

The Mediterranean Cultural History Program 2015

Itinerary

Flight to the Zurich, Switzerland

Zurich, Switzerland | Days 1-2

We'll get acquainted with each other and the students from Western European Program to discuss the ground rules for the Mediterranean portion of the program, and our unique approach to study and travel.



Here, we will establish the framework we will use throughout the program. We'll take advantage of the museums and attractions located in Zurich. In the old city we will visit several notable churches, including the Fraumunster which features stained-glass windows designed by Marc Chagall. The art professor will also lead the group to one of several of Zurich's fine museums, including the Kunsthaus. There will also be the essential introductions to the academic subject areas and the interdisciplinary nature of our program.



Venice | Days 3-5

Our first view of the city, called "the bride of the sea", will be as we exit the train station and stand at the edge of the Grand Canal. On a walking tour, we will cross a few of the more than 200 bridges that connect the archipelago of small islands that form the city. We will visit the Piazza San Marco, called by Napoleon, "The most beautiful drawing room in the world." We will tour the Basilica, and see the 10th century Bell Tower. Our art professor will guide us through the Galleria dell

Accademia, with its rich collection of Venetian paintings, including Bellini's "Madonna," Giorgione's "Tempest" and Tintoretto's magnificent cycle depicting the life of St. Mark. Nearby, we will see the Scuola San Rocco with Tintoretto's masterpieces.

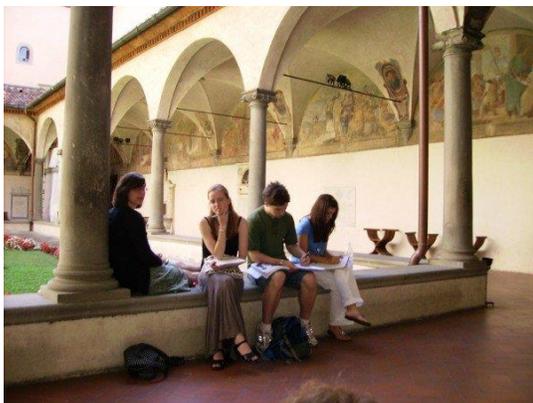


We will also visit the Collezione Peggy Guggenheim, a magnificent canal-side palazzo which houses outstanding works by many modern masters including Max Ernst, Salvador Dali, Constantin Brancusi, Pablo Picasso and Jackson Pollack. Evenings will be spent at leisure, exploring the hidden treasures of the city as twilight edges into darkness, or just sitting at a cafe along the Canal watching gondolas glide by.

Florence | Days 6-9

Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, is an essential component of our study program. Located in the center of Tuscany, it offers art lovers a unique opportunity to study the accomplishments of an age within the geographical confines where they were produced. Our art professor will guide us through the Uffizi, which includes the best of the Italian Renaissance: Filippo Lippi, Botticelli, Michelangelo, da Vinci and Titian, along with some superb examples of Northern art.

We will visit the Duomo and have an opportunity to climb up Brunelleschi's structure for a panoramic view of the city. We will also visit the Baptistery and see Ghiberti's "Gates of Paradise," and the Bargello, with its magnificent collection of Florentine sculpture including works by Donatello, Verrocchio, Michelangelo and Cellini.



In Florence, we will visit the Piazza della Signoria and discuss aspects of the Florentine Renaissance. The Loggia dei Lanzi houses sculptures by Benvenuto Cellini and Giambologna, and affords us an opportunity to stand under the arcade and survey the civic heart of Florence. Situated across from the Loggia is the Palazzo Vecchio-the administrative center of the city. Of course, we cannot miss the Galleria dell'Accademia, which houses Michelangelo's "David" and a number of his other works.

No tour of Florence would be complete without a look at its famous churches. We will visit Santa Maria del Carmine with Masaccio's frescoes in its Brancacci Chapel; Santa Maria Novella with Masaccio's "Holy Trinity" and important frescos by Ghirlandaio; San Marco with Savonarola's cell; and Santa Croce, where our historian will discuss famous Italians who are buried there. Evening classes may be held in one of the hotel balcony rooms overlooking the city, or at leisure in the cafes near the Mercato Centrale. We will travel by morning train to our next destination, Rome.



