

**Monash University
Prato Centre
Guide for Students and
Visitors
2007**



Guide for Students & Visitors to Monash University Prato Centre

Introduction to the Guide:

Welcome to the Monash University Prato Centre.

This guide aims to help students settle in quickly to study and life in Prato. Inside you will find details about the facilities at the Centre as well as practical information on the city of Prato. There are also some ideas on what to do in your spare time, both in Prato and the surrounding areas.

This guide is continually updated and we appreciate any comments or information about places of interest that you may discover and want to share with anyone else visiting the Centre or Prato.

Acknowledgements

The Centre would like to thank Joseph Volpe and Michael Anderson for information previously gathered for students of their tours which has been used to enhance this general guide.

Disclaimer

The information in this guide is believed to be correct at time of printing.

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This guide cannot be sold for profit.





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Monash University Prato Centre

History of the Palazzo

The Monash University Prato Centre occupies the ground and first floors of an 18th century palazzo, called *Palazzo Vaj*, after the Vaj family who were the original owners. Parts of the building are believed to be much older with 15th century frescoes having been discovered on one of the outer walls of the palazzo. The present owners, *L'Arte della Lana* or 'Wool Guild', purchased the building from the Vaj family in the 1920's. Between 1875 and 1999, the area which has become the Monash Centre was home to a prestigious club of local businessmen. The club was primarily a gaming venue and much of the centre's interior architecture and fittings still reflect this purpose. The main fit-out was executed in the 1950's by the famous Italian architect, Italo Gamberini, and because of this, the first floor and its fittings are preserved under the Italian equivalent of the Heritage Commission.

Address

Monash University Prato Centre
Palazzo Vaj
Via Pugliesi 26
59100 Prato

Contacts

General Enquiry	0574-43691
Annamaria Pagliaro (Director)	0574-436922
Sasha Perugini (Centre Manager)	0574-436921
Cathy Crupi (Administrative Officer)	0574-436920
Giovanni Tarantino (Administrative Officer)	0574-436924
Valentina Guerrieri (Administration Officer)	0574-436920

Fax Number

0574-436923

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-6.00pm

Computer Room Usage and Location

There are three computer rooms available to students at the Centre. All computers are networked with high speed internet access. All are connected to the networked printers. Extensive wireless internet access is also available throughout the building. Students are asked not to eat or drink in these rooms.

Photocopying

Photocopying is available to students and photocopy cards can be purchased from Cathy or Giovanni.

No telephone/fax facilities are available to students. See page 37 of this guide for a list of where to find these services in Prato.

Library

The Centre has a small collection of reference books and fiction titles. The fiction books can be borrowed by leaving your student number. The Reference collection however, can only be used at the Centre. Ask Cathy or Giovanni for more information.

As a Monash University student studying in Prato, you are able to access the library's extensive collection of online resources including:

- databases in all major subject areas
- the library catalogue
- fulltext electronic journals
- Monash University Lectures Online
- past exam papers
- unit reading lists with links to fulltext materials
- subject guides to your area of study

The library also provides you with a range of online help in support of your learning including:

- real time chat online with a librarian
- ask.monash for frequently asked questions and inquiries
- email help from contact librarians in your area of study

See the library website at <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/> for more information.

At Palazzo Vaj

The Monash University Prato Centre hosts a variety of activities for students, professionals and the community alike. The three studios and teaching space (the Sala Giochi, Sala Veneziana, Sala Toscana, and Seminar 1, 2 & 3 of the Ground Floor) in Palazzo Vaj are used for student classes. Students also have access to the computer rooms at all times, as well as the terrace and other recreational areas. In general, all other areas are used for conferences, cultural events or by Monash staff. Throughout the year the Centre engages in a diverse range of activities, some of which are large scale and high profile conferences. For this reason we ask students to be aware of the other activities and visitors present during their time at the Centre.

The staff members who work in the palazzo are Nicola Pietroniro, the *portiere* (porter), Anna Mazzoni, the building administrator and Franca Mati, the cleaner. All are vital to the smooth running of the centre. Please greet them and be courteous if you see them in the building. Nicola and Anna also speak some basic English.

The town of Prato has been very accommodating in hosting Monash, its students, staff and visitors. These are the people who have allowed Monash to enjoy a prime position in the historic centre of town and who have facilitated close-by accommodation for visitors to the Centre, allowing Monash to grow and offer more opportunities to students and others. The medieval construction of the historic centre means that people in Prato live in close proximity to one another. Prato is not a student town and so the Pratesi are not accustomed to student lifestyle, nor familiar with Australian culture. For these reasons students are asked to take into consideration the local people when staying in Prato, particularly while at the hotels. Cooperation on these matters would be greatly appreciated by Monash University.



