

SUMMER PROGRAM IN FLORENCE 2005

**SATURDAY, 11 JUNE 2005 –
FRIDAY, 22 JULY 2005**



ACADEMICS

Professors

Florida Atlantic University faculty, Arizona State University faculty, Dominican University faculty, and local faculty members from Florence teach courses on the Florence, Italy summer program. Dr. Emanuele Pettener, Visiting Instructor and Italian Language Coordinator, will be the faculty leader from Florida Atlantic University for summer 2005. The F.A.U. art history instructor will be Dr. Roger Hurlburt.

Class Schedule

Students on the Florence program are required to take two courses totaling 6-8 credits while on the program. Courses are offered in Italian language (all levels), history, art history, photography, anthropology, and English composition. All courses are scheduled Monday through Thursday afternoons. The photography course might be held at various times, depending on where the students will be photographing. This schedule leaves students ample time to study, visit the city's museums and historical sites, and take advantage of the varied cultural events — concerts, films, operas — offered during the summer.

Organized Field Trips

Two Fridays are reserved for organized excursions to locations outside of Florence.

Guided excursions are *tentatively* planned to:

*Siena, one of Italy's best-preserved medieval towns. Almost all of Siena's public buildings and churches have artistic or historical merit, as Siena was a center of learning and art in the Middle Ages. A lavish lunch will be provided.

*The Tuscan countryside: Students will visit San Gimignano, one of Italy's best preserved medieval hilltop towns, and tour one of the most attractive and popular regions of Italy's *agriturismo*, stopping for lunch at a restaurant / *trattoria* and visiting a local winery.

Text Books & Syllabi

Reading lists will be provided at the orientation. Some students may be able to purchase their texts before leaving campus in the spring, while others may need to wait until arrival in Florence to obtain their books. When possible, students are strongly encouraged to begin the course readings as early as possible in order to get the most from the program once they arrive in Florence.

Registration

The FAU Office of International Programs will enroll students in their overseas courses. Students will not be able to enroll themselves into the study abroad courses since special permission is needed.

Computers & E-mail

Course assignments will not need to be typed, so there is no need for students to bring computers or word processors for the summer program. There are commercial computer labs in Florence where students can rent time, so it is advisable to establish an e-mail account in the U.S. prior to leaving for Florence. Although e-mail cost is reasonable, Internet access can become expensive. Information about this will be provided during the on-site, compulsory orientation.

ORIENTATIONS

Prior to Departure

The Study Abroad Office will have an orientation for all Florence program participants in the spring semester. This *required* orientation provides students with very practical information in preparation for the summer program. Following is the date and time for the orientation:

Florence Program Orientation

Date: Thursday, April 28 (Reading Day)
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: SU 132

Upon Arrival

An on-site orientation will be presented on Sunday, June 12th, in Florence. Students will receive academic, travel, dining, and shopping information as well as other tips for making the most of their study abroad experience in Florence.

BUDGETING OVERSEAS

Exchange Rate

Italy's currency is the Euro. The smallest note is Euro 5.00. Other denominations in notes are E 10, E 20, E 50, E 100 and E 200. Coin denominations are E 2.00 and 1.00. Coins worth less than 1 Euro are expressed in "centesimi" (the equivalent of the American "cents") and they come in the following amounts: .01, .02, .05, .10, .20, and .50. On February 1, 2005 one dollar was worth .76740 Euros. This will exchange rate will fluctuate daily.

For updated exchange rate information, see the currency exchange web site:

<http://www.oanda.com>

When using your credit card, the exchange rate will be calculated automatically, and you will see the cost in U.S. dollars reflected on your statement. To give you an idea how much items cost in Florence see below:

	<u>Euros</u>
Lunch at McDonalds:	6.00
Lunch at a cafe:	6.00-8.00
Loaf of bread:	1.50-3.00
Stick of deodorant:	3.00
Ticket to a museum:	8.00-15.00
Ticket to a movie:	10.00
Ticket to opera:	30.00
Note book:	2.00
Sweatshirt	15.00
Dinner at a mid-priced restaurant	16.00-30.00

Carrying Money

Unfortunately, pickpockets are a reality in Florence. Be especially careful in crowded buses, which allow nimble-fingered thieves, sometimes children, the perfect opportunity to snag wallets from purses, pants, or jacket pockets. Beware of anyone holding out a piece of cardboard or folded newspaper; it's probably a trick. It is not at all rude to hold your private possessions close to you or cross to the other side of the street when passing suspicious looking individuals.

