

Stop the water! Stop the flooding!

SAVE VENICE!

Or you might be facing this:

Venice: A city underwater

Today, in April 2050, the city has evolved into a city living only on tourism with barely any local population. The tourists pay to visit the city in boats, do extraordinary activities and to see the worldwide known boat race. This money allows for the construction of more floors and floating houses.

It was once a city with life, population. It is now a city only for tourists, with only 5 000 residents. What used to be beauty shops, restaurants, hotels for tourists, and the few houses left were overflowed by water and the entrances are inaccessible. The melting of ice in the cold deserts has slowly made the water rise and, from 2020 to 2050, the water rose of 140 centimeters, causing its population to leave slowly with only a tenth of the previous population 30 years ago, and it seems horrible. But today, the city adapts. What used to be Saint Mark's Square is now a huge swimming pool at the entrance of the city. Higher floors and houses on water have been built replacing the hotels and the beauty shops. Higher bridges and even more gondolas pass though the Grand Canal visiting it or, for the few still there, living next to it. Hotels and houses have been submerged. The city known for being based on tourism has now had its tourism numbers almost double.

More tourists are in this historical city than ever before. The city resembles an enormous water park for them. The higher floors have been converted into a place of hotels and rented out apartments. In the morning, thousands of people rush to get on boats for a day's exploration, swimming and diving in the water covered city. Underneath the water, a few fish can be seen, but the most interesting treasure is the exploration of old buildings, who could not stand with the floods, and who have crumbled, leaving mazes behind, some of them containing abandoned objects from the residents who were told to evacuate the buildings. The old roads are now canals for the hundreds of boats that pass through the city. The main canals are massive traffic jams of boats. We interviewed a local whose family had been living in the city for centuries, Francesco Baroli. He told us that the tourists were living in almost every building left and that buying a house had become almost impossible. We also talked to a tourist who was spending the weekend with his family in Venice, William Johnson. He explained that the boat trips around the city had been the highlight of the holiday, even though they had a few days left. They had enjoyed seeing the boat race and discovering the history behind it. In their opinion, the biggest problem was the hour-long queues to get on to boats in the morning, and the traffic once in the twisty canals that circle around the city. They were planning to come back to this tourist only city in the future, contributing to the rise in yearly visitors.

In conclusion, the water rising has turned the already tourist covered city into a tourist attraction, with no care for the inhabitants who are running out of places to live. The habitants of Venice are slowly leaving, and soon there will be almost nobody left to ferry the ever-increasing tourists around the dying city.