

## **CAMI Project at Industria (Italy)**

### **Program Information**

#### **PROGRAM SPECIFIC FIELD CONDITIONS**

**What are the average weather conditions during the time of the field school? (average temperature, humidity levels, amount of rain, wind, variation between day and night, etc.)**

In August and September the Piedmont region can have quite hot days. Usually the temperature slowly rises from around 25° Celsius (equivalent to 77° Fahrenheit) to sometimes 37°C / 99°F. After about 5 days, typically a large thunderstorm occurs with short periods of heavy rain and sometimes hail, which brings the overall temperature back to around 25° C.

**Please describe the site(s) where the students will work, for example, outside and/or inside; in a city, town or rural area; shady or sunny, etc.**

Industria is in a rural area and we work in an open field with little natural shade. For this reason we start the work early in the day and spend the afternoons after lunch inside, or in a shaded area, working on finds processing.

**Are there special features of the program site, for example, nearby important cultural areas, ambiance or scenery, interaction with staff, access to unique infrastructure, techniques or objects?**

Industria, once a thriving Roman industrial center, today is a small agricultural community. In the wider surroundings there are several ancient sites dating to the Roman era (first-second centuries CE) that we will visit, such as the town of Aosta. The location of the pre-Roman settlement of Bodingomagus is currently unknown and it is important to realize that “Roman” is not synonymous with “Italian”. Even today some inhabitants of Aosta would refer to the Romans as foreign invaders.

**Will there be other people onsite with the field school or working in the same area? For example, other researchers, staff, or community volunteers?**

The field school students will be an integral part of our small team. Your contribution is essential and apart from learning the principles of excavation, you will also have the opportunity to participate in geophysical survey and botanical research. A team from Groningen University in the Netherlands will work on exploration of the location of the ancient canal from the river Po to the settlement through coring and you ‘ll be able to explore this technique as well.

**What does an average week look like (working times, lecture/discussion times, free time, weekends)?**

Our normal work week will be Monday to Friday. Saturday and Sunday we are not working in the field. Students can use the weekends to do laundry, lounge at the pool or venture out. On most Saturdays excursions will be organized which relate to the field work project or the broader cultural context. The schedule is subject to change, but outlines correctly what will be covered during the field school.

**What are the options for students to access money? Are there ATMs nearby? Should students plan to bring a certain amount of cash?**

The village of Lauriano is walking distance and has an ATM, as well as several coffee bars.

#### **ACTIVITY LEVEL & ACCESSIBILITY**

**Please provide information about the physical requirements of the program.**

Archaeological work is by definition physical, and this program is no exception. It entails moderately strenuous physical activities—lifting, bending, kneeling, crouching, carrying. You will be climbing in and out of the excavation trench, using a pick-axe to get through particularly compact layers of soil, kneeling on an uneven surface, having to keep your balance because some part of the excavation cannot be stepped on. If you have difficulty sitting on your knees then consider bringing knee pads that will make it more comfortable. We will be walking moderate distances (half a mile) carrying equipment and every member of the team is expected to give a hand with whatever task needs doing.

**Please comment how accessible your site is for people with mobility challenges. Would someone using a wheelchair be able to participate? Someone who uses crutches or other assistive walking devices?**

The excavation site is in an agricultural field, which can be negotiated if someone uses crutches or even, with some improvisation, by wheelchair. Going in and out of the trench and participating in the actual digging will not be possible for someone who is dependent on walking devices, but there are many other tasks that can be done at the edge of the trench. Computer work and finds processing are also an integral task of archaeology.

**PROGRAM COUNTRY & CULTURAL INFORMATION**

**What do you love about the country and area you work in? What do you think students will be most excited to discover?**

Italy is famous for its deep cultural history and of course its amazing cuisine. The rural landscape is soothingly beautiful and we are very close to Turin, which is a very elegant city surrounded by the palaces of the Dukes of Savoye, which together are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, interesting museums, theatres, Europe's biggest food market and a world famous soccer team. There is much to enjoy in Piedmonte, this northwestern region close to the Alps and to France.

**How large is the community where students will be staying? Will students have opportunities to interact casually with local residents? Please describe.**

The agriturismo lies half a mile outside the village of Lauriano and is run by a local family that grows its own food and once in a while will cook amazing meals for us. You can easily walk into the village for a coffee or a beer and chat with people. We will organize some meetings with the community of Monteu da Po, 3 miles from Lauriano and the location of the ancient site of Industria.

