

World66's guide to Florence

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Florence

Florence is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Located in the heart of Tuscany, a stunning province of hills and mountains, the Renaissance capital of the world, with famous sons like Leonardo, Dante, Machiavelli and Michelangelo, is a sight not to be missed.

The world famous Duomo with the Brunelleschi cupola and the marble clad baptistry are simply stupendous, but not all the monuments are like this. The streets of the historic town centre are often narrow and dark, the palaces robust and intimidating. But have a look at the squares – wonderful mediterranean places where you will like spending hours sitting down, having a caffe and just watching people passing by.

However, Florence is a city of incomparable pleasure concerning churches, monasteries, museums, galleries and palaces. Among the things you can't afford to miss are the Uffizi Galleries, one of the best art museums in the world, the cathedral with the baptistry, the Santo Spirito church and the Ponte Vecchio. To get a great overview of the city, head for Piazza Michelangelo in Oltrarno (other side of river Arno) or farther up to the church of San Miniato.

The surroundings of Florence have many things to offer to the visitor as well as does the whole Florence Province. You can explore this region for weeks without being bored. For these day trips the city of Florence is the perfect starting point.

Florence – Sights

Florence is packed with sights. From the Middle Ages onward the Florentines have been very busy constructing palazzi, churches and convents. For more than 400 years it has been one of the leading cultural cities in Italy.

In Florence – the city of Dante – the Italian language was born. With Petrarch and Boccaccio the study of literature found its main centre here. Humanism brought new philosophical ideas and a full appreciation of classicism. Machiavelli inaugurated the new political science: Guicciardini introduced modern historical prose: Galileo and his school created and developed experimental science. As far back as Charlemagne, Florence has had a University, which today includes numerous faculties and a wide range of Institutes with a specialized Centre for foreigners. Academies and arts schools, scientific institutes such as the "Osservatorio Astrofisico" at Arcetri, the Institute of Research in Electromagnetic Waves, the Centre for Nuclear Medicine, all contribute to the intense activity of the city in this particular field, so too the foreign universities and the various centres of History of Art and popular culture.

Among the many science museums of special interest are the Museum of History of Science, the Museum of Geology and Paleontology, the Museum of Botany, the Museum of Mineralogy, that of Anthropology and Ethnology, and of course the glorious "Specola". Vast collections of bibliographies are kept in the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale and in other famous libraries such as the Mediceo–Laurenziana, the Riccardiana and the Marucelliana. Many priceless documents are kept in the Archivio di Stato and the Archivio Comunale

all

Piazza della Repubblica

Build between 1890 and 1917, after the demolishing of the medieval Florentine town center. This square is at about the same location as the roman fortress once was. The statue of prosperity on the column is a copy of the one kept in the Palazzo della Casa di Risparmio.

The square is surrounded by banks and by terraces.

Mercato Centrale

Not far from the San Lorenzo complex is the Mercato Centrale, or central market, a fine example of late 19th century steel and glass architecture. I kj Venture inside to see the many interesting displays of fresh meats, veggies, fruits and pastas

Santa Croce

This Franciscan basilica was begun in 1295 to plans by Arnolfo di Cambio. It contains countless artworks, including Giotto's famous frescoes in the Peruzzi and Bardi chapels, and it is universally famous as the final resting place of several great Italians. The most important monuments include the tomb of Alfieri by Canova, the tomb of Leonardo Bruni by Rossellino and the tomb of Carlotta Bonaparte by Bartolini.

address: Piazza Santa Croce

Palazzo Pitti

The Pitti Palace was begun during the second half of the fifteenth century by Luca Pitti, but was unfinished at his death in 1472. Tradition says that the palace was designed by Filippo Brunelleschi (1377–1446) and built by his pupil Luca Fancelli. The original construction on two floors above a ground floor with only five windows on each floor, was bought in 1550 by Cosimo I de' Medici's wife, Eleonora of Toledo and became the official residence of the grand ducal family. The palace was then enlarged and altered; from 1560 date the grandiose courtyard and the two lateral wings, designed by Bartolomeo Ammanati (1511–1592) and the complete rearrangement of the gardens. Under Cosimo II de' Medici (died 1621) the opening up of the view was begun together with the layout of the piazza, carried out to the designs of Giulio and Alfonso Parigi.

The facade then assumed its present appearance, with the exception of the two projecting pavilions, built under the House of Lorraine and completed only in the first half of the nineteenth century by G.M. Paoletti and P. Poccianti, also the architect of the Meridiana pavilion at the rear of the palace. Most of the internal decoration of the Pitti was executed during the seventeenth century by Giovanni da San Giovanni, Piefro da Cortona, il Volterrano and Anton Domenico Gabbiani, with the important subsequent work of Sebastiano Ricci (1659–1734). As regards the domestic life of the palace, we know that it housed many members of the family. The rooms on the left of the facade were reserved for the Grand Duke, those on the right for the heir and the lateral wings on the first floor for their respective wives. The front rooms on the second floor contained the large palace library, while at the sides lived the children. The ground floor to the left contained the summer apartment of the Grand Duke, there was a mezzanine reserved for his private use.

Today, the palace and the Boboli gardens behind it contain some of the most important Florentine museums. On the first floor is the Palatine Gallery, on the ground floor and mezzanine the Silver Museum ("degli Argenti") and the Gallery of Modern Art is on the top floor. In the separate Palazzina del Cavaliere on the upper slopes of the Boboli gardens is the Porcelain Museum, while in the Palazzina of the Meridiana the Costume Gallery can be found.

address: Piazza Pitti 1
 openinghours: 8.30–13.50
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 213 440

Piazzale Michelangelo

Piazzale Michelangelo was built in 1869 to plans by Giuseppe Poggi; it offers a splendid panorama of the city. In the middle of this plaza stand bronze copies of Michelangelos "David" and the four statues on the tombs in the Medici Chapels.

Just above Piazzale Michelangelo is the basilica of San Miniato al Monte. Its green and white marble façade is considered one of the finest examples of the Florentine Romanesque style. Built between the 11th and 13th centuries, it contains fine artworks such as the chapel of the "Crucifixion" by Michelozzo and the chapel of the Cardinal of Portugal both decorated by Luca della Robbia and the splendid frescoes by Spinello Aretino, depicting "Scenes from the Life of St. Benedict".

The district of Santo Spirito in Oltrarno

This picturesque neighborhood populated by craftsmen, restorers and antique dealers, gets its name from the Church of Santo Spirito. The church is only one of the major sights, together with the Palazzo Pitti and the Piazzale Michelangelo.

Piazza Signoria

A welcome refresher after spilling out of the chaos on Via Calzaiuoli, Piazza Signoria is home to the Palazzo Vecchio, the Uffizi, and a loggia housing some of the most beautiful and famous statues of the world, including Giambologna's "The Rape of the Sabines" and Cellini's "The Triumphant Perseus." A marker in the square decorates the spot where Savonarola was executed for heresy in 1498.

Santo Spirito

The church was designed by Brunelleschi and begun in 1444, it is one of the most beautiful examples of Renaissance architecture. The interior, in the shape of a Latin cross with three naves, is pure Brunelleschian style. The sacristy was built to plans by Giuliano da Sangallo. Next to the church is the Cenacle of Santo Spirito, where there is still a fragment of the "Last Supper" by Andrea Orcagna

address: Piazza S. Spirito

Santa Maria Novella

Begun in 1246 for Dominican friars, the church was completed in 1360. Leon Battista Alberti who designed the upper part completed the white and green marble Gothic–Romanesque façade.

