



Adventures in Mind

Travelling Together ... Learning Together

2024 Adventure #1: Renaissance Italy

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

Dates (to be confirmed): April 30 – May 22, 2024 (including days of travel to and from Florence).

Group Leaders: John Black; Constance Kovalenka.

Adventures in Mind is an educational travel program for adults. 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 14th-16th century blossoming of humanistic learning and artistic endeavour known as the Renaissance.

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 and online in March/April.



Under expert guidance, a group of 6-15 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



Professor Emeritus Dr. John Black taught in and coordinated the Liberal Studies Abroad credit program at Vancouver Island University 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 antiques and vintage shops, and its cats.



Tentative Itinerary

- Day 0 Leave Canada
- Day 1 Arrive Florence; settle into accommodation
- Day 2 Orientation; Walk in the Historic Centre; Lunch
- Day 3 Church of San Miniato al Monte; Piazzale Michelangelo; Gardens
- Day 4 Baptistry; Cathedral Museum; (optional: Cathedral)
- Day 5 Free Day
- Day 6 Presentation and Discussion; Church of Santa Maria Novella
- Day 7 Uffizi Art Gallery
- Day 8 Presentation and Discussion; Poetry 1
- Day 9 San Marco Monastery; Fiesole
- Day 10 Church of Santa Trinità; Brancacci Chapel
- Day 11 Free Day
- Day 12 Free Day
- Day 13 Presentation and Discussion Orsanmichele Museum
- Day 14 Bargello Sculpture Museum; Renaissance Music
- Day 15 Church of San Lorenzo; Medici Chapels
- Day 16 Presentation and Discussion; Poetry 2; Walk to Arcetri
- Day 17 Train to Padua: Baptistry; Scrovegni Chapel
- Day 18 Free Day in Venice
- Day 19 Return to Florence; Free Afternoon
- Day 20 Church of Santa Croce; 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.



Inclusive Packages

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

Program Fee: \$4995 CAD

Shared Accommodation (Apartment for 2-6 people, with wifi, living room, kitchen and bathroom(s); two people sharing a bedroom): **included in program fee.**

Single Supplement: up to \$1000, TBD.

Private One-Bedroom Apartments (for one or two) may possibly be available: cost TBD.

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. Due January 15, 2024: booking deposit of \$2000
2. Due March 15, 2024: payment of remaining balance

Please note that all payments are non-refundable, except in case of cancellation of the program by Adventures in Mind. Late applicants may be allowed some leeway from these deadlines.

Air Travel

Participants must arrange their own air travel, but **should not do so until they receive official word (probably in January 2024) that the Adventure will proceed.** Before departure you will be given instructions on what to do on arrival in Florence.

Travel Insurance

All participants are strongly advised to obtain travel medical insurance as well as coverage for trip cancellation and interruption. **Please do not buy insurance until the Adventure has been confirmed.**

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

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.

Application Process

To register your interest in the 2024 Adventure, or to apply for the Adventure, please email

adventinmind@gmail.com.

adventuresinmind.org