

CBS TUSCANY TOUR 2008

1) How much does it cost to sign up?

The trip will cost \$6003 including the week at camp, airfares, transfers, taxes, lodging, museum and site entrances, guided tours & breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

2) How do I sign up?

Please print and fill out the Cultural Encounters Terms & Conditions form and Tuscany 2008 Application form, along with your deposit of \$2000, and mail to Camp Balcones Springs.

3) What if I need to cancel? Do I get my money back?

All cancellations of confirmed reservations are subject to forfeiture of an administrative fee of \$200 per person until January 10, 2008. All cancellations made between January 11-March 1, 2008 are subject to a forfeiture of \$500. After this time, no refund will be made unless the participant's place on the tour has been resold (which could result in additional fees). All cancellations must be in writing to Cultural Encounters, P.O. Box 6392, Santa Fe, NM 87502 or via e-mail at harriet@culturalencounters.com. Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended as part of a comprehensive insurance package.

4) What are the payment deadlines?

A deposit of \$2000 per person is required by January 10, 2008.

A payment of \$2001 per person is due by February 15, 2008.

A final payment of \$2002 per person is due by March 1, 2008.

5) How many chaperones/camp counselors will there be on the trip?

We have 16 camper spots available for the trip, and will have at least two chaperone/camp counselors, but may have one additional.

6) Is the travel company you are using an accredited one?

Cultural Encounters has been incorporated in Texas since 1995 and now is LLC out of New Mexico since 2005.

7) Will my camper need a passport?

Certainly! Passports must be current and valid for at least 6 months after your return travel date. Start the process as soon as possible as a 6-week minimum wait is usual.

Go to <http://www.travel.state.gov> or you may apply at your nearest post office.

Make a copy of your passport to keep in the States, give a copy to us, and give a copy to your camper.

8) Will my camper need a visa?

If your camper is an American citizen or a citizen of the European Union they will not need a visa to enter Italy. Any other nationalities should check with their consulates.

10) Will my camper need any shots?

As long as your shot record is up to date there is no need for further shots.

11) What if my camper gets sick in Italy?

They will be taken to a local doctor in the village in which we stay. Normally, as Italy is a socialist welfare state, there is no charge for this. However, travel insurance would cover this if there were to be a charge and compensation would be made once back in the U.S.

11) Will my camper have access to alcohol?

Your camper will not be offered alcohol at any time. Moreover, we do have a strict no-alcohol policy that you and your camper will be asked to read and sign. If at any time it comes to our attention that alcohol has been consumed, you will be informed immediately and you will be expected to make arrangements to return your camper to the United States at your own expense and as soon as possible.

14) How much spending money would my camper need?

Spending money is at the discretion of the parent or guardian. However, experience shows that shopping in a foreign country is a hugely popular and novel pastime. Other than that, remember that all expenses are covered in the cost of the trip.

15) Should my camper bring cash/debit or master card or traveler's checks?

Your camper should bring at least 50 Euros in cash with him/her to see them through the first couple of days. Traveler's checks are very inconvenient as European banking hours are limited in the summer. We highly recommend using a debit card with a four-digit pin, linked to a checking account.

16) Will you send out a packing list?

Yes, at least two months out from the trip we will post a packing list.

17) How will I maintain contact with my camper while s/he is abroad?
Our staff will have a cell phone for emergencies and contact with CBS. The castle also has internet access and information will be updated daily on the CBS website.

18) Who will administer medicines?
The same protocol used during camp will apply. One of our CPR trained staff will administer medication to campers. Also, please bring copies of any prescriptions that may have to be refilled if medicines are lost. Keep medication in carry-on bags for international legs of travel.

21) Should we purchase travel insurance?
Absolutely and an application for this will be included in every confirmation package from Cultural Encounters.

23) What are baggage allowances?
Remember that whatever your camper takes, your camper will have to carry! Less is more! Most world airlines only allow 2 pieces of checked luggage weighing no more than 50 lbs. No liquids on carry-on luggage! A good idea is to bring a collapsible bag for the return when you have purchased much more than you came with.

26) How soon will I know my flight itinerary?
We already have the flight itinerary scheduled as follows. Please note this is subject to change.
Delta Airlines flight out of Austin 6/27/08 at 12:15pm, arriving in Atlanta at 3:26pm, departing Atlanta at 5:30pm, arriving Milan at 9am. For the returning flight, departing 7/10/08 at 11:40am, arriving JFK at 2:50pm, departing New York at 5:30pm, and arriving in Austin at 9:05pm.