Inside the church there are splendid masterpieces including "The Trinity" by Masaccio, frescoes by Filippino Lippi and Ghirlandaio in the Tornabuoni chapel, a Crucifix by Giotto and a wooden Crucifix by Brunelleschi.

address: Piazza Santa Maria Novella
 openings: cloister: weekdays 9am–2pm, holidays 8am–1pm, closed Fri, entrance L
 4.000
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 282187

Brancacci Chapel and Museum (Sta. Maria del carmine)

This chapel is famous throughout the world for its frescoes by Masaccio, a masterpiece of Renaissance painting; it is located in the 13th century church of Santa Maria del Carmine. Masolino was commissioned to do the frescoes and he began work in 1424 with the help of Masaccio. When Masaccio left Florence, Filippino Lippi completed the frescoes after 1480.

address: Piazza del Carmine
 openings: weekdays 10am–5pm, holidays 1–5pm, closed on Tue, entr. L. 6.000 (red. L. 3000)
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 2382195

San Lorenzo

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, consecrated the original church that stood on this site in 393. Cosimo the Elder had it enlarged and remodeled by Brunelleschi. Inside there are works by Rosso Fiorentino, Desiderio da Settignano, Donatello and Bronzino. The church is flanked by the splendid, square-shaped Old Sacristy by Brunelleschi and the New Sacristy, by Michelangelo (1524), that houses the Medici family tombs. Along with the Baroque Chapel of the Princes, the New Sacristy comprises the museum of the Medici Chapels. To the left of the church is the Laurentian Library, also designed by Michelangelo, by order of the Medici family who wanted a place to conserve their fine collections of books, papyri and manuscripts.

address: Piazza San Lorenzo

Il Duomo, Santa Maria del Fiore

Arnolfo di Cambio who began construction in 1296 designed Santa Maria del Fiore, the Gothic cathedral erected over the ancient basilica of Santa Reparata. Brunelleschi completed it in 1436 with the elegant dome, the inside of which was entirely frescoed by Vasari and Zuccari. The final phase in the construction of the cathedral, that is the completion of the façade, dates from the mid–19th century.

To the right of the cathedral rises the Bell Tower, or Campanile, designed by Giotto in 1334. The square tower is covered with red, green and white marble inlays, decorated with panels and carvings, and made graceful by double- and triple-windows.

Opposite the Cathedral stands the green and white marble Baptistery of San Giovanni (1128), a masterpiece of Florentine Romanesque architecture. The interior of the dome is decorated with mosaics. The splendid bronze doors (including the Door of Paradise) were made by Andrea Pisano and Lorenzo Ghiberti.

address: Piazza Duomo
 openings: Belltower: winter 9am–4.20pm. Summer 8.30am–6.50pm. Entr. L 5.000. Cupola: weekdays 10am–5pm, closed on Sun, entr. L 5.000.
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 2302885

Santa Felicita

Inside this church, in the Capponi chapel is Pontormos painting of the "Deposition" (1525–28) which is considered one of the masterpieces of Florentine Mannerism.

Cappelle Medicee

address: Piazza M.d. Aldobran

openings: Lit. 11000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2388602

Santa Trinita

This church, built in the second half of the 11th century, was enlarged and modified according to the Gothic style in the early 14th century. The pietra forte façade was made to designs by Buontalenti towards the end of the 16th century. The major artworks inside the church are the Sassetti Chapel with the fresco cycle depicting "Scenes from the Life of St. Francis of Assisi" and the panel painting of the "Adoration of the Shepherds" by Domenico Ghirlandaio (1483–86). *D:Orsanmichele Originally this building, a loggia designed by Arnolfo di Cambio (1209), was a granary and market. Only later did it become a house of worship: the loggia arcades were closed off by Simone Talenti and the exterior embellished with Florentine Gothic sculptures and edículas.

Santissima Annunziata

Founded in 1250 and then expanded over the centuries, this is one of the most important churches in Florence. The Cloister of the Voti and the Cloister of the Morti contain frescoes by Andrea del Sarto, Rosso Fiorentino, Franciabigio and Pontormo. Inside the temple of the Annunziata, designed by Michelozzo, there is an image of the Virgin Mary that is considered miraculous.

address: Piazza SS. Annunziata

Cenacle of Ghirlandaio

Domenico Ghirlandaio's painting of the Last Supper, of which even the synopia is visible, graces the former refectory of the monastery adjacent to the Church of Ognissanti.

Convent of Santa Maria Maddalena de Pazzi

The Chapter Room of the convent is decorated with Peruginos famous fresco of the "Crucifixion" (1493–96).

The Badia Fiorentina

The city's oldest monastery (978) is just a short distance from the Bargello museum. Here there is a masterpiece by Filippino Lippi. And nearby in the Palazzo Nonfinito is the rich Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology, while the Museo Casa di Dante (Dantes house) is right behind the Badia.

Hospital of Innocents

address: Piazza SS. Annunziata, 12

openings: weekdays 8.30am–2pm, holidays 8.30am–1pm, closed Wednesdays, entrance L. 3.000

tel: +30 (0)55 – 2477952

Convento di San Marco

Michelozzo rebuilt and expanded this convent for Cosimo the Elder, and it still contains the splendid frescoes that Beato Angelico painted to decorate the monks cells. Inside there is also a beautiful library that Michelozzo designed in 1448; this, the first public library of the Renaissance, contains many fine illuminated manuscripts.

The church of San Marco that stands alongside the convent was redesigned by Michelozzo.

Convento dello Scalzo

The Cloister "Dello Scalzo" is located in Via Cavour; it contains monochrome frescoes by Andrea del Sarto portraying "Scenes from the Life of St. John the Baptist" and two "Allegories of Virtue".

Cenacle of SantApollonia

The entrance to the cenacle of SantApollonia is on Via XXVII Aprile; on the back wall there is a "Last Supper" by Andrea del Castagno.

Plazzo Pandolfini

Still owned by the Pandolfini family, this palazzo was commissioned by Giannozzo Pandolfini, Archbishop of Troia, in 1520, after a design by Rafaël.

address: Via San Gallo 74

Palazzo Rucellai

Bernardo Rossellino built this palazzo between 1446 and 1458, for Giovanni Rucellai after designs by Leon Battista Alberti. Not like the Medici or Strozzi palazzi, this palazzo is basically a façade in front of some older buildings owned by the Rucellai family. The façade was never finished, one can still see the intention of expanding it to the right.

Today the Palazzo Rucellai houses the Museo di Storia della Fotografia Fratelli Alinari, dedicated to the history of photography. The loggia is also attributed to Alberti.

address: Via della Vigna Nuova 18

Palazzo Medici Riccardi

This is the most typical example of privately commissioned Renaissance architecture. Cosimo the Elder commissioned Michelozzo to design a palace in 1444. Inside there is an elegant courtyard, a small Italian garden and the famous chapel with Benozzo Gozzoli's fresco the "Procession of the Magi" (1459).

Palazzo Vecchio

This is the most important civil building in the city; construction, to plans by Arnolfo di Cambio, was begun in 1299. It was the seat of the Priori delle Arti, of the Signoria and the ducal residence; over the centuries it was remodelled several times. Michelozzo later modified the 14th century courtyard, graced with the fountain with the putto, a copy of Verrocchio's original. Inside, it is worth seeing the Salone dei Cinquecento, the study of Francesco I, the room of the Elements and the Sala dei Gigli.

address: Piazza Signoria

openings: Lit. 11000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2768325

Palazzo Davanzati

This building dates from the mid-14th century. The antique dealer Elia Volpi purchased it in the early years of the 20th century and restored and furnished it, to recreate a period Florentine home. The many rooms, several of which are decorated with frescoes and fine coffered ceilings, contain carved and inlaid furniture, chests,

benches, paintings, tapestry, sculptures, ceramics, items used every day and in the kitchens. Its one of the finest examples of trecento palazzi in Florence, though the loggia is an addition of the 15th century.

address: Via Porta Rossa 9

Palazzo Strozzi

Filippo Strozzi the Elder commissioned Benedetto da Maiano to build this palace. He began working in 1489 and was replaced by Cronaca who built the cornice and courtyard. Palazzo Strozzi is one of the finest expressions of Renaissance architecture.

