



THE CIVITA INSTITUTE

Inspiring and promoting design excellence through education and cultural exchange between the United States and Italy



Welcome to a one-of-a-kind Adventure!

The Civita Institute is proud to welcome you *alle nostre case al'Istituto Civita* (to our houses at the Civita Institute) in Civita di Bagnoregio, Italy!

Civita (pronounced **Chee**'-vee-tah, with the emphasis on the first syllable) is a remarkable, ancient Etruscan hill town located in the Alto Lazio, north of Rome.

Civita's first inhabitation predates the founding of Rome and its history is richly connected with the history of Italy.

Things you need to know

- Please refer to the "Visitor Conditions" sheet that you received and signed prior to your arrival
- Please arrive at your pre-arranged time and date so that your casa (house) will be ready for you. We've been asked that people do NOT arrive on weekends. If you must arrive on a weekend, please let us know well in advance.

- The Civita Institute facilities are rustic, true to Civita's history. The building shells are all several hundred years old. However, these historic dwellings have all been restored and updated over the years through the tireless efforts of Professor Emeritus Astra Zarina and architect Tony Costa Heywood, founding members of NIAUSI/The Civita Institute
- Pack lightly – items need to be carried up the steep footbridge, and heavy or bulky items are not recommended. A tractor is available for a fee if arranged well in advance
- Your stay in Civita will give you an extraordinary opportunity to learn about the region's history, culture and way of life
- Civita is a unique place, in many ways detached from the trappings of modern life. Your ability to be patient, and adapt to a slower pace, coupled with your curiosity will help create a memorable experience

Agreement

All guests must sign a "Visitor Conditions" form and must have arranged for specific arrival and departure dates and times, and other specifics, before arrival. Smoking is not allowed in the units.

Getting there

Driving in Italy: Go to the U.S. Embassy in Italy web site at:

<http://www.usembassy.it/acs/general-driving.asp> to see useful information regarding driving in Italy, including requirements for international driver's licenses. In general, you are advised to obtain an international driver's license, through AAA in the U.S. or otherwise, important if you are stopped by the police while driving or involved in an incident. There is also information at that embassy site about obtaining a translation of your U.S. driver's license while in Italy.

Please see the driving directions provided on our web site. These instructions begin at Orvieto, another very significant Etruscan hilltown that is located about an hour north of Rome on the A-1 autostrada and on the main train route from Rome to Florence.

Once in Orvieto, at the train station, if you are not renting your own car, you can either take public buses (except on Sunday) or take a cab to Civita, which costs about 50 euro. There are usually one or two cabs at the train station, or numbers are posted near the phone if you get in late. Instruct the cab driver to take you to the bridge of Civita, il ponte di Civita di Bagnoregio.

Bagnoregio

Please refer to the driving instructions and maps for travel from Orvieto to Bagnoregio. If driving, after entering Bagnoregio, you will see an entry gate made of local basalt. Go through it and up the one-way street to its right, leading all the way up through this village. This one way street traverses the entire ridge of Bagnoregio. Keep going until

you see the sign for Civita and take a right, following the road down. Civita will soon rise into view. Park at the base of the bridge, or in additional parking under the bridge. Print and have with you the NIAUSI Parking Pass also sent to you, and place it on the dashboard of your car. If there is a gatekeeper near the abandoned school blocking traffic down to Civita (done on high volume days) – they will let you through if you have a pass. If the lots below the bridge are full, there is additional parking up near the abandoned school on the plateau/bar area above the ponte. If you do not have a parking pass, you must buy one in one of the parking ticket machines (if staying more than a couple days it may be better to buy a weekly pass, which is an option in the machine).

You may want to stop and buy a few immediate provisions at the Bagnoregio shops, if open for business as you pass through, unless you plan on returning to Bagnoregio for shopping later in the day. As mentioned, there are very limited possibilities for buying provisions in Civita itself. Bagnoregio will be your shopping town during your stay. See additional information below regarding shopping in Bagnoregio.

Civita

As noted, pack light, because you have to carry your luggage up the hill, and it is a fairly steep climb.

On certain days, there is a charge to go up into Civita. It is waived for visitors staying. Tell the bridge gatekeeper, “Stiamo qui con Signor Tony e NIAUSI” (Stee-amo qwee con Seenyor Tony ay Knee-ow-Zee). We are still known only as NIAUSI in Italy.

Climb the bridge. Through the gate, you are walking on the Via Santa Maria, originally the route of an Etruscan (then Roman) road. Keep going past the church, the Duomo di San Donato, and on Via Maesta' toward the end of Civita.