Provincia di Prato



Prato

Brief background

Prato is a small but thriving Tuscan city, with a beautiful historic centre and a vibrant cultural and economic life. Famous for its textile industry, the city has a population of some 180,000 inhabitants, a growing percentage of whom are immigrants from mainland China, the Indian sub-continent, north and west Africa and elsewhere. The communal, provincial and regional governments, progressive in outlook, are active in European community affairs, and have welcomed the presence of an Australian academic institution in the heart of their city.

The city is home to a number of great monuments and buildings, museums, theatres and other places of interest.

Prato Tourist Board

Piazza Santa Maria delle Carceri, 15

Tel/Fax: + 39 0574 – 24112

Mon-Fri: 9.00-13.30, 14.00-18.30

Saturday: 9.00-13.30, 14.00-18.00

Sunday: Closed

Useful website

The Prato Tourist Information Bureau.

<http://www.prato.turismo.toscana.it/>





- EDIFICI RELIGIOSI**
- 1 Cattedrale di S. Stefano
- 2 Basilica di S. Maria delle Carceri
- 3 Chiesa di S. Agostino
- 4 Chiesa di S. Domenico
- 5 Chiesa di S. Francesco
- MONUMENTI E MUSEI**
- 6 Castello dell'Imperatore
- 7 Palazzo Pretorio
- 8 Palazzo Comunale
- 9 Palazzo Datini
- 10 Collegio Cicognini
- 11 Museo Civico
- 12 Museo dell'Opera del Duomo
- 13 Museo di Pittura Murale
- 14 Museo del Tessuto
- 15 Galleria degli Alberti
- 16 Centro Pecci
- 17 Museo di Scienze Planetarie
- 18 Centro di Scienze Naturali

Cartografia L.A.C. - Firenze



Getting around Prato

Trains

Prato has two train stations: Prato Centrale (10-15 minutes walk from the Centre) and the smaller Prato Porta al Serraglio (3-5 minutes walk from the Centre). Two major railway lines service the province of Prato: the Bologna-Firenze line and the Firenze-Lucca line. The Bologna-Firenze line only stops at Prato Centrale. The Firenze-Lucca line, which continues to Pisa and the seaside town of Viareggio, stops at both stations.

Trains from Prato Centrale to Florence run approximately every 30 mins until 10.30pm. However at mid morning and lunchtime they are less frequent. Trains from Porta al Serraglio are less frequent in the evenings.

Trains to Prato Centrale from Florence finish at 10.30pm (although there is one at 12.25am). Services to Porta al Serraglio finish at 10.08pm (but there is a service at 12.25am).

The return price of the train between Prato and Florence is €3.40, but this is for a *regionale* (regional) train only. Expect to pay more for an intercity (IC) train.

A monthly ticket costs €33.50. Monthly tickets only run from the 1st of the month until the end of the month. So, for example, if you buy a ticket half way through the month they are only valid for about two weeks.

The Eurostar runs from Florence to major cities in Italy and across Europe. To check timetables for all trains (local, national and international) go to the train timetable of 'trenitalia' www.trenitalia.it.

Buses

Local bus companies *CAP* and *Lazzi* provide bus services within the Province of Prato and to Florence. CAP is the most common service within Prato. The LAM bus service (part of the CAP) provides a more frequent service (departs every 7mins) and operates mainly within the historical centre and close surrounds.

Tickets for these buses can be bought either at the *edicola* (newsstands) or the *tabaccaio* (tobacconist). You can buy as many tickets as you need and then validate a ticket on the bus (have the machine stamp your ticket) as you travel.

For information about bus timetables go to the following websites:

<http://www.capautolinee.it/muovi.html>

<http://www.lazzi.it>

or the tourist information office for a printed timetable.



Taxis

Taxis are expensive in Prato as in the rest of Italy. A taxi from the Prato Centrale station to the Centre will cost about €8. Taxis ranks are located at the central train station and Piazza Duomo.

Radiotaxi Prato

Ph: 0574 5656

Car Rental

Webcarhire.com

This website will direct you to the car hire company Maggiore, located just off Via della Repubblica, which gives competitive rates via this internet site.

Representatives speak English. Use this website to get cheaper rates than you will get dealing directly with the company.

Maggiore Car Hire

Via di Ponzano, 24d

Prato

Ph 0574 536000

Avis

Viale della Repubblica, 289

Ph: 0574 596619

Hertz

Viale Montegrappa, 208

tel: 0574 527774

Bicycle Hire

If you are in Prato for a short time, you may like to hire a bicycle. There are designated paths along the river and on some of the roads around the historic centre.

The bicycle hire, Pedala, is located by the river on Viale Galilei and is just a short walk from the Centre.





Where to eat?

Listed below is a selection of restaurants, cafes, bars and gelaterias which have been tried and recommended. We are constantly updating this information so please let us know of any places to include or to take off the list. Many restaurants are closed on Tuesdays and some on Mondays.

