

**Peter Christopher. Music and the Grand Tour Green Fund paper**

On the boat ride to Venice, I witnessed many things I could associate with slow travel and sustainability. When we boarded the vessel, I noticed the size and capacity was moderately small compared to most touring boats. I believe this reflects the amount of impact we (the number of passengers) have on the locations we visited and therefore on the amount of resources available at this locations. If there is one thing I learned about traveling, it is that cruise boats overwhelm the locations they visit depleting them of their resources; at the same time, these cruise boats unloading waste—in a concentrated fashion—at these locations. In this regard, one could possibly make the correlation between a smaller boat capacity and a lower negative effect on the locations it visits. This example shows how the use of a small boat supports sustainability.

During the boat ride, I witnessed that we moved at a very slow pace on the river and we were given sufficient time to search the sites that we visited. This was partly because the boat ride we took wasn't a ride many people choose to embark on; it seems that were only a few out of a handful that took this option of travel. This is what I would associate with slow travel—we traveled a path less traveled and therefore didn't follow the crowds. This was refreshing in the sense that I had some breathing room and also, I appreciated seeing Italy in a way that others haven't.

On arrival to Venice, we could see these giant cruise boats blocking the view of the city and causing a distraction, taking away from the beauty that this city holds. As we stepped of this small boat, unloading no more than fifty people, I looked at the cruise boats and felt uneasy knowing that thousands of people unloaded from these cruises. Another way to understand the effect of which these large boats have on their sites they visit is the concept of waste. While we had one restroom available on our boat, these cruise boats had many more. This waste is dumped at the sites where these boats visit and the ramifications are detrimental.

This boat trip from Padova to Venice was such a great experience for me. I learned how my impact can affect the environment around me through sustainability and I learned about the benefits of slow travel. Not only was it an educational experience, but relaxing and fruitful because the time we spent taking in the surrounding; I had the chance to see my surroundings for more than just a quick photographic second. This boat ride provided the seed that has sprouted the desire to take time to appreciate the cultures and people I visited on my travels.

