



Give your son, daughter, grandchildren, godchildren a head start before they go to university.
Send them to Italy for 6 Gap Year weeks with Art History Abroad.

This is the deal. Instead of sun and rum on balmy beaches or whatever it is they do over Gap Year, send them for at least a little of the time – whether or not they are going to read History of Art - on something eye-opening and mind-stretching.

We are a British company, going since 1986, and we take fortunate students over the age of 18 to the great art cities of Italy – Florence, Siena, Verona, Venice, Rome, Naples - for courses of 6 weeks duration. We show them famous things and we show them hidden things. We take them on privileged visits to places like the Sistine Chapel - and to San Marco, just by themselves, without the crowds. We show them the house where Botticelli painted and the street where Caravaggio killed a man. We lead them up rickety stairs to a room where there is a secret Tintoretto...

We have been run since 1990 by Nick Ross. This is a large and genial man who is something of an inspiration in himself. He broke his neck playing rugby when he was 17. He was destined for the Royal Navy but all that had to change. He was immobile on his back for 6 months – during which time someone gave him Gombrich's History of Art whose pages he could only turn with the help of a straw in his mouth! He was hooked, made an almost unprecedented recovery, and the rest is history.

Our tutors are all British, well known to us, thoroughly checked out, highly qualified, most of them are Masters. They are unstuffy, informative,

challenging, always interesting. They play with big ideas, encourage debate, and *'provide fine detail while presenting a world of limitless possibility'*.

We teach our students a little Italian, as essential to an understanding of the country but also as a politeness to our hosts, and we show them history, sculpture, architecture, painting and, in short, we give them grounding in the great art that has adorned western civilization and without which life would be a pale thing. But this is not ordinary education. It is something they *live* not simply something they watch. *Our aim is to ignite a light within them, for life.*

There are 4 courses through the year – spring, early summer, late summer, and autumn – and they include return flights from London, charming hotels, comfortable beds, breakfast, entry to galleries and museums, and an unintrusive degree of care and supervision.

People who come on these trips end up madly enthusiastic as a visit to the website at www.arthistoryabroad.com will confirm. A fan writes: *"A big big BIG thank you for giving me the funniest, loveliest, most exciting, interesting, fabulous, magnificent, food-filled six weeks I've ever had. I just can't believe we saw so much in so little time."* Helen Reddington

Note to Editor

Art History Abroad is currently taking bookings for its 2008 seasons. Gap Year 6-week courses cost £6,200 although there is also a range of shorter summer programmes available. Recently launched is **Gap Year for Mums and other hungry souls over 30**. Please call **01284774772** for further details, go to info@arthistoryabroad.com or visit www.arthistoryabroad.com

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