

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDY ABROAD CONSORTIUM

NEWSLETTER

Vol: 1

Florence, Italy
9 February 2026



NCSAC ARRIVALS

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During the first week in Florence, students settled in with the aid of Orientation, transferred into apartments, participated in Travel & Program Workshops, attended the first Italian Life & Culture Course (ILC) lecture, went on a Historical Walking Tour of the City Center and also a Practical Walking Tour of their neighborhoods. Students have been so busy this week and they are settling in so well. On Saturday, students traveled to Pisa & Lucca for their first daytrip.



TRAVEL & PROGRAM WORKSHOPS / PRACTICAL WALKING TOUR

All students participated in a Practical Walking Tour on Monday specific to their neighborhoods, led by AIFS staff. This aids in finding the closest grocery stores/fresh markets, post offices, pharmacies and essential neighborhood information. Students then participated in travel and safety workshops on Tuesday morning. This offers information in regards to traveling and best ways of moving around in Europe. The program workshop allows students to better understand their program and what is included, where AIFS stands in regards to academics, how the cultural calendar works and any other useful information/rules.



ITALIAN LIFE & CULTURE (ILC) COURSE INTRODUCTION & GUIDED WALKING TOUR

Students then participated in the ILC historical walking tour of the city-center where they were introduced to the city and historical bits and pieces of Florence by professional guides on Thursday before enjoying the Welcome Reception.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Students, staff and professors enjoyed a Welcome Reception aperitivo at Moyo, a café close by the study center. There were light bites, eccentric mocktails and great company! It was a lovely event and space to have all students come together after the first week!



PISA & LUCCA DAYTRIP

Most students enjoyed a daytrip to Pisa and Lucca on Saturday. In Pisa, there was a guided tour of Piazza dei Miracoli, where the leaning tower is, along with the Cathedral of Pisa and the baptistery of St. John. Students then traveled to Lucca, a small, quaint town for the afternoon to have lunch and enjoy some free time.



UPCOMING THIS WEEK...

This week, students have the opportunity to participate in an upbeat cycling class, a mind mat session class, ILC lecture and activity 2, we have academic visits to the Uffizi Gallery and the Palazzo Vecchio and a daytrip on Sunday to the Viareggio Carnival.

Students are finding their way around Florence and are finally settling into their new apartments. Hopefully sleeping better and getting past the jet-lag. We have had a great first week here in Florence, despite the rainy weather and we can't wait to share more with you all!

