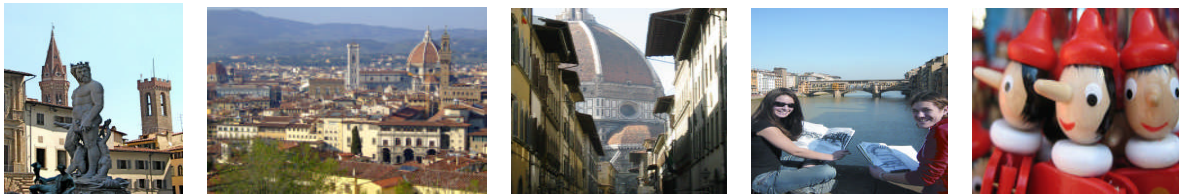




## *Sample Itinerary for a Five Day Art Study Tour to Florence & Siena By Air.*

*Dates: To Be Decided.*



*The itinerary is designed to balance visits of the greatest interest with recreative activities. It aims to make the maximum use of time without exhausting participants. The itinerary we have proposed is flexible and is only finalised after discussion with the Party Leader(s). Flexibility is also built into the holiday itself as changes can be made at very short notice according to weather conditions etc. The visit will be guided throughout. All excursions are well prepared and are backed by notes and a commentary. The Director is very knowledgeable about the city being visited and is able to help to run the holiday according to Party Leader wishes. In this way Party Leaders will be free to concentrate on the care of their pupils rather than on the organisation of the tour. The whole stay is underpinned by excellent accommodation, catering, transport and security.*



## ACCOMMODATION

### **The Hotel Pendini**\*\*\*

Via Strozzi, 2, 50129 Firenze, Italy. Tel. +39 055 211170. Fax. +39 055 281807.

[www.florenceitaly.net/pendini](http://www.florenceitaly.net/pendini)

Founded in 1879, the family-run Hotel Pendini is ideally located on the Piazza Della Repubblica, in the very heart of Florence. The Duomo is located 150 yards away, as is the historic Piazza della Signoria & the Ponte Vecchio Bridge. Located on the fourth floor of a historic building, the hotel has a distinguished character, with reproduction early 19th century antique furniture, brass or walnut fixtures, tasteful period wallpaper & pastel carpeting.

All of the bedrooms have been recently renovated & have en-suite bathrooms, double-glazed windows, televisions, telephones & reading desks.

The management of the hotel are especially friendly & we have found the Hotel Pendini to offer pleasant and comfortable accommodation for our groups in the very centre of Florence.

## CATERING

The catering in Florence proves to be a highlight for many of the groups that have joined us.

### **Breakfast**

A continental breakfast of croissants, bread, butter, jam, coffee, tea or hot chocolate is served either in the main or the group dining room.

### **Lunch**

For lunch, the Tour Director will distribute lunch money to students before taking the group to a particularly good area of the city for cafes, restaurants, pizzerias & pasticcerias. Participants will have a wide choice of food & can either purchase a pannini sandwich & a drink, enjoy a pizza on the terrace of a restaurant or try a bowl of pasta from one of the many good outlets. Of course, every meal should be completed by a visit to one of the many gellaterias where participants can choose from 30 different flavours of the best ice-cream in the world. The use of lunch money has proved to be very popular with students as it provides an opportunity to explore, try the local food & converse with the locals who are always friendly & helpful. The Tour Director will take staff to one of the local trattorias where they will be able to savour local foods such as risotto with cheese, spaghetti alla carbonara or a crusty pizza cooked in a wood-burning oven.

### **Dinner**

Evening meals are a time for participants to experience authentic Italian food in several restaurants that we have researched all over the city.

The restaurant that we use most frequently is 'La Grotta di Leo' - a busy and lively restaurant that is a popular haunt for locals. Pupils will have a choice of many typical Italian dishes including risotto dishes, a choice from 22 different traditional wood-baked pizzas, canelloni, lasagne, pesto dishes and salads. Mineral water & fresh bread will be served with the meals. Local chianti will be served for staff & older pupils, at party leaders' discretion. This lively restaurant has proved to be immensely popular with our groups and is flexible enough to cope with all dietary requirements.

# DAY ONE

04.30	Coach arrives at School.
05.00	Depart School. Coach transfer to Local Airport.
06.00	E.T.A. Local Airport. Commence check in.
07.10	Ryanair flight FR194 departs Local Airport.
10.20	E.T.A. Pisa International Airport. <small>(Please note: Continental time is 1 hour in advance of British time)</small>
11.00	Coach transfer to Florence.
13.00	E.T.A. Central Florence. Walk to Hotel Pendini.
13.30	E.T.A. Hotel Pendini, Florence.

