



Koinè Center – Scuola di Lingua e Cultura Italiana

We are pleased to welcome you to our language courses and wish you a happy stay in Lucca!

To make your arrival easier and to help you settle in, we have prepared this information about the school, the accommodation, the city and its surroundings.



Our school in Lucca, with Isabella, Angela and Stefano, is ready to help you with all your questions. The office is open from 8.30 a.m. till 1 p.m.

The school

Plan to arrive at the school at 8.30 a.m. **on the first morning of the course.**

The classrooms of our school in via dei Tabacchi, 5 are well situated in a historic palace in the area of the old town between Piazza Napoleone and the Piazza San Michele, two of Lucca's most famous landmarks.

On arrival, you will have a friendly chat with a teacher, who will assess your existing level of Italian and you will join a class at the appropriate level. Students will be then placed in classes according to their level, so you may join existing classes. Our experienced teachers make sure this integration is smooth to provide a friendly, positive classroom atmosphere for all students.

Those attending individual tuition will start the lesson directly without entrance test. There will then be a short break (feel free to leave the school to grab a snack), during which the teachers will decide the formation of each class. When you return to school at the given time, you will find a list of classes, with their respective teachers: your Italian course begins! You will be given everything you need for your class, so all you need to bring with you is a pen and a notebook.

In the afternoon a teacher will take you on "What, Where and How" an orientation tour of the historical centre. This is not strictly a sightseeing tour; along with the main historical monuments you will also be shown the important service locations and markets and the banking and shopping hours will be explained.

On the following day the course begins at 9:15 a.m. Classes are held from Monday to Friday, from 9:15 to 13:00 with a coffee break at 11:00. The maximum number of students per class is 12. This allows you to gain maximum benefit from the time available through intensive exposure to all aspects of the Italian language.

The number of hours of group lessons per day could be slightly reduced if there are fewer than 4 students.

Società Cooperativa Koinè -Centro di formazione Linguistica e di incontri culturali
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Your teacher will give you clear guidance and many opportunities to communicate effectively in Italian through a range of activities. S/he will work with you as a group, in pairs and individually, making your classes even more varied.

Our teaching method follows the "communicative approach". It is not merely based on

the explanation of grammar rules but responds to the needs of people approaching an Italian environment. This method focuses on the spoken language and requires your full participation in the conversation exchanges.

In addition to the language classes, the school also runs a cultural information program in the afternoon: The activities are designed to be attended by students at all levels and, depending on their level, students are able to understand the content to a greater or lesser extent. The activities are a valuable opportunity for exposure to the language and to the topics covered and are also interesting and entertaining in their own right. Many of the themes make interesting topics of conversation between students and with the teacher. The afternoon activities can be lectures, excursions or guided visits. Tickets, food and drinks are at the students' charge.

Moreover the school will recommend and present - on students' requests - several itineraries in Lucca and its surroundings for you to organize independently.

Please be reminded that the course fee should be paid on the first day of the course, unless you have paid it in advance through an agency.

CORONAVIRUS **Not applicable at the moment ********

These are the official tips of the Italian Ministry of Health:

Wash your hands often;

Avoid to get close to people affected by acute respiratory infections;

Don't touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands;

If you sneeze or cough cover your mouth and nose;

Don't take antiviral or antibiotic drugs unless prescribed by a doctor;

Clean surfaces with disinfectants based on chlorine or alcohol;

Use the mask; Not applicable at the moment

Products made in China and parcels from China are not dangerous;

Pets don't spread the new coronavirus;

If you have fever or cough, call the free number 1500.



Vaccination/green pass is needed to access the school as well as restaurant, bar, buses, museum, cinema and any closed place. Not applicable at the moment

Parking

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Lucca has several parking areas both outside and inside the city walls. Most of them are paid park lots, but outside the old city center you may also find some free ones. If you intend to get to Lucca by car then, you shouldn't find any difficulty in finding a free spot, except when there are events that always attract thousands of people, like the Comics & Games held annually in late October, for which we highly recommend to use public transports.

