Italy - Virtual Study Abroad

Biology & Culture

Length: 16 Days
Dates: July 20 - August 14, 2020
Program Information

In critical times, opportunities and innovation present themselves. How do we reduce financial risk and liability for institutions and students and make programs more accessible for students, while still providing an in-depth international experience? The answer is to go virtual and internationalize your curriculum with

**Virtual Study Abroad Experiences**

Study Abroad Association in partnership with international higher-ed consortiums, experts in the field, tech/software companies, foreign universities across the globe and experienced IT educators are committed to bringing global experiences and access directly to your classroom.

All Virtual Study Abroad programs are customized and adapted to tie directly into your curriculum and infuse global learning into your global learning outcomes. Our vision is to bring your textbooks, syllabi and online modules to life and build complementary international educational materials to enhance your courses.

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Why Study Abroad Association?

Since 2009, Study Abroad Association has been committed to customizing the most in-depth and affordable short-term, faculty-led study abroad and service learning experiences. We have been working with colleges and universities across the United States to assist in achieving their international education goals. All programs revolve around our core values of Education, Authenticity, Affordability, Sustainability, and Safety.

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By collaborating with local partners we enable our travelers to have unique experiences while supporting local economies. This allows us to provide authentic and locally designed experiences and keep our costs low.

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All SAA programs are built on the foundation of education. We offer unique programs in over 12 areas of study, striving to offer programs to underserved academic fields such as STEM, Business, Allied Health, Humanities.

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Safety is our number one priority. To ensure our travelers are completely protected throughout the program, we provide an all-inclusive travelers insurance policy. We also provide comprehensive risk management procedures and training before the program starts.

**Sustainability**
We promote sustainability with all our programs, visiting local communities and projects in need, as well as establishing long-lasting relationships and positive impacts with everyone we collaborate with.

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Day briefing - Pre-recorded - A short video where the SAA local guide will provide an overview of the day.

Lys Glacier - Monte Rosa Massif - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded

The Italian Alps are considered a hot spot for the climate change. Here the temperature rose twice as fast as the rest of Europe. The Monte Rosa Massif in the region of Valle d’Aosta, at the border with Switzerland, is the largest mountain massif in the Alps and the second highest mountain in Europe after Mont Blanc. The Lys Glacier is one of the most spectacular glaciers of the Alps, starting from the Lyskamm Peak at 13,937 ft on the sea level and reaching the Lys Valley at 8530 ft. The glacier retreated impressively and it is now much smaller than it used to be. A little lake has appeared around 20 years ago, where until then the terminal part of the glacier used to be.

1 Hours Guest Speaker:
Vanda Bonardo (Legambiente) - Climate Change & Glacier Retreat - 5 to 6 pm Pre-recorded

Legambiente is an Italian environmentalist association founded in 1980. It’s the most prominent and widespread environmental association in Italy with two headquarters in Rome and Milan, 20 regional coordination offices and more than 600 local groups of volunteers. It’s supported by more than 115,000 members, donors and by projects and businesses that are in line with the organization’s principles.

Vanda Bonardo is a naturalist, teacher, enrolled in Legambiente since 1987 and for sixteen years president of Legambiente Piedmont and Valle d’Aosta. National Council of Education from 2011 to 2012. Passionate about the mountains for the past six years, She has dealt in particular with the Alps as the national manager of the Legambiente Alps and member of the CIPRA Italy Board of Directors.

Gressoney-St. Jean - Lys Valley - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded

In this area of Valle d’Aosta three different languages are spoken: Italian, Walser (a German dialect) and Franco-Provençal (a language closely related to French). The plurilingualism of the region witnesses the richness of the local cultural traditions that have been preserved in architecture, music, folklore and food. Mass tourism, especially related to winter sports, endangers the preservation of this unique local culture together with the environment of the surrounding markets. This is why local associations are working to convert to a more sustainable tourism.
Program Itinerary

DAY 2 - Valle d’Aosta & Lake Garda - Tuesday, July 21st

Day briefing - Pre-recorded

**Orsia Bedemie - Abandoned Ski Facilities** - 12 to 2 pm Pre-recorded

A new dossier by Legambiente (March 2020) reported 348 winter sports facilities that have been abandoned in the last years, mostly due to the lack of snow. Near Gressoney, one of the main ski destinations in the Alps, there used to be a cable car built in the 1960s. In 1992 it was partly dismantled and replaced with a smaller chairlift connecting Orsia to Bredemie. In 2008 the chairlift was abandoned and it is still entirely there.

