



MARCO POLO INSTITUTE INFORMATION SHEET

CULINARY ART PROGRAM

WHERE AM I GOING ?

Your Marco Polo Institute Study Abroad program starts in Otranto, right on the Adriatic Sea. The beautiful area was the center of culture and politics for many centuries. Instruction is on-campus for Italian. Culinary is taught at the Institute of culinary art in Otranto. Internship is in a leading restaurant in the area.

Ferrara and Parma are cities in the Emilia- Romagna region: long recognized as the gastronomic heart of Italy. The region produces world class delicacies such as balsamic vinegar, Prosciutto di Parma and Parmigiano cheese.

Academia Barilla is an internationally recognized, state of the art teaching facility.

WHAT DO I TAKE WITH ME ?

As a general rule, travel light. There are laundry facilities on campus in Otranto. There is a large pool and the Adriatic Sea to enjoy so pack a bathing suit. Since you will be going to the north in the late fall, make sure to pack some warmer clothing as well. The northern Italy's average daytime temperature is usually in the 40's at the time you will be there.

Take any medication needed for the entire trip in the original container and pack it in your carry on. Ask your physician for a prescription in the medication's dosage and generic name to have with you.

You will be supplied with lab coats and head coverings but bring your chef's attire for special occasions. Don't forget your knives. Pack them in checked luggage only.

Bring a converter designed for use in Italy if you are taking any electronic devices.

Personal toiletries of your liking as they may not be available in Italy.

WHAT ARE THE ROOMS LIKE ?

In Otranto you will be staying at a resort. There are no dorm rooms used by Marco Polo. The rooms have two beds and you will be sharing a room with another student. If you wish, you may request a single room based on availability, at an additional fee.

The rooms are air conditioned and quite comfortable. You have a refrigerator to store your snacks and drinks. There is television in the rooms. Please note this is Italian TV. The ensuite bathrooms are very modern and have hairdryers and a stall shower. Should you wish to take an afternoon nap, there are shutters to block light.

Amenities available include:

- Large swimming pool – until end of September
- Shuttle to beach – until end of September
- Volleyball
- Tennis
- Jogging track
- Miniature golf
- On site convenience store
- On campus classroom and internet access

The other campuses house students in hotel rooms. Marco Polo houses the students in 3 star facilities such as the centrally located residence in Parma. The residence has internet and computer access.

HOW ARE MEALS SERVED?

Marco Polo Institute provides meals included in your tuition.

Breakfast is served in the café and is a continental breakfast consisting of coffee, juice and a pastry.

Lunch and dinner are served family style. There is a set menu and everyone eats at the same time. Please be advised that there are multiple courses. Though there is abundant food, the food is light and very fresh. Otranto is on the sea and seafood may have been in the ocean just yesterday. Wine is served.

Any food prepared by the students during instruction will be utilized as the meal.

HOW DO I KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED STATES?

There is a public phone at the campus. You may purchase phone cards and replenish them as minutes are used up. Some students have purchased their own phones in Italy. You may also want to use the Internet. You also may rent a phone in the US that can be shipped to your home prior to your departure. Your cell phone will not work in Italy.

WHAT IS MY DAY LIKE?

Usually, in the morning you receive Italian language instruction. Later in the day you have lunch, a break and then go for culinary instruction. Weekends are free.

WHAT DO I DO ON WEEKENDS?

You have time to catch up on some relaxation, do some schoolwork and enjoy the facilities. Trips to other cities and sites, at additional cost, may be arranged.

Please be aware that there is an English speaking director at all the campuses to offer assistance.

Prior to arrival the students should familiarize themselves with the area to be visited to fully understand and appreciate what they are seeing and being taught.