All students on the program are advised to bring a money belt for carrying money. A money belt keeps the cash and important documents near your body and out of easy reach of thieves. In addition to money belts, past participants have recommended purses that you wear around your neck and under your shirt. Here are some other precautions you should take:

1. On a daily basis in Florence, do not carry your passport, flight tickets, or large amounts of cash on you unless absolutely necessary. Important items can be stored in your room's safe deposit box or locked in your suitcase.
2. Do not carry money and credit cards in the same place.
3. Make photocopies of all important documents and keep them in a separate place. Also leave photo-copies with a relative or a friend in the US (the OIP will also have a copy on file for you).

Paying for Expenses

There are several ways to carry money and pay for costs while overseas:

- 1) We recommend that all participants carry a major credit card in their name. Visa and MasterCard are accepted all over Europe. (In some places however, Visa seems the credit card of choice). Even if payment by credit card is not preferred for daily expenditures, a credit card might be important in case of an emergency and/or while traveling, all the more since they are protected and easily replaced if lost. A process for payment of credit card bills should be established before a student's departure from the U.S. Credit cards also offer access to cash via banks or cash machines, although there is a service charge for these transactions and interest payments begin immediately.

2) ATM machines, which give you access to your *checking* account, can be found throughout Florence and Europe. This is the most popular method of obtaining money while abroad for program participants. By using ATMs, students avoid the risk of carrying large amounts of cash, withdrawing sums of money as needed. Check with your bankcard provider to determine if a transaction fee will be charged, either here or abroad. Your card must be on the International ATM Network, and the PIN for your card must have four digits. Some new U.S. cards have six digits and won't work in Europe. Cirrus and Plus are the most popular ATM accounts. The symbols will be on your card, but they should also appear on the machines themselves. Cash dispensers will eat cards they don't consider valid, so match symbols first. Past participants tended to use a combination of credit cards and ATMs for handling money. An easy way to access additional money while abroad is to ask someone in the U.S. to deposit money into your bank checking account, thereby allowing you to withdraw additional sums with your ATM card.

3) Another option is for participants to obtain the spending money they expect to need during the program in traveler's checks before departure. (You can purchase these with your credit card once you are in Italy also.) Participants should always remember to keep traveler's check stubs separate from the checks, so that reimbursement is easy in the case of theft or loss. It is also a good idea to leave a record of the traveler's check numbers with someone at home for reference if assistance in obtaining replacement checks is necessary. Request a variety of denominations.

4) Especially if you are arriving independently, it is helpful to have some of the host country's currency on hand upon arrival (\$75-100 should be enough). Generally, participants will easily find exchange banks at their point of entry or at a major international airport in the U.S. There are cash machines in the airports in Italy as well.

Budgeting for Miscellaneous Spending

Beyond the overall program costs (tuition, program fee, housing, group dinners, 2 excursions, and airfare), students will need to budget money for additional/optional travel, entertainment, food, and other miscellaneous expenses. The amount of money spent in this category varies from student to student. Some students have reported spending less than \$25 a day in miscellaneous expenses, while others have spent more.

Eating Out

\$500-\$800

Students can save money by purchasing snacks, food, and *panini* at local grocery stores and markets for light lunches or dinners in Florence and while traveling.

Independent Travel

\$500-\$1,000

Students might want to consider purchasing a limited Eurail pass if they plan to travel extensively before or after the program in Europe, but it is not recommended for those who will not extend their stay in Europe. For rail travel within Italy during the program, students may purchase a kilometric pass. Amounts spent in this category vary greatly depending on where students plan to go in Europe. Students may want to consult a travel agent in advance to plan travel and expenses. However, students often discuss weekend plans during the week and then consult a travel agent in Florence for last-minute assistance with travel arrangements. Remember that Florence is very conveniently located, and that access to nearby towns is greatly facilitated by an excellent network of public transportation. You do not need to travel far to find pleasant, interesting, and inexpensive destinations.

Miscellaneous Personal Expenses

\$500-\$800

Admissions to museums, concerts, local travel, phone, postage, etc.

HOUSING INFORMATION

Apartment Contact information

TBA

About the Apartments

TBA

Rooms

TBA

About telephones

To call home, you can use a phone card or call collect by using the international operator. If you have a calling card such as AT&T, Sprint, MCI, etc., you can charge an international call to your calling card by calling an access number; check with your provider before you leave home. Students recommend shopping around for international phone cards. Some cards with good per minute rates made calling the U.S. no more expensive than having family/friends call from the U.S. Internet cafes also provide international telephone services. Cellular phones can be rented or purchased fairly inexpensively.