**Garda Lake - Prada 1000 mt** - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded

In 2013 the ski facilities from Prada Bassa (3,061 ft) to Prada Alta (3,477 ft) were closed. The administration is now projecting to reopen them and even to connect them by cable car directly to the Garda Lake (Brenzone sul Garda). The project is very discussed, since it would be very expensive, it would have a heavy visual impact on the Garda Lake and it would barely be used, considering the lack of snow. The Garda Lake is the largest and deepest lake in Italy and it was formed by a glacier during the last Ice Age. It is known for its beauty and for its unique climate: it is the only place in the Alpine region where Mediterranean plants like olive trees and citrus grow. In the peninsula of Sirmione on the south shores of the lake are a picturesque medieval town, a 13th century castle, and the ruins of an ancient Roman villa from the 1st century a.D.
DAY 3 - Venice - Thursday, July 23rd

Day briefing - Pre-recorded

**Mose System - Experimental Electromechanical Module** - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded

This tour will introduce you to the amazing Venice Lagoon, where you can see its fragile ecosystem and its structural problems. We will see the Moses System designed to defend Venice from the high waters (mobile barriers, gates raised if necessary to prevent frequent floods).

**Boat Tour - Venice Lagoon** - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded

Venice is a maze of channels formed by a group of islands connected by hundreds of bridges. The boat trips in Venice will offer a unique perspective while navigating through the endless waterways of the city. We will see and discuss how the lockdown has affected marine life.

**Talk with a Representative of Comitato No Grandi Navi** - 7 to 8.30 pm - Pre-recorded

The cruise traffic - to which must be added that of ferries to Greece - in Venice has grown exponentially, as well as the size of the ships used. These, to dock in Marittima - or rather in the city - entering and leaving the harbor mouth of the Lido pass twice through the San Marco Basin and the Giudecca Canal, the historic heart of Venice 150 meters from the Doge’s Palace. With their 300 and more meters in length, 50 in width, 60 in height, they tonnage thousands of tons - and the tendency is to produce even larger ships because they are economically more profitable - are obviously out of scale compared to the city, but this ‘aesthetic’ idiosyncrasy is actually the least of the problems of Venice and its lagoon. The “No Grandi Navi” Committee has been fighting since many years for the ban of great ships from the center of Venice. Their had headquarters is open to the public and has an important documentation about the environmental problems of Venice.
DAY 4 - Venice - Friday, July 24th

Day briefing - Pre-recorded

Walking Tour of Venice - Environmental Impact and COVID-19 - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded

The canals are clear thanks to the Covid-19, but Venice’s existential threat is climate change. Cormorants dive into the canals to catch fish because the water in the lagoon has become transparent again. If the world can’t radically reduce its carbon footprint, climate models show that sea-level rise is most likely to inundate Venice by 2100.

1 h Guest Speaker - Venezia Fu-turistica - 5 to 7 pm- Pre-recorded

Many residents of Venice are deeply concerned about how mass tourism is environmentally and socially impacting the city of Venice. If the pollution of the canals and the floods (acqua alta) are the main environmental effects, the transformation of most of the building in the city center in BnBs has been rising up the cost of apartment rentals and generally the cost of living, making life harder for residents. The Covid crisis produced a huge economic damage to the city, because of the lack of tourism, but it also showed that a more sustainable way of living the city is possible. Many local citizen association are now debating the future of tourism in Venice.

DAY 5 - Emilia Romagna - Monday, July 27th

Day briefing (recorded)

Terrain and Food: Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese Factory 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded

Parmigiano Reggiano cheese is world famous for its flavor and nutritional values. It is real Parmigiano Reggiano only if it’s produced in a small region around the cities of Parma and Reggio Emilia (this explain the meaning of its name), because of the unique terrain of this area where a special bacterial fauna can be found.

Food Culture of Parma, Reggio Emilia and Modena - 5 to 7 pm- Pre-recorded

The region of Emilia has a very important food culture. Many famous Italian products come from here: parmigiano reggiano, balsamic vinegar of Modena, mortadella, Parma ham, culatello di Zibello, lasagne, tortellini, tagliatelle, passatelli, cappellacci, lambrusco wine. This food culture made of local products, small producers and a long tradition, can be understood in the context of the local culture and its daily life. Emilia has many historical small cities, mainly pedestrianized, famous for their porticoes. But in Emilia tradition always goes together with innovation: because of the high number of Universities, many young people live in the area. We’ll discover some of these traditions in the markets and in the piazzas and in the local fairs.

