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Venice itineraries continue despite floods

By Michelle Baran

Tour operators said that Venice itineraries have been relatively undisturbed even though much of the city was underwater on Monday following heavy rains.

Brendan Vacations has a number of passengers in Venice, both on guided tours and traveling independently, but all are fine, said Brendan President Nico Zenner.

"While the center of Venice has flooded, it has not impacted our itineraries or the operations of the hotels our guests stay at," Zenner said.

Italy specialist Perillo Tours said that the impact of the flooding was minor, and that the floodwater began to recede on Monday, ensuring that passengers could participate in their scheduled city tours.

"Yesterday they had no high tide, today the same. Clients are having a good time!" Perillo Tours wrote in an email on Tuesday.

Brian John, vice president of sales and marketing at Intrepid Vacations, said that the company did not have customers in Venice during the flooding but that customers who are scheduled to arrive this week and for the next few weeks have been offered travel to alternate cities in Italy, should they so choose.

"The impact should be minimal as it is currently the lower season to Venice," said John. "The Italian government is working with local officials to minimize the damage."

Zenner added that he hopes that the MOSE project, a system of mobile gates intended to isolate the Venetian Lagoon from the Adriatic Sea during high tides, will protect the city from flooding once it is completed in 2014.

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