



TRAVEL TO

Italy

WITH MVNU

mvnu.edu/italy/orientation

MOUNT VERNON
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY



Venice



Taormina



Assisi



Rome

Hotel Amenities

- ❖ Wi-Fi should be available in all hotels, according to websites
- ❖ Carry a hotel business card with you in case you need to call or take a cab; you can ask for it at the front desk
- ❖ Have your key ready to return to front desk the morning we leave
- ❖ Daily breakfasts and dinners (probably buffet)
 - ❖ Breakfast coffee / tea / juices are included
 - ❖ Take advantage of regional cooking when available!
- ❖ Nice accommodations (3-4 star hotels)
 - ❖ Some might have pools and/or exercise rooms
 - ❖ Normal hotel toiletries are included (except for washcloths)



Venice Carnevale



Lunches & Dinners

- ❖ The Venice impact on lodging and dinners
- ❖ Lunches are on your own. They range between \$6 and \$15, and drinks are an additional \$1-\$3.
- ❖ If you eat a good breakfast, you may choose not to eat lunch or you may choose to split lunch with others.
- ❖ Guides will take us to preferred places for lunch. Enjoy the local cuisine, as it may not exist elsewhere!
- ❖ Dinners might be buffet style or served with plenty of variety for main dishes and desserts, fruit.
- ❖ Dinner drinks, other than water, cost extra (usually \$3-\$5).

Travel Tips Review – T/F?

Highly recommend to review the [Travel Tips](#) and **Orientation 1** online

1. There's no weight limit to what I can carry or check-in at the airport.
2. My flip flops and US flag hat will look really good on those group photos!
3. My clothes should be casual, interchangeable and comfortable.
4. A small current converter/adaptor is going to keep my batteries charged.
5. Best way to stay hydrated is to drink as much Dr. Pepper as I can!
6. My passport is my most important document and it travels on my body!
7. I'm going to take photos of every man, woman and child I see!
8. Gift cards are as good as money overseas.
9. Bringing an extra pair of glasses/contacts is a good idea.
10. Staying up late talking to my friends is a good way to review the daily activities.

Answers: 1-F, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-T, 10-F



Cultural Tips

“We are MVNU”

- ❖ MVNU Lifestyle Guidelines
- ❖ We are MVNU representatives



Americans Abroad

Things to do before you go...

- ❖ Familiarize yourself with the history of the relationship between the U.S. and your host country. Has it traditionally been friendly or unfriendly? Have there been tensions?
- ❖ Listen and try to look at the U.S. and its impact abroad from the perspective of your host country.
- ❖ Remember that you're a guest in the country we are visiting! Be respectful and kind.
- ❖ We strongly recommend you read this book:
 - ❖ Tomalin, Berry, [Italy – Culture Smart! The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture](#). UK, Kuperard, 2021

Ways Cultures Differ

❖ Five Primary Ways Where Cultures Differ:

- ❖ Perception of Time (see next slide)
- ❖ Cultural (Unwritten) Rules
- ❖ Individualism vs Collectivism
- ❖ Respect and Attention: social distance between leaders and followers
- ❖ Uncertainty Avoidance: unpredictability vs tight schedules

