FLORENCE


Arrive Florence: Monday, May 26, 2014

Depart Florence: Sunday, June 29, 2014
Florence is an exciting place in which to live and study. On an afternoon stroll through the streets of Florence, which is set in the golden hills of Tuscany, you can admire the architecture of Giotto; linger at the Uffizi Gallery with its vast collection of painting and sculpture; view the magnificent Santa Croce where Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli are buried and explore the bookshops near Via Cavour; and visit one of the most popular spots in Florence, the Ponte Vecchio, a 14th century bridge spanning the River Arno.

If you're a connoisseur of Italian cuisine, you can learn how to make pasta from scratch or experience a typical trattoria, where you can find some of the best food in Italy. You can also shop in the chic stores of Via de‘Tornabuoni or the flea market in Via Petrapiana (pausing for a delicious gelato or an espresso, of course). Whatever your tastes, Florence is the perfect spot to acquire a genuine experience of Italian life and culture.
Included

- Accommodation in apartments in the Historical Center of Florence. Students will be in twin rooms with typically 4 or 6 ARC students sharing a two-bedroom apartment with a full kitchen for cooking all your meals. You will be right in the heart of the city with local Florentines as your neighbors.

- Orientation program in Florence including a meeting with AIFS staff, student information packet, local area information, welcome dinner and half-day guided walking tour of Florence.

- Fully staffed AIFS office in the Study Center including an AIFS Program Coordinator and Student Advisors to provide information, personal advising/counseling and 24-hour emergency contact service. The AIFS staff is there to make sure students get the most out of their time in Florence.

- “Survival” Italian language course (materials will be provided).

Program Fee

Based on an enrollment of 20 or more participants, for the services specified above, the fee per person is $3,995. If 15–19 students enroll, the program fee will increase $100 to $4,095.

This fee excludes airfare, a $125 refundable damage deposit, optional medical insurance upgrade ($65) and personal effects coverage ($90), passport or visa fees if applicable, meals other than those listed, personal expenses, any American River College tuition or administrative fees, textbooks, additional field trips or excursions required by the American River College faculty and anything not specified.

Students also have the option of purchasing an optional meal plan of 10 vouchers to use for lunches or dinners in selected local trattorias for a cost of $195.

Optional Transportation Package

On a space-available basis, students may purchase the optional transportation package consisting of round-trip airfare (San Francisco – Florence – San Francisco) and round-trip transfers between the overseas airport and the housing in Florence for an additional $995 excluding mandatory U.S. government and airline-imposed departure taxes, fees and fuel surcharges of $648 (subject to change) for which students will be billed separately.

Faculty

Bill Wrightson is a professor of history at American River College. Italy has been a vital part of his academic and personal life for over 30 years. His academic background and teaching experience have focused on European History, with an emphasis on the history and culture of Italy. Over the past two decades he has traveled extensively throughout Europe, spending well over two years living in Italy. He has received grants to study and research in Italy; during the 1997 and 2003 spring semesters he taught history, humanities, and Italian culture classes in Florence; and over the past 15 years he has escorted groups of students and friends on trips to Italy. This will be the 10th year of the ARC summer program in Italy.

Course

**History 399 – Italian History and Culture** 4 units

**General Education: Area I or Area III; CSU Area C #2**

This class will survey Italian History to provide a background for exploring and appreciating Italian life and culture. The focus will be on examining the historical context of Italian cultural and artistic expression, thereby informing and enriching our understanding and enjoyment of Italian art and culture. The class will include 12 hours of Italian language instruction, designed to enable students to understand, appreciate and experience Italian life and culture more fully. In Rome, we will be studying the ancient and religious sources of Italian culture. Our month in Florence, however, will be at the heart of this class; and the Renaissance, born in Florence, will serve as the central focus. We will explore and examine how human expression in art, literature, and philosophy served to create a new sense of the possible. We will study how culture reflects human values and how those values can be transformed and at times ennobled by creative genius. We will read the words of Petrarch, Pico della Mirandola, Castiglione, and Machiavelli; we will study the art of Giotto, Donatello, Brunelleschi and Michelangelo; and we will walk the streets of Florence, the streets they walked, the streets that inspired them, the streets that still convey the sense of cultural and civic pride they served to create.
Medical Insurance

AIFS provides each student with a group insurance policy issued by Ace American Insurance Company. The policy provides two distinct types of coverage:

1. Before the program begins, AIFS will refund fees paid by students unable to participate on the program because of covered injury, illness or quarantine in a travel area. However, a fee is retained from the amount paid which includes a $100 processing fee, the $50 non-refundable application fee and $125 insurance premium.

2. Once the program has begun, the plan covers the cost of medical treatment abroad, up to a maximum of $100,000 per sickness or accident and with a daily hospital charge limit of $300. There is a $50 deductible per incident for medical claims against this policy.

These two categories of insurance are mutually exclusive. That is, the policy does not cover medical expenses before the program begins, nor does it refund any portion of the AIFS program fees once the program has begun.

The insurance also covers costs associated with changing the return flight if a student is unable to complete the program due to accident, illness or quarantine in a travel area. It offers 24-hour travel assistance in case of an emergency, legal assistance, medical transportation and emergency cash transfer in case of theft or loss. Full details of the coverage are available at www.aifspartnerships.com/insurance_summer.pdf.

Optional medical insurance upgrade and personal effects insurance

A medical insurance upgrade provides a maximum $250,000 per sickness or accident with a daily hospital charge of $300 ($50 deductible for each accident or illness). Optional personal effects insurance covers loss or theft up to $1,000, subject to a maximum $100 per item ($500 for electronic devices) and a deductible of $100 per incident. Students are advised to arrange additional insurance for special items. Expensive or irreplaceable items should be left at home.

AIFS Refund Policy

All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing via fax or certified mail to: Registrar, AIFS Partnership Programs, College Division, 1 High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905. The fax number is 203.399.5597. Postmark date or date of fax transmission is considered date of withdrawal. All withdrawal statements must be signed by the applicant, or they will not be processed.

If a student’s application is not accepted by AIFS, a refund of all payments is made, less the $50 non-refundable application fee and any non-refundable deposits paid by the student or by AIFS on the student’s behalf. If a student withdraws on or before Friday, February 28, 2014, a full refund will be made less $150 plus any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student’s behalf.

If a student withdraws after Friday, February 28, 2014, but on or before Friday, March 28, 2014, for any reason except medical covered by the AIFS Fees Refund and Medical Insurance Policy, the $450 deposit is forfeited, along with any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student’s behalf.

If a student is forced to withdraw from the program because of covered medical reasons after final fees have been paid but before departure, a refund will be made through the Fees Refund and Medical Insurance Policy, less a $100 processing fee, the $50 non-refundable application fee and the $125 insurance premium. The policy requires written proof of medical reasons provided by your physician.

Students withdrawing voluntarily for any reason after Friday, March 28, 2014, including withdrawals because of medical reasons not covered under the medical refund policy, receive no refund of fees paid unless they are able to provide a qualified replacement. In this case, they receive a full refund of all payments made less the $150 processing and cancellation fee and any non-refundable deposits. Replacement students must pay in full at the time of application. Flights cannot be arranged for replacement students applying after Friday, February 28, 2014. Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances. This refund policy is necessary because the booking of facilities in Italy requires substantial non-refundable payments and commitments by AIFS in advance.

Space is Limited, Apply Now!

Deposit of $450 is due with application no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2014

For more information and an application, please contact:

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