

# San Gemini 2008

## Travel Information

### Passports:

If you do not have a valid passport yet, apply for one right away. If you are coming to Program A you will need to apply in an expedited fashion at least 3 weeks before leaving. Passports applied for with the normal procedure take about 10 weeks.

If you have one, make sure it is valid. If you are not a US or EU citizen, or if you have a US passport but you are not a US citizen, call the nearest Italian consulate and check if you need to get a visa to travel there. If you are traveling and making some stops, make sure to check if a visa is required for the stop over. For example Canada requires visas for plane stopovers if you come from a country that requires visas.

### Packing:

Do not bring more than one medium size suitcase (preferably a small one) and one carry-on. My best method for packing light is to pack my suitcase then take out half of the things I have packed, that is usually all I really need for traveling. Remember, if you forget some essential piece of clothing there is plenty in Italy. Make sure to bring a small travel bag or knapsack for the trips within Italy and a good pair of walking shoes.

### Clothing:

Women bring a light summer dress (or dress pants) and a pair of dress shoes. Men bring slacks and a pair of dress shoes. We participate to various social events and you will feel more comfortable dressing up a little. Bring a swimsuit, one light sweater, some work clothes, and comfortable shoes for long walks. You should also bring a set of cloths in order to work in.

Required Items for:

Session A

- 1) A pair of safety shoes or boots "steel toes".

Session A & B

- 2) Safety glasses
- 3) Leather construction gloves

Put tags on all your luggage and include your full name and home address, home telephone and the following **Telephone # in Italy 329 336 1298**.

### Equipment:

It is desirable that you bring a laptop computer and a digital camera. Make sure that your equipment is covered by insurance. For Session I bring a laptop (with AutoCAD, if you have the software, do not buy it just for this summer program)

**Money:**

You will need a minimum of \$800 (5 week program) for food and incidentals with a basic life style. You can spend a lot more shopping, at restaurants and clubs. If you plan to travel on your own calculate that traveling to a major Italian city will cost you at least \$100/day (hotels, food and transportation). This can vary greatly according to where you go. Bring a credit card or cash card with pin number (4 digits) that you can use in Europe . Check with your bank or credit company. Bring some cash in Dollars or Euros (\$200) in small denominations. If you do not have “plastic money”, get traveler’s checks in dollars or Euros.

There is a cash station within San Gemini to pull out money, but it is only filled a few times during the week. Also, notify your banks/credit cards of them being used in Europe.

**Before you leave home:**

**Pull out your passport , plane ticket and money hold them in your hand** and put them back were you were planning to carry them.

**If you miss your flight:**

If you are late and miss the flight, **do not go home or call the airline** keep going to the check-in counter give them a convincing sob story and get on the next open flight without paying any extra fees. If you, or a close relative, are ill and you can’t make the flight make sure to get a written statement from the doctor and contact UWM as soon as possible.

If you are having problems getting to San Gemini by May 24, make sure to call Sharon Chetney or Tom Danner and let them know when you think you will arrive.

**Trains in Italy:**

You can check Italian train schedules and prices by going to these websites: National Railroad ( F.S.) **[www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it)**. Regional Umbrian Railroad (Ferrovie Centrali Umbra) **[www.fcu.it](http://www.fcu.it)**

Before getting on the train, punch your ticket in the **yellow boxes** you see around the station. This is true for all trains you will take in Italy. If you don’t, the conductor could give you a stiff fine. Normally you can avoid the fine by playing the dumb tourist.

At the station, look at departure schedule (**partenze**) for trains going to **Terni or Ancona**. There you will find the track # (**binario**). Go to the right track and wait for the train. Some trains require a change at Orte ( Perugia or Terentola, if coming from Florence) check your tickets and ask when you buy the ticket whether you have to change trains. Be careful about the schedule. "**Feriale**" means Monday through Saturday, "**Festivo**" is Sunday and holidays.

**Buses:**

City Buses require that you buy tickets before you get on the bus. You can usually buy them at "Tabacchi" stores, newsstands or bars, when you get on the bus you have to punch them in.

Regional Buses - Terminals are usually near the train station. You can buy tickets on the bus but it is cheaper if you buy them at the ticket office. See schedule at:  
**[www.atcterni.it/extra/zona9.html](http://www.atcterni.it/extra/zona9.html)**

**Telephones:** Some operate with coins but often don't work. You can use international calling cards or buy the regular phone card (carta telefonica) for € 5 or €10 at Tabacchi or newsstands. Remember, to use them you need to break off one of the corners of the card. It is clearly indicated which corner.