Balsamic Vinegar of Modena - 7 to 8.30 pm - Pre-recorded

The Balsamic Vinegar is a very unique condiment, produced in a limited quantity because linked to the geographical areas of Modena and Reggio Emilia. It seems in fact that the special climate of this region, with high thermic shocks between the very hot summer and the chilly winter, enables the grape must to ferment and maturate in the best conditions according to the traditional methods.
Program Itinerary

DAY 6 - Florence - Tuesday, July 28th
Day briefing - Pre-recorded
University Visit - Biology Department - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded
We'll learn about the Biology of Environment and Behavior Curriculum of the University of Florence, and how the covid crisis is affecting the classes and the research.

Walking Tour of Florence - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded
We'll visit the most iconic monuments of Florence: the Duomo, the Baptistry, Medici Palace, Signoria Square, Ponte Vecchio.

1 h Guest Speaker - Calcio Storico Fiorentino - 7 to 8 pm - Pre-recorded
The Calcio Storico Fiorentino is a combination of soccer, rugby and big time wrestling originated in 16th century Florence and played today in historical costume. The four teams of the historical neighborhoods of the city play against each other, first in two semi-finals and then the final match to determine the winner.

DAY 7 - Tuscany - Thursday, July 30th
Day briefing - Pre-recorded
Organic Farming in Tuscany - Fucecchio - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded
Dalle Nostre Mani produces organic wine and extravergine olive oil using traditional techniques and strictly autochthonous vines. The farm also has a hospitality service based on the principle of ecotourism and has a botanical garden and a vegetable garden that provides most of the food for the meals. We'll visit the vineyard, the olive groves, the botanical garden and the winery.

The Organic Industry in Italy - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded
We'll learn about the organic industry in Italy, the strict laws, prohibitions and controls, the financial pros and cons.

1 h Guest Speaker - Nutrition - 7 to 8 pm - Pre-recorded
We'll learn from the nutritional point of view the qualities of growing autochthonous and native plants, naturally selected for that terrain.
DAY 8 - Tuscany - Friday, July 31st

Day briefing - Pre-recorded

**Fucecchio Marsh - The Largest Marsh in Italy** - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded

The Fucecchio Marsh is the largest inland marsh in Italy (spanning 1,800 hectares of land), stretching through the provinces of Pistoia and Florence, from the Valdinievole to Montalbano.

The area is a real natural treasure and a paradise of a large variety of plants, from royal ferns to sedges, frogbit and utricularia (a small carnivorous plant), not to mention over 200 bird species, including herons (who nest in this area, such as the delightful squacco heron), cranes and black storks.

**San Miniato - The Town of Truffle and Cigars** - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded

The picturesque town of San Miniato, on the hills south of Fucecchio, is known for the quality of some of its local products, especially for the white truffle. Besides local varieties of tomatoes, olives and artichokes, the area is known for the cultivation of tobacco Kentucky, which is used for the production of Toscano cigars, which are fermented and then dried.

**Leonardo Da Vinci’s House - The Birthplace of Leonardo** - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded

Leonardo, the famous artist and inventor, was born in Vinci, a small town in the Tuscan countryside, close to San Miniato. A virtual itinerary, starting from his entrance into Master Verrocchio’s workshop to arrive to his most important artworks, including the fresco The Last Supper.

DAY 9 - Lazio - Monday, August 3rd

Day briefing (recorded)

**Civita di Bagnoregio - The Dying City** - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded

Civita di Bagnoregio is one of those places that is so picture-perfect, it’s hard to believe it’s real. Perched upon a hill within the Tiber River valley in northern Lazio, the town seems to exist in another realm, out of time and place in today’s modern era and yet another beautiful example of how history persists in every corner of Italy.

Civita di Bagnoregio is famously referred to as La città che muore, “The Dying Town” because its friable, volcanic base continues slowly crumbling into the valley.