On arrival at the hotel: Participants will be given their room keys and will have time to settle into their rooms.

## 15.00 Depart hotel for Guided Walking Tour of Florence.

Participants will enjoy some stunning views as we walk along the narrow, medieval streets to get to the Duomo and Baptistry, Giotto's Belltower and along the ancient Roman passageway that leads to the Piazza Signoria - the heart of Florence and Tuscany. Here, pupils will be able to see the following sculptures outside the Vecchio Palace: Ammanati's controversial '*Neptune Fountain*' (Michaelangelo said 'what a lovely piece of marble you have ruined!' upon seeing this work), Michelangelo's '*David*', Bandinelli's '*Hercules*' and '*Cacus*' and '*The Rape of the Sabine Women*' by Giambologna. From the central piazza, we will walk the short distance to pass over the Ponte Vecchio - the only bridge to survive the German retreat from the region during WW2. Many pupils enjoy sketching the wonderful view over the River Arno, or the Ponte Vecchio itself.

18.00 Dinner at La Grotta di Leo Restaurant, Via Della Scala.

19.30 Return walk to Hotel Pendini.

20.00 E.T.A. Hotel Pendini.

## DAY TWO

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 **Visit to The Florence Cathedral.**

On our way to The Accademia Gallery, we will have time to enter the Florence Duomo, view the Campanile belltower, built by Giotto in 1334 & view the Baptistry Doors built by Lorenzo Ghiberti in 1401. Inside the Duomo, participants will be able to view the city's ancient medieval clock & the 'Last Judgement' Frescoes by Vasari on the inside of the cupola.

11.30 Walk to The Uffizi Gallery.

11.45 **Visit to The Uffizi Gallery.**  
[www.uffizi.firenze.it/english/Default.asp](http://www.uffizi.firenze.it/english/Default.asp)

The Uffizi is the oldest gallery in the world and was built in 1560 as offices for the Tuscan Administration ('Uffizi' translates as 'offices'). Pupils will enjoy a guided tour of the museum and will see such works as 'The Birth of Venus' and 'Primavera' by Botticelli, Michelangelo's 'The Holy Family' and Titian's 'Venus of Urbino'. The museum displays its paintings in a series of rooms off the horseshoe shaped main corridor. The works are shown in chronological order to reveal the development of Florentine art from Gothic to High Renaissance. The focus is on gothic art, the early renaissance and culminates in various paintings from the High Renaissance.

14.00 Lunch.

16.00 **Ascent of The Florence Duomo.**

The sheer size of Florence's cathedral was typical of Florentine determination to lead in all things. Completed in 1436, Brunelleschi's dome dwarfs even the great buildings of ancient Rome and Greece. As pupils enter through the main entrance, they will be impressed by the Neo-Gothic facade made from local Tuscan marble. Pupils will climb to the top of the dome, from where spectacular views of the city can be enjoyed.

Many of our groups enjoy some free shopping time in the centre of Florence, or the opportunity to enjoy a cafe latte and a cake in one of the many terraced cafes.

18.30 Rest & relaxation time in the Hotel Pendini.

- 19.30 **Dinner at La Grotta di Leo Restaurant, Via Della Scala.**  
[www.lagrottadileo.com](http://www.lagrottadileo.com)
- 21.00 Return walk to Hotel Pendini.
- 21.30 E.T.A. Hotel Pendini.

## DAY THREE

08.30 Breakfast.

09.30 Walk to The Accademia Gallery.

10.00 **Visit to The Accademia Gallery.**  
[www.uffizi.firenze.it/english/Default.asp](http://www.uffizi.firenze.it/english/Default.asp)

Founded in 1563, the Accademia holds many of Michelangelo's most important works. His most famous, '*David*', has dominated the collection since it was moved inside from the Piazza Signoria to protect it from pollution and the weather. This sculpture established Michelangelo as the foremost sculpture of his time at the age of twenty nine. Other masterpieces include '*The Four Prisoners*' - four muscular figures trying to free themselves from the stone and '*The Madonna of the Sea*'.

12.45 Walk to The Ponte Vecchio.

13.15 Lunch.

14.45 Walk to Brancacci Chapel.

Our walk to The Brancacci Chapel will take us across the historic centre of Florence, past the Duomo, across the Piazza Signoria & across the Ponte Vecchio - the ancient Roman bridge spanning the Arno River.

