



LOT | LIGHTS OF
TUSCANY 2026



*15 - 19 May 2026
Pisa - Florence, Italy
Students from all over the world*



Please note:

In the event of any changes to the programme due to unforeseeable circumstances, **always follow the instructions given by the Organizing Committee members** rather than this guide— this pamphlet is for guidance only. Finally, we've made significant updates to our **website** in the speaker session; check it out! Lastly, all times are in the 24-hour format. Apologies for the inconvenience — my sanity demanded it.

Legend

 Laboratory visits	 Talks and seminars	 Evenings
 Food and accommodation	 Social and cultural events	

- Link to the locations of the various event venues: [Map](#)
- Flyer with suggestions on where to eat in your free time: [Where to eat?](#)
- Pamphlet on our transportation system: [Guide](#)
- Link to the rules of our side-quest game! [LoT Game](#)

Florence schedule

Friday 15/05

9:30	Independent arrival to Florence and registration	a&o Hotel Campo di Marte
14:00	Opening Ceremony and institutional greetings	Aula Magna, Department of Physics and Astronomy of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino
15:10	Capturing Ultrafast Dynamics in Biomolecules and Condensed Matter via Nonlinear Vibrational Spectroscopy. Prof. Giovanni Batignani, Rome La Sapienza	Aula Magna, Department of Physics and Astronomy of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino
15.45	LENS lab visits	LENS
16:45	Coffee Break	First floor, Department of Physics and Astronomy of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino
17.00	Passive Radiative Cooling: Harnessing Light-Matter Interaction from Nano to Macro Prof. Giuseppe Emanuele Lio, University of Pisa	Aula Magna, Department of Physics and Astronomy of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino
17.45	Soft photonics with polymeric platforms: from spectral encoding to microlasers Prof. Alice Boschetti, University of Florence and LENS	Aula Magna, Department of Physics and Astronomy of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino
18.30	Discovering the supersolid phase of matter with quantum gases Prof. Giovanni Modugno, University of Florence and LENS	Aula Magna, Department of Physics and Astronomy of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino
19:30	Back to Florence city center	a&o Hotel Campo di Marte

DETAILS:

Welcome at a&o Hotel:

- You can leave your bags and baggage at the baggage room of the Hotel, as we wait for check-in availability.
- A member of the Organizing Committee will be there to greet you, help you with connection give you your welcome kit, and give you your receipt for the participation fee.
- If you can't come here in time, just let us know: we'll arrange for your welcome kit to be at the Opening Ceremony or later in the day!

Institutional guests:

- Prof. Giovanni Modugno, director of LENS
- Prof. Guido Risaliti, Vice-director of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Florence

- Prof. Vitaliano Ciulli, President of the Degree of Physics, University of Florence
- Prof. Leonardo Fallani, director of the physics laboratories of the University of Florence
- Federico Canterucci, President of the Italian Association of Physics Students
- Julia Favaro, co-coordinator of Lights of Tuscany 2026
- Ismaele Bartoluccio, co-coordinator of Lights of Tuscany 2026

You will be able to visit 6 different laboratories at LENS:

- *Multidomain Ultrafast Light Transport Imaging Lab*- Lorenzo Pattelli, Ernesto Pini.
- *Nanophotonics Lab*- Gabriele Calusi.
- *Optical Wireless Communication Laboratory* - Jacopo Catani.
- *Molecular Quantum Nanophotonics* - Costanza Toninelli.
- *Ultracold dipolar gases* - Giovanni Ferioli, Pietro Lombardi.
- *Drawing with light and atoms* - Giulia Del Pace, Alberto Terenzi.

Coming back to Florence city center:

- After our activities in the Florentine scientific hub, we'll go back to the Hostel by bus, and you can finally unwind in your rooms.
- Since you might be really tired, we have a few suggestions for you to eat near the hostel and late at night: **Il Pallaio, SchiacciaMatta, Aviazione Campo di Marte, Braumeister Beer & Kitchen.**

Saturday 16/05

7.00	Wake up and breakfast	a&o Hotel Campo di Marte
8:25	Transfer to scientific hub of Florence	Move to Firenze Rifredi and bus line 59
9:40	UniFi lab visits	Department of Physics and Astronomy of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino
11.35	Student talks Assia Mariani and Dorotea Nardini	Aula Querzioli, LENS, Sesto Fiorentino
13.05	Lunch at the canteen	Mensa DSU, Polo scientifico di Sesto Fiorentino
14.15	Transfer to Arcetri	Bus line 28, then tram T1, finally bus line 12.
16.00	Visit of the Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri	Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri
18.05	Back to Florence city center	Bus line 12
19.00	Free dinner	
21.00	Hang around in the city!	