Restaurants/Pizzeria

Donchisciotte

Piazza Mercatale 38/39

Ph: 0574 39023

Delicious wood oven pizzas at a reasonable price, plus other main dishes including seafood.

Antica Fiaschetteria

Piazza Lippi 4

Ph: 0574 41225

This is easily the best medium priced restaurant in Prato. Mostly southern Italian inspired cooking. The service is friendly and there are a good range of wines available.

La Veranda

Via dell'Arco 10 (just off Piazza San Marco)

Ph: 0574 38235

Serves typical Tuscan dishes and a wide variety is available. Efficient service with menus in English if needed. Main courses priced slightly higher than 'trattoria' prices.

Il Rifullo

Piazza Mercatale 18/19

Ph: 0574-25062

Simple pizzeria, but good, cheap entrees and big sized pasta/rice portions.

Pizzas also good and inexpensive. Can take larger groups.

Outdoor section available.

King's Pub

Via Garibaldi 148 (at the Piazza Mercatale end of the street)

Ph: 0574 28641

A favourite with Monash students for lunch and dinner, the King's pub serves pizzas, hamburgers and pasta dishes for a reasonable price.

Trattoria Pizzeria "Maria" 8 Lanterne Blu

Viccolo degli Arrigoni 2

(off Via Firenzuola)

Ph: 0574 33139

Serves wood fired pizza and calzone. Reasonably priced with good sized portions.

Porcellino

Via Mazzini 37-39



Ph: 0574 400730

Quick service and thin crust pizzas at a good price. They also serve a variety of crepes.

Ristorante Porta al Serraglio

Via Cavallotti 36

Ph: 0574-30849

Good food with a variety of entrees and mains as well as a good wine list. Indoor or outdoor (in a marquee) tables. A reasonably priced eatery. Better for small groups.

La Buchina degli Angeli

Piazza Mercatale 134

Ph: 0574442922

From the outside it looks small but unfolds with room after room, including a large elevated outdoor dining space. Good choice and mid range prices.

Osteria Cibbè

Piazza Mercatale, 49

Ph: 0574607509

Small restaurant serving typical Tuscan cuisine. Booking recommended.

Lo Scoglio

Via Verdi 42

Ph: 057422760

This restaurant serves big pizzas, a range of pasta dishes, plus an assortment of main courses and side dishes. They also have local wines plus decent house wines. Prices are quite reasonable. Can take large bookings.

2 L Duel

Pizzeria Ristorante

Piazza Duomo 44 (cnr Via Magnolfi)

Ph: 0574 41980

Recommended by students.

Something Different.....

Doner Kebab Bar

Via G. Mazzini 38

Ph: 0574 604862

Rosticceria Cinese

Via Santa Margherita

(near Piazza Mercatale)

Good, cheap take away Chinese food

Raja – Ristorante Indiano

Piazza del Collegio, 8/A

Ph/Fax: 0574 32032



Dove si mangia bene – Higher Quality (and price) Restaurants

Ristorante Pirana

Via G Valentini 110

Ph: 0574 25746

A seafood restaurant often recommended on internet restaurant guides to Tuscany.

Ristorante Baghino

Via dell'Accademia 9

Ph: 0574 27920

Another restaurant favourably mentioned by various internet sites.

One minute from the Centre.

Ristorante Tonio

Piazza Mercatale 161

Ph: 0574 21266

Excellent if pricey seafood restaurant.

Out of Prato

Da Delfina

Via della Chiesa, 1

59015 Artimino (Fi)

Ph: 055 87 18 074 – 055 87 18 119

Fax: 055 87 18 175

Closed Sunday evening and Monday

If you have a car and a special occasion to celebrate, it is well worth finding your way down windy country roads to this Tuscan country restaurant.

In summer you can eat outside overlooking vines and olive groves with views of the Medici hunting lodge 'La Ferdinanda'. Go to Da Delfina hungry and prepared to spend (although not excessive for the high quality).

Note: Da Delfina does not accept credit cards.

La Fontana

Via di Canneto, 3 - Prato

Ph: 0574 27282

Located ten minutes drive from the centre in the hills above Prato, La Fontana specialises in meat based Tuscan dishes including the famous 'Fiorentina' steak. Another speciality is soufflé (chocolate or orange) which must be ordered at the time of making your reservation. Expect to pay between €35-60 per person. Bookings strongly recommended.

Cafes/Tavola Calda

In these smaller bars and cafes you can often find sandwiches and/or pasta dishes at reasonable prices.

Café/Deli Forno

Via Garibaldi 41

Ph: 0574 21873

Bakery which will also make up simple sandwiches with mortadella, prosciutto or ham.

Antico Caffè

Via Garibaldi 140

Zona Piazza Mercatale

Ph: 0574 23897

Recommended for lunch. Reasonably priced.

