

More San Marco

St. Mark's Square is the iconic image we see so often in ads without even realizing it.

Tourists surrounded with pigeons...and wherever there are pigeons, there is POOP. Luckily our guidebook gave detailed instructions on dealing with poop on clothes and in hair (not for the squeamish...).

The photo to the right is facing south; water's edge is just



beyond the columns in the distance.

The clock (discussed below) is directly behind me, to the north. The largest open area of the square is behind me and to my right; it covers about two football fields.

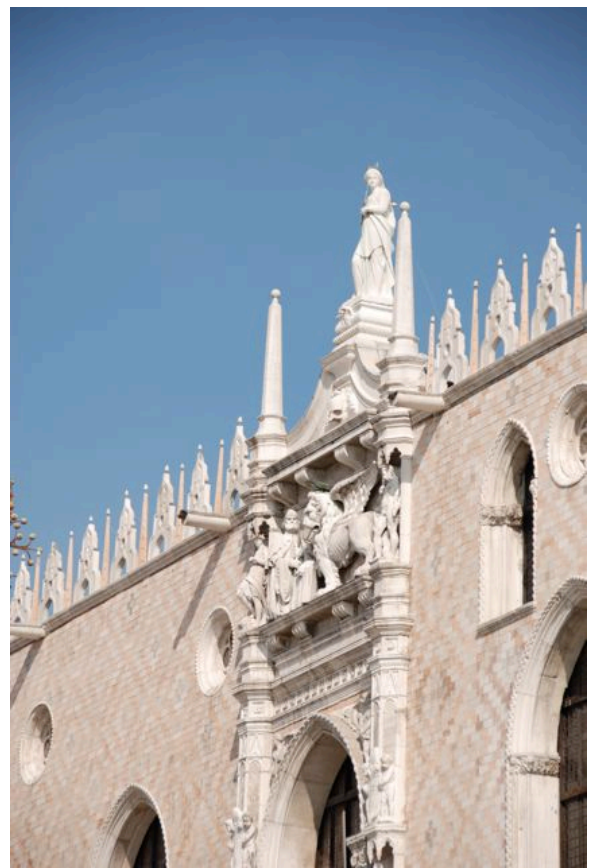
Here is a link with good pictures and a history of St. Marks and the Doge's Palace:

<http://www.venicewelcome.com/monuments/monumets.htm>

EXCELLENT photos here:

http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Doges_Palace.html

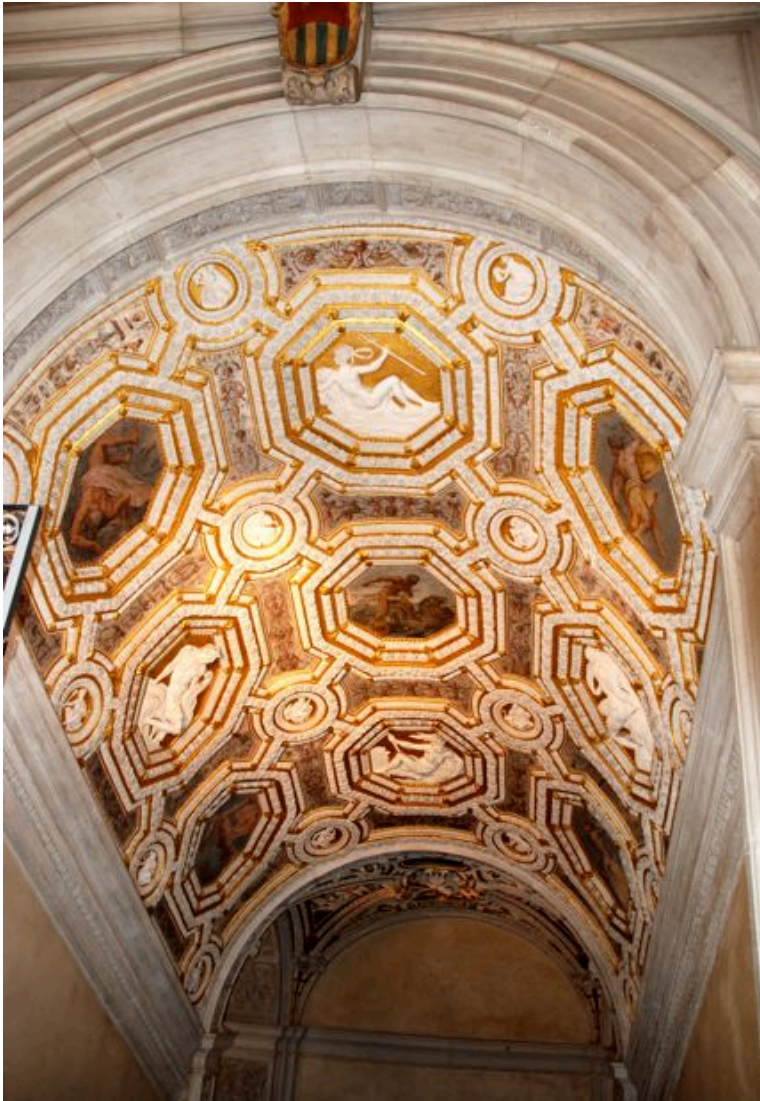
History not being my thing and pix of leaning buildings (other than those that are supposed to be leaning) are disconcerting...so please use the links & I'll just point & shoot....



Doge's Palace...below: courtyard of the Doge's Palace



The gilded arched stairway leading from the courtyard up to the first level of the Doge's palace,,everything



designed to remind the petitioners how infinitesimal they were in the presence of the Doge.



View of the Palace from inside the courtyard.



The Clock Tower, built during the Renaissance in 1496, north side of the Plaza. Moors swing huge clappers on the hour.

Legend has it that in the 1600's, a worker was hit by the clapper and flung to his death. This is directly opposite the location of the pigeon picture.



The Basilica again...built in the 11th cent...Decorated with booty from returning sea captains.

Lots of mosaics and colored marble inside & out. Look at the lower right corner of the picture to the left...you can see the different colors and shapes of the marble used in its construction.

The effect is striking.... almost gaudy...we'll see more of this later in Florence (Firenze) and in Monterossa in the Cinque Terre.

Next: Sightseeing from inside the Palace, or, how to photograph the sights when the windows are above your head.