

Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

Florence Sabbatical

April 2 to 30, 2022

Ever dreamed about spending an entire month in Florence, heart and soul of the Renaissance? Now's the time! Dive headlong into Florentine life, language and culture during this four-week stay in beautiful *Firenze*. Attend Italian language classes on weekday mornings, then practice using those new skills while exploring Florence and Tuscany on group excursions and during ample free time. Expand on your coursework with optional cooking lessons to learn all about Tuscan cuisine, shop at a local market for ingredients, master the art of making pasta and make a four-course Italian meal. Throughout the sojourn, enjoy the camaraderie of fellow travelers and faculty leader Ed Steidle during meals and prearranged get-togethers at charming local trattorias. *Andiamo!*

FACULTY LEADER

ED STEIDLE has offered classes in the literature and culture of late antiquity and the Middle Ages for the English department, the Western culture program and the Continuing Studies program. He has recently finished a series of classes on the Renaissance and its impact on global expansion from the 15th through the 18th centuries. He began his graduate studies in comparative literature at Johns Hopkins University and completed them at UC Berkeley. Ed was raised and educated in Europe, and he and his family spent many years going back and forth between Paris and Rome. "For a young man with a Fiat 500 and plenty of free time during summer and Christmas vacations, Tuscany was an ideal destination," he recalls. "The Palazzo Pubblico and the Duomo in Siena, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistry in Florence, the Camposanto in Pisa, the towers of San Gimignano—all these magnificent buildings gradually revealed their fascinating histories every time I saw them on my way through Tuscany. My delight in the history of Tuscany soon led me to its great Renaissance painters—Duccio, Giotto, Lorenzetti, Piero della Francesca, Botticelli, Signorelli. In the end, though, what most captured my attention were the great writers of the region, Dante, Boccaccio, Pico della Mirandola, Poliziano, Machiavelli, Ariosto—the men who made Florence the 'Cradle of the Renaissance' and Italy a favorite destination for artists, students and bons vivants from across the globe."

During our stay in Florence, Ed will discuss the Italian Middle Ages and the origins of the Renaissance in the 14th century, its amazing flowering in the 15th and 16th centuries and its gradual waning in the 17th century, when Europe's cultural, political and economic heart shifted from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic.

PROGRAMMING

Live like a local and experience everyday Italian life while staying in comfortable apartment-style accommodations for an entire month in Florence. Learn to speak Italian at the language school on weekday mornings, then start putting those studies to practical use as you explore Florence and other parts of Tuscany.

A typical day

Begin the day enjoying breakfast in your apartment, or perhaps have an espresso and cornetto at a nearby café. Depart your apartment a little before 9 a.m. for the short tram ride and walk to your Italian language class. After a morning learning (or relearning!) vocabulary and practicing conversations, meet up with classmates for a leisurely *pranzo* (lunch). Depending on the day, enjoy an afternoon at leisure for independent exploration, or attend a group excursion or one that's included in one of the tracks you've signed up for. Later in the afternoon, join your fellow Stanford sabbatical participants for a lecture by faculty leader Ed Steidle, then keep the discussion going over *aperitivi* at a nearby café.

Making tracks...

Included for all travelers is the Language Track, offering a full immersion in *la lingua bella*. A second or third track (Art and Architecture or Cooking) may be added for an additional fee. Note that none of the classes or excursions from the various tracks overlap, so it is possible to participate in all three tracks.

...and more!

In addition to classes and excursions, enjoy lectures (approximately eight in total, or about two a week) by our faculty leader, as well as talks by local experts. Occasional group excursions and meals are planned, offering many opportunities to socialize and get to know fellow travelers over a meal or a trip to a nearby town. These group classes and outings are balanced with plenty of time at leisure to relax, explore independently, learn and simply enjoy the ambience of Florence and Tuscany.