Museo Nazionale del Bargello

This building dates from 1255, when it was built as the seat of the "Capitano del Popolo", the commander of the local militia. Later it became the seat of the "Podestà" and then of the Capitano di Giustizia (the magistrate) or "Bargello", from which it gets its name. Since 1859 it has been the home of the National Museum dedicated to sculpture and the minor arts. It contains masterpieces by Brunelleschi, Michelangelo, Cellini, Giambologna, and Donatello along with priceless ivories, enamels, jewels, tapestries and weapons.

address: Via Proconsolo 4

openings: 9am–2pm – closed Mon. / Entrance L. 8.000

tel: +39 (0)55 2388606

Museo dell'Opera di Santa Croce

The Museo dell'Opera contains renowned artworks such as the "Crucifix" by Cimabue, frescoes by Taddeo Gaddi and Andrea Orcagna and the graceful Pazzi Chapel designed by Brunelleschi.

address: Piazza S. Croce, 16

openings: summer: 10am–12.30pm – 2.30–6.30pm / winter: 10am–12.30 pm – 3–5pm – Closed Wed, Entr. L 3.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 244619

Museum of Santa Maria Novella

The Museo di Santa Maria Novella is adjacent to the church. Here you can admire the splendid Green Cloister frescoed by Paolo Uccello and his school. In the Chapter Room, known as the "Cappellone degli Spagnoli" is a famous fresco by Bonaiuto. Just a short distance from the church is the Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella, where perfumes, soaps and fragrances are made and sold in a Neogothic setting.

address: Piazza Santa Maria Novella

tel: +39 (0)55 – 282187

Carnielo Gallery

address: Piazza Savonarola 3

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2616539

Palatine Gallery

address: inside Pitti Palace

openings: 9am– 7pm, closed on Mondays, entrance L
12.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2388611

Sinagogue and Jewish Museum of Florence

address: Via Farini, 4

openings: Sun & Thu 10am–1pm & 2–5pm, Fri 10am–1pm. Entrance L 5.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 245252

Museo Marino Marini

The deconsecrated church of S. Pancrazio houses the museum dedicated to Marino Marini, one of the foremost 20th century Italian sculptors. Near the museum, in the Rucellai Chapel is the extraordinary Temple of the Holy Sepulchre by Leon Battista Alberti.

address: Piazza S. Pancrazio

openings: 10am–5pm (Thu till 10pm), closed on Tuesdays and Sundays, entrance
L.8.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 219432

Uffizi Gallery Galleria degli Uffizi

The Uffizi Gallery, founded in Florence in 1581, by the De Medici family, is one of the oldest museums in the world. Many important works of Italian and other schools, dating from between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries, are kept here, including the largest existing collection of Tuscan Renaissance paintings.

The Uffizi Palace was constructed in the mid–sixteenth century by the architect Giorgio Vasari (1511–1574) in the period when Cosimo de' Medici, first Grand Duke of Tuscany, was bureaucratically consolidating his recent takeover of power. Built in the form of a horse shoe extending from Piazza Signoria to the River Arno and linked with Palazzo Vecchio by a bridge over the street, the Uffizi were intended to house the offices of the magistrature (Uffizi = offices). From the beginning however, the Medici set aside certain rooms on the third floor to house the finest works from their collections; two centuries later, in 1737, thanks to the far–seeing generosity of the last heir of the family, Anna Maria Luisa, their collection became permanent public property. The Gallery now consists of forty–five rooms where the paintings are arranged in chronological order from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Among them are some of the most famous and representative paintings of Italian, and in particular Tuscan, art, but there are also important sections devoted to Flemish, French, Dutch and German painters. Apart from its paintings, the Uffizi exhibits ancient Roman sculpture and sixteenth century sculpture; these are all seen in the three corridors whose ceilings are frescoed with grotesques.

On the ground floor the remains of the old Romanesque church of S. Pier Scheraggio partly destroyed by Vasari to build the Uffizi, have been recently restored; the frescoes of "Famous Men" by Andrea del Castagno (1421–c. 1457) are exhibited here. On the second floor is the Prints and Drawings Department, housing a very rich collection begun by Cardinal Leopoldo de' Medici (17th century). Occasional public exhibitions in the adjoining room show selections from this collection. The Uffizi is the most important and most visited museum of Florence. Following their natural layout, we find in the first of the rooms the great altarpieces of Cimabue and Giotto, humanized images of God and the earliest examples of the new art the Renaissance. After these comes the Sienese elegance of Duccio, Simone Martini and Lorenzetti, together with the robust

school of Giotto (13th–15th centuries; Rooms 3 & 4).

Then follows the International Gothic Style; two examples of the Adoration of the Magi by Gentile da Fabriano and Lorenzo Monaco (early 15th century; Rooms 5 & 6).

The Uffizi's best-known rooms are dedicated to Florentine painting on the eve of the Renaissance (15th century); in Room 7 we find works by Masaccio, Paolo Uccello, Domenico Veneziano, Fra' Angelico and Piero della Francesca. Then follow the elegant Madonnas of Filippo Lippi, Pollaiuolo's delightful little panels, and finally, in the newly-restored main room the mythological allegories and religious paintings of Botticelli. This unique group includes the Birth of Venus, the Primavera, the Madonnas "of the Magnificat" and "of the Pomegranate". Passing to Leonardo da Vinci and Verrocchio (Room 15) we find the Baptism of Christ by both masters, and the Adoration of the Magi by Leonardo alone. The following rooms (16–23) are the oldest, in the gallery and the Tribuna deserves a special visit as the former setting for the most precious works of art in the collection. After this is a series of rooms used by the Medici as armouries and now containing more Renaissance works by Bellini, Giorgione, Perugino, Signorelli and the German and Flemish schools including Durer, Cranach, Memmling and David (15th – 16th centuries).

After the Miniature Room and the Second Corridor with its splendid view of the Arno, Room 25 opens the series of rooms devoted to sixteenth century painting. With the Holy Family ("The Doni Tondo") by Michelangelo are found the works of Raphael (Madonna of the Goldfinch) and Titian (Venus of Urbino, Flora). The section of Mannerist paintings is particularly rich, ranging from Pontormo to Rosso Fiorentino, Bronzino and Parmigianino (Madonna with the Long Neck). Venetian art of the period is well represented by Sebastiano del Piombo, Veronese and the room dedicated to Tintoretto. Barocci of Urbin also has a special room, where his Madonna of the People is shown, and El Greco is represented by Two Saints, acquired recently. Room 41 contains the works of Rubens, (1577–1640). The Uffizi owns the robust but affectionate portrait of the artist's wife and the two huge canvases with the Triumphs of Henry IV of France. The seventeenth century is well represented by Caravaggio (Young Bacchus, Abraham and Isaac), Annibale Carracci (Baccante), and Claude Lorrain (Seaport with Villa Medici) followed by an exceptional collection of Dutch and Flemish subject pictures and genre (Room 44).

The 18th century Niobe Room with its white and gold plasterwork contains the marble group of Niobe and her Children for which it was specially constructed.

Italian and French eighteenth century paintings are preserved in the Gallery's last room and include Tiepolo, Guardi, Nattier, Chardin and Goya, all representing the finest art of the late eighteenth century and the early nineteenth.

The visitor to the Uffizi may also visit the famous Vasari corridor linking the Uffizi and Pitti Palaces across the Ponte Vecchio. Apart from the delightful views of the city through the corridor's circular windows, its entire length contains around 700 works, some of the 17th and 18th centuries in addition to the celebrated and unique self-portrait collection. (A visit to the corridor may be booked in advance through the Museum secretary).

The Uffizi Gallery

Galleria degli Uffizi

email: info@uffizi.firenze.it

address: Piazza Uffizi

url: www.uffizi.firenze.it

openings: Tue Sun 8.15am 7pm, closed on Mondays, Lit. 12000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2388699

Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza – History of Science Institute and Museum

Palazzo Castellani houses the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, containing the Medici collections of scientific instruments that was enriched by the Lorraine rulers, along with Galileo Galilei's original instruments.

address: Piazza Giudici, 1

openings: weekdays 9.30am–1pm, Mon., Wed, Fri. 2–5pm, Sun. and holidays closed, entrance L10.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 293493

Museo Zoologico la Specola – La Specola Museum

This museum contains a rich zoological collection of both existing and extinct animals, but above all it is famous for its collection of 18th century anatomical wax figures by Gaetano Zumbo: it is considered the finest in the world for beauty and quality.

address: Via Romana, 17

openings: 9am–12am – Holidays 9am–1pm, closed from August 13th–17th, entrance L 6.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 222451

Porcelain Museum

address: Boboli Gardens (Pitti Palace)

openings: 9am–2pm, closed on Mondays. entrance L. 8.000 (Ticket also valid for Silver Museum)

tel: +39 (0)55 – 213440

Silver Museum

address: inside Pitti Palace

openings: 9am– 2pm, entrance L. 8.000, closed 2nd/4th Sunday and 1st/3rd/5th Monday of month.

tel: +39 (0)55 – 294279

Modern Art Gallery

address: inside Pitti Palace

openings: 9am–2pm, entrance L. 4.000, closed 2nd/4th Sunday and 1st/3rd/5th Monday of month.

tel: +39 (0)55 – 287096

Museo Bardini – Bardini Museum and Corsi Gallery

This museum contains the fine collection of art objects bequeathed to the city by the antique dealer Stefano Bardini. The many masterpieces of painting and sculpture include works by Nicola Pisano, Tino da Camaino, Pollaiuolo and Donatello.

address: Piazza de' Mozzi 1
 openings: weekdays 9am–2pm, holidays 8am–1pm, closed wed, entr. L 5.000 (red L 2.500)
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 2342427

