

SIENA ABROAD IDENTITY SERIES:

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Studying abroad grants you the unique opportunity to explore world religions and the roles they play in different cultures. Whether you consider yourself to be spiritual, regularly practice a particular religion, or neither, you will encounter various, deeply-rooted religious aspects of your host country(ies). Understanding and appreciating these elements of society and how they influence both your host country's culture and your time abroad are crucial to an immersive experience.

questions to consider

- What do I know about the religion(s) of my host country and the role religion plays in society?
- What is the attitude of people in my host country towards other religions?
- How are religious holidays observed and celebrated? Will I want to participate?
- How will people perceive my religion? Is my religion legal in my host country?
- Will I have access to my religion's places of worship or religious groups? If not, how will I adjust my religious practice while abroad?
- Will my religion's holidays be observed and celebrated in my host country? If not, how will I plan to observe holidays?
- Will my religious dietary restrictions be accommodated in my host country?
- If I plan to live in a homestay while abroad, am I open to living in a homestay with a similar or diverse religious background from myself?

resources

- [Religious Diversity Abroad](#) (article)
- [Religion & Spirituality Resources](#) (IES Abroad)
- [International Religious Freedom Report](#) (U.S. Dept. of State)
- [NYU Religion and Spiritual Life](#) (YouTube)
- ["Reflections on Studying Abroad as a Muslim Woman"](#) (blog post)