**Walking Tour of Rome (Historical / Cultural Rome)** - 5 to 8 pm - Pre-recorded

The tour will include the following locations: Colosseum, Arch of Constantine, Forum of Augustus & Temple of Mars Ultor, Trajan’s Market, Trajan’s Column, Piazza Venezia & Vittoriano, Capitolium, Theater of Marcellus & Jewish Quarter, Campo de’ Fiori Market, Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Villa Medici, Pincio Terrace, Piazza del Popolo, St. Peter’s Basilica (Vatican).
Program Itinerary

DAY 10 - Rome - Tuesday, August 4th
Day briefing - Prerecorded

RomaNatura - Preserving Nature with Expanding Cities - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded
Rome is the fourth biggest city in Europe with almost 3 millions inhabitants and around 15 millions of tourists per year. Nevertheless, many wild green areas can be found in the city of Rome, beyond of the several gardens and parks. RomaNatura is the Regional Department that takes care of the 16 natural reserves and protected areas located inside of the municipality of Rome, making of the capital of Italy one of the greenest cities in Europe. Their headquarters is in the wonderful Villa Mazzanti, on the slopes of the Farnesina Hills, part of the Natural Reserve of Mount Mario. These areas help preserving the biodiversity of the local flora and fauna.

Rome Biopark Foundation - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded
Research conducted in zoos plays an irreplaceable role in investigating the life aspects of all those animal species that are difficult to monitor in their natural habitat and is one of the main objectives of "modern" zoological structures. The Bioparco represents, therefore, a valid opportunity to deepen both the veterinary and the eco-ethological aspects of the hosted animals, with the aim of enriching the baggage of scientific knowledge that can not only increase the welfare of animals in captivity but also bring a valid contribution to the protection of the corresponding wild populations, often threatened with extinction. The goal of the EEPs is to collect information on the status of several endangered species in nature by producing genealogical trees and carrying out demographic and genetic analyzes, all in order to plan the future management of these endangered species.

DAY 11 - Rome - Thursday, August 6th
Day briefing - Prerecorded

Anzio Harbor - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded
The city of Anzio is the main fishing center of the metropolitan area of Rome. The climate change is directly affecting the local biodiversity and therefore the fishing economy. Because of the temperature increase of the Mediterranean Sea many marine species used to colder water, like the codfish and the mackerel, are migrating towards north, while tropical animals like the barracuda and the pufferfish can now be found just off the coasts of Italy (Legambiente, Biodiversity Report, May 2020).

Marsia di Tagliacozzo - Abandoned Ski Facilities - Abruzzo - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded
In 1961 a ski resort with a chair-lift was open on Mount Midia (5708 ft), in the region of Abruzzo, just one hour east of Rome, on the Apennine Mountains. Starting from the 1980s the ski facilities were gradually abandoned due to the lack of snow. Now nature took over and the chairlift is hidden in a beechwood, while most of the houses of the nearby village are abandoned or on sale.

Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded
Since 1981, Italy has a department of its government to deal with environmental issues, the Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection. Last month the Ministry has released a "bonus for transportation" to fight pollution in metropolitan areas. Everyone living in a city with more than 50.000 inhabitants can obtain up to 500€ to buy a bicycle or an electric scooter, hoverboard or segway. Many new bike paths have been opened in the last month. This measure was a reaction to the reduction of use of public transportation due to the covid-19 crisis.
Program Itinerary

DAY 12 - Naples - Friday, August 7th

Day briefing - Pre-recorded

“The Land of Fires” - Toxic Waste and Contaminated Soil - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded

In Campania, the Commissariat initiated the contaminated sites census in 1996 and by 2008 it was estimated that there were as many as 2551 sites contaminated in the region. The province of Naples registers the greatest number, 1186, of which 1011 are private and 175 public areas. One of the most affected areas of the province is the so-called “Land of Fires”, comprising the 3 Napolitano municipalities of Qualiano, Giugliano and Villaricca. For ten years, inhabitants have witnessed and paid for the consequences of daily illegal waste burning. Of the 39 landfills in the area, 27 are believed to host toxic waste. In the last 5 years, illegal landfills have increased by 30% (Legambiente, 2008).

The presence of waste has frequently been recognized as an important health risk. In 2004, the Department of Civil Protection implemented a study on waste impacts in Campania. The project was coordinated by the World Health Organisation’s European Environmental and Health Centre with the participation of the National Research Council (Clinic Physiology Institute – Epidemiology department, Pisa), the High Institute of Health (Department Environment and Prevention), the Regional Epidemiological Observatory, ARPAC, the Campania Tumour Record, the Campania Congenital Malformation Record and the Local Health Agencies of the territories involved.