Meal Arrangements

Students will have furnished kitchen facilities in the apartments in which to do their own cooking.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visas

U.S. citizens do not need visas for travel to Italy for stays up to 90 days. At Customs and Immigration, if you are asked about the purpose of your visit, simply state that you are a tourist. **International students** will probably need a visa for traveling abroad (ask for a tourist rather than a student visa). You should check with the Italian embassy or consulate to determine whether a visa is required for residents of your country. If you need a letter from our office to verify your participation in our program, we will be happy to provide one.

Travel to Florence

Students should make their own travel plans, but comparison shop as fares can differ significantly. Your *International Student Identity Card* (ISIC) entitles you to a discounted student fare, if available. In any case, be sure to mention that you are a student; sometimes lower student fares are available even without the card. Good places to look for cheap tickets are travel agencies, the Sunday travel sections of major newspapers, and the Internet. To help you begin your search, following are some URLs:

<http://www.studentuniverse.com>

<http://www.sta.com>

<http://www.expedia.com>

<http://www.travelocity.com>

<http://travel.yahoo.com>

It pays to comparison shop! It is important to decide before you book your flight if you want to delay your return and allow time to travel after the program. Otherwise, you will have to pay an additional fee for changing your return date.

Weekend Excursions

Because classes and activities are not scheduled on the weekends, many students on the Florence program spend their weekends traveling around Italy and even other countries in Europe. Purchase of a discounted Eurail pass (**must be purchased in the U.S.**) will enable students to conveniently visit numerous countries in Europe or cities in Italy, but it is important to estimate how extensively you will travel before purchasing the card. For some students the card is not economical. For those students who wish to limit travel expenditures, there are many fascinating sites within Tuscany. Some of the most fascinating (and cheap) excursion sites are the medieval towns outside of the major cities. Since weekend excursions are not included in the study abroad program fees, students are encouraged to budget for these potential expenses before the program commences. Former participants recommend purchasing a good guidebook before going abroad.

Traveling by Train

Traveling by train is the best way to see Europe. In most countries the trains are punctual, clean, comfortable, inexpensive, and go nearly everywhere. There are various rail passes available. The Eurail pass provides unlimited second-class travel throughout Western Europe (except Britain and Northern Ireland) within a specific period of time. *Eurail passes must be purchased in the U.S.* and are sold at travel agencies. In addition, each European country offers its own passes. National rail passes (which offer discounted rates) and kilometric rail passes (which allow you to travel a certain number of kilometers whenever you choose) must be purchased in Europe. Consult a travel agency or one of the suggested travel guides or WWW sites for more information about travel in Italy and Europe.

Two web sites may help you plan for traveling by train.

<http://www.raileurope.com>

For general trains information and schedules.
<http://www.trenitalia.it>

Hitchhiking

Hitchhiking in Europe can be dangerous and is NOT recommended. Hazards include road accidents, frequent thefts, and personal assaults.

Taxis

Use only official taxis and always make sure you are given the code name of the driver. This code name is either a city or the name of an artist, followed by a number (for instance “Napoli 24”). This code is also displayed on the taxi itself. Always take a seat in the back of a taxi.

Youth Hostels

If you choose to travel on your own in Italy and Europe you might consider staying at youth hostels. Many Italian hostels are beautifully located in castles and old villas. Italian hostels are run by the *Associazione Italiana Alberghi per la Gioventù* (AIAG), which is affiliated with Hostelling International (HI). Membership cards can be purchased at major hostels, from CTS (student and youth travel center) offices and AIAG offices throughout Italy. Youth hostels provide clean and inexpensive accommodations throughout Western Europe, although the quality varies considerably. Some hostels require a hostel card in order to spend the night, while others do not, especially private hostels. You can also purchase memberships at any youth hostel overseas; sometimes they are less expensive in Europe. Students recommend making your hotel/ hostel reservations as soon as possible once you are in Italy. Youth hostel information on the web: <http://www.hostels.com>

Travel Smart

It is highly recommended that students team up with other FAU students who are interested in traveling to similar areas. As a traveler, be well organized. Keep your documents safe but readily available when on the move. Study local maps to become familiar with your destinations, noting which areas are considered safe. While much of the pleasure of studying abroad on a summer program is getting to know people and sharing adventures, always be prepared to rely on yourself for things such as money, access to transit, transit schedules, etc.

