

Dear Students,

In this final formal communication before the September 1st deadline to re-commit to studying abroad in Florence, I would like to share information with you regarding travel and leisure time.

So much has changed in the last months that you may find yourself wondering if you still will be able to explore and enjoy yourselves during the course of the semester. I can assure you that if you are willing to be flexible and ready to adapt to a new environment, there will be ample opportunities for fun, friendship and independent exploration in full compliance and respect with the Student Code of Conduct and the Responsible Engagement Policy.

Of course there are some limitations, based upon local regulations and the policies we have developed to prioritize the health and wellbeing of students, faculty and staff.

So what are some of your options for your leisure time abroad?

- It is still possible to travel but students are expected to limit their travel to within Italy. Italian destinations and attractions can be reached by private or public transportation and fast trains connect Florence with the major cities. These means of transportation are fully operational. You could travel regularly in Italy and discover something new and beautiful every week!
- We have no control over travel restrictions and national government guidelines and cannot guarantee re-entry and academic continuation should you fall ill or be required to quarantine in another European country. For this reason, we are restricting travel outside of Italy for the Spring 2021 semester.
- Restaurants, cafes, sandwich shops, and pubs are regularly open for business. Indoor and outdoor dining options exist.
- Bookshops, stores, shopping malls are all regularly open for business.
- Museums, galleries, churches, historic gardens are open every day.
- Gyms, parks and pools are regularly open for business.
- Amateur sports can be practiced including, but not limited to, soccer, basketball, tennis, kayaking and canoeing along the Arno river.
- Movie theaters, concert halls and theaters are open and social distancing measures are in place.
- Indoor discos and dance clubs are not currently open.

This is not an exhaustive list, and is meant to give you an idea of some of your options. Of course, this information is relevant today and may change. We will keep you updated accordingly and provide you with more specific information closer to your expected arrival date in Italy.

Good luck as you think through your options and consider the Florence program. We will hold one more Zoom information session on Wednesday August 26th at 12:30pm Eastern Time. We will send out the invitation a few days before the meeting.

In the meantime, feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,
Joanne Maddux