Bay of Naples - Relationship between Crops and Volcanic Soil - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded

This ash and lava are rich in minerals and nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, which are essential for plant growth. The volcanic soil here is therefore incredibly fertile. As a result, farmers in this area have focussed their attention on growing fruit and vegetables, rather than cereals which are grown in poorer quality soils elsewhere in the south of Italy.

Naples - Pizza, Traditional Food Culture & Health - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded

The economy of Naples and the surrounding area is heavily reliant on agriculture, as well as industry and the cargo port, which is one of Italy’s busiest. Naples is well known for its food – after all, the city gave birth to the pizza and is renowned as the best place to take coffee in Italy – and takes great pride in its products.

Over 5% of employment in the region is from agriculture; key crops include citrus fruit, olives, grapes, figs, apricots, cherries and plums, but the staple crop here is the tomato. Italy is one of the world’s leading producers of tomatoes, and contributes over half of Europe’s tomato yield.
Program Itinerary

DAY 13 - Campania - Monday, August 10th
Day briefing - Pre-recorded

**Sarno River - Environment / Human Impact** - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded
The waters of the Sarno river, the most polluted river in Europe, returned clear during the lockdown. Exactly as happened to the waters of the canals of Venice or to those of the ports of large industrial cities, Sarno also seems to have gone back in time, at least 60 years ago. A few hours after the end of the lockdown, were enough to bring the pollution back to the Sarno river.

**Pompeii** - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded
Pompeii was an ancient Roman city near modern Naples that was buried by the great eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The ashes preserved the buildings, the frescoes and the mosaics for 19 centuries

**Vico Equense** - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded
Thanks also to the 3 months of lockdown, 407 beaches in Italy awarded the blue flag this year, 12 more than in 2019. Among the new entries is Vico Equense, between Pompeii and Sorrento.

DAY 14 - Campania - Tuesday, August 11th
Day briefing - Pre-recorded

**Gragnano - Local Pastamakers** - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded
The pasta made in the small town of Gragnano, close to Sorrento, is considered one of the best in Italy. What makes it so unique, a part from the traditional bronze die extrusion method, and the slow drying, always at a low temperature, is the water obtained from the local aquifer.

**Paestum / Battipaglia - Buffalo Mozzarella** - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded
Produced in this region since the middle age, the buffalo mozzarella is a PDO (protected designation of origin) cheese, made only with milk of Italian Mediterranean Buffalos, an indigenous breed of water buffalo. In spite of the success of the local modern agriculture, the most famous and important food product of the area, especially in the towns of Battipaglia, Eboli and Paestum is by far the Buffalo Mozzarella cheese. Mozzarella is the most important among the several kinds of cheese that are made only in a few specific provinces of Italy and are based on pure buffalo milk

**Visit Archeological sites - Paestum Temples** - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded
Located in the South-East of the Gulf of Salerno, in the Southern part of the Piana del Sele, Paestum is an archaeological site of extreme importance, recognised by UNESCO as part of the World Cultural Heritage, along with the National Park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano. The **Temple of Neptune** (fifth century BC) is a huge construction made of travertine marble, in a warm golden color that varies at different times of the day. It is a real jewel of Doric architecture: majestic and elegant. The **Temple of Ceres** (sixth century BC), actually dedicated to the goddess Athena, back in the Medieval times was transformed into a church and today it still houses three Christian tombs, placed against the outer wall.
Program Itinerary

DAY 15 - Cilento & Basilicata - Thursday, August 13th

Day briefing - Pre-recorded

Pollica, Pioppi & Acciaroli - Mediterranean Diet - 12 to 2 pm - Pre-recorded
The small coastal town of Acciaroli in the region of Cilento is no ordinary place. It is home to an extraordinarily high number of centenarians. More than one in 10 of the population of 700 is over 100 years old, and the hamlet has been the focus of a study to discover the factors that contribute to its residents’ longevity. The American biologist Ancel Keys believed that nutrition was correlated to the diffusion of cardiovascular diseases. He noticed that these diseases were very low in the Cilento region, especially between Acciaroli, Pollica and Pioppi, and spent 40 years studying the traditional food habits of this area, defining what he called Mediterranean Diet. Pioppi hosts an important museum/research center, that includes Keys’ personal library and organizes many didactical activities.