Museo Firenze Com'era

address: 24 Via Oriuolo
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 2398483

Raccolta Arte Contemporanea Alberto della Regione

address: 5 Piazza Signoria
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 283078

Museo della Fondazione Horne

This museum contains fine collections of artistic and crafted items dated from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries donated to the city of Florence at the beginning of the 20th century by Herbert Percy Horne. This English antique dealer recreated a noble Renaissance residence in his home; one of the most interesting pieces is a "St. Stephen" attributed to Giotto.

address: Via de ' Benci 6
 openings: weekdays 9am–1pm – Closed on holidays, entrance L 6.000 (reduced L. 2.500)
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 244661

Potography history Museum

address: 16 Via della Vigna Nuova
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 213370

House of Dante

address: Via S. Margherita, 1
 openings: daily 10am – 6pm, closed Tuesdays, entrance L. 5.000 (Red. L. 3.000)
 tel: +39 (0)55 – 283343

Galleria della Accademia

This is one of the best known museums in Florence, because it houses famous sculptures by Michelangelo, including the "David". There are also many paintings, collected by the Grand Duke Peter Leopold to help the young artists enrolled in the Accademia d'Arte, which is still next door to the gallery.

address: Via Ricasoli 58–60
 openings:

9am–7pm, holidays: 9am – 2pm, closed Mondays, entrance
L.12.000

tel: +39 (0)55 2388609 or 23885

University Museums and Botanical Gardens

The entrance to several of the University's scientific museums are on Via La Pira: Geology and Paleontology, Mineralogy and Lithology and the Botanical Gardens, or "Giardino dei Semplici", founded by the Medici and then enriched under the Lorraine rule; the Botanical Museum, on the other hand, dates from the 19th century.

address: Via Micheli, 3

openings: Mon, Wed Fri 9 – 12pm, Sat. garden only, closed August 13th–17th, entrance
free

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2757402

Archeological Museum

This collection, begun by the Medici and continued by the Lorraine, contains many important items related to Etruscan art and civilization such as the "Chimera of Arezzo", the "Orator" and the "Minerva of Arezzo", as well as several tombs that are in the garden. The Greek and Egyptian sections are also quite noteworthy, in fact, this is one of the major archeological museums in Italy.

address: Via della Colonna, 36

openings: 9am–2pm (guided visits for groups), closed on Mondays, entrance L. 6.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 23575

Museo dell'Opera del Duomo

The Museo dell'Opera del Duomo houses artworks from Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistery and the Campanile, including sculptures that had been made for the cathedral façade. The most important works in the museum are by Michelangelo ("Pietà"), Donatello ("Mary Magdalen", "Cantoria"), Arnolfo di Cambio ("Boniface VIII"), Luca della Robbia ("Cantoria").

address: Piazza Duomo, 9

openings: weekdays 9am–6pm (winter), 9am–7.30pm (summer), 9am–1pm (holidays), entr. L. 5.000,
closed on Sun

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2302885

Stibbert Museum

The sixty rooms of the Museo Stibbert contain the collection of Federico Stibbert consisting of weapons and ancient armour, jewellery and furnishings. Of particular interest is the celebrated Cavalcade, made up of fourteen armed knights wearing sixteenth-century costumes.

address: Via F. Stibbert 26

openings: weekdays 9am–1pm, holidays 9am–12.30pm, closed Thur, entr. L.
8.000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 486049 or 475520

Anthropology Museum

address: Via Proconsolo,12

openings: Thur., Fri. and Sat. & 3rd Sun. of the month: 9am–1pm, entr. free

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2396449

House of Buonarroti

address: Via Ghibellina, 70

openings: 9.30am–1.30pm, closed Tuesdays, entrance L 8.000 (red. L. 6.000)

tel: +30 (0)55 – 241752

Boboli Park

Openings:

9am – 4.30pm from Nov. to Feb.

9am–5.30pm Mar., Oct.

9am 6.30pm Apr., May, Sept.

9am–7.30pm June, July, Aug.

Entr. L 5.000

address: Piazza pitti 1

tel: +39 (0)55 – 219397 or 213370

Petraia Garden

address: Via Petraia 38

openings: Lit.4000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2651838

Castello Garden

address: Via Castello 44

openings: Lit.4000

tel: +39 (0)55 – 45791

Pandolfini Garden

address: Via Guardiavia 18

tel: +39 (0)55 – 265171

Park of Villa Ventaglio

address: Via Aldini, 12

openings: 9am – 5pm

tel: +39 (0)55 – 5802837

Villa Demidoff Park

address: Via Bolognese – Pratolino

openings: Open from May till September on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays – Hours 10am–8pm – Entrance L4.000 – Free on Fridays.

tel: 477967

Florence – Getting Around

A city bus runs every 20 minutes from the main train station (Santa Maria Novella) to Amerigo Vespucci airport. There's a train service between the main station and Galileo Galilei airport.

Buses service the city centre and Fiesole in the hills north–east of town. Bus tickets can be bought at tobacconists or vending machines and must be validated as you get on the bus. Tickets are sold on a time basis – you can get one hour two hour and 24 hour tickets.

Traffic is restricted in the city centre so it's best to park a little out of town and walk around – parking in the more central areas is very expensive. Taxis are outside Stazione di Santa Maria Novella or you can ring one.

Florence – Getting There

Florence, a city with a population of around half a million inhabitants, spreads on the banks of the Arno, between the Adriatic and the Tyrrhenian seas, almost in the middle of the Italian peninsula. It is a city which bustles with industry and craft, commerce and culture, art and science. Being on the main national railway lines, it is easily accessible from most important places both in Italy and abroad.

The Amerigo Vespucci airport (Florence), where both national and international airlines stop, is located 5 kilometres from the city centre.

The main motorway (A1) connects Florence with Bologna and Milano in the North and Rome and Naples in the South. The motorway to the sea (Autostrada del Mare) joins it to Prato, Pistoia, Montecatini, Lucca, Pisa and all the resorts on the Tyrrhenian sea. There is also the Superstrada (a dual–carriageway) which connects Florence to Siena.

Florence – Nightlife and Entertainment

all

Sottosopra

Disco and bar with a warm and familiar atmosphere that, from 18.30 on, the heterogenous clientele of Sottosopra chooses to consume its aperitif. Sottosopra offers, since five years by now, the possibility of living the most amazing dance music nights by alternating musical kinds and DJs. Extended in two floors, Sottosopra hosts inside its typical (but at the same time happy and a little crazy) ambiance, all those who still want to meet people while dancing and talking in a young and restricted atmosphere. Anyway, to know it for real you have no other choice than to try to understand why they call it sottosopra (Downunder), entrance is free drinks are optional.

address: Via de Seragli 48r, Firenze

tel: +39 (0)55 – 282 340

Rifrullo

young clientele, nice spot.

address: Via San Nicolo 55

Bar & Enoteca Fuori Porta

They offer dozens of Italian and foreign wines, nice atmosphere.

email: info@fuoriporta.it

address: Via Monte alle Croci, 10r, 50125 Firenze

url: www.fuoriporta.it

openinghours: 12.30 – 15.30 & 19.00 – 0.30, closed on sundays

tel: +39 (0)55 – 23 42 483

Dolce Vita

Trendy hangout with small-scale art exhibitions.

address: Piazza del Carmine

url: www.florence.ala.it

Tiratoio

A large easy-going place with a couple of video jukeboxes and a wide range of food.

address: Piazza de Nerli

Rex

Located in the Santa Croce district – good music, varied clientele, serves snacks and cocktails.

address: Via Fiesolana 25r

Chalet Fontana

The right spot for a quiet drink in a beautiful atmosphere – pricey but worth it.

address: Viale Michelangelo

angels

A sophisticated, trendy spot to go for a relaxing drink with friends. Student nights on Wednesdays, with 5 Euro drinks all night.

email: info@ristoranteangels.it

address: Via del Proconsolo 29/31

tel: 0552398762

url: www.ristoranteangels.it

zipcode: <http://www.ristoranteangels.it>

Tenax

Biggest disco in town and one of the leading venues for new and established bands. Located in Peretola, take bus no. 29 or 30.