-- [*Serving with Eyes Wide Open*](#) by David Livermore, Baker Books 2012



Telling Time ... in Italian

tra un attimo = in 15 minutes

in a moment

sono a 5 minuti da lì = there in 1 hour

I'm 5 minutes away

sto arrivando = at home, just woke up

I'm coming

sono dietro l'angolo = still at home,
picking my outfit

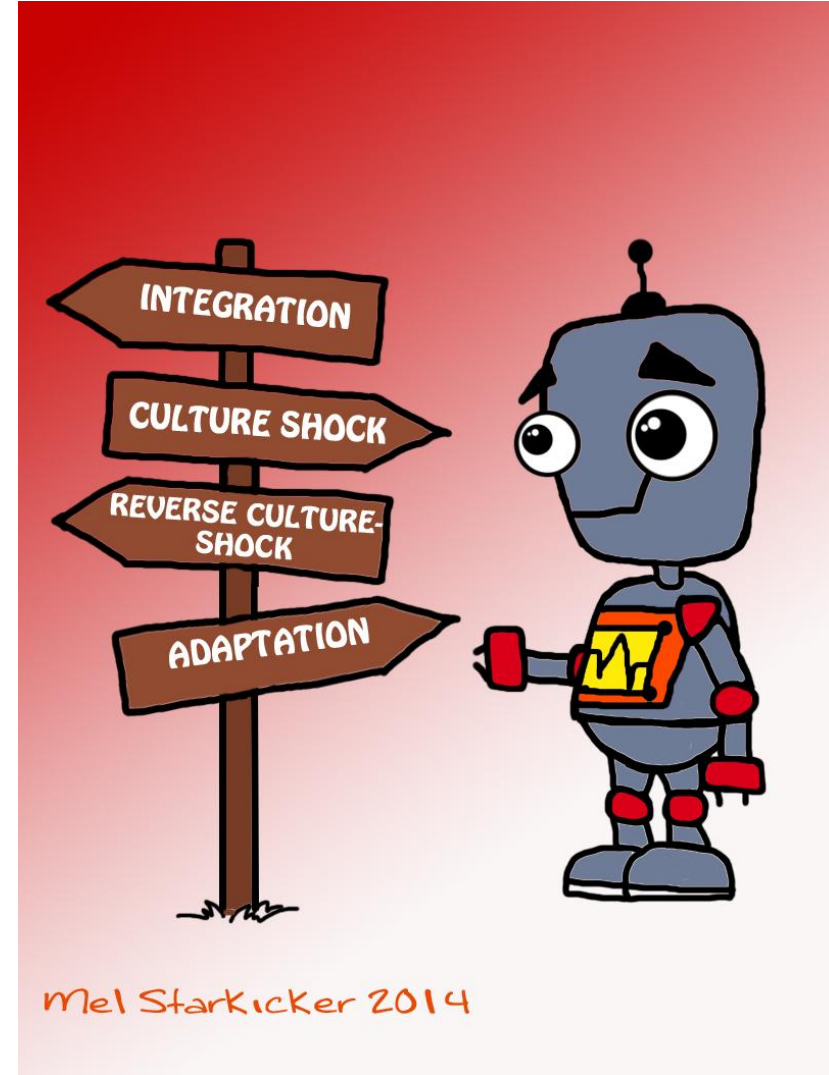
I'm around the corner

se Dio vuole = nope, ain't gonna happen

God willing

Adjusting to a new culture

- ❖ Culture shock is very real and almost everyone will experience it to some degree.
- ❖ Adjusting to your host country can be compared with your first semester at MVNU.
- ❖ Cultural differences can lead to miscommunication.
- ❖ **Coping with the stresses of culture learning**
 - ❖ Cultural adjustment can make you feel tired - so get your sleep and plenty of water!
 - ❖ Draw on experiences you've already had in your life and think about how they are similar to adjusting to a new culture (e.g., when you first came to MVNU).
 - ❖ Challenge yourself and your friends to adapt.
 - ❖ Write about your experiences regularly (e.g., your journal!)



When you get back

- ❖ Study abroad is a process.
- ❖ You might find it difficult to explain your study abroad experience...
- ❖ ...or find the U.S. extremely different; and find that old friends and family are not interested in discussing your experiences.
- ❖ All these are part of the process called “re-entry shock.”
- ❖ Use & evaluate your experience!
 - ❖ Write answers to these questions:
 - ❖ How has my view of my own country, family, and friends changed?
 - ❖ How have I changed?
 - ❖ What am I happiest to return to?
 - ❖ What will I miss most from my experience abroad?



*You cannot go abroad
without coming home
a changed person.*

Basics of Communication

Italy





Customs / Immigration Notes

- ❖ We'll be going through immigration and customs when we enter Italy and upon return to the USA. Have your passport ready and advance to the window when called forward.
Your passport will be checked. We'll go through security at the same time.
- ❖ Be courteous, answer any "purpose of visit" questions with "tourist." Although we're students, we're not students in one of Italy's universities.
- ❖ Answer what you are asked politely, but do not offer explanations, unless you are asked.
- ❖ Do not joke in the airport. And especially do not talk about terrorism or bombs!



Travel Awareness

- ❖ Keep a low profile. Avoid scam artists and watch your valuables. Look after each other.
- ❖ Take a patient and calm approach to all situations.
- ❖ Be confident!
- ❖ Respect local sensitivities to photography (it's another country not Disneyland 😊)
- ❖ Carry your passport with you at ALL times.

❖ You are subject to the laws of the country you are visiting.

❖ NEVER go out to walk by yourself and stay with the group during tours. Never travel in groups of less than 3.

❖ Take the business card of the hotel where you are staying which has the address and contact police if you get lost.



