

### This all sounds amazing. How do I get there?

Florence does not have its own international airport, so you need to fly to either Milan or Rome. We recommend the Milan airport, Malpensa, because it is cleaner, more efficient, and more modern than the Rome airport. When you get to Malpensa, you can easily get an express train to Florence, Stazione Santa Maria Novella, which leaves you in the historic center. The train is about two hours. From there, it is easy to get a cab to where you will be staying.

### Do I have to do all the activities listed in the schedule?

No, you are not obligated to do anything that you would prefer to skip, or substitute with a visit on your own to another museum or attraction. That includes the concerts too. Do keep in mind, however, that the tour fee you pay covers only the events that we schedule.

### Is Florence really big? Will I be able to find my way around?

The historic center of Florence is quite small, especially by American and certainly by New York standards. You will find that everything is walkable, just remember to bring comfortable shoes, because wandering the medieval and Renaissance streets is an experience not to be missed.

### Do you recommend any particular airline?

We have had only superlative experiences with Emirates Airlines, which offers the most comfortable flights at the cheapest prices from New York to Milan. We receive no reward or benefit whatsoever for endorsing them, so you can be sure that we are sharing the honest truth as we experienced it. This is the airline we use when we fly our European artists to New York. Let us know if you would like to use our corporate account number to get an optimal price.

### Is everyone going to take the same flight together?

We will not be making a group flight reservation.

### Will all the participants get to meet each other before leaving for Italy?

Once all the reservations are finalized, we will be happy to put everyone in touch and organize a social gathering in which everyone has a chance to get acquainted.

### Is this whole thing run by the musicians who perform? Who's in charge?

The Administrative Director of our Florence season is Kostja Kostic, who is also the Assistant Director of NYU Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò. He is fluent in both Italian and English (as well as German and Slovenian), and built up an extensive resume in the hotel and hospitality industry in Europe before he came to the US and assumed his current position at Casa Italiana. He will be on hand to answer your questions, help you find your way around, and oversee the administrative and operational details of your stay in Florence.

So what's the deal with the plumbing in these really old palazzi we'll be staying in?

The plumbing is modern, and to be perfectly honest, it is often better than what you encounter in many New York City apartments! Florentines who live in the historic center live in apartments that are built into Renaissance and Medieval structures. Modern plumbing is the norm, it's what Florentines are used to, and there is nothing to fear.

Do I have to stay with a bunch of other tour participants in an apartment? Can I stay in a hotel if I want to?

We will do our best to accommodate each participants' wishes with regards to what housing situation he or she prefers. If you wish to be in your own apartment, we will do our best to find you something that meets your wishes. While staying in an historic structure is exciting and inspiring, we cannot guarantee perfection, however, so if you choose to stay in a hotel, that will not be covered by the fee.

Do these apartments have kitchens? Can I buy stuff to eat in if I get antisocial and don't feel like dining in restaurants for every meal?

All apartments have their own kitchens, and the markets have fresh delicious produce, pasta, bread, meat, et.al. that you can purchase on your own for when you are in the mood for a private meal.

What happens if I make a deposit to reserve a spot but then something comes up and it turns out I can't go? Do I get my deposit back?

All deposits are nonrefundable, but you are welcome to designate your deposit as a tax-deductible donation to Salon/Sanctuary Concerts, a project of the Fire Department Theatre Company, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, if you are unable to come on the tour after all. We, our audiences, and our artists will be most grateful for your generosity.

I'm a member of a minority group and I'm a little concerned about encountering discrimination or worse while abroad. How much do I need to worry about this?

Despite its relatively small size, Florence is a diverse and cosmopolitan city with citizens of many different religions. The city is known for both its sizable LGBT population and for its synagogue, considered one of the most important in all of Europe. While perhaps no city on earth is as diverse as New York, Florentines welcome those of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, faiths, sexual orientation, and gender expression.

I have a friend who lives in Europe who would like to join me. Can he or she just show up and tag along?

Nope, but we are happy to let you know what our pro-rated per day rate is for your friend to join the group. As long as the per-day rate is paid in advance, we will welcome your guest.

I want to go on my own. Do you charge a single supplement?

No! We charge the same price per person regardless. Isn't that nice?

Do I have to sign anything?

Yes, we require that all guests sign a travel agreement and waiver.

Does Salon/Sanctuary Concerts have insurance for this endeavor?

Yes, we have general liability coverage through the Founders Group Insurance Company.