



International Eye

October 7, 2019

Dear Attendee:

Below, please find your itinerary while you are in Florence, including any dining reservations, course lectures and tours:

Saturday, October 19

Arrival via FLR @12:55pm – Take a taxi to Hotel Brunelleschi.

Address: Piazza Santa Elisabetta 3 – Phone: +39 055 27370

Receive conference packet upon Check In; unpack and relax; explore around the hotel; dinner on your own.

Sunday, October 20

9:00am – Meet Chiara for Private Museum Tour – Hotel Brunelleschi courtyard. Walking tour of Accademia & Uffizi Gallery – bring cash for a tip. Billed \$212 via PayPal for tour.

6:00pm – Cocktail Meet & Greet – Hotel Brunelleschi

Open Bar & Hors d'oeuvres

Please wear your conference badges/guest badges

Dinner on your own – Jill can make recommendations and reservations.

Monday, October 21

7:00am – Breakfast Buffet – take selections up to meeting room (Guests may visit the breakfast buffet anytime between 7:00 – 10:00am)

7:15am – 11:45am – CE Lectures – San Michele Meeting Room

Coffee/Tea/Water service provided

12:00pm – Depart for Wine Tasting at Tenuta Torciano & San Gimignano Visit

1:00pm – Wine Tasting and Lunch in the Vineyards at Tenuta Torciano

4:00pm – Visit San Gimignano – billed \$120 via PayPal for Transportation

5:00pm – Depart for return to Florence

Dinner on your own – Suggest a restaurant in the Piazza della Repubblica

Tuesday, October 22

7:00am – Breakfast Buffet – take selections up to meeting room
7:15am – 11:45am – CE Lectures – San Michele Meeting Room
Coffee/Tea/Water service provided

Afternoon: Explore Florence on your own.

6:30pm – Take taxi to La Loggia Restaurant (Concierge at Hotel will call one for you; just ask 15 minutes prior)
Address: Piazzale Michelangelo, 1 – Phone: +39 055 234 2832

7:00pm (19:00) – La Loggia reservation under NAME (2 persons)
Reservation # 50984773

Wednesday, October 23

7:00am – Breakfast Buffet – take selections up to meeting room
7:15am – 11:45am – CE Lectures – San Michele Meeting Room
Coffee/Tea/Water service provided

7:15pm – Take taxi to 13 Gobbi (or you can walk – expect 20 minute walk)
Address: Via del Porcellana 9R Phone: +39 055 284015

7:30pm – Reservation under NAME

Thursday, October 24

7:50am – Meet in Hotel Brunelleschi Courtyard to walk to pick up location
8:00am – Private trip to Cinque Terre & Pisa
Note: bring cash for train and/or water shuttle between the 5 towns. Jill will lead the tour in the towns including Pisa. Billed \$360 for transportation/tour via PayPal.

5:00pm – Arrive back in Florence – Dinner on your own. Jill can suggest great restaurants.

Friday, October 25

10:50am – Meet Jill in Hotel Brunelleschi courtyard to walk to meeting place for Pasta from Scratch Cooking Class

11:20am – Meet our Pasta From Scratch Chef – [Link to Class Description](#)
Billed \$152.00 via PayPal – includes lunch and paired wines

Saturday, October 26

Check Out; Depart for home.

Other Advice/Details:

Credit Cards: make sure you carry a Visa or MasterCard as almost all shops and restaurants take these - also, check to see which of your cards doesn't charge foreign transaction fees and prioritize that card. When I was in Florence last month, I found more and more restaurants taking American Express, which is great news! But, to be safe, have a Visa or MC with you.

Cash: you will need plenty of cash on hand for tips and taxis. Most restaurants don't let you tip via credit card. I would budget €100/per day. You will receive the best exchange rate from your local bank - so make sure you get euros prior to your trip and not in the airport where they charge high rates. For any group tours that I have pre-booked, I will invoice each of you for your portion so you won't need to worry about carrying cash for those - however, I will not pre-invoice costs for a tip. If you'd like to tip the guide/drivers, please do so - typically 10% of the cost of each tour.

Converters: Italy uses 220v vs 110v used in U.S. - so you'll need to bring a converter with you to charge your phones/tablets and to plug in steamers or curling irons. You will have a hair dryer in your hotel, so no need to pack one. This converter from Amazon is the one I use and has 4 usb ports for phone/table charging on one converter: [LINK to Converter](#)

Cell Phone/Tablet Use: You will have free WiFi in most locations throughout Florence and also in the hotel. So, if you don't want to use an international plan, then make sure you go to your settings and turn OFF your cellular service/data while you are in Italy. I can't tell you how many times my apps like Weather and TripAdvisor kept using cellular data without my knowing. Apps eat up data even when you aren't using them! BUT, if you DO want to use cellular and data while in Italy, please check with your mobile plan on their international options - most plan costs are reasonable as long as you add the plan prior to leaving the U.S. For example, I use Verizon and my International Plan is \$10 per day to include unlimited data, texts and minutes.

Communication while in Florence: Please download **WhatsApp** ([Link](#)) prior to leaving the U.S. We will use this free app to communicate with each other individually and as a group. You can also use this app with free WiFi to keep in touch with family and friends back in the States if you don't want to use an International cellular plan. They just need to download and install the app. The username is their phone number. My WhatsApp contact info: +13346557122

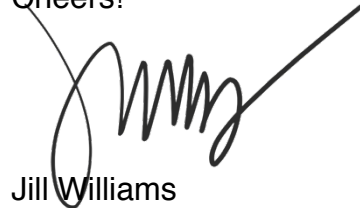
Arriving via FLR (airport): you can choose to pre-book airport transfers, but the taxi system is fast and reliable. The airport taxi stand is outside near baggage claim. Just exit out of baggage claim, take a right and when you get the the corner of the building take another right where you will see the Taxi Stand signage. There is usually not a long line or wait. I've only waited about 5 minutes at the most. *Let me know if you want to book a private airport transfer and I will help choose and book for you.*

Arriving via Santa Maria Novella (train station): although the station is in the heart of the historic center and it LOOKS like it's an easy walk with rolling baggage to the hotel, don't walk. Take a taxi, even if it looks like a long line. The line goes very fast and it's way easier than trying to traverse cobblestones, uneven terrain and throngs of tourists with your bags. The taxi stand is located on the east entrance of the station.

What to Pack: Layers, layers, layers. We will have warm days and cool days this time of year (which I love). Florence is very casual and you can get away with jeans/slacks and polos almost anywhere you go. Our CE lectures will be CASUAL, so no need to dress up. For men, don't wear shorts - you will stick out like a sore thumb! If you plan on visiting an upscale restaurant, like La Loggia with the amazing view of Florence from above, plan to pack a blazer/jacket for men and a dressy outfit for women. For shoes, the best for Florence's uneven and cobble-y streets are flats and wedges - wear heels only when in the hotel or if you're going to grab a taxi to and from a restaurant - it's better just to avoid heels altogether.

Thank you for entrusting us with your CE and your vacation! Again, I'm available any time throughout your vacation. If I don't answer right away, please leave me a message and I'll call you as soon as possible.

Cheers!



Jill Williams
Host, International Eye



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