**Primary languages spoken by people in the area:**

People mostly speak Italian or Piedmontese, which is most like a mixture of French and Italian, but with its own particular vocabulary. Our hosts speak excellent English, but the elder villagers only speak Italian. The good thing is that people like to chat and will try their best to understand what you are trying to say using hands, feet and facial expressions.

**Are there cultural aspects that students should be aware of before they come, particularly behaviors that could be offensive or misinterpreted (for example, eye contact, dress, gestures)?**

In general traveling is not dangerous, as long as you are not careless. If you travel often, you know that the best advice is to use common sense, and to always try to be aware of your surroundings (eg. don't be oblivious, don't be rude, don't just walk into a church or mosque without checking whether you would be welcome, dress appropriately, etc.). Petty crime in large cities is not uncommon, however, so keep a close eye on your personal belongings.

Wearing shorts and tank tops in the field is allowed, but not recommended. Protecting your skin against sun radiation is a good idea and long loose sleeves and trousers also protect against insect bites. Mosquitoes, including tiger mosquitoes that potentially carry dengue fever and other serious illnesses, have been attested in Italy, including northern Italy. You will probably want bug spray (repellant with a higher level of DEET will protect you better).

Walking boots can be useful in survey, but when in the trenches we prefer to work in shoes with very smooth soles so as to avoid making deep imprints or damaging features.

**Will students have opportunities to explore other areas of the country? If so, what options are available to them (such as available transportation or unscheduled time for exploration).**

Italy is one of the Schengen countries, so a visa for Italy gives you access to most European countries. Turin is well-connected to the train system and approximately halfway between Rome and Paris.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS**

**Please describe student accommodations, including the type of accommodation (tent, hostel, hotel, etc.) and a brief description of the accommodation itself, including number of students to a room or tent, access to toilets and showers, and common areas.**

We will be staying in the Agriturismo Casa Matilde, <https://www.agriturismocasamatilde.it/>, This is a small family-run bed-and-breakfast that also will serve light dinners. You will be staying in shared rooms with at most six persons in a room. If this causes shower traffic jams in the morning or after work, there are two additional bathrooms in the shower block of the swimming pool.

Yes, you read it correctly. These are not your average archaeology field accommodations. You can have wine with dinner and a swimming pool to cool off after work.

**Please describe how/how often students can do laundry.**

Casa Matilda has a washing machine that you can use free of charge and washing lines in the garden where you can put your things to dry.

**How are room assignments made? If rooms are assigned according to gender, how will you assign rooms for non-binary, trans and queer students?**

Rooms are assigned by the staff and students of the same gender are staying together. Non-binary, trans and queer students can make known before arrival whether they have a preference. It is important that all students feel comfortable, but unfortunately we do not have single rooms available in the agriturismo.

**Are there options for single rooms? Would there be an additional charge (and approximate cost)?**

The agriturismo does not have single rooms. In exceptional circumstances there may be other lodging possibilities nearby.

**Will the program provide meals? If not all meals, please specify which meals students will be responsible for, and what facilities are available for them to get groceries and prepare meals.**

A breakfast buffet will be served at the *agriturismo* at 5.30, we leave at 6.00 sharp. Because of expected heat in August, work in the field stops before lunch. At 12:30 there will be a (very) substantial lunch in a local restaurant. After coming home and washing up (and have a swim if you so choose), at 4.00 pm/16.00 there will be a lecture, a team meeting and additional tasks, such as finds processing and

cataloging. At 7.00 pm/19.00 there will be a light dinner. During the team meetings we will discuss results and interpretations and you are urged to contribute information and suggestions.

**Please describe typical meals that are offered by the program.**

Breakfast in Italy is typically very light (coffee and a sweet pastry), but we will have a buffet-style breakfast which includes bread and savory options.

Lunch consists of three courses: a primo (usually pasta), a secondo (usually meat and veggies) and a dessert. Every meal ends with a cup of espresso, which is simply called “Cafè”.

The evening meal might be soup or salad, perhaps pizza or some other light meal.