Cilento National Park - UNESCO World Heritage Sites - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded
The quality of the local food culture is also related to the preservation of the environment. All the beaches of the Cilento Coast received the blue flag. The majestic Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park (the second-largest in Italy) extends from the Tyrrhenian coast to the feet of the Campania-Lucania Apennines, and preserves numerous traces of the presence of man since ancient times. The Park’s floral population is constituted by approximately 1,800 different plant species, while the fauna is just as diverse, given, of course, the variety of environments spanning the territory. Coastal and mountain areas, rivers and creeks also have a say in the contents of the animal community, graced by the frequent presence of highly-valuable species.

Matera - The Underground City - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded
On the way from Cilento to Taranto is Matera, considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Built on the edge of a canyon, its city center is a complex of cave dwellings carved into the rock. The city was used as a setting for movies about the life of Jesus, because it still seem today as it could be a Palestinian city of 2000 years ago. Despite of its old buildings and long tradition, Matera has been elected the European Capital of Culture in 2019, with the motto “open future”.

The region of Matera, Basilicata, is also known for the many oil wells. The drillings are said to be causing the pollution of many aquifers of the region, whose water is used for agriculture.
Program Itinerary

**DAY 16 - Taranto - Friday, August 14th**

Day briefing - Pre-recorded

**Ilva Steel Factory - An Environmental Scandal - 12 to 1 pm - Pre-recorded**

The steelworks of Ilva S.p.A, based in Taranto (in the region of Puglia, on the Ionian Sea), are the largest in Europe. More than 14,000 people work in the factory. In 2012 an investigation for environmental crimes led to the arrest of the owners of the company. They have been found responsible for the production of elevated emissions of dioxin, correlated to abnormally high cancer incidence in the area and for the death of several workers of the steel plant by cancer. The company was bought by the multinational ArcelorMittal Group in 2018, but since a few months returned to the commissioners management. The government has been struggling trying to save at the same time the environment, people's health and the economy.

1 Hour Guest Speaker: Lunetta Franco (Legambiente)

- The Ilva disaster: Environment and Pollution in Taranto - 1 to 2 pm Pre-recorded

Lunetta Franco is the president of the Legambiente section of the region of Puglia and one of the main experts on the Ilva issue.

**Ionian Dolphin Conservation - Environmental Protection - 5 to 7 pm - Pre-recorded**

Awarded among the 21 Italian excellences at Expo 2015, the Ionian Dolphin Conservation is an association that operates as a research center on the dolphins and whales of the Gulf of Taranto with the goal of preserving the marine biodiversity and this wonderful endangered species in particular.

**Mussel Harvest - The Largest Production of Farmed Mussels in the World - 7 to 9 pm - Pre-recorded**

The city of Taranto is one of the main producers of mussels in Europe. The mussels of Taranto are especially renowned for their quality and the strict controls on their production. The mussels grow on ropes and nets suspended over poles and wooden structures in the lagoon of the Mar Piccolo, where a mixture of fresh and saltwater provides a special marine environment. The freshwater in Mar Piccolo is supplied by 34 underwater springs, that create favorable conditions for both mussels and other kinds of fish and shellfish.
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**Testimonials**

- **Cring Rosby** reviewed Study Abroad Association — Apr 4 · 2
  
  This was my first trip as a professor taking students abroad. Christian and his team were magnificent. Everything was taken care of, accommodations were excellent, the guides were friendly. My students had an opportunity to earn college credit while abroad and Christian personalized our trip to meet those needs. I fully recommend the Study Abroad Association, and I can’t wait to attend next year.

- **Brad Schatzel** reviewed Study Abroad Association — May 22 · 2
  
  Outstanding tours at the lowest prices in the industry. Our institution has worked with the Study Abroad Association on five study tours to locations as diverse as China, Central Europe, and Costa Rica.
  
  SAA worked with us to build an itinerary that was both educational and a ton of fun. The local guides far exceeded our expectations.

- **Amber Carey-Jernigan** reviewed Study Abroad Association — Jul 13 at 10:16 AM · 2
  
  Christian and his guides arranged an amazing and affordable adventure for our students.
  
  The guides’ expertise was unmatched. I have studied abroad before and have never had such knowledgeable, friendly, and fun guides. I definitely will be using SAA for all our future trips.

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