Program:

every tuesday: livemusic

every thursday: college party

- concerts start at 10.30pm (till midnight)

- disco afterwards till 3am

- free entrance for students till midnight

- entrance fee 10 Euro with drink

every friday: bizzarro

- door selection

- dress code: style & attitude

- entrance fee 15 Euro with drink

- reservation tel. 0368–7325391

every saturday: nobody's perfect

- start 11pm

- entrance fee 20 Euro with drink

- door selection

– dress code: cool and smart

email: tenax@dada.it
address: Via Pratese 47r, Quartiere di Peretola, Firenze
url: www.dada.it
tel: 0368–7325391

Yab Yum

a city–centre disco with a vast dance floor playing the best of new dance music.

address: Via de' Sassetti 5r

Space Electronic

Young foreigners frequent this place—expect Americans, English and Aussies aged 20–30. Those looking to hobnob with Italian locals won't find them here! Nonetheless, the music is familiar (except maybe for the occasional "Greased Lighting"), the atmosphere is trendy and you're guaranteed to have fun.

address: Via Palazzuolo 37

Caffe Mambo

Mambo Caffè is located in the center of Florence, near Piazza Santa Croce. The Bar was started eleven years ago, changing its look and its furniture, renewing itself to offer to its customers the best. Every Thursday there is a surprise party. The Bar is open on holyday too. There in the Caffè Mambo you can find an Internet Point Service from 9,00am to 2,3am. Check out this place, it is worth visiting.

email: mambobar@dada.it
address: Via Verdi, 47/49r, Florence
openinghours: Open every day
tel: +39 (0)55 – 24 78 994

Florence – A perfect day

Upon arrival get a copy of Florence Concierge Information and Florence Today (Tourist Office) to see whats happening during the week. Then walk to the Piazza del Duomo (Cathedral Square) to see the heart of Florencethe red white and green marble Duomo otherwise known as Santa Maria del Fiore. Before entering the cathedral take time to admire the bronze doors on the Baptistery (by Pisano and Ghiberti).

Once inside climb the 463 steps to the top of Brunelleschis magnificent cupola. Even by modern standards this massive dome built in the 1400s is an impressive engineering feat; from up high youll get a magnificent view of the city and countryside. As an added bonus the restorers scaffolding has finally come down in the cupola so that the glorious 16th–century frescoes that grace the walls can be clearly seen. You can also climb, to the top of the nearby campanile (bell tower) for a view of the Duomo.

Continue on to the ancient Piazza della Signoria (to see a copy of Davidthe original is in the Accademia Gallery). Afterward take the tour of the Palazzo Vecchio but avoid the areas restaurantscompared with

restaurants elsewhere in the city the food is overpriced and often mediocre. The most celebrated and important art museum in the city is the Uffizi Gallery which has reopened since it was damaged by a car bomb in 1993 (fortunately only three paintings were destroyed). The collection includes Italian and European masterworks from the 13th to the 18th century paintings by Botticelli Hugo van der Goes Titian Rubens Caravaggio Raphael and Rembrandt among others. Like other major museums throughout Europe it is best seen in a series of shorter visits rather than all at once.

Just east of the Uffizi is the Church of Santa Croce which holds the graves of Galileo Machiavelli and Michelangelo.

Cross the Arno on the Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge) which has spanned the river since 1345. The bridge still has shops and rooms jutting out over the sides a common feature in the Middle Ages although few examples remain today. End your walking tour on the other side of the river at the Piazzale Michelangelo; have an ice cream rest and enjoy the wonderful view of Florence. Other sites on that side of the Arno are the Boboli Gardens (with a magnificent view of the domes and tile rooftops across the river) and the Medici Palazzo Pitti (with graceful Corinthian columns Roman statues and beautifully decorated rooms).

Leave some time just to stroll through the city. Allow at least half a day each to visit the Palatine Gallery (17th–century art) and the Accademia Gallery (magnificent sculptures).

On the way to the Accademia is the San Lorenzo district where you'll find the boisterous Mercato Centrale with fresh produce and pasta surrounded by street stalls selling bags belts and shoes. The market sprawls all the way to the edge of the church of San Lorenzo and the Medici Chapels with their celebrated sculptures by Michelangelo. Ask for permission to enter the lavabo (washroom) located beneath the sacristy (only a few people can enter at a time) where there are stunning coal sketches on the walls done apparently by Michelangelo during his lunch breaks while working on the Medici tombs.

Also on the way to the Accademia is one of Florence's lesser-known treasures: the Museo di San Marco the former Dominican convent that contains the starkly sublime paintings and frescoes of Fra Angelico the 15th-century friar whose work seems to anticipate centuries of artistic styles to follow. Also worthy of a visit in Florence are Santa Maria del Carmine (excellent frescoes in the Brancacci Chapel) the museum of the Bargello (an impressive collection of medieval and Renaissance sculpture including Donatello's Marzocco the lion symbol of Florence) Santa Maria Novella (beautiful exterior) and the Museum of the History of Science (which houses Galileo's telescope compass and middle finger). There is excellent shopping for ultrachic clothing and shoes and designer goods along the Via Tornabuoni.

Florence – History

Founded by the Romans in the first century B.C., Florence began its rebirth after the decadence of the barbaric ages, in the Carolingian period, and reached the highest pinnacles of civilization between the 11th and 15th centuries, as a free city, basking in a happy stability amid Imperial and Papal authorities, overcoming the unfortunate internal dispute between Guelfs and Ghibellines.

In the 15th century, it came under the rule of the Medici family, who later became the Grand Dukes of Tuscany. This in fact was the period when the city was at the height of its glory in art and culture, in politics and economic power.

The Grand Duchy of the Medicis was succeeded in the 18th century by that of the House of Lorraine, when in 1860 Tuscany became part of the Kingdom of Italy of which Florence was the capital from 1865 to 1871. In this century, this city has once more taken up its role as an important centre for culture and the arts.

Florence – Internet Cafes

all

Internet Point New Net

<Internet>

zipcode: 59100

hours: 9:30–12:30/15:00–20:00

email: newnetcenter@yahoo.it

price: 3,50/ora

address: Via G.Mazzini 61 – Prato (Po)

url: www.pointnewnet.com

tel: +39057429335

Mondial Net

fax. 055 290225

address: Via Ginori, 59/r Firenze

url: www.mondial-net.it

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2657584

Net Bar

address: Via dei Macci, 8/r Firenze

url: www.netbar.net

Into the Web

email: nylele@hotmail.com

address: Via Bonifacio Lupi, 5/7 r Firenze

url: www.nylele.it

tel: +39 (0)55 – 4627319

Internet Train 2

Open 10:00 am – 10:30pm. Prices: 5 Euro per hour. Facilities: 25 computers available, printer, scanner, video conference, aol 'friendly'. Located one block from the Duomo, large air conditioned rooms, friendly English and Spanish speaking staff. Various locations around the city.

email: oriolo@fionline.it
address: Borgo San Iacopo 30/r, Firenze
url: www.internettrain.it
tel: +39 (0)55 – 2657935

Webpuccino

Rent a cell phone, free incoming calls, \$0.24/min within Italy, even to the U.S. Plenty of computers, with scanners and digital cam hook-ups.

email: rentaphone@webpuccino.it
address: Via dei Conti 22
tel: 39–0552776469
url: www.webpuccino.it
zipcode: www.webpuccino.it

North Florence Cafe

6:00 am to 2:00 pm
5:00 pm to 10:00 pm
A small cafe that serves breakfast and lunch until 2 pm. We reopen at 5 as a coffee shop that serves deli sandwiches and features live entertainment when available.

tel: (256) 768–0072
email: fhimmler@HiWAAAY.net
hours: Monday – Saturday
1123 North Wood
Avenue
address: Florence, Alabama
35630
USA

CairoNet

Air conditioned ,music,phone center ,international phone cards,desk assistance, multilingual & technical assistance,Wifi usb and cd burning to record photos plus shipping carrier.

address: Via Faenza 49Red, Via De'Ginori 59Red
hours: 9.30/00.00
email: ilcairo@ilcairo.it
price: from 1,55 per hour
tel: 0552645552
zipcode: 50

Internet Train

IT.Firenze.Oriuolo

Two blocks from the Cathedral Santa Maria del Fiore, il Duomo, in the heart of Florence, IT. Duomo has been the first Internet store in Florence.