Travel safety/security

An updated consular information sheet for Italy can be found at
<http://travel.state.gov/italy.html>

The American Consulate General in Florence is one of three consulates that fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Embassy in Rome. The other two consulates are located in Milan and Naples. The Consulate is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For emergency situations and afternoon appointments please contact them by:

Telephone	39 055 266 951
Fax	39 055 284 088
Mail	Lugarno Vespucci, 38 – 50123 Firenze, Italy

In Rome the consulate is located at Via V. Veneto 119/A, and can be reached by phone at 011-39-06-46741. The website is <http://www.usembassy.it>

Packing

Pack light! Experienced travelers suggest that you bring half as much luggage as you think you need. Check with your airline for specifics on baggage allowance. Remember to leave space in your suitcase for items that you will inevitably purchase overseas. Do not forget that you are sharing a room with two other students. Be considerate of your roommates and limit your luggage, be sure to bring a backpack for daytrips. Make sure you do not pack your passport in your suitcase! This should be kept on you at all times during travel for safety and easy access. Past participants have recommended purchasing a money belt or other similar device to keep money, passport, etc. close to the body and secure during travel. Make photocopies of the opening page of your passport and all of your credit cards and carry them separately from the passport and credit cards. Carry essentials onboard—occasionally luggage gets misplaced.

Clothing

Versatile wash-and-wear clothing is recommended since dry cleaning is very expensive and ironing facilities may be limited. The weather in Florence can be very warm, even hot and humid in June and especially July.

In addition to casual everyday clothes, students from previous summer programs suggest that you pack a nicer set of clothing for wearing to theater performances, concerts, receptions, and other events outside of the classroom setting. Also keep in mind that you should dress appropriately when visiting churches, i.e. no shorts, halter tops, etc.

Shoes

Be sure to pack a pair of comfortable walking shoes. You will be doing a lot of walking on tours and while traveling. A pair of nice sandals or casual shoes may also be useful to bring along. Shower shoes/thongs are helpful to have for the bathroom. If you plan on wearing new shoes, break them in before you leave for Florence or you will have plenty of blisters!

Misc. Items to Bring

Suggestions:

- 1) A backpack to use on excursions and weekend trips
- 2) Small locks for your backpack and suitcase
- 3) Toiletries for use during the trip over, when you first arrive and for weekend traveling (best to pack in your carry on in case your luggage is lost or delayed)
- 4) A compact umbrella
- 5) Enough prescription medicine for your entire trip
- 6) Eyeglass or contact lens prescription
- 7) A towel/washcloth to take on weekend trips
- 8) A camera, film, and batteries
- 9) A wind-up or battery-operated alarm clock
- 10) A guidebook (many available, but the *Berkeley Guides* and *Let's Go* are geared toward student budgets)
- 11) Imodium (the most widely recommended antidote to diarrhea)
- 12) A pocket flashlight
- 13) A Swiss Army knife (but do not pack it in your carry-on luggage)
- 18) Kleenex and antibacterial wipes
- 19) A first-aid kit
- 20) A sewing/repair kit
- 21) A calculator
- 22) Sunscreen
- 23) Ziplock bags
- 24) Ear plugs
- 25) Shower shoes/thongs
- 26) Mosquito repellent

Items Not To Pack

- 1) Don't take electrical appliances—they don't work well, even with converters and outlet adapters. It's better to buy them in Italy.
- 2) Don't bring pillows and other bed linens since they are provided for you.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

One of the most valuable and exciting aspects of the summer program in Florence is that students are able to gain firsthand experience of living in another culture. There are plenty of differences between American and Italian culture, and much benefit is gained from discovering and appreciating these differences.

A returned student commented, "Studying abroad is about taking risks, meeting new people, and visiting unfamiliar places. It's about stepping out of your comfort zone. Students shouldn't go if they are closed-minded or only see the world from their Boca Raton glasses." Therefore, we encourage you to gather as much information as possible about Italian culture prior to departure. Take some time out of your busy spring semester to read about world affairs and current issues around Europe. Check out one of the books in the recommended reading section of this handbook. Not only will your preparation greatly enhance the quality of your experience, but it will also demonstrate your goodwill as an American ambassador to another country. While in Florence, keep your eyes and ears open to learn about the local lifestyle. Read a local newspaper to learn what is going on in the city (festivals, exhibits, concerts).

