

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDY ABROAD CONSORTIUM

NEWSLETTER

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NCSAC WEEK 2

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During the second week, students had the opportunity to take a break with a Yoga & Pilates class, started their Italian Language courses, listened to a lecture on the Urbanization of Florence, art history students visited the Uffizi Galleries and the Palazzo Vecchio, all started their ILC Discover Florence activity and ended the weekend at the Viareggio Carnival. What a busy week here in Florence!



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ITALIAN LANGUAGE

All students had the chance to participate in an Italian Language course throughout the semester with local Italian professors. Students learn the basic grammar and vocabulary so that they can expand their knowledge in another language and culture as well. This is really useful for their time here in Florence as they can start to speak Italian in their everyday lives and possibly come across new opportunities more often!



ILC LECTURE 2: URBANIZATION OF FLORENCE

This week, students listened to a lecture by Dr. Angela Oberer. This lecture focused on the Urbanization of Florence, through major periods of architectural and demographic change, highlighting the interplay between urban planning, economic networks, and cultural identity.

ART HISTORY VISIT TO UFFIZI

Students who are in the Art History course visited the Uffizi Galleries last week. The Uffizi Gallery in Florence is famous because it houses one of the world's most important collections of Renaissance art. It features masterpieces by artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Caravaggio, and Titian, but it's particularly known for its extensive works by Sandro Botticelli, including *The Birth of Venus* and *Primavera*.



PIYO CLASS WITH GRETA

Students had the opportunity to take a Pilates / Yoga class with Greta, one of our staff members. This offered students a chance to relax, stretch and be in a calm environment after the first two weeks of busy schedules. This was located in a studio which was previously a church.



ILC ACTIVITY 2: DISCOVER FLORENCE

This week, in connection with our lecture on the Urbanization of Florence, students selected a neighborhood outside the historic city center to research. They will explore its history, character, and importance to the broader city.

In the coming weeks, students will present their findings. This assignment encourages them to look beyond the city center and gain a deeper understanding of Florence's neighborhoods and everyday urban life.



ART HISTORY VISIT PALAZZO VECCHIO

Students apart of the Art History course had a guided tour visit of the Palazzo Vecchio. This tour introduces the history and political significance of Florence's historic town hall. It explains how the building served as the center of power for centuries, including during the rule of the Medici family. The tour also highlights the palace's art, architecture, and lasting importance to the city.



VIAREGGIO CARNIVAL

Sunday, students were given the opportunity to take a daytrip with AIFS staff to the Carnival in Viareggio; a beach town outside of Florence that hosts one of the most famous and elaborate Carnival celebrations and parade. The Parade consists of elaborate paper mache floats which takes the teams involved a full year to create. We enjoyed the sunny weather too!



NEXT WEEK:

Week 3, students have an ILC lecture on the Church & Papacy. An ILC professionally guided tour of the Santa Croce Church. The Art History class will visit the Santa Maria Novella Church and some students who chose to join the Rome Optional Excursion will spend Friday to Sunday in Rome with AIFS staff. A busy week here in Florence and we are overcoming the rainy weather! Projected forecast of sun - finally!