WebCams stereo and headset available also you can scan your documents and d

price: 3 euro / 1 hour

tel: 3,91E+11

email: quantic@fionline.it

hours: Sunday 3.00 pm–7.00 pm

address: via dell' Oriuolo, 40/r

url: www.internettrain.it

intotheweb the cyber cafe

30 DELL PCs available, printer, scanner, video conference, aol 'friendly' DSL Connection, 1 minute from the Duomo, friendly atmosphere, drinks and snacks, helpful staff.

price: from 1.90 EURO

tel: +39 055 26 45 628

email: info@intotheweb.it

hours: from 10 am to 12 am

address: via de Conti, 23/r

url: www.intotheweb.it

Florence – Things to do

Complete and numerous facilities are available for sport enthusiasts. In addition to the stadiums for football and the race courses, there is the "velodrome" for cycle races; the city offers tennis courts and swimming pools, an 18–hole golf course at Ugolino, shooting ranges, bowling; places for canoeing waterpolo; riding schools and clubs; an Aero Club, skating rinks, etc. There are modern sports compounds at Coverciano, Bellariva Cascine and at Campo di Marte.

Florence – Eating Out

Dozens of "ristoranti", "pizzerie" and typical "trattorie", located in the town centre and the surrounding hills, offer the pleasures of a gastronomy which is based on simple and healthy fare: tasty soups, roast and grilled meat (the famous "bistecca and grilled chicken"), boiled meat, cheese, an abundance of vegetables and fresh fruit, salamis and cold meats, and typical vegetable dishes.

This cuisine is accompanied by Tuscan wines, deservedly famous, produced in the Chianti and surrounding areas: the red wine which is full–bodied and full–flavoured; the white wine which is lighter; sweet wines and the famous "vinsanto".

Of course you will find several restaurants focussed on international specialties, but once you are in Florence, we strictly recommend to taste the Italian.

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Bagdad Cafe

address: Via Vittorio Emanuele II, 63 Firenze

Il Cuscussu

address: Via Farini, 2 Firenze

Caffe Greco

address: Piazza Mercato Centrale, 13/R Firenze

Mister Greek

address: Piazza Mercato Centrale, 13/R Firenze

Ganesh

address: Via del Giglio, 26/28 R Firenze

India

Located 8 km northeast of Florence in Fiesole.

address: Via Gramsci, 43/A Fiesole

Almanacco

address: Via delle Ruote, 30/R Firenze

Gauguin

address: Via degli Alfani, 24/R Firenze

Il Vegetariano

address: Via delle Ruote, 30/R Firenze

Sedano Allegro

address: Borgo La Croce, 20/R Firenze

Rivoire

A historic bar and chocolate factory. In the winter, try the Florentine hot chocolate; it's more like pudding than hot chocolate. The desserts are also great and a gift of chocolates from Rivoire is always well received. If you sit down to enjoy a cocktail or sandwich outside, bring all your postcards to write. Sitting down at this type of bar carries an outrageous surcharge! A coffee outside is three times the cost of a coffee standing at the bar. If you choose to sit, take your time and enjoy your space; you've paid for it and no one will ask you to leave.

address: Piazza Signoria, 5R
tel: +39 (0)55-214-412

Gelateria Carabé

This Sicilian ice cream parlor is a real paradise. Granite, Cassate Siciliane, and other specialties brought to you by Antonio and Loredana Lisciandra. Be sure to try one of Loredana's Cannoli Siciliani! The freshest and best you've ever tasted! Also try the lemon granita with raspberry or any of their no-guilt creamless ice creams.

address: Via Ricasoli, 60R
tel: +39 (0)55-289-476

El Matador

Open tuesday, friday and saturday, nice Spanish restaurant with charm.

address: Parco delle Cascine, Firenze
tel: +39 (0)55 - 331 371

Cikutei

address: Piazza dell'Olio, 10/R Firenze

Eito

Located 300 metres east of Palazzo Vecchio.

address: Via dei Neri, 72/R Firenze

Drago d'oro

address: Via di Novoli, 10/12/R Firenze

Cafe Caracol

A true Mexican spot in Florence. The Caracol Cafè, after celebrating ten years of activity, launches the brunch which is being very popular among Sunday custom lovers. Anna Cenni and Lorenzo Giovannini will suggest you a huge course lunch assortment. At any rate, savoury food is the main course. The chef will propose you the Chili, borracho chicken, chorizo and frijoles, scrambled eggs with bacon, pork cutlets, different kinds of soup, american rice, the quiches. So you will hardly be able to taste everything, because there are lots of courses, all at a cost of only £. 35.000. You can find there excellent music (often music groups perform on Wednesday or Thursday), the best kinds of beer, excellent tequila, and the best cocktails are the prelude for those who go to Caracol Cafè.

After you have drunk cocktails like Margarita in "Blue" and in "Fruit" versions, Mexican 55 or Tequila Sunrise, you can start with appetizers, such as Guacamole, avocado cream, tomato, onion with tostaditos, and the Quesidillas, flour base Tortillas cooked on the grill and stuffed with cheese. After, you will be able to taste some dishes like Fajitas Caracol, with a little strips of sirloin of beef cooked with mexican spices and on the smoking grill served, or else the Caracol taste, that is a assortment of Tacos, Enchiladas and Chili with frijoles, trimmed with aguacate souce and sour cream, or else the "Veracruzana" paella rice base, pork base,

chicken base, mariscos base or vegetables base. We propose you our homemade cakes, the cheese cake and the chocolate mousse.

address: Via dei Ginori, 10/r
openinghours: Closed on Monday
tel: +39 (0)55 – 21 14 27

Mex Cal Club

address: Via Ghibellina, 69/R Firenze

Divinus

The Restaurant Divinus is the last creation of Alberto Bernardoni and his associates. It follows a number of successful enterprises, such as Ganino and Il Francescano which have been able to please thousands of demanding florentine and international wine and dine lovers.

address: 35 Via Dell'Orto, Firenze
tel: +39 (0)55 – 224 148

Sabatini Restaurant

Remember to ask for the typical "bistecca alla fiorentina". Closed on Mondays.

address: Via de' Panzani 9a
tel: +39 (0)55 – 211 559

Trattoria Garibaldi

This trattoria is located close to the Mercato Centrale di San Lorenzo (the main Florentine market), just beside the beautiful Cappelle Medicee. It offers you the possibility to taste genuine Tuscan cuisine. A tourist menu offers quality with economy.

address: Piazza del Mercato Centrale, 38r
tel: +39 (0)55 – 21.22.67

Masticabrodo Osteria

Traditional osteria, closed on Sundays.

address: Borgo Allegri 58r
tel: +39 (0)55 – 241 920

Palle d'Oro

Nice place to eat. They also do take away.

address: Via Sant'Antonio 43

Ristorante alle murate

Cosy and snuggly restaurant with very friendly staff and original Italian cooking. Closed on Mondays.

address: Via Ghibellina, 52/r – Florence

tel: +39 (0)55 – 240618

Balducci

The Balducci, only 300m away from the Palazzo Vecchio, serves very genuine and typical food and an enormous degustation of wines. The Balducci family has been working in this place for long years and the place has been there for decades. Both florentine and international people have appreciated the quality of food, wine and atmosphere. It's open until sunset.

address: Via dei Neri, Firenze

Il Guscio

Just try it: We recommend lattuce pudding, grilled eggplant with tomatoes, sheepcheese with green salad, raw meat with fresh cheese, potatos gnocchi with eggplant zucchini and prawns, white beans soup with farro and black cabbage, Fillet steak with sweet wine and fois gras with spinach and mashed potatoes. And don't forget the wines !!

email: ilguscio@cosmos.it

address: Via dell'Orto 49, 50124 Firenze

tel: +39 (0)55 – 224 421

Trattoria i' parione

Decorated with style and elegance, yet with a familiar atmosphere, this trattoria seats 60 in its three dining rooms on two floors. Its director manages it with cordiality, hospitality and knowledge, offering his guests genuine cuisine based on fresh fish prepared with care by the chefs. Although fish is his speciality, you will also find the classic Bistecca alla Fiorentina, as well as grilled and roast meats.

