A FIRST WALK · FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

Rialto to the Frari through San Polo

Leave the Grand Canal for the smaller squares and lanes of San Polo, finishing outside the Frari. This short walk shows how Venice alternates between busy crossing points and quieter neighbourhood spaces.

1.33 km / 4 stops / 45-70 min with pauses / one way



1. Campo San Giacomo di Rialto

2. Campo San Polo

3. Campo San Tomà

4. Campo dei Frari

Start & finish

Begin on the San Polo side of Rialto Bridge, already across the Grand Canal. Finish in Campo dei Frari. Check your own vaporetto connection; do not assume the same stop serves both ends.

Make it shorter

Explore the Rialto-side square and Campo San Polo, then retrace your route. Skip further bridges if they are unsuitable for your group.

Desk-reviewed 30 October 2026. Not field-tested. Follow current local signs.

Look closer at each stop

01 Campo San Giacomo di Rialto

Begin on the San Polo side of Rialto, where the small church and surrounding passages give a different view of this busy area. Let people move between the bridge and market streets.

Next: 605 m to stop 2. Route includes Naranzeria, Campo San Giacomo, Ruga dei Oresi.

02 Campo San Polo

The broad campo offers space to understand the neighbourhood away from the Grand Canal. Compare its open shape with the lanes that lead into it.

Next: 470 m to stop 3. Route includes Campo San Polo, Salizada San Polo, Ponte San Polo.

03 Campo San Tomà

This smaller campo is another pause between canals and narrow routes. Look at building fronts and the signs showing how local destinations are named.

Next: 255 m to stop 4. Route includes San Tomà, Calle del Campaniel detta Civran, Campo San Tomà.

04 Campo dei Frari

Finish outside the large brick basilica. Its scale becomes clearer from the campo; entering the church is optional and subject to its own arrangements.

Underfoot & access

Stone paving, narrow lanes and stepped bridges. This route is not step-free. High water and temporary restrictions can change access; a route line does not guarantee a dry or open passage.

Before you go

Check the city’s current visitor rules and any applicable access arrangements for your travel date. Church interiors are optional. Follow street signs and do not enter private courtyards to follow a shortcut.

Sources & route review

Venezia Unica: San Polo itinerary

Frari basilica: location and approach

Map: OpenStreetMap / Valhalla pedestrian routing. Distances follow the mapped line; suggested visit times include pauses and are editorial estimates, not a timed on-site walk.