## Travel directions to San Gemini, Italy

As you make travel plans, the main destination you should aim for is the city of **Terni** (**Umbria**) the closest large city, which is about 15 Km from San Gemini.

The instructions below are from Wisconsin to San Gemini Via Chicago and Rome if you come from other places please follow the instructions from the appropriate point.

If your flight takes you to Milan, Florence or Northern Europe you will be traveling to San Gemini from or through Florence. In such case you will take the train to Terni either via Perugia or via Orte. At times it can be faster, though a bit more expensive, taking a fast train to Rome and from there going to Terni. If you are in Venice or the Adriatic coast you can also go to Terni via Ancona.

### Trip Diagram

If you are traveling from Milwaukee or Madison you will probably follow the following route.



## **Milwaukee/Madison - Chicago (O'Hare)**

If you are taking public transportation from Milwaukee or Madison, there are buses that will take you directly to O'Hare airport. Check with **United Limo** from Milwaukee and **Coach USA** from Madison.

Aim to arrive at (O'Hare) airport early enough so that if you run into any unexpected delays you will still make it on time for your flight. In any case, you should be there at least two hours before departure. Make sure to find out from the airline ahead of time from which terminal you are leaving as it will save time at the airport. (Some direct flights leave from the international terminal, some through the national.)

## **Chicago - Rome (Leonardo Da Vinci Airport )**

Check in, check your bags all the way to your final destination. If your ticket makes a stop over in Detroit or New York, remember that they are Eastern Standard Time (one hour later than Wisconsin time). Don't miss your flight because your watch had the wrong time.

## **Rome (Leonardo Da Vinci Airport ) – Rome (Stazione Tiburtina)**

After getting off the plane you will go through passport checks then you will pick up your luggage and go through customs. If your luggage gets lost, go to your airline customer service desk in the customs area and report the missing luggage. Give them this address for delivery once they get it.

Presso Violati  
Località San Nicolo 1  
San Gemini, (Terni) 05029  
tel. 329 336 1298

Change or get some Italian currency at the airport (if you need to). Be careful as they have very high per transaction fees at the currency exchange booths. If you are with a group, one person can gather several people's cash and pay for a single transaction fee. The best option is to get cash at an ATM. The fees are very reasonable. If you plan to use your ATM or credit card in Europe before you leave make sure to have a **four-digit password (PIN)** set up.

Once picking up your luggage, there will be a staircase leading to the train platform. You will need to travel down a corridor in order to reach the platform. At the ticket booth (**do not use the machines**) buy tickets all the way to Terni. You can purchase a ticket for the Leonardo



Express train. Tickets cost €10-20 depending on the type of train you take. **Stazione Termini** is the main train station. You will need to switch trains at this point. If you land at the Ciampino Airport, take the bus to Stazione Termini.

Before getting on the train, punch your ticket in the yellow boxes you see around the station. This is true with all trains you will take in Italy. If you



don't, the conductor could give you a stiff fine. Normally you can avoid the fine by playing "dumb tourist".

### Rome - Terni

Get off at the Stazione Termini and look at the departure (partenze) schedule for trains with final destination in Terni, Ancona or Perugia. There you will look for the track # (binario). Go to the right track and wait for the train. Some trains require a change at Orte, check your tickets and ask when you buy the ticket whether you have to change trains. Trains in Italy have two classes, first and second. Be sure to get into the right car based on the ticket you purchased. On the side of the car there will be a number 1 or a 2 on it. Also, when boarding the train, stow your luggage in the overhead compartments. Pay close attention the stops being announced over the intercom system. As you hear Terni, you'll want to begin grabbing your luggage and moving towards the exit.

Before leaving Rome call Max Cardillo at (329 336 1298) or Michael Carney at [REDACTED] and tell them your arrival time in Terni.

When traveling, be very careful with your luggage and make sure that it is always with you or is supervised by another classmate. Pickpockets or thieves often hang out at busy railroad stations and prey on unsuspecting tourists. **Be particularly careful with gypsy children** that get too close to you. \*

### Terni - San Gemini

When you arrive in Terni call Max or Mike. If we can, we will pick you up. If we can't, you will have to come to San Gemini either by bus, train or taxi.

**Bus** - During the week there are regional busses that go from the Train station to San Gemini about every hour (**on Sunday there are only three runs**). The regional bus terminal is near the RR Station. As you go out of the station: there is a plaza, it is about 50 m. from the left end of the plaza. The regional buses are **blue** do not confuse them with the city buses that are **orange**. Ask the bus driver to let you off at Porta Romana in San Gemini. Bus tickets cost €2.



