



# Adventures in Mind

*Travel Study for the Community*

## 2019 Adventure #1: Renaissance Italy

**Location:** Florence, with day-trips to other cities.

**Dates (to be confirmed):** May 7 - 30, 2019, including air travel days.

**Group Leaders:** Prof. John Black, Liberal Studies and Philosophy; Constance Kovalenka.

**Adventures in Mind** is VIU's educational travel program for the community. It will appeal to life-long learners who are inquisitive, open-minded and looking beyond the usual tourist experience. It is open to free spirits of all ages: a level of physical and mental fitness is highly advisable; curiosity and a sense of community are essential!

The Renaissance Italy Adventure provides a stimulating interdisciplinary exploration of one of the most dynamic and significant periods in the history of European culture. The setting is perfect because of the immense contribution of Florence to the Renaissance, the 14th-16th century blossoming of humanistic learning and artistic endeavour.

Our Adventure will cover art, architecture and literature through the works of such figures as Dante, Giotto, Donatello, Brunelleschi, Masaccio, Leonardo, Michelangelo and Gentileschi. Activities include lecture/presentations, seminar discussions and visits to museums, galleries and other sites, in Florence and elsewhere. Optional preparatory sessions will be available in Nanaimo in early May.



Under expert guidance, a group of 10-15 participants will encounter the Italian Renaissance through tours, lectures and seminar discussions, with ample free time for independent activity. Participants are encouraged to share their background knowledge and developing understanding with others, so that all benefit in their learning.

## Group Leaders



**Dr. John Black** taught in and co-ordinated the Liberal Studies Abroad credit program from its inception in 1997 until his retirement in 2017. He has Master's degrees from Cambridge and Simon Fraser, and a PhD from UBC, all in Philosophy. A devotee of mediaeval and Renaissance music, he has travelled extensively in Europe, and has led many study groups to Italy, England and the Czech Republic. He values Florence in particular because of the opportunity it gives him to encounter his favourite painters Giotto and Masaccio, and favourite sculptor Donatello.

**Connie Kovalenka** is a graduate of the Liberal Studies program at VIU, and herself studied the Renaissance in Florence in 1997. An artist in her own right, she has a special interest in

Florentine visual art, modern as well as Renaissance, and is very knowledgeable about the geography of the city, its markets, its cats, and its antiques and junk shops.



## Tentative Itinerary

- Day 0 Leave Canada
- Day 1 Arrive Florence; settle into accommodation
- Day 2 Walk in the Historic Centre, Lunch and Orientation
- Day 3 Church of San Miniato al Monte; Piazzale Michelangelo; Rose Garden
- Day 4 Free Day (Possible optional Day Trip)
- Day 5 Free Day
- Day 6 Baptistery; Cathedral Museum; (optional: Cathedral)
- Day 7 Presentations and Discussions
- Day 8 Church of Santa Maria Novella; Brancacci Chapel
- Day 9 Presentations and Discussions; Boboli Gardens
- Day 10 Church of San Lorenzo; Medici Chapels
- Day 11 Free Day
- Day 12 Free Day
- Day 13 Church of Orsanmichele; Presentations
- Day 14 Train to Padua: Baptistery & Scrovegni Chapel
- Day 15 Free Day in Venice
- Day 16 Return to Florence; Walk to Arcetri (optional)
- Day 17 Presentations and Discussions; Uffizi Gallery;
- Day 18 Free Day
- Day 19 Free Day
- Day 20 Bargello Museum; Church of Santa Croce
- Day 21 Monastery of San Marco; Fiesole; Final Dinner
- Day 22 Free Day (Possible optional Day Trip)
- Day 23 Leave Florence

Seminar discussions will be arranged at the convenience of participants, and most days will contain free time.



## Inclusive Packages

Package costs include program overheads, accommodation, all program-related travel within Italy, cellphone rental, tourist guides, educational materials, and admissions to cultural sites and events. Participants must arrange their own air travel to Florence and have adequate travel insurance, including medical. Food is not included, but accommodation is in apartments which have kitchens, so that food costs are minimal.

**Program Fee:** \$4,995 (plus admission fee of \$40.10, subject to change)

**Shared Accommodation** (Apartment for 3-4 people, with living room, kitchen and bathroom(s); share a bedroom with one other person): included in program fee.

**Single Room in Shared Apartment:** add \$500

**Private One-Bedroom Apartment** (for two): add \$500 each

**Private One-Bedroom Apartment** (for one): add \$1,000

## Payment Schedule

In order to allow us to make a firm decision to proceed with the Adventure, which depends upon enrolment, and to make bookings for accommodations etc., it is essential that we are able to cover our overheads well in advance of leaving Canada. The following payment schedule is therefore necessary:

1. On submission of Application for Admission: application fee of \$40.10
2. Within two weeks of notification of acceptance: commitment fee of \$500
3. Due January 15, 2019: booking deposit of \$2,000
4. Due March 11, 2019: payment of remaining balance

**Provided you are accepted into Adventures in Mind, all payments are non-refundable, except in case of cancellation of the Adventure by Vancouver Island University.**

## Travel Medical Insurance

ALL participants under the age of 70 are required to join Vancouver Island University's mandatory comprehensive group plan: for details please see <https://international.viu.ca/education-abroad/insurance>. Because it is a group plan the rates are reasonable, and the coverage is excellent.

Those 70 or over may choose whether or not to participate in this particular plan, but must in any case have comparable coverage for the duration of the Adventure; before departure they must provide program personnel with details of their insurance policies and sign an exemption form.

Program staff will assist you in making the necessary applications for insurance, or for the exemption where applicable. **Please do not buy insurance until the Adventure has been confirmed by VIU.**

You are strongly advised to obtain coverage for trip interruption and cancellation as well as travel medical insurance.

For medical, safety and other advice on travelling overseas, please visit the federal government website <https://travel.gc.ca/>.

## Air Travel:

Participants must arrange their own air travel, but should not do so until they receive official word (probably in January 2019) that enough payments have been received for the Adventure to proceed. Before departure you will be given instructions on what to do on arrival in Florence.

## Important Notice:

A level of physical and medical fitness is required to get the most out of the Adventure. Some of the sites visited are accessible only on foot (some may not be wheelchair-accessible), and some visits may require lengthy periods of walking and standing. On arrival and departure you will have to carry your own luggage. If you have any limitations or concerns in this area, please consult Adventures in Mind personnel before applying.

## Admission Process

To discuss your interest in the 2019 Adventure, or to request application materials, please contact the Program Coordinator, Regan McKeever by phone at: 1-888-920-2221 (local 6536); or by email to [Regan.McKeever@viu.ca](mailto:Regan.McKeever@viu.ca).

To apply for the Renaissance Italy 2019 Adventure:

**Print and complete the Application for Admission form included in this package, or found online at: [https://adm.viu.ca/sites/default/files/aim\\_application\\_form\\_0.pdf](https://adm.viu.ca/sites/default/files/aim_application_form_0.pdf).**

**Submit your completed Application for Admission form along with the \$40.10 application fee by mail or in person to:**

Adventures in Mind  
Vancouver Island University  
100 Jensen Ave East  
Parksville, BC V9P 2G3

Adventures in Mind is a VIU program and a student record will be created for you, if you don't already have one. All applicants must pay an application fee of \$40.10 at the time of submission.

**You will be notified by mail when you are accepted into the Adventures in Mind program.**

A \$500 commitment fee will be payable within 2 weeks of your date of application. Full details on next steps, including how to pay the commitment fee, will be included in your Letter of Acceptance.

**[www.viu.ca/adventures-in-mind](http://www.viu.ca/adventures-in-mind)**