Sopratutto Libri

Corso Mazzoni 27

Ph: 0574 440821

<http://www.Sopratuttolibri.com>

Inside the bookshop is a bar which has a good selection of pastas and salads at reasonable prices. Half portions are also available.

Caffè Toncelli

Via Tinaia 41

Ph: 0574 23 288

Staff favorite. Good range of pasta dishes, meat and vegetable main courses as well as generous salads. Friendly service.

Bar Mattei

Via Ricasoli 20/22

Ph: 0574 25756

This bar is next door to the famous 'Biscottificio' Antonio Mattei, makers of the famous Prato biscuits, cantucci. Delicious rolls available on ground level and upstairs you will find pasta and main meal dishes.

Bar Spazio Polissena

Piazza Sant'Agostino 14

Ph: 0574 607592

Recently opened bar/cafe with modern but comfortable surroundings. The venue is also an art gallery space which has live music on Thursdays and Saturday evenings. The bar serves brunch from 12 and on prior booking will serve dinner. There is also a wine bar. Open from 12.00 during the week and from 5pm on Saturdays



Bar Maracaibo

Via Cairoli 15 - Ph: 0574 26319

Offers lunch (half portions available) and small snacks. Eat-in area at the back of café or tables outside during summer. Just down from the Hotel Flora.

Blue Night

Piazza Mercatale

Simple place open late. Offers hamburgers and hot dogs, with bottled beer available.

Pizzeria Miky

Via Garibaldi 142

Pizza by the slice, reasonable prices. Open late.

Bar Formica

Via Mazzoni (at the end of Via Dell'Accademia in front of the Centre)

Fresh rolls, excellent coffee and lots of chocolate are available. Friendly service. International telephone cards are also available here.

Chocolat

Via Magnolfi

(opposite the train station Porta al Serraglio)

Inspired by the film, this pasticceria (cake and pastry shop) serves all types of hot chocolates including with chilli. A range of delicious pastries and cakes is also available. The shop is beautifully fitted out, but prices are still reasonable.

Rosticceria – Gastronomia Chigurni

Via S. Trinita, 15

Ph: 0574 25665

Gelaterie

Gelateria L'Emporio

Via Ricasoli 142

Very popular and open until late.

Polo Nord

Via Garibaldi 112

A small range of flavours, but excellent quality.

Bartolini Roberta

Via Cairoli 21

A good range of flavours and sizes with reasonable prices. Just down from Hotel Flora.

Gelateria Lingotto

Piazza Mercatale 145/A



What to do

Monuments and Historical Buildings

Prato has a rich historical and artistic patrimony, including a mid 13th century castle built by the Hohenstaufen Emperors, almost perfectly preserved medieval walls which enclose the ancient city centre, a Romanesque cum Gothic cathedral dedicated to San Stefano with an external pulpit by Donatello and Michelozzo, the church of S. Maria delle Carceri by Giuliano da San Gallo, and the well preserved Palazzo Datini, the fifteenth century home of the famous 'Merchant of Prato', Francesco Datini.

The best way to see these monuments and learn their rich history is to take a map of the *centro storico* (historic centre/old town) available from the Centre and follow one of the itineraries prepared by the tourist bureau on their website. They are easy to follow, full of interesting information and FREE.
http://www.po-net.prato.it/artestoria/citta/home_e.htm

Museums and Galleries

Museo Pecci – The Contemporary Art Centre 'Luigi Pecci'

Viale della Repubblica 227

Ph: 0574 5317

<http://www.centropecci.it>

Prato is home to this prestigious contemporary art centre which holds both a permanent collection and exhibitions from Italy and around the world. Visits to the permanent collection are by appointment only, but they hold regular temporary exhibitions.

Textile Museum

Via Santa Chiara 24

Ph: 0574611503

Fax: 0574-444585

<http://www.museodeltessuto.it>

Opening times: Monday-Sunday 10.00 – 18.00 (closed Tuesday)

This museum follows the history of the textile industry and includes collections of ancient textiles. They also hold regular exhibitions.

For a list of other museums in Prato see:
http://www.po-net.prato.it/musei/home_e.htm



Theatres

Metastasio Theatre

Via Cairoli, 59

<http://www.metastasio.net/>

This is a highly acclaimed avant-garde theatre located in the historical centre. Most productions are in Italian, but they also have seasons of live music and dance.

Cinema

Cinemas in Prato

There are 5 cinemas in the centre of Prato and all films are dubbed in Italian.

Cinemas are closed during the summer vacation period (July – September).

ASTRA

Via Milano, 73

Ph: 0574 25214

Closed on Monday

EDEN

Via Cairoli, 18

Ph: 0574 21857

Closed on Thursday

EXCELSIOR

V. Garibaldi, 67

Ph: 0574 33696

Closed on Monday

TERMINALE

Via Carbonaia, 31

Ph: 0574 37150

Closed on Monday

English Language Cinemas in Florence

For original language films, there are two cinemas in Florence, near the station. Price for a ticket is approx €7.00. There is a discount when you buy a season pass.