The Civita Institute Houses

After you pass the church, take the second left for the Civita Institute houses. In front of you, up the short street, are the stairs to “Il Ruderino” and “Il Nuovo.” To your left is the doorway to “Lo Studio.”

The Facilities

Il Ruderino – small house
Il Nuovo – our newest house
Lo Studio – the first house

All units have kitchens and baths. Il Ruderino has a small kitchen. All ovens are gas operated, and self-ignite. In Il Ruderino, you must light the surface burners with matches. There are no pilot lights.

Keys

The key box is located inside the doorway under the Ruderino stairway. Open the door, and find the box to the left. The keys are marked as to the different spaces. Take your key(s) for the spaces you have reserved and let yourself in. Make sure to return the keys to their proper place in the box whenever you leave town – but please leave the lockbox unlocked.

Arrival

Please email us at info@civitaestate.org to confirm your final arrival time so that we can make certain that all is ready for you. Again, weekend arrivals are highly discouraged. The amazing Laura Gasperoni will be your main on-site contact person for help with the houses. Laura is typically working in the mornings only, however. There is no need to check-in or check-out with anyone. Simply pick up your keys from the key box and return them there at the agreed upon arrival and departure times. However, please stop in to say hello to either Laura or Tony Heywood after you have dropped your things in the houses to let one of them know you have arrived safely and are settling in.

Who to call for help, only if you need to, in case of lost keys, etc.

In an emergency when you must contact a Civita Institute representative, the Civita Institute contact number in Seattle to call is c/o Jim Corey at (206) 391-8172 (mobile), email is james.corey@civitaestate.org.

Tony Heywood's telephone (in an emergency) is [011-39]- 0761-792759, email mc1809@mclink.it.

Laura's mobile phone is 011-39-3356805457 (if calling within Italy, drop the 011-39). Please do not call her on the weekend or afternoons unless it's an emergency.

Details

Report damage – inform us of any damages so that we can repair them for the next guests

Drinking water – the local tap water is drinkable.

Linens will be provided on site for you to remake your beds and restock your bathrooms, if you are staying for an extended stay/Fellowship/residency.

Cleaning – you will need to clean your own quarters during your stay. Cleaning supplies are provided.

Laundry – instructions are posted on site. There are washers in Il Nuovo, and in the cantina underneath Il Ruderino (the room the key box is located in). There are no dryers, and all laundry is air dried on racks. If you have trouble with the washers, please ask Laura for help.

Garbage and recycling – Garbage can be disposed of in the public trash bins off the main street, to the left, outside the facilities. Plastic materials, glass bottles, and paper are recycled, and can be left in bags in the furnace room underneath Il Ruderino.

Electricity – outlets are 220 volt, and you will need to bring your own converters for electronic equipment, unless there are internal converters in your electronics.

Internet – NIAUSI/The Civita Institute has installed the first wireless network in Civita. However, service can be sporadic at times, and connectivity is often available only near open doors and windows. **NIAUSI network**, Password: **banana88**. We do not remember why. A second wireless network has been installed by Tony as a backup: **Anthony Costa network**, Password: **banana89**

Cell phone service in Civita can be sporadic.

Facility telephones – there are land line phones in both Lo Studio (011-39-0761-760078) and Il Nuovo (011-39-0761-793164). Local calls are free. For long distance or international calls, please bring an international calling card. In an emergency, where you need to use the long distance but do not have a calling card, please let us know so that we can arrange for payment for the phone.

Shopping - You will likely need to shop in Bagnoregio every couple days to get food for meals and household supplies (if staying for more than a few days). The local shopkeepers do not always speak English, and so it is always fun. Monday 9 am to noon is the market day in the parking lot of Bagnoregio, for a variety of products. Most stores in Bagnoregio are open from 9 am to 1 pm, closed for riposo, then open again from 5 pm to 7 pm, except Sundays. We strongly encourage you to shop at the smaller, owner-operated specialty stores to buy food and products, rather than the supermarkets. Those smaller shops are a crucial part of the town fabric and they really need to be supported in order to survive.

Medical needs in case of emergency, dial 1-1-3. The Orvieto hospital serves the area.

Restaurants and Coffee Bars in Civita – There are a few excellent (though somewhat sporadic) opportunities for dining in Civita and for coffee. We encourage our Members/visitors to support these Civita businesses.

Welcome to the Civita Institute facilities and enjoy your stay in this most remarkable place!