15.00 **Visit to The Brancacci Chapel**  
[www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Brancacci\\_chapel.html](http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Brancacci_chapel.html)

Located in the church of Santa Maria del Carmine, the Brancacci Chapel is famous for its frescoes of The Life of Saint Peter, completed after 50 years in 1480. Masaccio's use of perspective & the tragic realism of the figures in '*The expulsion of Adam & Eve*' were ground-breaking at the time & placed him at a great level of importance during the Renaissance.

16.30 Walk to The Market of St. Lorenzo.

17.00

**Shopping time in the San Lorenzo Market**

The huge market of San Lorenzo is clustered around the Medici Chapel & Church of San Lorenzo. The market is extremely popular & sells leatherware - tailored jackets, handbags, shoes - fashion clothing, fine food, home-made pasta & hundreds of other fine items. This market is always a popular final visit as pupils will be able to spend their remaining money before transferring to the airport.

19.30

Dinner at La Grotta di Leo Restaurant, Via Della Scala.

21.00

Return walk to Hotel Pendini.

21.30

E.T.A. Hotel Pendini.

# DAY FOUR

08.00 Breakfast.

09.30 Train transfer to Siena.

We will take the local train service direct to the ancient city of Siena. Our journey will take us through beautiful Tuscan countryside & past small picturesque villages.

11.00 **Day's Visit to Siena.**

We will enjoy a day's visit to this beautiful city, which has narrow alleyways around the fan shaped Piazza del Campo. Like Rome, Siena is built on seven hills so no road is level. One road may offer superb views over the city while another may lead into a warren of medieval houses.

We will have a guided walking tour of the centre of Siena, which will include the Palazzo Pubblico (the Town Hall), the town square and the Duomo. Statues of a wolf suckling Remus abound as it is believed that his son, Senius, founded the city.

The buildings around the central square symbolize the Golden Age of the city, between 1260 and 1348, when wealthy citizens contributed to a major program of civic building. Siena was greatly affected by the Black Death of 1348, which killed a third of the population. 200 years later an 18 month siege finished with defeat by the Florentines, who stopped all further building and development. Consequently, the city was frozen in time and has not been changed for hundreds of years.

17.30 Return train transfer to Florence.

19.30 Dinner.

21.00 Transfer to Hotel Pardini.

21.15 E.T.A. Hotel Pardini.

## DAY FIVE

08.00 Breakfast & storage of suitcases in hotel storage.

09.30 Walk to The Convent of San Marco.

10.00 **Visit to The Convent of San Marco**  
[www.polomuseale.firenze.it/musei/sanmarco/](http://www.polomuseale.firenze.it/musei/sanmarco/)

Founded in the 13th Century, the Convent of San Marco contains simple cloisters & monks' dormitory cells decorated with a remarkable series of devotional frescoes from *The Life of Christ* by Fra Angelico, designed to inspire prayer & contemplation. The intimate cells show the artist's mastery of perspective in scenes such as The Annunciation (c.1445).

11.30 Walk to the Boboli Gardens.

12.15 **Visit to The Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens**  
[www.firenzemusei.it/00\\_english/boboli/index.html](http://www.firenzemusei.it/00_english/boboli/index.html)

The Pitti Palace actually contains five museums and pupils will enjoy viewing the luxurious Medici state apartments, with their collection of art and treasures. The Boboli Gardens were designed for the Medici in 1549 and are an excellent example of stylized Renaissance gardening, with clipped hedges and sculptures along the tree-lined walkways. The gardens were designed to give elevated vistas over the city and Duomo below.

14.30 Lunch.

15.15 Walk to Hotel Pendini.

15.45 E.T.A. Hotel Pendini. Collect suitcases & prepare for return journey to The U.K.

16.30 Coach transfer to Pisa International Airport.

18.00 E.T.A. Pisa International Airport. Commence check-in.

20.35 Depart Pisa International Airport on Ryanair flight FR199.

**21.50**

**E.T.A. Local Airport.**

*(Note: Continental time is one hour in advance of British time)*

**22.30**

**Onward coach transfer to School.**

**23.30**

**E.T.A. School.**

*Please note that we make hotel & airline bookings upon receipt of the initial deposit payments. The airline timings & airports contained within this itinerary serve as a guide only & may change. The choice of hotel, airport & flight timings are confirmed upon receipt of initial deposits.*