Your study abroad adventure will be one of the most meaningful and treasured experiences of your life; however, you may not realize it until you return. Of course everything will be different—if you had wanted familiar surroundings, you would

have remained at home, right? Don't get upset by minor inconveniences (even though they may seem major at the time). Your time abroad is less than two months, so try to make the most of it. Finally, *be flexible!* There will be many new experiences, and the more open-minded you are, the more exciting and wonderful your summer will be!

A Special Note for Female Students

Italian men can be aggressively forward. Although they are usually harmless, American women may see their advances as harassment instead of high spirits. If you find yourself pestered by a persistent man, the best way to rebuff him is to simply ignore him. If you feel threatened, head for the nearest group of people. The following is some additional, more general information that may be helpful:

Women may experience some particular gender-specific difficulties while abroad. Despite the fact that the rate of violence towards women, including rape, is higher in the U.S. than in many other countries, the mere fact of facing the unfamiliar can raise your anxiety level. This is compounded by linguistic and cultural differences, and by the unfortunate fact that people in other countries often have acquired their knowledge of U.S. women through distorted and stereotyped media images used in TV, movies and advertising. American women have acquired a reputation for enjoying a type of lifestyle, which contrasts with more traditional behavior in many countries. In addition, cultural differences can extend to body language. U.S. students may encounter people who do not understand that their familiar way with strangers is a gesture of friendship. A smile, a hairstyle, the way you carry yourself, eye contact, the distance between people talking can have profoundly different interpretations from culture to culture. Even a smile to a stranger may be misunderstood.

There is much you can do to prepare yourself for your experience abroad. You are your own best resource in preparing to face a range of possible situations, from sexual comments or harassment, to the rare extreme of a physically threatening situation. Even before leaving, take the time and initiative to learn as much as possible about your host country's language, religion, customs, and appropriate dress for women. Talk to women and men who have visited your host country and, if possible, talk with people from your host country. Visit the library and read some history and geography. The more familiar you are with your new country's customs, the more respect you will earn and the more you will break down reciprocal stereotypes. Such knowledge will increase your confidence and independence, which are important to your personal safety. Continue this learning in your host country. Talk to local women. While you cannot change the culture around you, you can use your friends (American and host nationals) as a safe haven for developing coping skills and venting frustrations. However, you should not use cultural differences as an excuse to endure or excuse verbal or physical abuse; depending on the situation, remove yourself as quickly as possible, confront the person, or ask for support from others. Trust your intuition and feelings. If you are offered a ride and you feel some anxiety, decline the offer. If you are in a setting that makes you nervous, leave. Precautions also apply to social situations. Most likely, you will find everyone you meet to be interesting and interested in you. However, you cannot make judgments about your safety based on another person's looks, appearance or financial status. If you are uncomfortable with certain behavior or conversation, the following suggestions may be helpful:

Try to turn the conversation around by asking some questions yourself. Initiate rather than always react. This puts you more in control. Bring up other subjects, such as local politics or history. Use a gracious sense of humor, so that saying "no" can allow the other person to save face. If this fails to deter, then tell the other person very directly that you want him or her to stop (whatever it is that disturbs you). Be specific. A calm and serious tone is usually the best. Your own body language should match your words. A giggle, smile or apology will undermine your message. If you need help in developing the skills necessary for assertive behavior, it may be advantageous for you to take a women's self defense class. Firmly say "no" to any invitation you don't want, and give your address only to people you know and trust. Be cautious until you know and understand local values and customs. Learning to respect the local social rules will facilitate your relationships with host nationals.

Only you can determine how best to handle a situation. However, if you prepare yourself before your departure, you will find that you will have more options for dealing with situations. In Europe, both men and women may find their American assumptions of sexual equality and easy friendliness with members of the other sex lead to misunderstandings. Europeans may interpret this open friendly attitude as coming on to them, and either take advantage or be offended. It may be necessary for you to give very clear signals that you mean friendliness only, to avert embarrassing situations or worse, such as date rape.

References

Half the Earth: Women's Experiences of Travel Worldwide, edited by Miranda Davies et al., published by Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Women Travel: Adventures, Advice and Experience, edited by Natania Jansz and Miranda Davies, published by Prentice Hall (1992).

A Journey of One's Own: Uncommon Advice for the Independent Woman Traveler, by Thalia Zepatos, published by The Eighth Mountain Press, Portland (1992).

