
UB Classics in the Mediterranean

ITALY

Winter Session 2017



Study Abroad Program Guide

Study Abroad Programs
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DESTINATION: ITALY

(from Wikipedia)

From antiquity until the mid-17th century, Italy was considered as the central place of Western culture and the starting point of worldwide phenomena such as the Roman Empire, Roman Catholic Church, the Renaissance, cultural and educational reform and new beginning. During this period, Italy gave birth to a number of famous painters, sculptors, poets, musicians, mathematical and architects those created a niche of their own in history.

Both the internal and external facets of Western culture were born on the Italian peninsula, whether one looks at the history of the Christian faith, civil institutions, philosophy, law, art, science, or social customs and culture. Furthermore, the country played a leading role in the fight against the death penalty.

Italy was home to many well-known and influential civilizations, including the Etruscans, Greeks, and the Romans. For more than 2,000 years Italy experienced migrations, invasions and was divided into many independent states until 1861 when it became a nation-state. Due to this comparatively late unification, and the historical autonomy of the regions that comprise the Italian peninsula, many traditions and customs that are now recognized as distinctly Italian can be identified by their regions of origin. Despite the political and social isolation of these regions, Italy's contributions to the cultural and historical heritage of Europe and the world remain immense.



The famous elements of Italian culture are its art, music, fashion, and iconic food. Italy was the birthplace of opera, and for generations the language of opera was Italian, irrespective of the nationality of the composer. Popular tastes in drama in Italy have long favored comedy; the improvisational style known as the *Commedia dell'arte* began in Italy in the mid-16th century and is still performed today. Before being exported to France, the famous Ballet dance genre also originated in Italy.

The country boasts several world-famous cities. Rome was the ancient capital of the Roman Empire and seat of the pope of the Catholic Church. Florence was the home of many artists of the Renaissance, a period of great achievements in the arts. Other important cities are Turin, which used to be the capital of Italy, is now one of the world's great centers of automobile engineering. Milan is the industrial, commercial and financial center of Italy and a fashion capital. Venice, with its intricate canal system and rich cultural history, attracts tourists from all over the world.

Italy is home to the greatest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites (49) to date out of a total of 981 and then owns 4.99% of the world's heritage and one estimate says that the country is home to half the world's great art treasures. According to the Court of Auditors, Italy has 3,609 museums. Then there are 479 archaeological sites, 5,000 cultural heritage, 12,609 libraries, 46,025 architectural heritage bound, 10,000 churches, 1,500 monasteries, 40,000 assorted castles, towers and fortresses, 30,000 stately homes, 4,000 gardens, 1,000 major historic town centres and more besides.

Geography, History, Economy

(from Wikipedia)

Italy, officially the Republic of Italy (Italian: *Repubblica italiana*), is a unitary parliamentary republic in Southern Europe. To the north, Italy borders France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia, and is approximately delimited by the Alpine watershed, enclosing the Po Valley and the Venetian Plain. To the south, it consists of the entirety of the Italian Peninsula and the two Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia, in addition to many smaller islands. The sovereign states of San Marino and the Vatican City are enclaves within Italy, while Campione d'Italia is an Italian exclave in Switzerland. Italy covers an area of 301,338 km² (116,347 sq mi) and has a largely temperate climate. With 59.7 million inhabitants, it is the fifth most populous country in Europe. Italy is also the fourth-largest economy on the European continent, third in the European Union, and eighth in the world.

Italy's capital and largest city, Rome, has for centuries been the leading political and religious centre of Western civilisation, as the capital of the Roman Empire and of Christianity. In the Dark Ages, Italy suffered continual invasions by Germanic tribes, while the Roman heritage was preserved by Christian monks. Beginning from the 11th century, Italian cities rose to great prosperity through shipping, commerce and banking (indeed, modern capitalism has its roots in Medieval Italy), while culture flourished, especially during the Renaissance, which produced notable scholars, artists and polymaths such as Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli. Nonetheless, Italy remained fragmented into numerous warring states for the rest of the Middle Ages, subsequently falling prey to other large European nation-states, notably France, Spain and later Austria, thus entering a long period of decline that lasted until the beginning of the 18th century.

