

# Gap Program in Florence or Lucca, Italy

## Individually Customized Programs

What makes ANDEO's Gap programs stand out is that they are very flexible and can be customized to fit your goals and interests. The two core components are small-group language courses and a homestay with a local family. From there, you can choose your own path. For example, you can dive into the world of Italian opera, join photography workshops, or learn how to make the perfect pizza. Programs can be as short as four weeks or as long as a full year and start any Monday. Academic credit is available.

**2009 Cost Estimate: \$4,700 for a 12-week program**  
(airfare not included; 4-week to 12-month programs possible)

## Florence and Lucca

If you love art and culture, what better place to study Italian than Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance and home to an overwhelming array of architectural gems, fascinating museums and galleries, and beautiful public plazas. Its little sister, Lucca, also shows traces of a rich history. You can still walk or even bike on top of the ancient city walls! Both cities also offer plenty of opportunities to learn about the Italian way of enjoying life, which always includes delicious food.

## The Language Institute

In Florence, you will find yourself studying in the Palazzo Borghese, a Renaissance palace located between Piazza Domo and Piazza Santa Croce. It features a restaurant, a film collection, an internet room, and a gourmet information center! The campus in Lucca occupies a historic building in downtown Lucca, near the Torre Giunigi. Of course, it also has a gourmet information center. Both campuses are part of the same accredited language institute, founded in 1980 with the goal of teaching Italian in its cultural context.

## The Classes

You can choose from a variety of different classes that all combine the study of the Italian language with the discovery of the local culture and customs. Class sizes range from 4 to 12 students. The basic course consists of 20 hours of classes per week, usually scheduled in the mornings. At the end of your course, you can request a certificate of attendance, stating the length of the course and your language ability level.

## Cultural Activities

In both locations, you can join many exciting cultural activities and excursions. For example, you might watch a current Italian film, explore Etruscan archeological sites, take a day trip to a small Tuscan town, sample traditional Tuscan food, or learn about Italian art history. Many of these activities are included in your program fees. You may want to budget a little extra for entrance fees and transportation costs.

## Special Option: Italian Language and Pizza Course!

Learn the secrets of a classic Italian dish that has won hearts and stomachs around the world! The course takes place in a pizzeria in Florence and covers the history of the pizza as well as the techniques that make it perfect. Contact us for details!

## Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself into the daily life in Italy. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. All homestays include breakfast; dinner can be arranged for an extra fee.



Photo by svacher



**ANDEO**  
INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAYS

*ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

**What does the cost estimate include?** Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with breakfast every day, some cultural activities, pre-departure orientation materials, and ongoing support in your preparations and during your stay in Italy. If you want to add special options, please contact ANDEO for a cost estimate.

**Can I study if I am a beginner?** Yes, you can start as a complete beginner. Call for specific beginner start dates!

**When will I receive my host family placement information?** You will receive host family details and contact information in the week prior to your arrival date.

**Will there be an orientation session in Italy?** Yes. Upon arrival, you will receive an information package with a program of cultural activities and excursions, useful maps and addresses, and a list of cultural events scheduled during your stay. ANDEO will also send you comprehensive orientation materials before departure.

**Will I have access to email?** Yes, the institute has several computers with internet access as well as a wi-fi network.

**Will the institute be closed for any holidays?** Yes, it will be closed for all national holidays in Italy. 2010 dates will be available soon.

**Can I get credits for studying abroad?** Yes! Whether you are a high school graduate, a university student working toward a degree, or a teacher looking for professional development, you can get credit for continuing your education abroad. Earn 5 to 10 credits by signing up for a variety of courses offered by *We Study Abroad*, an accredited college program linked with Seattle Central Community College. Please visit [www.westudyabroad.com](http://www.westudyabroad.com) for details.

**Do I need travel insurance?** We strongly recommend that you get travel insurance that includes a medical plan. Prices depend upon trip length and participant age. You can compare different policies online or by contacting your local travel agent.

**Will I need a visa?** That depends on the length of your program, your citizenship, and other individual factors. Visa requirements change frequently, so we strongly recommend that you contact your nearest Italian consulate or embassy to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about all rules and regulations that apply to your stay. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your program in Italy. If you need any documents from ANDEO or our partner organization abroad, we will do our best to provide them to you.

**Can I speak to people who have participated in the program before?** Definitely! Please contact our office and we can provide you with the emails of students who have participated in this program

**How do I apply?** To apply, complete the initial Gap application and return it with a \$500 deposit. You can download an application at [www.andeo.org](http://www.andeo.org). Your deposit will be applied to the total program price. Upon receipt of your program registration and deposit, we will send you a detailed orientation packet. The balance of your program fees will be due 30 days before your program start date.

**What is your cancellation policy?** If you cancel your program more than 45 days prior to your start date, we will refund the amount you have paid toward your program fee except for the \$100 non-refundable deposit as well as any cancellation fees charged by the language institute. The cancellation fees vary from program to program, so please ask us about the fees that apply to yours. For cancellations made less than 45 days prior to your program start date, your \$500 deposit will be forfeited, and you will also be responsible for the cancellation fees charged by the institute. If Andeo cancels your program, you will receive a full refund.

If you have any further questions or would like to start planning your program in Italy, please contact ANDEO at [info@andeo.org](mailto:info@andeo.org), 503.274.1776 or 800.274.6007. We look forward to working with you!



**ANDEO**  
INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAYS

*Like having options? Take a look at our other Gap programs in Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Peru, and Spain!*

*ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.*