

Gonzaga-in-Florence
Weekend Travel Offerings
2007-2008

Fall Travel Schedule:

OPENING TOUR: Berlin, Krakow, Prague

Arrival in Berlin: Sept. 8, Sat. Arrival in Florence: Monday, Sept. 17.

Tuesday, Sept. 18 – Classes begin. Friday, Sept. 21 – Orientation.

- 1) **September 21 - 23: Time to explore Florence**
- 2) **Friday, September 28 - 30: The Isle of Elba**
Elba is a great community building weekend on one of Italy's most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean Sea. Once we arrive on the island, you will have the opportunity to hike up Mt. Capanne, swim in the Tyrrhenian Sea or spend time on the beach with new friends.
Costs €130 include R/T bus transport, ferry to/from Elba, 2 nights in hotel (incl. breakfast).
- 3) **Thursday, October 4 – 7: Cinque Terre**
Join us for a walking and hiking weekend along the trail that connects the five cities of the Cinque Terre. We will be walking on rocky trails, through vineyards, olive groves and orchards of wonderful smelling lemon trees. You will be amazed at the outstanding views from the cliffs along the coast. There will also be opportunities along the way to swim in the Ligurian Sea.
Costs €140 include bus transportation to the Cinque Terre, 3 nights in hotel (incl. breakfast), 1 dinner, entrance fee to the Cinque-Terre-trail. Students have to pay for their train back to Florence (€8 – 14, depends on which train they take).
- 4) **Thursday, October 11 - 14: Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Capri and Pompeii**
This trip to Southern Italy is one you will remember for the rest of your life. A boat trip will be offered along the beautiful Amalfi Coast. We will then spend one day on the Island of Capri where you can visit the Blue Grotto, one of the natural wonders of the world. Don't miss the spectacular views from the top of the island which can be reached by hiking or chairlift. Also included in this trip will be a guided tour of the preserved Roman city of Pompeii, where in 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius unleashed its fury and buried the town under its volcanic rubble.
Costs €135 include R/T bus transport, ferry to Capri and Amalfi, tour in Pompeii (entrance fee and Audio Guide), 3 nights in cabins at campground incl. breakfast. Students have to pay for the ferry back from Capri and Amalfi (€15). The cabins on the campground dispose of kitchens, so students can prepare their own meals there or eat in the restaurant – pizzeria on the campground (very reasonable prices). Who wants to go into the Blue Grotto, has to pay €9,50 for the boat service.
- 5) **October 19 – 21: School on Friday Oct. 19, in exchange for Wednesday Oct. 31 (Bosnia trip)**
Mid-term Exams Oct. 22 - 25
- 6) **Friday, October 26 – 28: Southern Tuscany**

The area south of Siena is full of many treasures and surprises. We will take a dip in the natural hot springs, hike on the rolling Tuscan hills and visit splendid Romanesque churches, towns and villages. This is sure to be an exciting weekend in which Peter will enlighten you on all that Tuscany has to offer, including a walk through vineyards, olive groves and wine cellars.

Costs €120 include R/T bus transport, 2 nights in hotel incl. breakfast and dinner.