After many unsuccessful attempts, the second and the third wars of Italian independence resulted in the unification of most of present-day Italy in 1859-1866. Between the late 19th century and the early 1900s, The new Kingdom of Italy quickly industrialized and acquired a vast colonial empire in Africa. However, the South and rural areas in the North remained largely excluded from industrialization, fuelling a large diaspora. Despite victory in World War I, Italy entered a period of economic crisis and social turmoil, that favored the establishment of a Fascist dictatorship in 1922. The subsequent participation in World War II at the side of Nazi Germany ended in military catastrophe, economic destruction and civil war. In post-war years, Italy abolished the monarchy, embraced democracy and enjoyed a prolonged economic boom, thus becoming one of the most developed nations in the world.

Italy was a founding member of the European Community in 1957, which became the EU in 1993. It is part of the Schengen Area, and has been a member of the Eurozone since 1999. Italy is considered a middle and regional power with membership in prominent institutions such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization, the G8, G20, NATO, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Italy currently maintains the world's tenth-largest nominal defense budget and is a participant in the NATO nuclear sharing policy.

Full Name: Republic of Italy / Repubblica italiana

Capital City: Rome

Area: 301,338 km²; 116,347 sq mi

Population: 59,685,227

Government: Unitary parliamentary constitutional republic

Heads of State: President Sergio Mattarella, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi

SPECIAL NOTES REGARDING OUR DESTINATION

Climate

Since it is winter in Italy, it is best to dress in layers. It will warm up during the day and get cooler at night. Light coats or jackets, sweaters, and jeans are fine for most of our daily outings. Sensible shoes (sturdy tennis shoes or hiking boots) are a must. You should bring hats, scarves, and gloves, in case we have cold days, as well as rain gear, at the very least an umbrella. You may or may not want to have a fancy “party” outfit or two at your disposal, as there will be some occasions when a dress or skirt for women and dress pants for men may be appropriate.

Local transportation

Transportation will be provided, by charter bus, while we are staying in the Bay of Naples area and when we require one in Rome. Otherwise, we will be using public transport. You will be provided with a bus pass in Rome that will allow you to use the city’s excellent public transportation system at any time. There will always be a lot of walking involved, so again, sensible and comfortable footwear is important. At night, students are urged to always travel in groups of two or more.

Food

Meals will be served daily, except for the weekend we are in Rome (Sat/Sun 14.-15.Jan.) when the kitchen at the Centro is closed. Breakfast and dinner are in the dining rooms at our residences, while lunch will consist of “cestini” (sack lunches), packed by our hosts.

Alcohol

All participants in the program will be of legal drinking age while in Italy. It is absolutely mandatory that every participant behave responsibly in choices involving alcohol, as the abuse of alcohol endangers not only the individual but the other participants as well. Alcohol abuse is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program, at the discretion of the program director. However, wine, especially, is a staple of Italian cuisine and culture, and can be enjoyed and savored in moderation. The Centro, in Rome, has particularly strict rules about alcohol on the premises. You will be reminded about these by the director, Mr. Francesco Sgariglia, on the night of our arrival. Of course, alcohol consumption is never mandatory and students should feel no pressure or obligation to participate in the consumption of alcohol.

USEFUL WEBSITES (IN ENGLISH)

- US Dept. of State, Italy Information: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1146.html
- Tourism: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy>

THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Bradley A. Ault, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Classics at the University at Buffalo. He is trained as a specialist in Greek and Roman art and archaeology. He spent portions of nearly ten years doing archaeological fieldwork in Rome, in addition to many more field seasons working on archaeological projects in England, Greece, Cyprus, and Israel. He has lived, studied, and travelled in Germany, Greece, and Turkey as well. This is the seventh time he has led a study-abroad program trip for UB.

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Donald T. McGuire, jr., Ph.D., is a member of the UB Classics Department. His primary research interests involve the poetry and politics of Imperial Rome. He received his B.A. degree from Brown University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. He joined the UB Classics Department after teaching for seven years at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. For many years he has led academic and scholarly tours through Turkey, Greece, and Italy. He trained as an archaeologist as a member of the Sardis Expedition in Turkey, and on two separate occasions he has lived and studied in Rome for a year.

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ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The academic program consists of a three-credit course, *CL 410: Special Topics – Study Abroad*. Registration will be part of the Winter Session 2017 session.

The course itself will focus on the archaeology, art, and history of the ancient civilizations that existed within the geographical confines of Italy--both local cultures (e.g. Roman) and cultures based in other parts of the Mediterranean (e.g. Greek). The chief objective of this course is to impart a strong understanding of the progression of ancient history in Italy, and how archaeology and its related disciplines (especially history and art history) have contributed to our ever-growing understanding of the ancient Italian past.

