

Drying Up of Venice's Canals Causing Problems

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Tide (Noun) /taɪd/ the regular rising and falling of the sea due to gravity from the moon and sun
Example: The weather report said that there low tide will be at noon while high tide will be at 5a.m.
2. Crew (Noun) /kruː/ the staff who work on a ship, plane, etc.
Example: The pirate is accompanied by his crew of bandits.
3. High-pressure (Adjective) /ˌhaɪ ˈpreʃər/ having atmospheric pressure that is above average
Example: A high-pressure system will bring us better weather later this week.
4. Picturesque (Adjective) /ˌpɪktʃəˈrɛsk/ (of a place or building) very pretty or attractive
Example: They are enjoying the picturesque Swiss Alps whenever they visit the country.
5. Cycle (Noun) /ˈsaɪkl/ a set of events that repeat in the same order
Example: The students are studying the life cycle of the butterfly in their science class.
6. Delight (Verb) /dəˈlaɪt/ to provide or experience a lot of enjoyment or pleasure
Example: It delighted her mother to see her after several years of separation.



Some of Venice's smaller canals have almost dried up due to a long period of low tides, causing problems for boat crews and tourists. Experts say the long period of low tides is linked to a high-pressure weather system over much of Italy. Since the canals are used like streets in

Venice, which does not have cars, the situation with the canals over the last few days has added to the challenges of everyday life in the city.

Ambulance boats in some cases have had to stop farther from their destination, since they can't continue up canals that have only a tiny amount of water, and medical crews have to sometimes carry patients by hand over long distances.

For tourists, it means gondolas can't travel through some smaller canals that run under Venice's many picturesque bridges. In mid-winter, a high-pressure system together with the moon's cycle produces unusually low water levels during low tide, noted Jane Da Mosto, a scientist with the We Are Here Venice environmental group.

She added that the recent problem shows how the need to clean Venice's inner canal network has not received attention. Boats and gondolas continued to travel on the wider, main canals, such as the Grand and Giudecca canals.

Separately, the same high-pressure system together with the small amount of snow in the Alps this year has helped to cause unusually low levels in the lakes and rivers of northern Italy in recent weeks. This month, a narrow piece of land linking the shores of Lake Garda to a small island has appeared, delighting visitors who were able to walk part of the way across the middle of the lake.

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on low tides causing problems in Venice?
2. Have you been to Venice? If so, did you enjoy it? If not, would you like to?
3. When was the last time a weather event disrupted life in your town or city?
4. Are there any parts of your country that are often impacted by the weather?
5. What would you say are the most picturesque places you've been to?