

**FLORENCE CITY GUIDE**

*“The Cradle of the Renaissance,,*



## FLORENCE

Florence, the 'Cradle of the Renaissance' and capital of Tuscany, is an energetic city filled with tremendous art and architecture. Founded by the Romans in 59 BC, Florentia as they called their fair city, has a wealth of historical sites – monuments, museums, galleries, churches, and numerous other points of interest



### Tourist office & information

There are Tourist Information Points all over the city. You'll find useful ones

The main tourist office of Florence is two blocks north of the Duomo on busy Via Cavour. There's also finally a city-run infopoint right next to the Duomo where busy Via de' Calzioli leaves Piazza San Giovanni inside the cute little Renaissance portico of the Bigallo palace. However, the first office you'll likely encounter is the tourist office in the train station, which does a roaring business in booking you into local hotels for a modest fee—and, grumpily, handing out

free maps of the city to tourists who don't need to book a hotel. For information on the Italian State Railways (F.S.): Phone 848888088. Booking service: Phone 199166177/055-235.64.23.

### Transportation

Buses and electric minibuses run by public transport company ATAF serve the city. Most buses – including bus 13 to Piazzale Michelangelo – start/terminate at the ATAF bus stops opposite the southeastern exit of Stazione di Santa Maria Novella. Tickets valid for 90 minutes (no return journeys) cost €1.20 (€2 on board – drivers don't give change!) and are sold at kiosks, tobacconists and at the ATAF ticket & information office inside the main ticketing hall at Santa Maria Novella train station. A travel pass valid for one/three/seven days is €5/12/18. Upon boarding, time-stamp your ticket (punch on board) or risk an on-the-spot €50 fine

### Taxi

Taxis in Florence can be relatively expensive considering the short distances. They can be useful when travelling in larger groups and late at night, however. You do not hail cabs on the street in Florence: you call for service or head to one of the many designated taxi stands around the city, such as one of the most popular in piazza della Repubblica. For a taxi, call either 055/4242 or 055/4390 (note that these are not toll-free numbers). But if you find yourself calling for a taxi late on a Saturday night, be prepared to learn the theme songs by heart as you may be on hold for some time before reaching a dispatcher. If you are taking a taxi somewhere important like an airport or train station, it is a good idea to call in advance.

### Florence Airport

Florence Airport ("Aeroporto di Firenze") or Amerigo Vespucci Airport is an airport located close to Florence, Italy. It is one of two main airports in the Tuscany region, the other being Galileo Galilei Airport in Pisa.

It is a small airport, with a single runway and the main taxiway is situated at the end of runway 05, with an overshoot/holding area at the end of runway 23. In 1990, the airport was named after Florence native Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian merchant and cartographer.

### Driving Time & Train Connection from Florence city centre to:

Siena (about 1 hour driving)

Pisa (about 1 hour driving)

Chianti Valley (about 1 hour driving)

Rome about 3 hours driving OR 1 hour 30 minutes by high speed train

Milan about 3 hours and 30 minutes driving OR 2 hours by high speed train

Venice about 3 hours OR 2 hours by high speed train



## NOT TO BE MISSED



### Accademia

The Galleria dell'Accademia or Accademia Gallery is without a doubt most famous for its sculptures by the great Renaissance artist, Michelangelo. His *Prisoners* (or *Slaves*), his *St. Matthew* and, above all, the magnificent statue of *David* within the Tribune are what first draw most of the hundreds of thousands of visitors the museum welcomes every year. The main halls at the Accademia also offers visitors works by great Italian artists such as Sandro Botticelli, Domenico Ghirlandaio, Pontormo, Andrea del Sarto, Alessandro Allori and Orcagna, to name just a few of the painters.



### Uffizi

In addition to visiting the Accademia Gallery, you must also visit the Uffizi Gallery, not only Florence's other top museum but the most visited in all of Italy. The museum houses one of the world's most important collection of Italian Renaissance works of art, including Botticelli's *Primavera* and *Birth of Venus*, Filippino Lippi's *Madonna and Child with Two Angels*, Titian's *Venus of Urbino* and many other works from the Masters Cimabue and Giotto, Early-Renaissance pioneers Fra Angelico and Masaccio, as well as works by Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.



### Florence City Center

Spiritual center of the city is the Piazza del Duomo with the cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, flanked by Giotto's Bell Tower and fronted by the Battistero of San Giovanni with the Gates of Paradise. Northward you meet the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi by Michelozzo, the Basilica of San Lorenzo by Brunelleschi. Furthermore, the Museum of San Marco, the Accademia Gallery and the Piazza della Santissima Annunziata, with the Loggia degli Innocenti by Brunelleschi. From the Dome, there is the political and cultural center of Florence with Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi Gallery nearby, the Bargello Museum and the Basilica of Santa Croce. Crossing the Ponte Vecchio you get to Oltrarno district with the Pitti Palace and the Boboli Gardens.