Course activities will include reading assignments, lectures, museum visits, and visits to archaeological sites. These will be orchestrated and presented by B. Ault and D. McGuire.

Students will be asked to complete some general reading about Italy's ancient and modern history before arrival in Italy.

The heart of the program will be the visits to sites and museums and the accompanying lectures delivered on site and en route. Students will be exposed to a steady flow of material from the ancient world and will engage with it on many levels. The experience of travelling, and the art and architecture that they encounter will then provide the raw material for a short paper based upon daily journal entries that they will be required to submit as a final, finished product back in Buffalo prior to the end of the Winter Session (on 01/24/17).

Select Bibliography

Blue Guide Rome. 2016 (Eleventh Edition).
Blue Guide Southern Italy. 2007 (Eleventh Edition).
Claridge, Amanda. *Rome. Oxford Archaeological Guide*. 2010 (Second Edition).

Deiss, Joseph Jay, *Herculaneum: Italy's Buried Treasure*. 1989.
 Etienne, Robert, *Pompeii: The Day a City Died*. 1992.
 Grant, Michael, *Cities of Vesuvius: Pompeii and Herculaneum*. 2005.
 Kleiner, Fred S., *A History of Roman Art*. 2010 (Enhanced Edition).
 Lintner, Valerio, *A Traveller's History of Italy*. 2003.
 Moatti, Claude, *The Search for Ancient Rome*. 1993.
 Nappo, Salvatore, *Pompeii: A Guide to the Ancient City*. 1998.
 Ramage, Nancy H., and Andrew Ramage, *Roman Art*. 2014 (Sixth Edition).
 Tuck, Steven L., *A History of Roman Art*. 2015.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Plan to arrive at the Rome airport (Fiumicino) on Wednesday, 04.January.2017. The group will rendezvous at a designated meeting point and be met there by one of the instructors. Because we will then be met by our charter bus for the Villa Vergiliana, which will depart around 3:00 (and it is a 3+ hour drive south to the Bay of Naples), please be sure your flight to Rome is scheduled for arrival by early afternoon on the 4th.

Departures from Rome on Thursday, 19.January.2017, will be facilitated by charter bus, departing that morning from the ICCS, for the Rome airport. If possible, try not to book your departing flight too early, as that will require everyone else to catch the charter bus at an equally early hour.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In the Bay of Naples, at the Villa Vergiliana, Cuma:

<http://www.vergiliansociety.org/villa/>

In Rome, at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (ICCS):

http://globaled.duke.edu/Programs/Semester/ICCS_Rome

Projected Daily Itinerary for UB Classics Winter Session in Italy, 2017

Jan. 03 (Tues.): Flights to Italia

Jan. 04 (Wed.): Arrivals & Transfer to Naples/Villa Vergiliana

Jan. 05 (Thurs.): Explore Cumae on foot

Jan. 06 (Fri.): Excursion to Paestum

Jan. 07 (Sat.): Excursion to Pompeii & Herculaneum

Jan. 08 (Sun.): Excursion to Naples (Museo Nazionale & free time)

Jan. 09 (Mon.): Transfer to Roma, visiting Sperlonga & Terracina en route
 -1st night in Rome @ Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (a.k.a. "the Centro")

Jan. 10 (Tues.): Rome: Forum, Palatine & Imperial Fora (free time daily while in Rome from mid-late afternoon, when possible)

Jan. 11 (Wed.): Rome: Colosseum, Baths of Diocletian, & Palazzo Massimo

Jan.12 (Thurs.): Rome: Capitoline Museums, Largo Argentina, & Pantheon

Jan. 13 (Fri.): Rome: St. Peter's, Vatican Museums & Castel St. Angelo

Jan. 14 (Sat.): Rome: Piazza Navona, Palazzo Altemps, Ara Pacis

Jan. 15 (Sun.): Rome: the Forum Boarium area

Jan. 16 (Mon.): Excursion to Ostia Antica

Jan. 17 (Tues.): Excursion to Tivoli, Villa Adriana & Villa d'Este

Jan. 18 (Wed.): Rome: Via Appia Antica & the Catacombs

Jan. 19 (Thurs.): Return flights to USA

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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In Italy:

Police/Fire/Ambulance emergencies:

Police (*Carabinieri*) Tel. 112

General Emergency (*Soccorso pubblico di emergenza*) Tel. 113

Fire brigade (*Incendio boschivo*) Tel. 115

Ambulance/Medical Emergency (*Emergenza sanitaria*) Tel. 118

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