DETAILS:

You will be able to visit 5 different laboratories at UniFi:

- *Atom interferometry with Bose-Einstein condensates* - Marco Fattori
- *Light scattering and optical characterization*- Pamela Cinfrignini
- *Optical tomography of bio samples for applications in neuroscience and oncology*- Ludovico Silvestri
- *Quantum computing and simulation with atom arrays* - Leonardo Fallani
- *Spin-electric effect in spin systems for quantum information* - Maria Fittipaldi

We'll take a group photo so **don't forget to bring your LoT26 tshirt from your welcome kit!**

Student talks:

- *Time-Domain Raman Spectroscopy with Chirped Pulses* - Assia Mariani, research fellow of the University of Pisa
- *HyperProbe: can spectroscopy guide neuronavigation?*- Dorotea Nardini, PhD candidate from LENS
- *Staying in Contact: How Microscopy Reveals the Hidden Dance of DNA*- Nessim Louafi, PhD student from FMI

Lunch at the canteen:

You will receive a voucher to access the canteen. **Do not lose it!**

With this little piece of paper, you will have access to a full meal including:

- first course,
- second course,
- side dish,
- fruit or yogurt,
- water
- and bread.

You will always find a vegetarian option. You can always ask the canteen staff for more information on allergens. In the event you notice a bit of commotion around the department, do not worry. Around 14:00, there might be a **demonstration** against the current policies of the Peretola Airport. It is not dangerous, but the area may be a little noisy or crowded.

After dinner:

- After dinner, you will have some evening free time. You can go back to a&o Hotel and unwind in your room or have some fun with the Florentine nightlife. But be careful: **after midnight buses stop coming and you might want to take a taxi to go back to the hotel from the city center!**
- A good compromise might be Braumeister Beer & Kitchen: near the hotel, it offers good beer and some board games.
- You also decide to roam around to see many street art pieces in Florence. Check our **LoT game**.

Sunday 17/05

7.00	Wake up, breakfast and check out	a&o Hotel Campo di Marte
8:00	Transfer to Galleria dell'Accademia e Museo Galileo	Bus line 31
8:30	Visit Galleria dell'Accademia	Galleria dell'Accademia
10:00	Visit Museo Galileo	Museo Galileo
12:00	Free lunch	
13.45	Transfer to Pisa	Train from S. Maria Novella train station
15:10	Check in the new hotel	Hotel Moderno
15.20	Free time	
20:00	Social dinner	Primo pasta & love

DETAILS:

Check out

You need to check out of your room by 9.30, but you can leave your biggest baggage in the baggage room of the hotel, so you are more comfortable during the tour of the Museo Galileo. You can come collect them later!

Galleria dell'Accademia:

This edition of Lights of Tuscany wants to place a special emphasis on culture, offering a glimpse into some of Florence's treasures.

- This week celebrates not only the International Day of Light, but also the International Day of Museums. We will also visit the Galleria dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's *David*. And no, it is not by chance that the *David* appears in the logo of our Florence local committee!
- Today, there will be a special opening of the Galleria dell'Accademia. **Entry is just a symbolic €2.** Please help us collect the money and, if you can, have coins available!

Museo Galileo:

- For Lights of Tuscany 2026 students, entry is free. A miniguide of the museum is available over **here**.
- The **Museo Galileo App** is also available: each participant can download—either in advance or directly at the Museum—onto their own device (the app requires an Internet connection, but a free Wi-Fi network is available inside the Museum). The app allows you to explore the entire Museo Galileo collection on your device and offers a selection of about 80 particularly noteworthy instruments, while still giving access to the complete collection at any time. We recommend using earphones to listen to the audio content. Please note that the app can be downloaded from both the **App Store** and **Google Play**.

Free time:

- You are free to explore Pisa as you wish. We created a list of ideas for things you can enjoy doing (and maybe even earn some points in our new game)! Check our **LoT game**.
- Just be aware not to get too close to the stadium: there's a Pisa–Naples Serie A match today, and the neighborhood could be "overwhelming".

Pisa schedule

Monday 18/05

7:00	Wake up and Breakfast	Hotel Moderno
8.20	Arrivo a Park Paparelli	Bus line 3+
9:00	Departure by bus from Park Paparelli to VIRGO	Private bus
9.30	Seminar on Gravitational wave detector Dr. Camilla de Rossi, EGO-Virgo and INFN Pisa	European Gravitational Observatory, Cascina
10:00	Visit of the Virgo Interferometer	European Gravitational Observatory, Cascina
12:30	Return to Pisa by bus	Private bus
13:30	Science café: light in physics	Aula Galileo, INFN Pisa
15.00	UniPi Lab Visits	Department of Physics and Astronomy of Pisa.
17.00	Coffee break	Floor -2, INFN Pisa
17.30	Industry Experience El.En. group	Aula Galileo, INFN Pisa
18:00	Poster session	Floor -2, INFN Pisa
19.00	Free dinner	
21:15	Social event	The Scare Crow Pub

ATTENTION: There's a public transport strike in Pisa today , but we should be ok with our own private bus.