**If the program can accommodate different dietary needs, please indicate:**

Vegetarian (dairy OK)	More or less
Vegan	More or less
Gluten free	Probably
Kosher	No
Halal	No

**Comments:** The mayor of Monteu da Po is vegan, so the local restaurant knows what this is. Yet, the dishes that are made are quite boring (hence the “more or less”). Let the staff know ahead of time so that we can confer with the restaurant owner. Kosher or Halal prepared meat can probably be found in Turin, but probably not in the countryside.

**VISA AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

**Indicate the visa requirements, if any, for US citizens. If there is a visa requirement, what type of visa should students apply for?**

As soon as you enroll in the field school, check until when your passport is valid (if you do not have a passport, please apply for one right away!).

US, Canadian and Australian travelers to Italy are required to fill out an application at ETIAS <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/etias/>

Citizens of other countries are asked to check the Italian Embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements.

**TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)**

**If students will fly, what airport should they fly into?**

Students can book their flights for arrival on August 10 at Milan Malpensa, Milan Linate or Turin Caselle. From these airports there are buses to Turin Porta Susa, where we will collect you. The bus service from Malpensa and Linate leaves once an hour and takes about 2 hours, the bus from Caselle takes 45 minutes. Please inform us of the flight number and your arrival time/airport so that we can make an estimate of your arrival time in Turin, Porta Susa.

**If there are other ways students can get to the program, please describe.**

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email to the project director. Local cell phone numbers and other emergency contact information will be provided to all enrolled students.

**If the field site is not close to student accommodations, how will students get there? How long does it take?**

The field site is approximately 3 miles from the agriturismo and we will drive there in the morning and back after lunch.

## **EQUIPMENT LIST**

**Please list any equipment students must bring with them to complete the academic/field portions of the program. Please include links to any specific equipment required (or examples if brand is not important).**

You are encouraged to bring a laptop, tablet, or phone to keep in contact with home. Wireless internet is available at the agriturismo. Where electronics are concerned, Italy has different plugs from the US. They use a European plug with two circular metal pins, or an Italian plug with three thin pins, that operate on **220V 50Hz**. The outlet and plug look like this:



You should check all of your electronics before you come to make sure that they will work. Some people also bring surge protectors.

Cell phones can also be brought to site. Unlocked US quad band and smart phones should work in Italy. To be contacted in Italy, your family must dial **011 39** before the local number. Emergency numbers through which families can contact students will be provided to enrolled students.

There are no particular health and safety issues in Italy. The site of Industria is in a rural area, which means that there are many insects (including mosquitoes). The cheap local repellents seem to work better than expensive US ones, but it might be good to bring a histamine cream to put on mosquito bites. Also bring a basic first aid kit for yourself (band aids, pain killers). It is important to drink sufficient fluids while in the field and the project will provide plenty of bottled water. You just need to make sure to drink it, even if you are not all that thirsty. Protecting yourself against the sun is important, so bring a hat that also protects your neck (baseball caps won't cut it, because even if you put them on the 'wrong' way around and protect your neck, your nose will get burnt).

## **PACKING LIST**

### **Required**

Hat  
Close toed shoes  
Working/gardening gloves  
Sun screen

## Mosquito repellent

- Identification/passport
- Travel documents
- Prescription medication for the entire program period
- Credit/Debit card
- Extra glasses/contacts if worn

## Recommended

### Please list recommended items. Consider:

*Not required, but students can consider bringing a field kit containing:*

Trowel (pointed, 5.5 x 2.5")

North arrow / photo scale

Large paint brush (4-6")

Small paint brush (2")

Callipers (for drawing circles)

Ruler (for drawing lines)

Drawing pencils (automatic)

Eraser

5 meter tape measure (NB. archaeology uses the metric system)

Line levels (2x)

Pens

Notebook (preferably with lines on one side and mm paper on the other)

1 meter folding ruler

Scale ruler

Compass to determine North

Camera

Drawing board

- **Will students need formal or nicer clothes?**  
no
- **Are there items that are hard to get locally, such as tampons or sunscreen?**  
no
- **Shower shoes or indoor shoes?**  
no
- **Hiking boots/socks?**  
see above: we are not going on long hikes, and hiking boots should not be worn in the trench
- **Swimwear?**  
Yes
- **How often can students do laundry?**  
As much as they like (within reason and taking into account the needs of others)