Cinema Odeon

Piazza Strozzi

Firenze

Ph: 055 214068

Monday and Tuesdays only

www.cinehall.it for program and session times

Cinema Fulgor

Via Maso Finiguerra 22r

Firenze

Ph: 055 238 1881

Thursdays only

<http://www.staseraalcinema.it/cinemafulgor/>

(go to the news section and scroll down)

Nightlife

Pubs and bars can go in and out of fashion very quickly in Italy. To find out the best pubs and discos, it is always best to ask the locals. Remember Italians often don't go out for a drink until 22.30-23.00. Entrance fees and drinks at discos can be pretty expensive, so be prepared!

Pubs/Pizzeria

Matilda

Via Magnolfi 54

Ph. 0574 448395

Hop Store

Via Terracini 11

www.hopstore.it

Ben Nevis Tavern

Via Della Repubblica 290

Ph: 0574 550557

Fox Inn

Via Ferucci 109

Ph: 0574 592164

For a full list of pubs in Prato, go to http://www.pratoshop.com/locali.shtml
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Restaurant/Discotheque outside Prato

Oca Fioca

Via Traversa del Beccarello

(Uscita Autostrada Prato Est)

www.ocafioca.it

Just outside of Prato, but you will need to take a taxi.

Tenax

Via Pratese 46

Zone: Osmannoro

Florence

www.tenax.org

This is the third largest disco in Italy. Thursday night is University students night and cheaper than the other evenings. Friday nights is commercial music and Saturday nights is house music. A full ticket costs about €25 on Friday and Saturday nights. Remember to dress up.



Central Park

Via del Fosso Macinante, 1

Cascine (walking distance from the station) Florence

Ph: 055 353505

A very well known discotheque playing House music on Friday and "happy music night" on Saturday. Good atmosphere in spring and summer.

Rincao Gaucho

Via F. Ferrucci - Agliana (500 mt from *Prato Ovest* highway exit)

Brazilian disco and restaurant

Maracanà

Via Faenza, 4r

Florence

Ph: 055-210298

<http://www.maracana.it>

A Brazilian restaurant and nightclub. From 20.30-23.00, at the restaurant there is a Brazilian show, or you can go straight to the nightclub which is open from 20.00-4.00.

Parks

Centro di Scienze Naturali

Via di Galceti, 74

Ph: 0574 460503

<http://www.csn.prato.it>

Opening Hours: Weekdays: 9.30-12.30 /15.00-18.00M; Weekends: 15.00-18.00 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)

A centre for the care and rehabilitation of animals, the park is over 8 hectares and has pedestrian paths throughout, allowing visitors to see a wide variety of flora and fauna. There's also a Natural Science Museum and a planetarium. The park is easily reached from the Prato Central Train Station on LAM bus (Red) or check the website for more information.

Swimming Pool

Piscina Pubblica di Prato

Via Roma

It takes a good 20 minutes walk to get there, and on a hot summer day it can be very crowded. Day pass only is available for approx. €7, and you will need to wear a bathing cap (can be bought at the pool). Open only from late June to end August.



Gymnasium

Freeline – Centro Fitness

Via Franchi 45

Ph: 0574 22489

Special rates for Monash students and staff

Palagym

Via Costantini 24 or Via R. Gori 15

Ph: 0574 595 855

www.palagym.com

Special rates for Monash students and staff

Universo Sporting Center

Viale della Repubblica 293

Ph: 0574 575184





What to do - out of Prato

From Prato there are many great Italian towns and cities that are easily visited by train. Regular cheap flights out of Pisa or Bologna can take you anywhere in Europe and the airports are easy to get to by public transport.

There are also many events during the year held all over Tuscany. In this section you will find a list of the major events taking place in 2006.

Florence

It is impossible to summarise all of the cultural activities Florence has to offer. The best way to find out is to go to the tourist information office.

Tourist Information

Via Cavour, 1r.

Open: Monday to Saturday 8.30-18.30

Sundays and public holidays from 8.30-13.30

You can also browse on the internet.

Try <http://www.aboutflorence.com> or <http://www.studentsville.it/>.

Gucci & Prada Outlets Shopping Tour

7 hour bus tour offering 30% to 50% reductions on high fashion labels. 2 hours spent at Prada outlet then on to Gucci, Y.S. Laurent, Bottega Veneta, Sergio Rossi, Giorgio Armani.

Operates all year round but must book 48 hours in advance. Departure point is corner of Piazza della Stazione and Piazza Unita d'Italia located in front of Santa Maria Novella Station.

See their website for prices: <http://www.caftours.com>

Day Trips from Prato

Many of Italy's most popular towns are easily reached by train from Prato.

