

CINQUE TERRE RIVIERA PROGRAM

Launching
SPRING 2026

CINQUE TERRE RIVIERA

ITALY



Supported by:

 **Fondazione**
Carispezia

CINQUE TERRE RIVIERA PROGRAM



FUA-AUF presents a brand-new coastal location for study abroad programs that will launch in Spring 2026. The Cinque Terre Riviera Program takes place in Liguria near the Tuscan border, and offers a unique opportunity for students to experience an authentic Italian location that combines an urban context immersed in a multitude of natural landscapes.

The region of Liguria, cradled between the Alps and the sparkling Mediterranean Sea, offers an Italian Riviera experience unlike any other. Remnants of ancient times persist in the form of monuments, buildings, and streets throughout cities and towns such as La Spezia and the Cinque Terre villages. Additionally, the Gulf of Poets, officially known as the Gulf of La Spezia, stretches between Portovenere and Lerici. Anchored by the area's local capital, La Spezia, this enchanting bay has been a muse for poets and artists including David Herbert Lawrence, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Lord Byron. Liguria's charm lies in its contrasts: rugged coastlines giving way to sun-drenched beaches and vibrant towns whispering tales of pirates and poets. Thanks to the port city location, the area hosts the Naval Academy, Italy's top naval and mechanical engineering programs, globally prominent shipping logistics, and world-renowned studios for naval design. In addition to La Spezia's longstanding history, it is also the birthplace of the Italian Futurist movement. Nearby within short travel distances are also the town of Sarzana, the marble quarries and Apuan Alps of Tuscany, Lucca, and the Tuscan Riviera towns of Versilia such as Forte dei Marmi and Viareggio.

LA SPEZIA FAST FACTS

- *Population:* 93,000 inhabitants
- *Location:* Province of La Spezia, Liguria Region
- *Transportation:* Major train station, taxis, buses
- *Lifestyle:* Coastal port town with walkable city center and seaside boardwalk.
- *Health:* 15 public and private healthcare facilities within the city.
- *Major museums:* Amedeo Lia Civic Museum, Castello di San Giorgio Archeological Museum, CAMEC contemporary art, National Museum of Transportation, Naval Museum, Museum of Seals, Ethnographic Museum.
- *Libraries:* Four major libraries and archives.
- *Nature:* Public and historical gardens within the city, starting point for the Cinque Terre National Park.

BENEFITS OF THE RIVIERA LOCATION

- Year-round temperate climate
- A lesser-known city environment with an urban lifestyle
- Conveniently located for travel to France and other parts of northern and central Italy
- Proximity to the sea and nature
- High concentration of academic and industry environments
- Riviera-only or 2-City Program including Florence

RIVIERA PROGRAM	Season	Sessions
3-Week Intensive Program	Fall/Spring	Session I
	Summer	Sessions I-II
Quarter Program	Spring	11-Week Quarter Sessions
	Fall	
Semester Program	Fall/Spring	15 or 11-Week Semesters
Faculty-Led	Year-Round	According to program request

A 1-week travel/city-based academic experience can be added before or after any session.

2-CITY SEMESTER PROGRAM	Season	Sessions
La Spezia + Florence	Fall/Spring	Sessions I in LS, 11W Semester in FL
	Summer	Sessions I-II in LS, III-IV in FL
Florence + La Spezia	Fall/Spring	Sessions I in FL, 11W Semester in LS

A 1-week travel/city-based academic experience can be added before or after any session.

ACADEMICS

Coursework represents the following disciplines:

- Mediterranean Studies
- Writing and Poetry
- Marine Sciences and Biology
- Environmental Studies and Climate Change
- Engineering
- Finance, Marketing, Management, Supply Chain
- Liberal and Fine Arts
- Digital Media, Design, Architecture
- Hospitality, Food, and Wine Studies

Internships are also available at this location.

LOGISTICS

Distances

MAJOR CITIES	Genova	66 miles (train 1hr 15min)
	Florence	93 miles (train 2hr)
	Milan	138 miles (train 3hr)
	Turin	170 miles (train 3hr)
	Rome	260 miles (train 3hr)
LOCAL DESTINATIONS	Pisa	48 miles (train 45min)
	Nice, France	183 miles (train 5hr)
	Lerici	7 miles
	Cinque Terre	9 miles (train 8 min)
	Palmaria Island	30 min by ferry
	Tuscan Riviera	20 miles

Major Airports

Genova	70 miles (train under 2hr)
Pisa	50 miles (train 1hr 15min)

Average Climate

Fall 65-70° F	Spring 65-70° F
Winter 50-55° F	Summer 80-90° F

STUDENT SERVICES

- 24/7 emergency line, on-site advisors, virtual access to the certified counseling service in Florence.
- Housing in various options such as shared apartments, dorm facilities, family stays, and hotels depending on program length.
- Extracurriculars such as city walks, sports, mind & body activities.
- Educational Field Trips: Florence, Versilia marble quarries, Palmaria Island, Genova, Parma, Nizza in the French Riviera.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Coastal Mediterranean lifestyle
- Walkable city center
- More independent retailers and less global chains
- A smaller-scale environment with all of the benefits of an urban city
- Unique local cuisine
- A different perspective of Italian culture



CINQUE TERRE | ITALY



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The American University of Florence

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