### Chianti

The rolling hills which enclose Florence like in a cradle have always housed splendid vineyards, which gave rise to the vino cittadino (an antique term used to describe the wine as genuine expression of the Florence countryside), a wine par excellence, produced by the noble families that had their country residences and hunting lodges here. The extremely close bond between the Renaissance city and the wine of the surrounding hills is amply recorded in literature and in paintings, and once upon a time, the vineyards reached the gates of the city, as is seen from the names of certain streets in the old city centre.

## DISCOVERY FLORENCE:

### Florence food and wine

Tuscan food is simple and abundant with local produce, mellow cheeses and grilled meats. Tuscans are also known for their appreciation of beans as seen in the staple of the Tuscan table: white beans cooked with sage and olive oil. Beef Steak Florentine, many versions of roasted or wine-braised game such as boar, deer and rabbit and thick and hearty soups cover the table of a typical Tuscan meal. Plus this is the home of Chianti wine. At the heart of Florentine cookery lie four fundamental ingredients: bread (plain, unsalted, well-baked with a crispy crust and light and airy inside); extra-virgin olive oil, without any doubt the best even for frying, grilled meat; Florentine steaks of beef, roasted or wine-braised game such as boar, deer and rabbit and lastly, wine itself. Main Dishes in the Florentine tradition are: Ribollita (This hearty soup is made from cannellini beans, various vegetables, red cabbage, and chunks of stale bread), Pappa al Pomodoro (which is a bread and tomato soup), bistecca alla fiorentina ( T-bone steak ), Schiacciata alla fiorentina (sweet sponge cake that is filled with cream, icing, or chocolate cream).



### Shopping in Florence

Milan may be famous for its place on the international fashion calendar, but for many, the real home of Italian style is Florence. With the amount of artisanal shoemakers, historic leather markets, and bespoke clothing shops that line the Tuscan city's medieval streets, it's not hard to see why. Legendary Italian luxury brands like Salvatore Ferragamo, Gucci, Emilio Pucci, and Roberto Cavalli were all proudly founded in Florence, and those that weren't Prada, Armani, Missoni all clamor to maintain major presences in the city's fabled shopping quarters. But, don't go thinking these standby brands are all you'll find: sleek, new concept shops; innovative boutiques; and young designer flagships abound, too. Via de' Tornabuoni is the most famous street in Florence. It is the home of Salvatore Ferragamo's first property, Gucci, Emilio Pucci, Versace, Pomellato, Roberto Cavalli, Hermes, Tiffany & Co, and Cartier to name a few. It's the most elegant street in town, Via dei Calzaiuoli is a popular street filled with high-end to everyday modern stores. You'll find ultra luxury from Chanel to department store shopping at Coin, Via del Corso is lined with small boutiques that suit all different budgets so don't be afraid to explore, San Lorenzo Market the leather market, Via Santo Spirito for more artisanal boutiques.



### Florence for Kids

Visiting a city of art like Florence with children of all ages is a unique experience for the whole family.

**The Leonardo da Vinci Museum.** It is obviously completely dedicated to this genius who wasn't just a painter. Several machines in the museum are interactive and this is certainly the part that kids love the most, even the younger ones which can experience directly the operation of these reproductions.

**The Stibbert Museum.** It is the only one that is located outside the historical center, but it is easily reachable. The museum houses many ancient weapons and full sets of armor: one of the most spectacular rooms is definitely "The Ride," which shows a group of horses and riders in real size

**The Natural History Museum.** It consists of 6 separate sections located in different locations: the Geology and Paleontology (with a large number of fossils from Italy) You and your children will be impressed by the collection of skeletons of fossils found in the Valdarno area on Tuscany, including the elephant "Pietro", as he was nicknamed, standing tall at 4 meters high.



## SPEAK AS FLORENTINE DO:

### *Florentine*

Bimbo  
Babbo  
Balocco  
Becco  
Bercio  
Berlingaccio  
Bischero  
Bodda  
Brindellone  
Bugerare  
Cacio  
Cannella  
Cencio  
Chetare  
Sudicio  
Fettunta  
Focarile  
Garbare  
Ganzo  
Gingillo  
Giratina  
Grullo \*  
Marpione \*  
Mansano \*  
Norcino  
Ortolano  
Rabberciare  
Rileccato  
Roncio  
Puzzo  
Tonto  
Zuzzurellone  
Uscio  
Montare  
Uggioso \*

### *English*

A young Boy  
Father  
A Toy  
Being cuckolded  
A scream  
Carnival Party  
A brat boy  
Frog  
A lazyboned boy  
To cheat  
Cheese  
Tap  
Dust Cloth  
To shut up  
Dirty  
Tosted bread topped with oil  
Fireplace  
Be pleased  
Cool  
Decorative Object  
Stoll  
Silly  
Old fox  
Rough Man  
Delicatessen Owner  
Fruit Seller  
To make good as best you can  
Stylish Man  
Strong Blow  
Stink  
Dumb  
Happy go lucky man  
Door  
Go up  
Boring Person or Bad weather

**\* These terms can be rude so be careful using them!**