

VENICE ENTRANCE FEES: UP TO 50 EUROS



Standing in the middle of a heated conversation about tourism control, Venice faces fresh scrutiny under its newest leadership. Taking charge near the end of May, Mayor Simone Venturini suggests lifting the existing entry cost for short-term guests - now between 5 and 10 euros - to possibly 30 or even 50 euros during busiest times. Though not new, the idea of charging more stirs strong reactions among locals and travelers alike.

While some see the Venice entrance fee as a tool to thin crowds, others question fairness and impact. The move reflects broader efforts to balance cultural preservation with economic reliance on visitors. Decisions ahead will likely shape how cities like this handle swelling foot traffic in years to come.

Two years back, Venturini helped launch the groundbreaking charge while working as tourism assessor under former mayor Luigi Brugnaro. **Now aiming to revise and reinforce the approach, his attention turns mainly to peak days flooded with brief stays** - those fleeting visits concentrated near St. Mark's Square and Rialto Bridge. Talks about adjustments are expected soon, following plans by city leadership to consult authorities in Rome. Though once part of earlier efforts, current updates reflect shifting priorities shaped by visitor patterns.

Current System and Its Limitations

By current policy, tourists staying less than two months must pay 10 euros until July ends. Paying 5 euros becomes possible when reservations happen at least seventy-two hours ahead. Aiming to limit overcrowding from quick visits, the measure also raises funds. Protection of the vulnerable urban environment gains support through these means.

Still, doubt about its impact has persisted among skeptics. Data released lately by city officials hints at valid concerns - most tourists stick to the fixed price instead of shifting timing. Because the difference between 5 and 10 euros stays narrow, opponents claim it hardly shifts choices or eases congestion. A minor cost gap rarely alters habits much.

Proposal Faces Legal and Political Hurdles

Italian sources, such as the website *Il Post*, indicate Venturini lacks authority to increase the entry charge past existing boundaries. Although city rules established the fee, legal caps come from state-level legislation. As a result, any move by the newly elected mayor hinges on talks with officials in Rome.

Now under fire in Venice, the plan faces backlash from locals. Calling the increased charge of the Venice entrance fee "barbaric," ex-mayor Massimo Cacciari argues it could turn the city into a tourist showcase available solely to visitors ready to spend heavily.

Starting with a legal perspective, Ludovico Mazzarolelli voiced unease during his talk with *Corriere della Sera*; instead of merely covering costs, he claimed, the 50-euro Venice entrance fee might limit free movement too heavily - raising constitutional questions. Though framed as administrative support, such cost imposition risks crossing into forbidden territory, according to him. Because mobility rights are central here, even small financial barriers may carry large implications. While

some see it as routine funding, others interpret it differently: not just inconvenient but possibly unlawful. Given past rulings, precedent exists for challenging similar measures under basic freedoms.

Balancing Preservation and Access

Some who back the change view it as an inevitable step forward, believing Venice's aging structures, weak systems, and tight layout require stronger measures against overwhelming tourist numbers. **Yet others respond by saying ticketing strategies might miss root causes, possibly pushing away travelers whose spending keeps local businesses alive.**

Soon, decisions made behind government doors may push Venice further into charging visitors - or pull it back toward older ways. Depending on what happens, cities crowded with tourists everywhere could find themselves looking at Italy's choices for clues. How officials respond now might quietly shape travel rules far beyond Venetian canals.

A central conflict emerges - balancing safeguarding of a unique cultural heritage with allowing open access, ensuring the place remains vibrant urban life instead of turning into a paid exhibit.

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