DETAILS:

Science café:

A Science Café is a relaxed coffee-break lunch where we'll meet the youngest members of Pisa's research landscape in a relaxed and curious environment. Between a sandwich and an espresso, it offers a chance to exchange ideas, ask questions, and connect with fellow students from different scientific fields. From INFN Pisa and the University of Pisa:

- *From Laser Cooling to Precision Sensing with Cold Atoms Using Light* - Krishna Nand Trivedi, late PhD student
- *Guided systems for compact solid state laser sources* - Davide Baiocco, post doc
- *Quantum cascade lasers in the THz spectral region*- Gaia Di Carlo, Master's degree holder
- *Manipulating light with micrometric trampolines* - Chiara Brugnoli, Master's degree holder
- *Light and nanocrystals to measure temperature on the nanometer scale* - Pietro Lenzi, Master's degree holder
- *Role of light in spatial maps of ion velocity* -Piergiorgio Laterza, Master student
- *Are cells playing tug-of-war?* - Tommaso Riso, Master's degree holder
- *Light in ATLAS hadron calorimeters* - Martina Cucinotta, PhD student

You will be able to visit 4 different laboratories of the University of Pisa:

- *Optomechanics laboratory*
- *Photonics laboratory*
- *Rydger energy levels*
- *Biophysics*

Poster session students:

- Kieran Fergurson, Using OFDM for Visible light Communications
- Federico Spinello, Interferometric holography
- Chiara Masia, Implementation of optimal SNR calculation in pygrb workflow
- Tommaso Riso, Are cells playing tug-of-war?
- Pietro Lenzi, Light and nanocrystals to measure temperature on the nanometer scale

Last social event:

- Our last social event will take place in a popular pub in Pisa: The Scare Crow - Lo spaventapasseri. Attendance is not obligatory but encouraged. The pub also has an eating menu, mainly burgers and appetizers, if you want to have dinner there! Just let us know in advance. Remember, though, that you can decide to eat anywhere you would like, including our suggestions in the flyer in your Google Drive folder.
- Consumption is required by the pub, so prepare your beers for this last social event, which will have some fun games: trivia, exercises, slideshows of photos, and some prizes. Check our **LoT game**.

Tuesday 19/05

7:00	Wake up, breakfast, and check out	Hotel Moderno
8:30	Transfer to CNR	bus line 3+
9:00	CNR-INO Lab Visits	CNR Research Area of Pisa
12:20	Transfer to the Scuola Normale Superiore	bus line 3+
12:50	Cocktail lunch	Courtyard Palazzo della Carovana, Scuola Normale Superiore
14:00	Synthesising and Integrating Graphene for Photonic and Quantum Applications Camilla Coletti, NEST, Italian Institute of Technology, research area of Pisa	Sala degli stemmi, Palazzo della Carovana, Scuola Normale Superiore
14:45	Closing Ceremony	Sala degli stemmi, Palazzo della Carovana, Scuola Normale Superiore
15:20	End of the event	

DETAILS:

Check out

You need to check out of your room by 8.30, but you can leave your biggest baggage in the baggage room of the hotel, so you are more comfortable during the tour of CNR-INO. You can come collect them later!

You will be able to visit 2 different laboratories at CNR-INO:

- *Intense Laser Beams Laboratory*- Lorenzo Fulgentini
- *Supersolids and Dysprosium laboratory* - Andrea Fioretti

We'll take one last group photo so **don't forget to bring your LoT26 tshirt from your welcome kit!**

Institutional Speakers:

- Prof. Maria Giuseppina Bisogni, Vice-director of the Department of Physics, University of Pisa
- Prof. Stefano Roddaro, President of the Degree of Physics, University of Pisa
- Prof. Alessandro Schiesaro, director of the Scuola Normale Superiore
- Federico Canterucci, President of the Italian Association of Physics Students
- Julia Favaro, co-coordinator of Lights of Tuscany 2026
- Ismaele Bartoluccio, co-coordinator of Lights of Tuscany 2026
- You will receive your **participation certificate** after our closing statements. If you have to leave early, just let us know: we'll arrange for you to have your own certificate before your departure!

Useful links

- Tuscany bus system: [Autolinee Toscana](#)
- Italian national train system: [Trenitalia](#)
- Hotel in Pisa: [Hotel moderno](#)
- Hostel in Firenze: [a&o Firenze Campo di Marte](#)
- National Institute of Nuclear Physics: [INFN](#)
- European Laboratory of Non Linear Spectroscopy: [LENS](#)
- European Gravitational Observatory: [EGO](#)
- National Institute of Optics (National Council of Research): [CNR-INO](#)
- Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri: [INAF - OOA](#)
- Scuola Normale Superiore: [SNS](#)
- Physics at the University of Pisa: [UniPi](#)
- Physics at the University of Florence: [UniFi](#)
- Italian Association of Physics Students: [AISF](#)