Closed on Wednesday – credit cards accepted.

address: Via del Parione, 74/76/r – Florence

tel: +39 (0)55 – 21 40 05

Alla Vecchia Bettola

Historical place in Florence – the food is rigorously tuscan and so are the wines. Alla Vecchia Bettola is the perfect place where to have bistecca and crostini the florentine way and taste some local wines able to look down to many of the best french ones. Located very conveniently right outside the ancient city wall, in front of the beautiful Torrigiani garden, is one of the few good places you can reach by car still remaining within a walking distance from the major city momuments. Alla Vecchia Bettola is frequented also by international customers and it is normally packed, so it is better to make a phone reservation before arriving.

email: allavecchiabettola@hotmail.com

address: 34r Via Luigi Ariosto

tel: +39 (0)55 – 22.41.58

Hosteria Ganino

My absolute favorite: located next to Piazza della Signoria and in front of the American Express Office. The piazza itself is charming enough, enter the Hosteria and feel comfortable. Tiles to the walls, tables prepared with tablecloth of yellow paper, suitable lights, the tocchetti of mortadella (bagged up pieces) offered before you order. Here is the place for the best house made pasta in Florence, that the cook mixes to the best with vegetables and truffles, for the ribollita (a popular soup), or chicken, rabbit, vegetables, and last but not least, for the fine palates there is risotto green with vegetables and chicken brest with the lemon cream, beefsteak and fiorentina are for granted. The cakes are house made, like our legendary cheese cake. Optimal the choice of Tuscany wines. On the summertime you can eat outdoors, and you can enjoy, beyond the deliciousness of the kitchen, the magical climate of the square.

address: Piazza Cimatori 4/r, Florence

openinghours: closed on sundays

tel: +39 (0)55 – 21 41 25

Astor Caffè

Something really new for Florence – breakfast, lunch, snacks, fish restaurant, and music! This bar has a restaurant hidden in the back that serves mostly fish, often hard to find and expensive in land–locked Florence. They have two special lunch menus, one traditional Tuscan with meat and one with fish. You'll find things like octopus salad, Elba anchovies, spaghetti with clams, cuttlefish, squid, and mussels. A very hip place with a young crowd and great food; just the place to come and sit and have a coffee away from the crowds. Cocktails in the evening are served with some great hot appetizers!

address: Piazza Duomo, 20R, near Via dei Servi

openinghours: Always open

tel: +39 (0)55–239–9000

Fiaschetteria–Trattoria Mario

Located behind the Mercato di San Lorenzo in the Piazza Mercato Centrale this spot is a must for anyone visiting Florence. Mario is only open for lunch, Monday through Saturday. There is always a line! To avoid the line, come before noon before the locals arrive. Try the Zuppa di Verdura, vegetable soup served with a slice of toasted bread on the bottom. This is the place to try the famous Florentine steak. It's a two pound t–bone cooked rare. It will melt in your mouth! And don't forget the french fries; they're not frozen. Try the daily specials. I love the Bracirole in Salsa offered up on Wednesdays and the fish dishes on Fridays. The food is a great bargain, so splurge on a bottle of great wine, such as Castello di Ama or Brolio.

address: Via Rosina, 2R

openinghours: only for lunch

tel: +39 (0)55–218–550

Acqua al Due

Reservations are a must here. Everyone orders the pasta tasting menu, called an "Assaggio di Primi," five varieties of pasta with five different sauces. The dish should be enough to fill anyone, but if not, there is also a selection of salads and desserts as well as a fabulous regular menu. The service can be rushed as they do several seatings.

address: Via dela Vigna Vecchia, 40R
openinghours: Dinner only; closed Monday
tel: +39 (0)55-284-170

Oliandolo

Perfect lunch restaurant next to the Palazzo Vecchio. The afternoon is the best time to avoid the crowds at Michelangelo's David and at Oliandolo. Visit the museum first and plan to arrive at Oliandolo after the lunch rush subsides around 2:30. It's more relaxed then and the service can be more attentive.

address: Via Ricasoli, 38-40R
openinghours: Open for lunch only; closed Sunday
tel: +39 (0)55-211-296

Trattoria Za-Za

Serving traditional Tuscan cuisine (try the ribollita!) in a great atmosphere—large area for outdoor seating right next to Il Mercato Centrale and the leather market provides a nice mood during those warm Florentine days and nights. Next to Trattoria Mario, another excellent restaurant, mentioned above.

address: Piazza del Mercato Centrale, 26r
tel: 215411
email: Info@trattoriazaza.it
PriceOfMenu: cheap to mid-range
priceofmenu: cheap to mid-range
url: www.trattoriazaza.it

Florence – Accommodation

Florence is always packed with overnight guests – at any time of the year. Especially between Easter and the start of October you are taking a risk in turning up without a pre-booked room. Last exit for desperates is always the accommodation office at the station. They can arrange last-minute reservations for a small fee, though in high season the queues here can be a nightmare.

Young travellers who expect to stay in a youth hostel should be warned that making a reservation is essential. If you do not have one, try to arrive in the city before 9am. Hostels in Florence are filled quickly.

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Florence Loft Accommodation

We are pleased to present you our Lofts:

Completely new, they are located in the center of Florence.

They are completely refurbished and fitted with elegant, modern and refined furnishing.

They are all with private services, sound-proofed and fitted with adjustable

air-conditioning, kitchen, telephone, satellite TV, Wireless ADSL internet connection and other modern comforts.

email: info@firenzeloft.com

address: Via G.Monaco

CostOfDoubleForANight: 120

url: www.firenzeloft.com

Argentina Hotel

The Hotel Argentina opened in 1938 by the Scatizzi family in one of Florence's most prestigious areas: just 10 minutes from the heart of the city, the Lungarno (the road coasting the Arno river), the Municipal Theater and the central railway station. The house offers 23 rooms (220 ITL a single, 285 ITL a double, 345 ITL a triple room) and a palazzo atmosphere to feel good.

address: Via Curtatone 12, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Ambasciatori

Modern hotel Located in the heart of the city in front of the S.M. Novella railroad station, surrounded by the most charming streets of the historical and business center. A short walk from the Cathedral, Conference and exhibition centre

address: Via Luigi Alamanni 3, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Morandi alla Crocetta

The best of modern comfort harmoniously combined with the warmth of antique furnishing. A quiet, comfortable and distinguished atmosphere, in the former convent of the Crocetta, it is today, following an ancient tradition of hospitality, a place where one can enjoy a pleasant and relaxed stay in Florence

address: Via Laura 50, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Hotel Golf

Modern and comfortable hotel, in the historic and commercial centre of the city, 200 m. from the Central Station, from the Air terminal and from the Congress building, near to the international business and fashion centre and within easy reach of the motorway. Large private carpark free. Room rates about 90 – 120 Euro a single and 140 – 180 Euro a double room.

address: Viale Fratelli Rosselli, 56, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Hotel Paris

This is a real Florentine jewel located in the very historical center of Florence. Originally called "Venturi Mansion", it was built by the architect Buontalenti in the 16th century. Completely renovated in 1999/2000. It has 68 rooms including a presidential room. Room rates between 100 and 135 Euro a single and 130 to 180 Euro a double room. Rate per room including breakfast, services and taxes. The hotel is located at 15 minutes from Amerigo Vespucci airport.

address: Via Dei Banchi 2, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Hotel Kraft

In the heart of the most romantic part of Florence, close to the Lungarni, the Teatro Comunale and the train station, the Kraft has always been a symbol of the finest hospitality.

address: Via Solferino 2, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Hotel Executive

This four star hotel, in a building designed by Architect Poggi at the end of 19th century, is situated in a quiet and elegant area in the old part of Florence, near the banks of the Arno. Hotel Executive, restored in May 1990, offers 38 rooms.

Room rates:

single with private bathroom ITL. 290.000

double with private bathroom ITL 400.000

double room single use ITL 350.000

superior double room ITL 480.000

triple room with private bathroom ITL 540.000

Rate per room per night including breakfast, service and taxes.

address: Via Curtatone 5, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Ville sull' Arno

Located on the river Arno only 10 minutes (by bus) from the center of Florence, you can find the hotel "Ville sull'Arno", famous for its splendid position and its hospitality.

address: Lungarno C. Colombo 5, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Nord Florence

Four star hotel with 73 rooms located 5 minutes from autostrada del Sole (Firenze Nord), 2 minutes from Peretola Airport and 10 minutes from the hisoric center of the city.