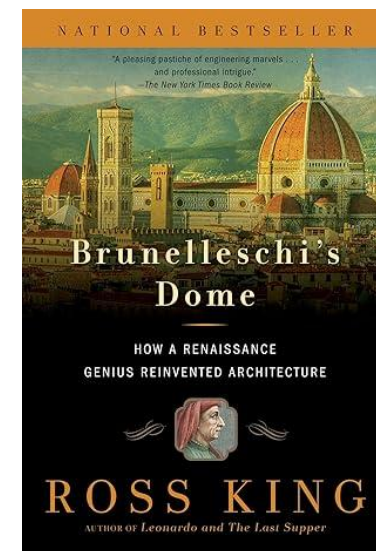
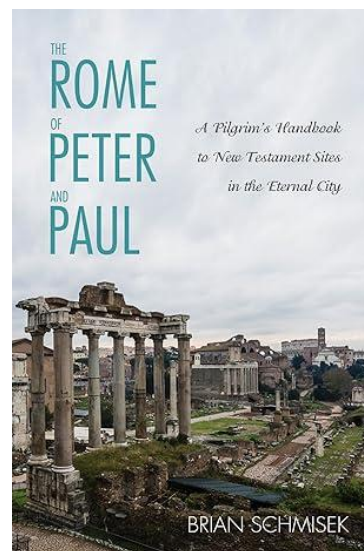
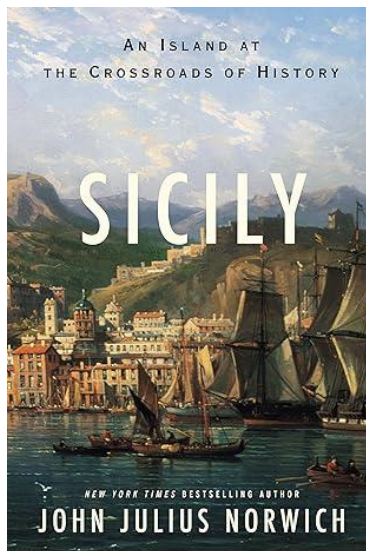
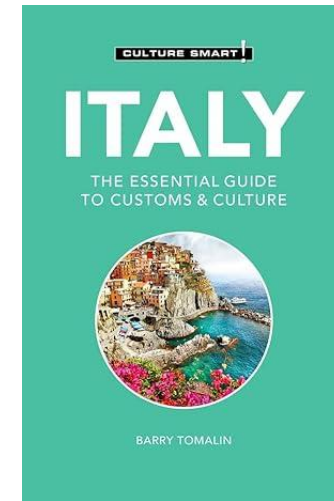
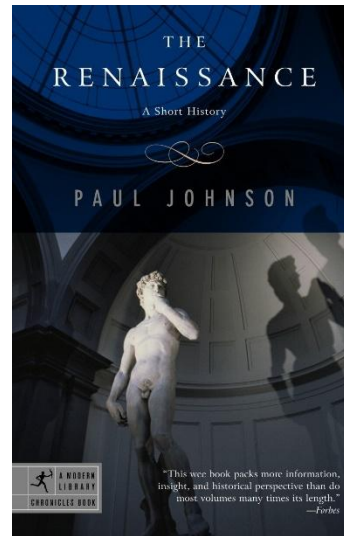
❖ Security, Customs, and Immigration checks are now much more extensive and thorough than ever before. Don't be stupid! If you try to take illegal substances, you will be caught.

❖ DO NOT offer or agree to carry anything back home from any stranger, no matter who asks, because it's unsafe and illegal. Be especially suspicious if you are approached at the airport.



❖ Do not leave your suitcase or carry-on unattended at airports or in public. Use a lock on your suitcase at the hotel while we tour.

Recommended Reading



Miscellaneous

- ❖ This PowerPoint will be emailed to you and posted online.
- ❖ Roommate list, hotels & flight schedule (when available)
mvnu.edu/italy/orientation
- ❖ Sign-up if you need a ride from MVNU to Columbus airport **and** back. We'll look at this list again next month.
- ❖ **Final orientation:**
Feb. 13 on campus* 6-7 pm / [Zoom](#) link for out-of-town 7:30-8:30 pm (ET)

All on-campus sessions are held from 6-7 p.m., at CC302 unless communicated otherwise. **They are mandatory for students.*

Questions?



Tonight's PowerPoint and Travel Tips will be emailed to you and
will be online

mvnu.edu/italy/orientation