- 7) **Wednesday, Oct. 31 – Nov. 5: Bosnia and Croatia**
After an overnight ferry to Bosnia-Herzegovina, we will arrive in Medjugorje where the Virgin Mary appeared to local children. From there we will explore the war torn city of Mostar where Muslims, Christians, and Jews all live together. We will then drive along the beautiful Croatian coastline and will visit the incredible walled city of Dubrovnik, Croatia.
Costs €180 include R/T bus transport, ferry to/from Croatia, 3 nights in hotels at Medjugorje incl. breakfast and 1 dinner.
IMPORTANT: the only ferry from Ancona to Spalato is on Wednesday 9 pm and the only one back from Spalato to Ancona is on Sunday evening with arrival in Ancona on Monday 7 am! Back to Florence around 12 a.m. We have to ask the Faculty for free Wednesday and free Monday in exchange for 2 Fridays (October 19 and November 16).
- 8) **Friday, November 9 – 11: Rome trip Prof. Carrara**
- 9) **Friday, November 16 – 18 School on Friday Nov. 16 – in exchange for Monday Nov. 5 (Bosnia trip)**
Day trip to Ravenna on Saturday Nov. 17
- 10) **Thursday, November 22 – 25: Sicily**
Spend this long Thanksgiving weekend in Sicily, an incredible journey throughout the history of Italy: We will explore some of the architectural and cultural heritage of the Greeks, the Romans, the Arabs and the Normans. We will also visit some of the breathtaking towns in Baroque style. Included in this trip will be a visit to the Catacombs in Palermo as well as the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento.
Costs depend mainly on the means of transport (flight, bus or train) and the number of students interested in this trip. €250 - 300 include R/T bus transport or train, accommodation, guided tours, entrance fee.
- 11) **November 30 – December 2: Rome**
No visit to Italy would be complete without seeing the Eternal City. You will enjoy a walking tour of the city in which you will discover many of the famous monuments of Rome as well as its less known treasures. Included will be a visit to the Vatican where you will have the chance to visit the Sistine Chapel.
Costs €135 include R/T train to Rome, hotel, city tour.
- 12) **December 7 – 9: No trip**
Final Exams Dec. 13 – 14
- 13) **December 14 – 16: No trip**

14) **December 22 – January 2: Christmas Tour**

Spring Travel Schedule:

- 1) **January 4 – 6: No trip**
Jan. 4 – Orientation for Spring semester Students
- 2) **Friday, January 11 – 13: Opening Tour Spring semester Students**
- 3) **Thursday, January 17 – 20: Innsbruck / Kitzbühel World Cup Ski Race**
Spend the day skiing in the Austrian Alps on the Olympic Downhill Slopes of Innsbruck. After a day of skiing, we will have a delicious traditional Tyrolean dinner with performances by Tyrolean dancers and musicians. On Saturday we will travel to Kitzbühel for the World Cup Downhill Ski Race where you can cheer on your favorite skier. If you would rather ski on Saturday, Peter will take you to the more than 10,000 foot high glacier.
Costs €150 include R/T bus transport, to the ski hill and to Kitzbühel, 3 nights in hostel incl. breakfast, 1 dinner. Students pay their own rentals and lift tickets.
- 4) **January 24 – 27: No trip**
- 5) **Friday, February 1 – 3: Venice Carnevale / Ivrea - Orange Throwing**
We will go to Venice to explore the unique city during the time of Carnevale. Check out Venetians and tourists in traditional masks and dresses as they pose for photos on the narrow streets of Venice. You can also join one of the performances of dancing, theater or music in one of the typical Venetian piazze. An optional tour will be offered on Saturday to the famous islands of Murano and Torcello. On Sunday we will drive to Ivrea to experience the local carnevale tradition of Orange Throwing.
Costs €80 include R/T bus transport to Venice and Ivrea, 2 nights in cabins on a campground. Students have to pay transportation (bus or ferry) between campground and Venice.
- 6) **Friday, February 8 – 10: 2 Day trips: 1 around Florence, 1 to Assisi**
Costs €20 – 30 for each day trip (transportation by bus, entrance fees, guided tour).
- 7) **February 15 – 17: No trip**
Mid-term Exams Feb. 18 – 21
- 8) **February 22 – 24: Weekend or Day trip**
Weekend trip: Along the River Po on bike, Ferrara
The Po is a river that flows 652 kilometers eastward across northern Italy, from Mount Monviso to the Adriatic Sea near Venice. The Po is the longest river in Italy and the valley around it, the Pianura Padana, is so efficiently connected by the river that it became the main industrial area of the country. We can follow the river on bicycle, on boat and on foot down to where it meets the sea, passing rice fields, vast farmland and the fascinating nature in the Regional Park *Delta del Po*. We are going to visit also Ferrara, the city of Renaissance, together with the Po Delta part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.
Costs will be calculated after we know the number of students who are interested in this weekend trip