Rome 1hr 40mins (from Florence on the Eurostar)

Bologna 45mins - 1hr

Pisa 1hr 30mins

Lucca 55 mins

Viareggio (seaside town) 1hr 15 mins

For further details go to the trenitalia website <http://trenitalia.it/>

Cheap Flights Out of Italy

Ryan Air and **Easy Jet** operate out of Bologna and Pisa and offers cheap flights to major European cities.

See their websites for prices: <http://www.ryanair.com/> and <http://www.easyjet.com>



Where to buy

Supermarkets

Esselunga

Via G. Valentini, 1

Co-Op Supermarket

Viale Vittorio Veneto

Piazza San Marco

Chinese Supermarket

Via Protche (near Piazza Ciardi)

For a variety of Asian groceries and some Indian ingredients. They also sell good, cheap English tea and Milo.

Market

Piazza Lippi

Good quality fruit and veg at low prices, and highly recommended by Centre staff, can be found at this market located just behind the Duomo. Open every day except Sundays and Mondays until 2:00pm.

Viale Galilei.

This market has fresh fruit and veg, clothes, household goods etc. It's about a 15 minute walk from the Porta al Seraglio station. Only open on Mondays.

Department Store

Upim

Via Garibaldi

This department store has a small selection of most things (toiletries, underwear, linen and towels) at reasonable prices.

Also open Monday mornings.

Pharmacies

Piazza Mercatale 147/A

Cnr Via San Silvestro

Open 24 hours

Piazza dell'Ospedale, 5

Open 24 hours

Travel

CAP Office

Prato Piazza Duomo, 18

Ph: 0574 608218/19

Information on bus and train timetables. You can buy train tickets from here and they also have a travel agency.



Bookshops

Sopratutto Libri

Corso Mazzoni 27

Ph: 0574 440821

<http://www.Sopratuttolibri.com>

This is the biggest bookstore in Prato. It has a bar inside and sells a small range of English books. It is also open on Sunday afternoons.

Castello Libreria Bookshop

Viale Piave 12/14

Ph:0574 20906

Art and Graphics Supplies

Ovattoni Cornici

Near the corner of Via San Giorgio and Via Santa Margherita

Ph: 0574 34117

Good basic range of art products available. Friendly staff.

Out of Prato

Zecchi Colori Belle Arti

Via del Studio 19R

Firenze

A very good range of papers, paints and general fine arts supplies. Design and modelling supplies are also stocked, but quantities held in stock are limited.

Stationery Supplies

Buffetti

Via Magnolfi 39

Ph: 0574 25810

A good range of office and computer supplies.

Toiletries and Cosmetics

La Gardenia

Via Garibaldi and Via Ricasoli 30/32

Full range of products from shampoo and skincare to higher priced perfumes and beauty products.

Gift Ideas

Antonio Mattei

Via Ricasoli 20

Ph: 0574 257556

Famous for the best cantucci biscuits in Italy. The shop is right in the historic centre.

Pasticceria Luca

Via Lazzerini 2



Ph: 0574 41628

Reported to be Italy's best confectioner and a competitor in the Italian World Chocolate Championships. Also famous for pastries.

Olive Oil

Wherever you are in Tuscany, you will be able to buy locally produced olive oil. The main area of production in the Prato province is Carmignano. Buy *'olio extra vergine d'oliva'* or extra virgin olive oil which is only produced with pressed olives and has an acidity of less than 1%. This makes it the most pure olive oil. Below is more information about certification, to help you buy a quality product at a good price.

DOP	Denominazione d'Origine Protetta ("PDO" - Protected Designation of Origin) Food products which are produced, processed and prepared in a given geographical area using recognized know-how.
IGP	Indicazione Geografica Protetta ("PGI" - Protected Geographical Indication) The geographical link must occur in at least one of the stages of production, processing and preparation. The product must have a good reputation.
STG	Specialità Tradizionale Garantita ("TSG" - Traditional Specialty Guaranteed) It highlights a traditional character, not the origin, and refers to the composition or means of production.

Wine

Tuscany is world famous for Chianti. Again, the biggest area of wine production in Prato province is Carmignano. Below is an explanation of the different classifications of wine, DOCG being the highest quality of the three.

DOCG	Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita which means wine of controlled and guaranteed origin. This classification is only for a wine of a particular quality. In order to get the DOCG nomination, the wine should have been part of the DOC specified group for at least 5 years.
DOC	Denominazione di Origine Controllata which means wine with controlled origin. It is a wine of a specific area with certain characteristics which include the vine types, the quantity they produce, the processing of the grapes until bottling, as well as storage methods.
IGT	Identificazione Geografica Tipica which means that the region of origin (Tuscany, Emilia Romagna etc), the type of vine (eg. Sangiovese) and the year are indicated on the bottle.



