



# Adventures in Mind

*Travel Study for the Community*

## 2017 Adventure: Renaissance Italy

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

**Tentative Dates (to be confirmed):** May 13 - June 4, 2017.

**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** has taught in and co-ordinated the Liberal Studies Abroad credit program since its inception in 1996. 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 Orientation and Lunch
- Day 3 Architecture Lecture; Church of Santi Apostoli
- Day 4 Church of San Miniato al Monte; Piazzale Michelangelo; Rose Garden
- Day 5 Baptistry; Cathedral Museum; (optional) Cathedral
- Day 6 Mercato Centrale; Church of San Lorenzo; Day Trip
- Day 7 Free Day
- Day 8 Free Day
- Day 9 Church of Orsanmichele; Sculpture Lecture
- Day 10 Bargello Museum; Palazzo Pitti & Boboli Gardens
- Day 11 Painting Lecture; Uffizi Gallery
- Day 12 Church of Santa Maria Novella; Torrigiani Garden
- Day 13 Train to Padua: Baptistry & Scrovegni Chapel
- Day 14 Free Day in Venice
- Day 15 Return to Florence; Free Day
- Day 16 Monastery of San Marco; Botanical Gardens/Walk to Fiesole (option)
- Day 17 Accademia Gallery; Poetry Lecture
- Day 18 Brancacci Chapel
- Day 19 Church of Santa Croce; Walk to Arcetri (optional)
- Day 20 Day Trip; Final Dinner
- Day 21 Free Day
- Day 22 Leave Florence



Seminar discussions will be arranged at the convenience of participants, and most days will contain free time. Please note that some activities depend on the contingencies of Italian transport, tourist facilities and life in general, which are not always predictable!

## 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.

Adventures in Mind is a not-for-profit initiative of Vancouver Island University: all effort is made to keep costs as low as possible.

**Program Fee:** \$4,495

**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 \$38.55
2. Within two weeks of date of application: commitment fee of \$500
3. Due January 15, 2017: booking deposit of \$2,000
4. Due March 11, 2017: 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.**





### Insurance:

All participants must be covered by trip interruption and adequate travel medical insurance. You are strongly advised to obtain coverage for trip cancellation as well. The University is considering implementing an affordable travel medical plan for all participants in overseas activities. You may wish to delay your purchase until the decision is made. We will inform you in good time if this plan is introduced.

### Air Travel:

Participants must arrange their own air travel, but should not do so until they receive official word (probably in January 2017) 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 participate in the Adventure. Many of the sites visited are accessible only on foot (some are not wheelchair-accessible), and some of the visits require lengthy periods of walking and standing. Accommodation may be several floors up, with no elevator, and you may have to carry your luggage considerable distances and up and down stairs. 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 2017 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 2017 Adventure:

**Print and complete the Application for Admission form included in this package, or found online at: [https://adm.viu.ca/sites/default/files/renaissance\\_italy\\_2017\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://adm.viu.ca/sites/default/files/renaissance_italy_2017_application_form.pdf).**

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 \$38.55 at the time of submission.

**Submit your completed Application for Admission form along with the \$38.55 application fee by mail or in person to:**

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

**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 acceptance. 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)**