

In addition to the extensive Field Studies program that SUF offers, we imagine you will be traveling on many of your free weekends and during mid-semester break. However, be sure to spend at least a weekend or two in Florence to really see the sights and get to know your home away from home!

Travel Agencies

Depending on the amount of time you have available, your personal initiative and budget, you will either make your own travel arrangements or pay for the experience and assistance of a travel agency. Below is a list of travel agencies in Florence that past students have recommended:

CTS

Via de'Ginori, 25/r
055-289 570
Student travel agency with great prices but long lines near San Marco.

Amici del Turismo

Via Cavour, 36/r
055-218 413
Full service travel agency near the Duomo.

Boston Travel

Via Cavour, 63/r
055-291 999
Student travel agency near the Duomo.

American Express

Via Dante Alighieri, 22/r
055-509 81
Full service travel agency near Piazza della Signoria.

Ciclone Viaggi

Via Masaccio, 282
055-575 961
Full service agency near SUF.

Allosofan

Via Giacomini, 14 a/b
055-570 741
Full service agency near SUF.

Do-It-Yourself Travel Arrangements

Should you want to make your own travel arrangements, the following resources will help you get started. Obviously this is not a comprehensive list and the do-it-yourself travel industry is booming, so be on the lookout for new Internet sights and other travel resources.

Trains

Europe has an extremely comprehensive train system that makes it easy to get from one country to another. Trains are a fairly inexpensive way to travel within Italy and Europe. In Italy, you can purchase train tickets either through a travel agency, at the ticket counter or at a self-service machine in most train stations. You can also purchase tickets online after registering for an account with the Ferrovie dello Stato (Italian Railway System) at www.trenitalia.com.

You must stamp or validate your ticket in one of the small yellow machines inside the railway station (usually found at the head of the track) before boarding the train. Failure to do so will result in a fine.

Florence has two major train stations – Santa Maria Novella (SMN - downtown) and Campo di Marte (CM - near SUF). The other Florence train stations are not conveniently located near the city center.

Information about train schedules, routes and service strikes can be accessed at www.trenitalia.com (also in English).

The following chart describes the different types of trains.

Italian Trains by Type

Train Name	Train type	A seat/couchette reservation is...	Other notes
Eurocity (European)	Fastest trains that make few stops.	Always necessary; supplemental fee for Eurail passes.	These trains only stop in major European hubs (Florence, Paris, Milan, Munich, etc.).
Euronotte (European and Italian)	Fast, overnight trains.	Always necessary; supplemental fee for Eurail passes.	You can choose between a traditional seat or a variety of sleeping couchettes (1-6 people).
Eurostar (Italian)	Fastest trains that make few stops.	Always necessary; supplemental fee for Eurail passes.	These trains only stop in major Italian hubs (Florence, Bologna, Rome, Venice, Milan, etc.).
Intercity	Normal speed trains that make few stops.	Recommended, but not necessary on most trains.	These trains travel long distances between regions.
Regionale	Normal speed trains that make frequent stops.	Not possible.	These trains travel between two adjacent regions (Tuscany-Lazio; Veneto-Lombardy).
Diretto	Normal speed trains that make frequent stops.	Not possible.	The name is misleading.

Flights

Florence's Amerigo Vespucci airport (more commonly called Peretola), is approx. a 30-minute taxi ride from the SUF campus and city center (www.aeroporto.firenze.it; airport code FLR). The airport can also be reached by the VolainBus shuttle service leaving from the SITA bus station on Via Santa Caterina da Siena every ½ hour from 5:30am to 11:00pm. Departures from the airport to the city center are every ½ hour from 6:00am to 11:30pm. Tickets cost 4,50 Euros each way and the ride takes about 1/2 hour.

The Florence airport is relatively small; no intercontinental flights or budget airlines fly in or out of the Vespucci (Peretola) airport.

Budget airlines usually fly into nearby airports including the Galileo Galilei airport in Pisa www.pisa-airport.com (1 hour by train), the G. Marconi airport in Bologna www.bologna-airport.it (1 hour by regional train plus a ½ hour shuttle bus), the Rome Ciampino airport www.adr.it (1 ¾ hours by ES train plus a 30 minute shuttle bus), the Milan-Bergamo airport in Orio al Serio www.orioaeroporto.it (3 ½ hours by ES and regional trains plus a 30 minute shuttle bus) and Milan Linate www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/it/linate (3 hours by ES train plus a 45 minute shuttle bus).

There are also two major airports from which most intercontinental flights leave: Rome Leonardo da Vinci (also called Fiumicino) airport www.adr.it (1 ¾ hours by ES train plus a 30 minute shuttle train) and Milano Malpensa www.sea-aeroportimilano.it (3 hours by ES train plus a 45 minute shuttle bus).

Below are some budget airlines that students have recommended in the past. You can often find great deals on flights that leave from smaller airports or arrive late at night. Before hitting the purchase button, however, do your research. Past students have commented that the logistics of getting to and from the airports used by these carriers, as well as inconvenient flight arrival and departure times, sometimes eliminate all savings.

- Ryanair www.ryanair.com (multiple destinations in Europe)
- Meridiana www.meridiana.com (multiple destinations in Europe)
- Easyjet www.easyjet.com (multiple destinations in Europe)
- Volareweb www.volareweb.com (multiple destinations in Europe)
- Transavia www.transavia.com (to and from the Netherlands)

Regional and Long-distance Bus Services

There are several regional and long-distance bus companies that can take you to areas of the country not serviced by the railway system, including the Chianti area, ski resorts near Abetone, mountainous areas of the Mugello and other less touristy towns in Italy.

SITA – www.sita-on-line.it

Via Santa Caterina da Siena
055-47821; 800 373 760
Service to the Florence airport
(VolaInBus), Siena, San
Gimignano, the Chianti region,
Volterra, the Mugello and THE
MALL (Designer outlets).

LAZZI – www.lazzi.it

Piazza Stazione, 3/r
055-215155
Service to Prato, Viareggio,
Pisa and Lucca.

CAP – www.capautolinee.it

Via Nazionale, 15
055-214637
Service to Impruneta, Prato and
the *I GIGLI* American-style
shopping mall.

COPIT – www.copitspa.it

Largo Alinari
055- 21463; 800 277 825
Service to Abetone and Pistoia.

Car Rentals

Most companies have a minimum age requirement of 25, but Thrifty Car Rental (www.italybycar.it) and Maggiore Rent Spa (055-2638733) will rent cars to persons 21 years of age and older. CTS (see above) often offers package deals. If relatives or friends are coming from the U.S., they should book rentals in advance to get the best prices. You should purchase theft and accident insurance and invest in a good road map. It is also a good idea to invest in an International Driving Permit which is accepted all over Europe (go to www.aaa.com or www.nationalautoclub.com).