Services in Prato

Emergency Numbers

113 – General emergency
112 – Carabinieri
115 – Fire
118 – Ambulance

Hospital

Piazza dell'Ospedale
Ph: 0574 4341

Doctors – English Speaking

Medical Service of Florence

Via Lorenzo il Magnifico, 59

Florence

Ph: 055 475 411

Fax: 055 474 983

www.medicalservice.firenze.it

(check prices before appointment)

Dr Stephen Kerr

Via Porta Rossa 1

Florence

Ph: 055 288 055 (office)

335 836 1682 (mobile)

www.dr-kerr.com

(check prices before appointment)

Dentist – English Speaking

Dr Nicola Paoleschi

Viale Gramsci 12

Florence

Ph: 055 241208/2480082

www.studipaoleschi.it

In emergency situations an on-call doctor is available to come to the Monash Centre upon arrangement by Monash staff. Cost is approximately €40-50. Please contact staff for more information.

Italy and Australia share a reciprocal agreement on health care. This means that Australian residents visiting Italy can access the Italian public health system for any 'immediately necessary' medical treatment, defined as a sudden acute illness or accident. It does not include treatment as a private patient. You will need to present your Australian passport and Medicare card to obtain benefits through the public health system. See the 'Consular Services' section of the Australian Embassy in Rome website for more information.

Australian Embassy in Rome

<http://www.italy.embassy.gov.au/>

Post Office

Via Arcivescovo Martini 8

Just off Piazza San Marco

Open 9.00-18.00

Banks

CariPrato: Cassa di Risparmio di Prato

2 Via Rinaldesca

*This is the only bank in Prato that exchanges Travellers Cheques

Go straight through the entry foyer to the large banking chamber beyond. At the doorway make sure you take a number. When your number comes up on the illuminated screen, go to the cashier with your number displayed. Remember to take your passport.

Bancomat (Automatic Teller Machine)

The closest one is located in Via Garibaldi. Turn right at the gate of the Monash Centre and then turn left into Via Garibaldi. It is about 50 metres on the left.

There are also two machines in Piazza San Francesco D'Assisi.

See map on page 8 for details.

Internet Portals

Internet Point – New Net

Via Mazzini 61

Ph: 0574 29335

Fax and Photocopying Service

Prato Copy

Piazza Ciardi 39

Ph: 0574 35876

Offers a photocopying, printing, fax and scanner service.

System Copy

Piazza Mercatale 23

Ph: 0574 39343

Offers a photocopying, printing, fax and scanner service.

Laundromat

Via F. Cavallotti (close to Porta al Serraglio train station)

This laundromat has machines in two sizes. You need to put your money through a centralised control panel. Detergent, money-changing machines, and driers are all on the premises.

Dry Cleaners

Via della Stufa, 25

Expect to pay about €5 per garment

Tips for staying in Prato and travelling in Italy

Telephones and Phone Cards

International

'Happiness' telephone cards give you 180 minutes talk time to Australia for €5.

They are available at Bar Formica in Via Mazzoni or ask at other tobacconists (with the 'T' out the front of the shop).

In Italy

Italian Telecom phonecards (for use in public phones) have a corner that you must tear off before you can use the card. Look for the word 'strappare' on the card.

Very few phones accept coins.

English Yellow Pages (EYP)

Is a directory of English-speaking businesses and professionals in Italy. Includes information on jobs, classifieds, photos, stories, events and lots of helpful information for English-speaking foreigners in Italy. Visit:

English Yellow Pages

<http://www.intoitaly.it/>

Excess Luggage

The cheapest way to send packages back to Australia (up to 30kg), is through the Italian Post. Prices change often and vary according to destination, dimension and weight so you will need to visit a post office to get a quote. However, sending items by sea (delivery at least 1 month) will always be more economical than by airmail (delivery time up to 2 weeks).

An express courier service is also available through the Italian Post with prices* listed as follows:

	By Air (arrival time max. 5 days)
1kg	€49,00
5kg	€65,35
10kg	€93,15
20kg	€170,25
30kg	€267,60

*current as at April 2007

Package dimension requirements:

Length+width+depth of the box cannot exceed 225cm.

For further information visit <http://www.poste.it/en/postali/parcels/index.shtml> or freecall **803160**.

* Please note that the Centre will not organise the return of luggage/packages for students or of any items left behind.



Shopping

- Usually shops are open during the following hours:
Monday 16.00-19.30
Tuesday – Saturday 8.30/9.30-13.00, and 16.00-19.30
Clothing stores may open later (between 9.00 and 10.00). Most other stores will open between 8.30 and 9.00.
- Many food stores (bakeries, butchers etc.) close on Wednesday afternoons.
- When buying fruit and vegetables in supermarkets in Italy, you must weigh the produce before you get to the cashier. On each sign for the price of the produce, there is a number code which you use at the scales to identify the food and price.
- When selecting your fruit and vegetables, always use the plastic gloves provided (in the supermarket) or ask the assistant to serve you. You shouldn't touch produce with bare hands.
- Shopkeepers will often ask you for the correct change. If you can anticipate this and give the correct change (or thereabouts) when paying for goods, you make them very happy!
- When you need to get through a crowd or pass people walking slowly on the street, the Italian word is *permesso*.