Day trip: Ferrara

Ferrara, which grew up around a ford over the River Po, became an intellectual and artistic centre that attracted the greatest minds of the Italian Renaissance in the 15th and 16th centuries. But first of all Ferrara today is THE town of the bicycle. There is a saying that Ferrara's children learn to ride a bike even before walking. So after a visit of the outstanding cathedral in medieval-Renaissance style we will ride on bikes to the nearby river PO (R/T 30 km, 2,5 hours) and have our pick nick right at the banks of this Natural Park. After our return you will have another 2 to 3 hours to discover this small, but beautiful town, which is part of UNESCO's World Heritage.

Day trip costs €35 include R/T bus transport, guided bike tour to town and river Po.

9) Thursday, Feb. 28 – March 2: Vienna

This capitol city was once the seat of the Habsburg Austrian / Hungarian Empire. Traces of the richness and decadence of this Empire, spanning from the 13th to the 20th century, still adorn many corners of the city. We will have the opportunity to see the striking architecture of St. Stephan's Cathedral, the Parliament, the National Theater and the Opera House. You can also see the performance of the famous Spanish Riding School, visit the Schönbrunn Castle which houses the oldest zoo in the world or just enjoy a cup of coffee in one of Vienna's famous coffee houses.

Costs €160 include R/T bus transport, 3 nights in hostel (with breakfast), 1 dinner.

10) Thursday, March 6 – 9: Barcelona

This weekend will bring us to a unique city in Spain attractive to young people for its mixture of old and modern architecture. We will have the chance to relax on the beach, explore the gothic district, walk along Las Ramblas, visit the amazing markets and see the famous works of Gaudi. Barcelona is the city that never sleeps!

Costs €90 include 3 nights in hostel incl. breakfast, city tour, bus transport from Pisa Airport back to Florence.

Students pay their own flights, transport to Pisa Airport (train €7, Terravision bus €9), R/T Barcelona Bus (Girona Airport – Barcelona, R/T €21). Students should book their flights on-line far ahead. For example Ryan Air (<http://www.ryanair.com>) offers a flight from Pisa (Florence) to Barcelona (Girona). Pisa and Girona are at 1 hour's distance from Florence and Barcelona and can be reached by bus or train (see above).

11) March 14 – 16: No trip

March 17 – S. Patrick's Day

12) Thursday, March 20 – 24: Easter Holiday

Possible Trip offer to the Abruzzo region, Easter at Sulmona with "La Madonna che scappa in Piazza", if there is enough interest.

13) Thursday, March 27 – 30: Munich

Munich is not only Oktoberfest...the capital city of Bavaria is an important cultural center of Germany. This modern city has several outstanding museums as well as beautiful public gardens in which one can relax. We will explore the countryside around Munich, with its lakes and the fairytale Neuschwanstein castle of King Ludwig. We will also visit Dachau, one of the well known Nazi concentration camps.

Costs €170 include R/T bus transport, 3 nights in hostel (with breakfast), audio guides at Dachau, guided tour at the Neuschwanstein Castle.

14) Thursday, April 3 – 6: Southern France

This weekend will bring us to some of the most famous towns of the Côte d'Azur, including Nice, Cannes and Monte Carlo. And last but not least St-Paul-de-Vence, the classic medieval village perché, a celebrity village, first "discovered" by artists like Bonnard and Modigliani, later temporary home of Simone de Beauvoir, Sartre, Scott Fitzgerald and the elusive Greta Garbo. Today it has one of the finest 20th-century private art collections, the Fondation Maeght.

Costs €140 include R/T bus transport, 3 nights in hostel incl. breakfast.

- 15) **April 11 – 13:** **No trip**
Final Exams Apr. 14 - 17