



UC SANTA BARBARA
Alumni

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA

CIAO ITALY

2024 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: AUGUST 31, 2024

LAND TOUR START DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

RETURN DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$2,598

START YOUR ADVENTURE.



Dear Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of California Santa Barbara Young Alumni?

The UCSB Alumni Association young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to the University of California Santa Barbara. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 46 years of experience in the young travel market. In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com. To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/ucsb and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

Alumni Affairs Office
University of California, Santa Barbara

Visit our website www.aesu.com/ucsb for more details and to book.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory. UCSB offers travel insurance through the link below.

<https://select.travelinsure.com/?pcode=32408>

CIAO ITALY



9 DAYS | 7 NIGHTS

CITIES VISITED:
FLORENCE | ITALIAN RIVIERA | TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

9-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 7 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- All intra-Europe transportation by air-conditioned motor coach as per itinerary
 - Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 12 meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

Activities and Admissions

- Guided tours of Florence and Lucca, led by a local historian
 - Medieval city of Lucca
 - Cinque Terre hikes
 - Cinque Terre rail card
 - Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Tuscan Countryside stay
 - Winery tour
- Wine & olive oil tasting

Sights

- Brunelleschi's Duomo
- Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral
 - Gates of Paradise
 - Giotto's Bell Tower
- Cinque Terre, UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - Chianti wine region

Plus

- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All service charges and local taxes

Optional Activities (not included in land package price):

- Day 6: Portofino excursion
- Day 8: Pasta cooking class

Tour Highlights

- Welcome orientation
- Florence, Art Capital of the World
 - Medici palazzos
 - Michelangelo's Art
 - Giotto's Bell Tower
 - Gates of Paradise
- Picturesque Italian Riviera
- Medieval Town of Lucca with 16th-century Renaissance walls
 - Pizza party
- Cinque Terre hikes
- Mediterranean Sea
- Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Tuscan countryside
- Wine & olive oil tasting
- Farewell Tuscan Feast



CIAO ITALY ITINERARY

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Explore Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance and a city packed with extraordinary art and architecture. Then discover the Italian Riviera with its breathtaking coastal scenery and hike along paths through charming fishing villages of Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Finally, dip into the magic of Italy's Tuscan countryside with its rolling hills of olive groves and vineyards crowned by castles and ancient abbeys. Savor local Chianti wine and home-made pasta, try bread dipped in olive oil, slices of red tomato loaded with fresh mozzarella cheese, basil and sun-cured olives. Enjoy la dolce vita!

- DAY 1** **TRAVEL TO ITALY**
 Board your overnight flight to Florence.
Meals: In-flight
- DAY 2** **LAND TOUR START DAY: FLORENCE**
 Welcome to the 'Art Capital of the World' and home of the famed Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet, Michelangelo. Enjoy a free afternoon to relax and unwind. In the evening, we'll have our welcome orientation followed by a Florentine dinner at a neighborhood osteria.
Meals: In-Flight, Dinner
Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome orientation, Florentine dinner
- DAY 3** **FLORENCE**
 Our local historian describes the Renaissance architecture, art and life under the rule of the Medici dynasty. Marvel at Brunelleschi's masterpiece—the Duomo. See the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, the Gates of Paradise, Giotto's Bell Tower and more. We end up at San Lorenzo market with time to browse the stalls packed with fresh local produce, household goods and colorful local fashions. Free time this afternoon may find you exploring the Uffizi Gallery to see the works of Giotto, Botticelli, Raphael and da Vinci or to view the sunlit rooftops of Florence from Piazzale Michelangelo.
Meals: Breakfast
Inclusions: Guided tour of Renaissance Florence, led by a local historian, VOX connect personal audio system, Florence San Lorenzo market
- DAY 4** **FLORENCE | ITALIAN RIVIERA**
 We head towards Italy's picturesque Riviera today. Stop en route to visit the medieval town of Lucca, hidden behind magnificent 16th-century Renaissance walls. We stroll along the ancient wall, see the dazzling St. Martin Cathedral with its beautiful Romanesque façade, and then continue to the tree-topped Torre Guinigi and the Roman Amphitheatre. Our tour ends on the spot where Lucca was founded: St. Michael Square and the birthplace of Giacomo Puccini, the famous Italian composer. Free time may find you on Lucca's main shopping promenade, the elite via Fillungo or via Lucia featuring more affordable shops. We continue to La Spezia, the gateway to Cinque Terre and our home for the next two days. Have fun tonight at our tasty Italian Riviera pizza party.



Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Scenic drive along the Italian Riviera, Medieval town of Lucca, Guided tour of Lucca, led by a local historian, Pizza Party

DAY 5 ITALIAN RIVIERA | CINQUE TERRE REGION

Explore the colorful cliff-side villages of Cinque Terre today, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take in the picturesque, rugged coastline dotted with terraced vineyards and olive groves. Make your way through this seemingly inaccessible string of fishing villages, nestled between the mountains and the sun-splashed Mediterranean Sea. Start your journey at the oldest town, Manarola, which is the most popular stretch of the path. It is easy terrain, just about 1 mile long, and can be managed in 30-45 minutes. Take advantage of your included Cinque Terre Rail Card to visit the other villages or use your hiking map to plan the day's hike according to your activity level.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Transfer to Cinque Terre Hiking Trail, Cinque Terre Rail Card with access to all open trails

DAY 6 ITALIAN RIVIERA | CINQUE TERRE REGION

Enjoy a free day today. Complete your hiking route at Cinque Terre to explore more twisting coastal footpaths with breathtaking views, secluded beaches, ancient castles and villas or consider joining us on an optional visit to Portofino, a charming coastal village perched on its own peninsula jutting into the sparkling sea. Stroll around the village to shop at designer boutiques and admire the opulent yachts in the harbor. Our excursion includes a local seafood lunch and a kayak or SUP (stand-up paddle board) rental to explore the hidden coves and beaches in this Marine Protected Area.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Cinque Terre Rail Card with access to all open trails

Optional activity: Portofino excursion incl. seafood lunch and 1-hour kayak or SUP rental (weather permitting)

DAY 7 ITALIAN RIVIERA | PISA | TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Leaving the stunning Ligurian coast behind, a scenic journey through Tuscany's graceful hills brings us to the Chianti wine region. We stop in Pisa to view its famous Leaning Tower, marble baptistery and cathedral, then continue our journey, passing olive groves, stone farmhouses, Renaissance villas and castles. Enjoy a tour of a local winery with wine and olive oil tasting and time to stroll in the Italian gardens surrounded by rows of ancient cypress trees. During a visit to the estate cellars, we learn about the history of the local wines, the way the grapes are processed, how the finished product is stored, and – of course – taste a selection of Chianti Classico wines, accompanied by a selection of local charcuterie. Enjoy free time after check in at our countryside hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions: Scenic drive through Tuscany, See Pisa's Leaning Tower and cathedral, Tour of a local winery, Wine and olive oil tasting incl. snacks, Light winery lunch, Tuscan Countryside stay



DAY 8

TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE | SIENA

Enjoy leisure time today, relax by the pool or stroll along sun-dappled lanes and vineyards. Consider signing up for a fun, hands-on pasta cooking class this morning and learn the secrets of how to make this authentic Italian fare from scratch. Later, enjoy leisure time in the lovely medieval city of Siena known worldwide for the famous Palio run, a horse race run around 'Il Campo,' the central piazza. Then, join us for our farewell dinner of Italian specialties at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Snacks, Dinner

Inclusions: Tuscan countryside Stay, Medieval city of Siena, Tuscan farewell dinner

Optional activity: Pasta cooking class

DAY 9

TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast this morning, your land tour comes to an end. Wave goodbye to Italy and jet home filled with sunny memories that are sure to last a lifetime!

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hey Adventurer!

Calling all adventure seekers, art lovers, and culinary enthusiasts! If you are looking for an unforgettable travel experience, then the Italian Riviera, Florence, and the Tuscan countryside are calling your name. Start your journey in Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, and immerse yourself in art and art history like never before. Admire the works of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Botticelli at the Uffizi Gallery and marvel at the beauty of the Duomo. Next, head to the Italian Riviera and explore the stunning Cinque Terre hiking trails, where you'll be surrounded by breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea. Finally, end your journey in the Tuscan countryside and indulge in delicious food and wine while taking in the picturesque scenery. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or a foodie, this trip has something for everyone. So pack your bags, and get ready for the adventure of a lifetime!

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



Culinary



Culture & Heritage



Leisure & Free Time



Landscapes & Wildlife



Outdoor & Adventure



Educational

For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/ACTIVE

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime for you and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$775 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

“ **BEST TRIP EVER.** ”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.