Transport and tickets

All bus and rail tickets must be validated (stamped by the machine).

On trains - validate at the station before you get on the train.

On buses - validate your ticket on the bus.

Tickets for both should be bought before the journey.

(see *Transport on page*)

Taxis

Ask how much it costs to get to your destination before you get in the taxi. This reduces the chance of being ripped off by some dishonest drivers. You will also have an idea of what it will cost you (remember taxis are not cheap in Italy). See page 11 for taxi phone number

Visiting churches, monuments and museums

Often exhibitions, galleries and museums are closed on Mondays. There is no strict rule about opening times for tourist attractions so it is always best to check first with a tourist information office or on the internet.

Remember there is a dress code for visiting churches. Shoulders should be covered and shorts are not appropriate.

You may not be allowed into certain churches without correct dress.

Prebooking tickets for museums in Florence is recommended. Contact Il Polo Museale Fiorentino for bookings to all major museums in Florence. Telephone operators are also English speaking. Ph:055 294883.



Embassy, Consulate and Visas

Australian Embassy

Via Antonio Bosio 5

Rome 00161

Tel: 06 852721

Fax: 06 85 272 300

www.italy.embassy.gov.au

Opening Hours: 830am - 4.50pm, Monday to Friday

Australian Consulate-General

Via Borgogna 2

20122 Milan

Tel: 02 77704217

Fax: 02 77704242

www.austrade.it

Visas

It is the responsibility of visitors to the Centre to inform themselves of [Italian visa requirements](#) and make suitable arrangements. **It is highly recommended that the application for a student visa be for multiple entries.**

For Australian citizens

Please consult the [Italian Embassy in Canberra](#) for the contact details of Italian Consulates in Australia.

Australian consular services in Italy:

[Australian Embassy in Rome](#)

Via Antonio Bosio 5

00161 ROME

Tel: +39 06 852 721

Facsimile: +39 06 85 272 300

Opening Hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Residence permit

From June 02, 2007, all **non-EU citizens** who enter Italy for study, business, and tourism purposes and stay for **less than 3 months**, will not have to request the stay permit (Law no. 68, May 28th 2007). All individuals will have to file a **'statement of presence'** to the local police authority within 8 effective days from the entry into Italy if arriving from another Schengen country (i.e. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Luxemburg, The Netherland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Iceland and Norway). Otherwise, the statement of presence has to be submitted to the police upon arrival to Italy.

EU citizens do not need an entry visa. If they stay in Italy for less than 3 months they do not have to file the *permesso di soggiorno* request or to declare their presence upon arrival. If they stay in Italy for more than 3 months they must register with the *Anagrafe* office of the municipality where they reside.

All **non-EU citizens** need to obtain a **residence permit** (*Permesso di Soggiorno*) when residing in Italy for **more than 3 months**. This must be applied for within 8 days of arrival. Kits for the submission of applications for issue and renewal of residence permits can be obtained from post offices.

Two types of kits are available:

1. Envelope with blue stripe: for EU citizens
2. Envelope with yellow stripe: for non-EU citizens

Applications may be submitted at authorised post offices, which include the Prato Martini branch located on Via Martini near Piazza San Marco.

For further information, please visit the Immigration portal website:
(<http://www.portaleimmigrazione.it/>)

Application acceptance procedures:

In addition to the completed application form, the applicant must also submit the following documentation:

Form of identification (valid at the time of submission of the application) for the purpose of identification by post office workers;

An A4 photocopy of the identification;

An A4 photocopy of a second form of identification, if needed

A €14.32 revenue stamp* must be purchased from a 'Tabacchi e Valori Bollati' (Tobacconist) shop and affixed to the application form.

Non-EU applicants must also submit a copy of receipt of payment of €27.50* for issue of the residence permit on electronic medium. Once identification of the applicant and checking of the required documentation have been completed, a registered letter receipt (mod.22A) is issued which lists the user ID and password needed to check the state of progress of the application.

Cost of application

The cost of the application is €30 to be paid at the post office counter upon acceptance of the application.



N.B. The **penalty** for those who do not file the statement of presence or stay in Italy for more than 3 months (or the shorter period mandated by his or her visa) without applying for the stay permit is repatriation.

*Care has been taken to include the correct costs here, however, these may vary according to immigration ministry requirements.

**Note that stay permit and visa rules change from time to time - it is the individual's responsibility to confirm and comply with Italian immigration laws.