Dating Violence: Young Women in Danger, edited by Barrie Levy, Seal Press Feminist, Seattle, Washington (1991).

I Never Called It Rape: The MS report on recognizing, fighting and surviving date rape, by Shirley Warshaw, published by Harper Collins, New York (1988).

HEALTH & SAFETY

Immunizations

Students traveling to Italy do not need to have immunizations prior to departure, but hepatitis A and tetanus are a good idea. However, if you plan to travel to other countries during the summer, you should check the requirements and precautions for those countries to determine if additional immunizations are needed. For detailed information of immunization requirements for countries, consult the following web site: <http://travel/travel.html>

Prescription Medications

Students should plan ahead and pack enough of their prescription medications to cover the time they will be abroad. While there is a chance that a prescription can be filled in Italy, it is generally much more convenient and less expensive to take care of this at a pharmacy in the U.S.

Insurance

All Florence study abroad students are automatically billed for a limited group medical insurance policy. The insurance policy covers students while they are overseas. A description of benefits will be given to you with your ISIC card. The policy requires you to pay for medical services when they are rendered and then file a claim for reimbursement, so be sure to save all receipts.

If Something Is Lost or Stolen

If something important is lost or stolen, you will need to go to the *Questura* or Central Police headquarters (via *Duca d'Aosta* 3, open 24 hours a day for emergencies, but regular hours for simple things) and fill out a police report at the *Ufficio Denunce*. One of the program faculty or directors will be able to help you with this. There are English-speaking officers who can help you fill out your report. You should bring some form of ID with you, such as a passport or driver's license. The police will follow up from that point and provide you with legal proof of your loss which will be needed when you request replacement of credit cards, driver's license, and other personal documents. If you are insured, the insurance company will also want a copy.

Protecting Valuables

Most crime in Italy, as in Europe generally, is directed against property. Students should keep all valuables, especially wallets, passports, credit cards and the like, in buttoned or zippered inside pockets or in money belts. Pickpockets are frequent in Florence and other European cities. Never leave bags, backpacks, and cases unattended, or even in locked cars. Room doors should be kept locked and valuable items in locked suitcases, drawers or closets. Always lock your room door, even if you're just going to the bathroom. Use the same precautions you would in any other metropolitan area: don't carry valuables, don't wear expensive clothing or jewelry, and avoid questionable parts of the city, especially at night and when alone.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Although abroad, you are a FAU student and therefore subject to FAU's rules and regulations. Generally, misconduct abroad may be defined as any situation in which participants have jeopardized their own welfare, that of their fellow participants or of the program, or have willfully violated regulations. You are a guest in another country; it is both polite and practical to observe your host's laws and customs. It is your responsibility, and in fact one of the objectives of a study abroad experience, to understand these different laws and customs as well as to observe them. In criminal matters (which may be defined differently than in the U.S.) neither the program nor the U.S. Consulate can intercede. In some countries the burden of proof rests with the defense and not with the prosecution.

Illegal Drugs

It is imperative that students stay away from illegal drugs. Drug laws abroad are much stricter than in the U.S. and are vigorously enforced (sometimes more so against foreigners). Possession of even small amounts can mean imprisonment, with no possibility for appeal. If you get caught, neither the program nor the U.S. government can intervene.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

World Wide Web Sites

Students are encouraged to explore the World Wide Web for information related to their travels this summer. Use any of the available web search engines to look up information on Florence, Italy or traveling in Europe.

Complete information on Eurail and passes, including articles on how to decide which pass to choose, free software for planning a European travel itinerary, and order by credit card information.

<http://www.raileurope.com>

Information on Italian train schedules

<http://www.itwg.com/trains/trlink.asp>

Italian for travelers: first click on English, then choose Italian

<http://www.travlang.com/languages/>

U.S. State Dept information

http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html

Italy — general information

<http://travel.state.gov/italy.html>

<http://www.wtg-online.com/country/it/gen.html>

<http://www.itwg.com/home.asp>

<http://travel.yahoo.com/destinations/Europe/countries/Italy>

<http://www.visiteruope.com/Italy/Italy03.htm>

<http://odyssey.lib.duke.edu/mazzoni/sources.html>

Florence information:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/eur/flo.htm>

SUGGESTED READING

You may want to look over a guidebook or two before you leave or take one with you. The following are lly recommended:

Let's Go

Berkeley Guide for Italy

Lonely Planet (on a Shoestring)

Rough Guide

Information is subject to change with or without notice.