Room rates: Single room with private bathroom ITL 240.000 per night

Double room with private bathroom ITL 330.000 per night

Suite room with three beds, a private bathroom ITL 430.000 per night

Rate per room including breakfast, service and taxes.

address: Via Francesco Baracca, 199/A, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Fiorita

Hotel Fiorota is located in the heart of Florence, just a few steps away from the main railway station and at 10 to 15 minutes walking distance from the main monuments. Recently renovated the hotel offers rooms with shower and toilet, telephone, mini bar, satellite TV, safe, air conditioning in summer time and a hair dryer in each bathroom. Room rates: single between 45 and 70 Euro per night, double between 65 and 110 euro per night.

address: Via Fiume 20, Florence

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

Quartopiano bed and breakfast

GO AND MEET PAOLO IN HIS COMFORTABLE FIORENTINO BED & BREAKFAST: JUST DOWNTOWN, IN THE HISTORICAL QUARTER OF SAN LORENZO MARKET VIA PANICALE 3° AND 4° FLOOR. ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATHROOMS (en suite) , AIR CONDITIONING, TELEPHONE, RADIO AND ANY COMFORTS, LET ALONE THE TERRACE WITH WONDERFUL VIEW OVER THE CITY ROOFS: RELAX, SUN AND PANORAMA.. THE PALACE WHERE PAOLO'S B&B IS LOCATED IS JUST FEW STEPS FROM THE MAIN CORNERS OF FIRENZE: SHOPS, VENUES, CULTURE, PALAZZI, MUSEUMS, THEATERS, CINEMAS ...EVERYTHING IS THERE. IDEAL SPOT IN FIRENZE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE STAY.

email: quarto.piano@libero.it

address: via panicale 3

CostOfDoubleForANight: 90

tel: 0039 3293149042

costofdoubleforanight: 90

url: www.quartopiano.com

zipcode: 50123 Firenze

Tourist House Ghiberti

how come there is not on your list the tourist house ghiberti B&B? My husband and I have jus been to FLorence in Italy for a week. There, we discovered a wonderful place to stay in. it is called The Tourist House

Ghiberti B&B. It is right in the city centre near the Duomo. The owners (a young couple) are definitely nice with their guests. they helped us in many things as buying tickets for museum, booking some train tickets to Rome. We really appreciated our stay with them. The rooms are also very cosy and not really expensive. I would advice you to get in touch with them to make their hotel be known. I am sure your website visitors will also appreciate this place. Anne & Jacques (a french couple from Angers) Their e-mail address is thghiberti@tiscali.it

address: via ghiberti/florence

Mediterraneo

Three star hotel located a few steps away from Florence's historical centre, on the banks of the river Arno. The Hotel Mediterraneo, with its 331 rooms with bathrooms, air-conditioning, telephone and satellite tv, is one of the largest in Italy, catering to both for groups and individual tourists. It also has two restaurants, American bar, hairdresser, two boutiques, congress halls from 20 to 250 persons, meeting rooms, a garage for cars and parking for buses.

Roomrates:

Single room Lit. 180000

Double room Lit. 260000

email: info@promhotels.it
address: Lungarno del Tempio 44,
Firenze

Hotel Concordia

Extremely convenient hotel located right in the heart of the market area. Prizes per person and night between 40 and 50 Euro.

address: Via dell'Armorino
tel: +39 (0)55 – 213 233

Teti & Prestige

Located between Via Tornabuoni and Piazza della Signoria, very central. Good value and friendly stuff.

address: Via Porta Rossa 5
tel: +39 (0)55 – 239 84 35

Bed & Breakfast Alienda Agricola La Pricipessa di Monteroliolo

A beautiful find in the hills above Florence. With room access from the outside, the breakfast convience in the morning, this is a peaceful resort. The best accomodations(in my opinion) has a deck area where you can sit out while having a great view of florence. It does take a little longer to get there than being right in town, but it sure is worth it.

address: Imprunetana per Pozzolatico, 93. 50023 Impruneta (Firenze)

CostOfDoubleForANight: varies, best at 100 euros a night
tel: 055-201-19-45
costofdobleforanight: varies, best at 100 euros a night
url: [Dr. Ugolini Leonello](#)

MONTEBELLO SPLENDID

Completely renewed 19th century villa located in the heart of Florence transformed into a charming boutique five stars hotel. The 61 rooms are all differently decorated but all equipped with the most up-to-date comforts. The private garden is an unique place to relax, have breakfast and dinner.

address: Via Garibaldi, 14
CostOfDoubleForANight: 389
tel: +39 055 2747.1
email: info@montebellosplendid.com
costofdobleforanight: 389
url: www.montebellosplendid.com

Italiani e stranieri

Open april till october, superb hillside location, take bus no.13 from the train station, always crowded.

address: Viale Michelangelo 80
tel: +39 (0)55 - 681 1977

Albergo Brunetta

Located east of the Duomo, cheap and central, room rates per night and person between 17 and 25 Euro.

address: Borgo Pinti 5
tel: +39 (0)55 - 240 360

Suore Oblate dello Spirito Santo

Catholic nun order house, open to women from mid-june till october, located a few steps from the station. Very clean and pleasant, single, double and triple rooms available, minimum stay of two nights, 11pm curfew. Room rates per night and person about 17 - 25 Euro.

address: Via Nazionale 8
tel: +39 (0)55 - 239 8202

Santa Monica

Located in Oltrarno but nevertheless very popular, free hot showers, 1am curfew. Room rates per night and person about 9 - 17 Euro.

address: Via Santa Monica 6
tel: +39 (0)55 - 268 338

Ostello Villa Camerata

This is the official HI hostel, located in a beautiful park outside the city centre (take bus no. 17b from the train station, 30 minutes ride). Reception open till 1am. Room rates between 9–17 Euro per night and person.

address: Viale Righi 2

tel: +39 (0)55 – 601 451

Florence – Day Trips

The Province of Florence has a vast and varied territory, rich in gently rolling hills and mountains, streams and valleys, which extends from the Apennine chain as far as Valdelsa and from Mount Albano to Valdarno. The whole area, particularly the region all round its capital city, has been inhabited for centuries.

In the early years of the 15th century, in a Eulogy about the city of Florence the historian and humanist Leonardo Bruni wrote: "few cities can boast such a large number of inhabitants as the countryside all around Florence". At that time, there were already so many boroughs, houses and mansions that to the eyes of a poet it appeared like the "marvelous sight" provided by the moon "when it is encircled by the stars. As in a coat of arms decorated with a wealth of artfully interlocked painted or carved circles, the areas into which this region is divided will remind us of self-contained, yet overlapping circles sprawling out in all directions and enclosing the central jewel represented by the city".

The great concentration of art and culture that fills Florence often puts its surroundings into second place, while they are actually a complement and frame for the city: Medieval villages, soft hills, monasteries and churches, cozy trattorias, shaded forests and green hills. Here, we have given just a few ideas of the many wonderful things and places to see, and the sensitive visitor will certainly be able to enrich this short group of itineraries.

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Villa Demidoff

The Villa Demidoff park is located at Pratolino, on the Via Bolognese. Little remains of the splendid villa that Buontalenti built for Francesco I de Medici in 1575. The park, that has been completely restored, is open from April to October, and it is a wonderful place to visit outside the city. Giambolognas monumental statue of the "Appennines" (1579–89) is an outstanding example of Florentine Mannerism.

Settignano

This is a small village that grew up on the hillside north east of Florence; it can be reached by bus or via a panoramic drive along the hills from Fiesole. Gabriele D'Annunzio lived here in the Villa la Capponcina; the gardens of the Villa Gamberaia are considered among the loveliest in Europe and offer unforgettable views of Florence

Forte di Belvedere

address: Via S. Leonardo

openings: 9am–8pm.

tel: +39 (0)55 – 2342425

Certosa del Galuzzo (Carthusian Monastery)

Just 2 kilometers south of Florence rises the austere, fortress-like Certosa del Galluzzo. Founded by Niccolò Acciaiuoli in the 14th century to host young Florentines wanting to study the liberal arts, today it is inhabited by a group of Cistercian Benedictine monks. It contains several important artworks including five lunettes with "Scenes from the Passion", frescoed by Pontormo (1523–25).

openings: 9–12am – 3–7pm Summer, – 9–12am – 3–5pm Winter – Closed on Mondays.

tel: +39 (0)55 2049226

Florence – Events & Festivals

Throughout the year a series of events are held in Florence, which are varied enough to suit most demands. Foremost among these – in the city where modern melodrama was born, using the latest arts of choreography – musical events, beginning with the "Florence Musical May" and going on to Summer and Winter operatic seasons at the Teatro Comunale etc.

The Florence Centre of Italian Fashion organises numerous trade events over the year. International exhibitions in contemporary art and in the particular aspects of antique art are organised, specially on the occasion of various centenaries. Some of the typical traditional events are Football in Costume, the Burst of the Cart, the Feast of St. John etc.

Florence – Tours and Excursions

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Marco Priori

www.guidefirenze.com is an association of licensed tourist guides. They provide guided tours in Florence and in the other towns of Tuscany

email: info@guidefirenze.com

address: Pisa, Italy

tel: +39 3474646746 +39 3478298970

url: www.guidefirenze.com

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