LANGUAGE TRACK

Learn to communicate in Italian! Whatever your level of proficiency, you can focus on acquiring or improving both written and oral communication skills and learn to understand and speak on various topics. Classes are three hours a day, four mornings a week, and are offered at multiple levels, from beginner to advanced. Classes are taught at Accademia Europea di Firenze, located a brief tram ride and short walk from our hotel. *Molto bene!* COST: Included

ART AND ARCHITECTURE TRACK

View firsthand Florence's *Rinascimento* (Renaissance) through the art and architecture of this cultural hub. Enjoy three half-day excursions, two in the Florence city center and one at the nearby site of Fiesole, which dates back to the 9th century. Back in Florence, view the striking Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and Brunelleschi's famous dome that tops it, undoubtedly the city's most iconic landmark. Visit several other historically significant churches in the city center, including the Franciscan Basilica of Santa Croce. Considered to be the country's most important funerary church, Santa Croce holds the remains of Michelangelo, Galileo, Alberti and many other luminaries. COST: \$455

COOKING TRACK

Try your hand at the fundamentals of Italian cuisine through cooking demonstrations and a shopping excursion to a local market. At the neighborhood markets, discover the region's bounty of artisanal cheeses, handmade pasta, locally produced olive oil and just-picked fruits and vegetables. Proceed to the cooking school with fresh ingredients in hand and learn about Tuscan wines, breads and cheeses while preparing typical Italian appetizers. As in the traditional Italian kitchen, each participant will take part in preparing the dishes and then enjoy them together with the others. COST: \$565

Visit <http://alumni.stanford.edu/trip?florence2022> to download the trip calendar.

INFORMATION

Covid-19 and Travel

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for specific destinations will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

Size

This trip requires a minimum of 15 participants and is limited to 34. Travel/Study is committed to providing a low-density experience on all programs and will implement protocols to do so, including social distancing on transportation as well as during lectures, meals and excursions. Single accommodations are limited.

About the PopArtment

This aparthotel offers modern, comfortable and spacious accommodations, located just outside the city's historic center within a 25-minute walk (or short tram ride and brief walk) to the Piazza del Duomo and the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Complimentary tram passes will be provided so guests can quickly and easily travel to the historic center. Apartments are bright and have modern furnishings, and all come with high ceilings, large windows and individual air-conditioning and heating. Each apartment's kitchenette features basic utensils, mini-fridge, coffeemaker, electric kettle, microwave, dishwasher and small cooktop. Bathrooms are stocked with a hair dryer and basic toiletries and feature a walk-in shower. Satellite TV and broadband internet access are provided in each apartment to help you stay connected. The hotel features an outdoor courtyard, TV lounge and self-service laundry facilities. Studio, deluxe studio and one-bedroom apartments have been reserved for our group; studio apartments are approximately 333 square feet, deluxe studio apartments are approximately 484 square feet and one-bedroom apartments are approximately 527 square feet. There is one two-bedroom apartment available, at approximately 665 square feet.

Grocery stores, bakeries, a pizzeria and wine bar, a pharmacy and other conveniences are within walking distance. Housekeeping service, including changing towels and bedding, is included every three days. Dry cleaning services are available for a fee. There is also a 24-hour reception desk for questions big and small.

Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

	Double	Single
Studio – approx. 333 sq. ft.	\$11,895	\$14,295
Deluxe studio – approx. 484 sq. ft.	\$12,495	\$15,295
One-bedroom – approx. 527 sq. ft.	\$12,995	\$16,295
Two-bedroom – approx. 665 sq. ft.	\$14,995	-

*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

Included

- 28-night stay at the PopArtment in Florence
- 2 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 8 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions

- Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary, including a private after-hours visit to the Uffizi Gallery
- Classes in the Language Track
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Excursions in the Art and Architecture Track
- Excursions and classes in the Cooking Track
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Gratuities for housekeeping
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as groceries, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

What to Expect

We consider this to be a mildly active program. Italian lessons are three hours each and are held four days a week at a location a short tram ride and walk (about 15-20 minutes in total) from our accommodations, and the twice-weekly lectures by our faculty leader are held at the Popartment. Group excursions may involve one to two miles of walking during city tours and may require extended periods of standing in museums and churches and at other sites. Participants will encounter uneven terrain at times, including some dirt paths and cobblestone streets and sidewalks. The classes and activities included in each of the three tracks and the various planned group excursions will be balanced by free time for travelers to explore, shop, relax and otherwise enjoy being temporary residents of Florence. Although tour staff will be available throughout the program, the program is intentionally not fully scheduled, and travelers should feel comfortable with a certain level of independence and be eager to explore on their own. Limited meals are included; as part of the experience, we expect travelers will enjoy shopping for and cooking their own meals in their apartment's kitchenette as well as dining out independently at local restaurants and cafés. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association, as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership.

Deposits, Payments and Cancellations

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place is resold, in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association nor Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50