Rome | Days 10-14

On our arrival in Rome, we will go on a walking tour of the ancient city. Among the many sites of Rome, we will view: the Castel Sant' Angelo, the Pantheon, Trajan's Column, the Colosseum, the Arch of Constantine, and the Roman Forum. In the ruins of the Forum our historian will deliver a lecture on the history of Ancient Rome.



We plan to visit the Vatican Museum with its famous sculptures such as the "Laocoön Group" and the "Apollo Belvedere," the great Egyptian Art Collection, the Raphael Rooms, the Greek Vase Collection, the Chapel of Nicolas V with frescos by Beato Angelico, and the Sistine Chapel, the jewel of Renaissance art in the heart of the Vatican. Of course we will visit Saint Peter's Basilica with Michelangelo's famous "Pietà" and Bernini's "Baldacchino."

We will also experience some of Renaissance and Baroque Rome. We plan to visit the Galleria Borghese with Bernini's greatest early sculptures and a priceless collection of Titians and Caravaggios. We will do a walking tour to see Loyola's Chiesa del Gesu, Santa Maria della Vittoria with Bernini's "Santa Teresa in Ecstasy," Piazza Navona with three Bernini fountains, and the Spanish Steps. Before leaving we will stop at the Trevi Fountain to drop in a coin, which according to tradition will assure our return to the Eternal City. We will fly from Rome to Madrid, Spain.



Madrid | Days 15-18

We will begin our visit to Madrid, the city that never sleeps, with a walking tour, taking in the Puerta del Sol, the 17th-century Plaza Mayor, and a sampling of the rich legacy of Medieval & Baroque architecture that has survived in the modern city. Madrid is well known for its outstanding art museums. We will visit the Museo del Prado, home of one of the finest art collections in the world. Here we will see an exceptional body of works by Velázquez, Goya, Heironymus Bosch, Rubens, and many others.



The highlight of our visit to the modern art collection at the Centro de Arte Reina Sofia will be Picasso's "Guernica", an eloquent painted protest to the horrors of war.



The Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza displays an extensive private art collection with a range of excellent and well-displayed works dating from the 13th to the 20th century. We will take a day trip to San Lorenzo de El Escorial. This spacious, austere architectural array is named for the monastery which was built by Philip II of Spanish Armada fame as a mausoleum for his father, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. In addition to the huge monastery, it contains a basilica, a royal residence, a library of 40,000 rare books, and the tombs of most of the Spanish kings and queens since Charles V. With its extensive collection of art and books, the complex was known as an important intellectual center during the 16th and 17th century. We will travel by bus or train to Barcelona.



Barcelona| Days 19-23

One of the most pedestrian friendly cities in Europe, Barcelona is also the home of some of the most important innovators in modern art such as the architect Antonio Gaudí and the artist Pablo Picasso. We will take a walking tour past Modernista gems by Gaudí, including Casa Milà, Parc Güell, and the towering Sagrada Família, still under construction after more than 100 years. Barcelona is famed for its two mountains: Tibidabo and Montjuic.



Time permitting, we will visit Montjuic and see the Barcelona Olympic monument, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's masterpiece of international style architecture, The Barcelona Pavilion, and the Museum of Catalan Art. We will surely visit the Museu Picasso. Here we will view a broad survey of

the artist's works dating from 1890, when he was nine years old through his formative years in Barcelona to his death in 1973.



There will also be opportunities to visit the Fundació Joan Miró, exhibiting works from throughout Miró's career. In the narrow winding streets of the medieval Barri Gòtic we will visit the magnificent Gothic cathedral. There will be time for last minute shopping, a stroll along the tree lined La Rambla with its many shops and



restaurants. You'll experience it all: urban graffiti, street performers, city markets, modernista architecture, and the tastes of tapas and paella.

At this point, we will have experienced a tremendous range of European cities and cultures, and have forged new memories and friendships. We'll be able to look back at the vast amount of knowledge we now have about European history and art, and the comparative view we've gained with which to view American culture and history. As we prepare to say goodbye to our amazing adventure, we'll wrap up coursework, have a last group meal, and prepare for our return flights home.



Return Home | Day 24

End of Program