**Summer in Montepulciano, Italy, 2019**

Travel Information

**Itinerary:**

The group will fly Delta with a layover in Amsterdam. Plan to arrive at the INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL of the airport (note [different directions](http://www.atl.com/maps/#1457713837137-2c4be002-bc42) than to Domestic terminals) at least 3 hours prior to departure.

It takes a long time to get a group of people checked in, and traffic in Atlanta is unpredictable so plan accordingly. The flight is fully booked, so we do not want anyone “bumped” or their luggage left behind because they are late.

Be sure to have your passport and e-ticket information with you check in at Delta’s International Kiosk/Counter. Do not put your passport in your checked baggage.

After check-in, please proceed directly to the departure gate so that you are certain you know where it is. Please make sure you build in enough time in the event you have to take the train to the next concourse. The group will meet at the departure gate for a roll call **90 minutes before departure** to make sure all members of the group have arrived. You will report to the instructor who is teaching your morning class. Please do not leave the gate area after roll call unless you have an instructor’s approval.

Because our layovers in Amsterdam is very short, we need to regroup at the arrival gate from which we have exited the plane, and proceed as a group through immigrations to our departure gate.

The complete flight itinerary is as follows:

**SESSION I**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flight #** | **Date** | **From** | **To** | **Depart** | **Arrive** |
| DL 70 | 16 May | Atlanta | Amsterdam | 3:15pm | 5:55am (17 May) |
| KL 1639 | 17 May | Amsterdam | Florence | 8:35am | 10:40am |
| KL 1642 | 20 June | Florence | Amsterdam | 12:10pm | 2:25pm |
| KL 621 | 20 June | Amsterdam | Atlanta | 5:00pm | 8:25pm |

**SESSION II**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Flight #** | **Date** | **From** | **To** | **Depart** | **Arrive** |
| DL 70 | 27 June | Altanta | Amsterdam | 3:15pm | 5:55am (28 June) |
| KL 1639 | 28 June | Amsterdam | Florence | 8:35am | 10:40am |
| KL 1642 | 01 August | Florence | Amsterdam | 12:10pm | 2:25pm |
| KL 621 | 01 August | Amsterdam | Atlanta | 5:00pm | 8:25pm |

*(Note: The exact departure time may be subject to change. You, of course, will be notified of such.)*

**Passport:**

**Be sure you have your passport on your person or in your carry-on bags when we depart.** If you do any traveling on your own within Europe, you will likely need to give your passport to the hotel management so that they can record its information. Some hotels may keep the passport for a few hours if they are busy or entering a large group. Do not worry, you will receive your passport the next time you check in at the front desk. At all other times, **do not carry your passport with you unless you know you absolutely need it!**

MAKE SURE to make a color photocopy of the identification page in your passport. You should also carry this on our person, but not in the same location as your actual passport. It is critical to have a copy in the event your passport is lost or stolen. It is also smart to leave a copy with your family members.

**Luggage:**

Delta has the following rules regarding luggage:

Checked Luggage: One piece of luggage weighing less than 50 lbs. The maximum dimensions per item of baggage are 62 Inches (width + height + depth). Overweight or additional checked baggage will be assessed fees to be paid at the ticket counter. All restrictions and fees are listed here: <http://www.delta.com/content/www/en_US/traveling-with-us/baggage/before-your-trip/checked.html>

Carry-on Luggage: No more than (1) piece of hand luggage and (1) personal item allowed. Baggage must fit easily in the Carry-on Baggage Check (approximately 22" x 14" x 9" or 56 x 35 x 23 cm), which is located near the check-in counters.

In addition, Delta allows the following to be carried on:

1. A handbag, wrist bag or small bag (or small laptop bag) and their content
2. A coat, shawl or blanket
3. A small camera or a pair of binoculars
4. An appropriate amount of reading material for the journey

***\*\*Please Note:***

1. 1) Carry-ons must be able to fit under the seat or in the overhead bin
2. .

2) TSA regulations require that all liquids and gels being ***carried on*** the aircraft be in 3 ounce or smaller containers and placed in 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger. You may take larger containers of shampoo, etc., but they must be placed in your checked baggage! <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/3-1-1-liquids-rule>

**General Tips for Packing:**

We recommend that you pack smartly in sturdy suitcases. Make sure to pack a small backpack for weekend trips either in your checked luggage or as your carry-on. There will be times when you will have to carry your luggage: through the airports, around Montepulciano (very likely uphill) and upstairs if your apartment is not on the main floor. Pack and try walking around the block with your bags. Wheels help!

The weather in Montepulciano during the summer is generally pleasant. Montepulciano will be cool in the evening during most of Session I. You should bring a thin sweater or jacket. At times, Italy can become extremely hot, esp. Florence and Rome. Cool, washable fabrics in modest styles are generally recommended. Comfortable shoes are a must. We will be doing a lot of walking. A rain jacket or small folding umbrella is advisable in case of rain, esp. for Session I.

**GETTING TO MONTEPULCIANO:**

When we arrive in Florence, there will be a chartered bus waiting to drive us to Montepulciano. During your time in Montepulciano there may be occasions when you will be traveling on your own or when you will have guests wishing to reach Montepulciano. Here is how to get there:

FROM ROME or FLORENCE:

Take the train to **Chiusi**. Do not take the train to Montepulciano Stazione, which is a little village some distance away served only by an infrequent local bus line. From the train station in Chiusi, you can either get a local bus (tickets available in the coffee shop in the station) or a taxi to Montepulciano. The bus is cheap (a couple of dollars) but it will take about an hour and will leave you outside the city walls with a long walk with your luggage. The taxi will cost about €50-60 but can take you right to the door. I suggest that you ask the taxi driver to bring you to the language school, Scuola il Sasso at Via Gracciano nel Corso 2, if you arrive during business hours (before 7:00 p.m). If you are late or run into difficulty, call the director’s cell phone or il Sasso.

**General Weekly Schedule**

On class days you will have your morning class 9:00-11:30 am, with a break for lunch, then your afternoon class from 1:00-3:30 pm. Classes will generally meet on Monday and Wednesday (with fieldtrips on Tuesday and Thursday) except for the final two weeks in which classes will meet on Monday and Tuesday.

Dinners will be Sunday – Wednesday at 7 pm at “the trattoria” (except on the overnight field trip day when you will be responsible for covering the meal).

If you travel on weekends, always travel with fellow students, always stay together. You must return **by 6 pm on Sunday** (be aware that transportation strikes are common in Italy in the summer, so give yourself a bit of a margin when planning your return times). **Immediately upon return from Montepulciano, your group must check in** with the Academic Director by GroupMe (preferred), email, telephone, or in person. Indicate which members of your group have returned to the town with you.