns to normal. The population is alerted by acoustic warnings thanks to the information service of the Tide Center of the City of Venice.

Let us now make a bit of clarity: often televisions and newspapers signal the presence of high water in Venice but almost never specify that when measuring the tidal level, the sea level zero level of Punta della Salute is used as a reference. **High tide is therefore not synonymous with flood!**

To understand, the city is, almost entirely (97%) about 100 cm above the mid-sea level. **This means that the amount of water that can invade the roads is always well below the announced tide maximum.**

As an example, an exceptional tide of 140 cm corresponds, in reality, to about 40/50 cm of water in the lowest points of the city (Piazza San Marco) and floods about 54% of the historic center.

On November 12, 2019, the second highest level in history was reached with 187 cm, which meant about 80 cm of flooding in Piazza San Marco, certainly creating many damages and inconveniences, but it remains an exceptional event.

In all other cases (usually over 95 cm) pedestrian walkways are mounted and the city can be visited anyway, maybe bring a pair of boots!

The most important problems are over 150 cm. As for the transports with the vaporetti for example they begin to be some reductions with tide over the 95 cm up to arrive to a suspension in the most extreme cases above the 140 cm

Tide levels:

sustained tide

the tide level is between +80 cm and +109 cm on the tide gauge zero, a city that can be visited (council)

very strong tide

when the value is between +110 cm and +139 cm; visitable city with walkways (council)

exceptional tide

when the value reaches or exceeds +140 cm. Some parts of the city can be closed, such as Piazza San Marco, find out about the phone number or the website below

This information has been written for information and may contain some inaccuracies. We decline all responsibility and for precise information we advise you to call the number:

0039 041 2748111 Municipality of Venice-high tide-

Or visit the site

<https://www.comune.venezia.it/it/content/centro-previsioni-e-segnalazioni-maree>

for transport (buses and vaporetti) you can call 0041 2424 or visit the website www.veneziaunica.it