**Train** - On Sunday, you may want to take the train. The "Ferrovia Centrale Umbra" (FCU), a small regional railroad, runs a few trains (from same train station). Stops in S.G. are optional, so tell the conductor you want to stop there. Keep in mind that from the San Gemini Station to town is a 1½-mile walk and there is no public transportation.

**Taxi** - Terni to San Gemini will cost €20 to 25. Do not pay more than that; just haggle with the driver if he tries to charge more. If your instructors are already in San Gemini, call Max Cardillo Cell 329 336 1298 or Mike Carney **????**. If you can't find us take a taxi.

In San Gemini, go to **Piazza San Francesco**. From there ask directions to Palazzo Vecchio. If we are out, go to Bar Centrale back in the main square and ask for the "Americani". If you still have no luck sit there and have gelato until you see someone you recognize or who recognizes you.



**In case of emergency or problems**

In Italy call:

Max Cardillo (011 39) 329 336 1298  
Michael Carney (?????)

Max Cardillo (leave message if you can't reach above numbers) 0744 630139

In the US call :

UWM – CIE

Reception 414 229 5182  
Sharon L. Chetney 414 229 5346  
Tom Danner home. 414-964-5175 (emergency only)

## \* Security:

Italy is generally a very safe place, **Note that in the past nine years among our students we have had only one incident, an attempted pick pocketing.** Nevertheless you have to be careful in some situations and watch out for pickpockets, purse-snatchers, and other petty robberies. This problem exists in a few places, mostly **large train stations** (Rome, Florence, Milan, Naples) and at some **major tourist attractions**. Unsuspecting tourists are prime targets.

San Gemini is a small, very safe town and you don't have any of these problems, although occasionally some gypsies or other person will walk through town and steal things in easy reach. You need to follow common sense precautions, such as: lock the doors when you leave the apartment and do not leave expensive equipment lying around unsupervised (especially school equipment).

Things to do when traveling:

- Always carry your passport and money in the front pocket of pants or inside pocket of jacket (close to you body and hard to reach).
- Make sure that your luggage is always with you.
- Do not carry expensive equipment in obvious camera or computer bags.
- Never take rides from guys offering car service at rail stations, take only regular taxi cabs.
- Keep copies of your passport, credit cards and drivers license both with you and at home.

Situations to watch out for:

Gypsies - Normally women and children. You can recognize them because they beg, women wear long colorful skirts, children are a bit too young to be on their own and are very tanned.

Common routines:

- a) A bunch of young kids, begging, approach you from several sides. The ones from behind grab things from your pockets or bags and they all run. Things to do: (do not hit the kids) yell at them, cover your pockets grab you bags and get away from them.
- b) An older woman carrying a baby will thrust the baby up against you while you are trying to understand what is going on a bunch of small kids hit you from behind. Just get away from her without hurting the baby.
- c) (Done to persons with pouch bags) A beggar (woman or a kid) comes up to you with a hand written cardboard sign or a news paper (it says something like "Help me I am starving") and shoves it against your stomach over the pouch. While this is going on, under the cardboard they will be picking your pouch. What to do: when you see one coming, get away. Don't let them get close to you.  
(The vast majority of beggars in Italy are gypsy children and women, some of whom engage in petty crime. Be cautious; keep your distance from them.)

There are usually a lot of cops at rail stations. If thieves take something from you, yell out loud "Ladro" (thief) and hopefully they will be caught before getting away.

Pick Pockets - Usually are adults with no distinguishing features and operate in crowded trains and buses. They normally work in teams: one creates a distraction while the other picks your pocket or bag. They usually stake you out at the bus stop and they move on you as you are getting on the bus. If you notice that someone is pushing you unnecessarily, is creating a commotion, or an attractive woman tries to catch your attention, quickly check your pockets or bags, if someone has robbed you, yell out loud " LADRO". The bus driver will lock the doors and call the cops; hopefully you will get your things back.

Purse snatchers - Usually happens at rail stations. People get distracted, leave unsupervised bags and a thief grabs one and disappears. Occasionally this can happen in the street. In such situation snatchers (usually 2 on a scooter) drive by and grab a bag from a street restaurant chair or from your shoulder.

Things to do: don't leave your bags with valuables unsupervised, when in a street café or restaurant, do not leave the bag on the back of the chair, where someone walking by can easily grab it, keep it under the table or between your feet.

Auto break-ins - If you rent a car do not leave luggage, bags or valuables visible, put everything in the trunk. Also don't leave visible items that will identify you as a tourist: maps, guidebooks, foreign publications or beach gear. Tourists are known to carry valuable equipment so are often targeted. Watch out for parking lots around Pompei, beach resorts and other major tourist attractions. When visiting a town, if practical, first go to your hotel drop your luggage then go sightseeing.