If you need more information and want to see a detailed map of all the parking lots, take a look at the site <http://www.metrosrl.it/>

Lucca restricted area (ZTL Lucca) covers all the historic center. Inside the restricted area, there is a Pedestrian Area, too. In Lucca Restricted Area (Lucca ZTL), only four wheel vehicles can't enter without any authorization, therefore motorcycles and scooters can enter without any problem.



Please be aware that: If you got in Lucca Restricted Area without any authorization you can't avoid a fine except you can prove it was impossible to notice before.

The accommodation

A brief explanation on the type of accommodation available in Lucca:

The most common type of accommodation is the homestay in a single or a double room, with or without use of the kitchen, with or without meals, either in a family, with single living italians or in an apartment shared with other Koinè students.

The room is typically reserved from the night before the beginning of the course until the morning following the end of the course.

Your host provides :

- a well furnished bedroom.
- linen and a change of linen every 14 days
- kitchen facilities, if requested



In case you did not pay in advance (i.e. through your agency), the payment for the room should be made directly to the landlord at the beginning of your stay according to the confirmation of the school.

In the case of any inconveniences please contact our accommodation officer.

The families and various flats and apartments have been selected carefully by us according to special criteria.

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We do not impose any behaviour restrictions during your stay in the families and apartments, however we are confident you will respect the foreign and different way of life.

The city

Lucca's intact sixteenth century city walls are unique and form an impressive part of a green belt surrounding the historic centre. Here people walk, jog, ride their bikes and often simply stop to admire the beautiful view of hills in the distance, or the city below with its many towers and courtyard gardens. The city centre is extremely well preserved and restricted to all but a few cars, so the pedestrian area is wide enough to get around easily on foot or by bicycle. The historical heart of the old town here, maintains all its Italian flavour in the many stores, cafes and trattorias. The lively town is also rich in history and traditional festivals, (some of them date back centuries) and it stages many modern and cultural events that make the city a place of interest every month of the year. The city is beautifully located so that if you would like, it is possible to; visit wineries or old villas and farmhouses in the surrounding hills; to get to the sea (20 minutes by train), where you will find many magnificent sandy beaches; to see the neighbouring cities of Florence, Pistoia, Pisa etc, which are all within easy travelling

distance by bus or by train; or to walk or ride along the scenic banks of the Serchio river outside the walls, (approx 10 minutes on foot). There are so many monuments, elegant palaces, churches and squares that make this town so charming, that it is easy to get caught up in the atmosphere and forget about time.

One can easily be caught up in things like the evening stroll, (la passeggiata) that the Italians are famous for, or simply by spending time around the town in some of the lovely cafes, some of which look out on to the historic piazzas of San Michele and Napoleone, from which one can sit and watch the lively atmosphere of the town, either by day or by night.

On your arrival the school will give you a list of important information about Lucca with and a programme with all activities that are on during the period of your stay such as exhibitions, concerts, theatre shows etc.

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General conditions

The course deposit, **€150**, must be paid before the school can reserve a place on a course.

The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable from person to person.

The course fees are not transferable from person to person.

Cancellation must be communicated to the school in writing at least 30 days before the course starting date. In this case only, and in no other circumstances, the advance payment/deposit/course fees (less a Euro 50 administration charge) may be used as a credit for future courses.

If the student fails to attend classes or decides not to attend classes or to shorten the course, she/he is not entitled to any refund.

On no account can the tuition fee paid for group classes be transferred to individual tuition after the beginning of the course.

No lessons will take place on public holidays. Individual lessons falling on public holidays may be rearranged by prior agreement with the course administrator.

Beginners should commence their course, on course starting date. Non-beginners can start on dates other than the course starting dates listed.

We look forward to welcoming you to Centro Koinè!

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