



FLORENCE DESTINATION GUIDE

“

To see the sun sink down, drowned on his pink and purple and golden floods, and overwhelm Florence with tides of color that make all the sharp lines dim and faint and turn the solid city to a city of dreams, is a sight to stir the coldest nature.”

– Mark Twain

This guide had been prepared by Onward Travel to help you more fully enjoy your time exploring the magnificent living Renaissance gem, the city of Florence (in Italian: *Firenze*).



The lily flanked by irises has been the emblem of the city of Florence for more than a thousand years

Eat & Drink



TRATTORIA LA CASALINGA

A wonderful neighborhood spot, perfect for indulging in local specialties.

* CAFFÉ GILLI

A historic café serving delectable cakes, chocolate, and fruit tartlets since 1733.

* CAFFÉ RIVOIRE

The city's oldest café, in picturesque and bustling Piazza della Signoria. The excellent people watching makes up for the steep coffee prices.

VIVOLI GELATERIA

The best gelato in town, say the locals (and Molly)!

GELATERIA LA CARRAIA

A Florentine favorite for their exciting flavored gelato.

* OSTERIA IL BUONGUSTAI

A popular spot for locals and students; good value Tuscan homecooking. Cash only.

'INO

Local ingredients and creativity characterize this stylish gourmet sandwich bar.

* L'OSTERIA DI GIOVANNI

Tuscan-creative cuisine; friendly neighborhood eatery.

PIZZERIA DEL' OSTERIA DEL CAFFÈ

Pocket-sized pizzeria with just three simple pies: margharita, Napoli and marinara. Cash only.

* PROCACCI

This tiny café opened in 1885 as a delicatessen serving truffles... bite-sized Panini tartufati (truffle pate rolls) paired with a glass of prosecco remain the highlight.

* LA SPADA

Located on a back street near Santa Maria Novella, this little restaurant is noted for its Steak Florentine and excellent service.

* TREBBIO

A great spot to taste the typical dishes of Tuscany. Finish a memorable dinner with an Affogato!

* OSTERIA BELLE DOME

The rustic style of Tuscan Tradition combined with elegance and intimacy sets the stage for a memorable evening at this charming restaurant.

* BUCALAPI

Guide Barbara recommends this spot for the Tuscan steak... dine in an atmospheric cellar with vaulted ceilings. *(pictured)*

IL GUSCIO

Traditional pasta, seafood & meat offered with a robust wine list in a relaxed, polished venue.

Restaurants with a () are within a 5 minute walk of Hotel Pendini. Most places are within 10-15 minutes.*

It is a good idea to make reservations, even same day. The hotel can call for you.

DESTINATION GUIDE: FLORENCE FIRENZE

Shop

Florence has long been a shopping destination –just do your best to see past the poor quality souvenirs and kitsch and you can find all kinds of treasures.

MERCATO CENTRALE

Peruse dozens of food stalls, some of which have been run by the same family for over two centuries.

LORENZO VILLORESI PERFUMERIA

View the atelier full of bottles and fragrance, curated by this philosopher turned perfumer.

SCUOLA DEL CUOIO

Home to master leather workers, students from Italy and abroad, and a gorgeous shop with luscious leather goods.

LETIZIA FIORINI

A one-woman puppet shop with the proprietor making puppets at the counter in between assisting customers.

GIULIO GIANNINI E FIGLIO

Beautiful bound books, marbled paper, stationery and more. Visit the workshop upstairs.

GREVI

Hopelessly romantic hat shop.

MOSAICI DI LASTRUCCI

Intricate mosaics that resemble paintings from a distance.

VESTRI CIOCCOLATO D'AUTORE

A family-run business making beautiful products from cacao beans directly sourced from their plantation in the Dominican Republic. (Wonderful gelato, too!)

Visit

DUOMO

The city's undisputed architectural masterpiece, on par with Rome's Colosseum and Pisa's Leaning Tower. Climb 463-stairs to the top of the dome for spectacular views (but brave heat, close quarters, and a steep climb), or simply view the awe-inspiring Gothic façade.

BASILICA DI SANTA CROCE

A massive Franciscan church that houses tombs of famous Florentines and stunning frescoes. Admission 6 Euro.

LOGGIA DEI LANZI

A 14th-century open-air sculpture museum at the southern end of Piazza della Signoria. Free admission.

PALAZZO VECCHIO

Florence's "old palace" dates back to 1298. Formerly, home to the city's highest level of government, it remains the seat of Florence's power as the town hall. Join a thematic guided tour. Tour and admission is 18 Euro.

Do

PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

Take a steep trek (or a car) for rewarding views of Florence, especially grand (and crowded) during sunset.

GALLERIA DEGLI UFFIZI

This world-class gallery is home to the Medici family's private art collection, bequeathed to the city in 1743 on the condition that it never leaves Florence. Need a break from the art? The rooftop café has a hanging garden and good views. Admission 6,50 Euro. Queue may be lengthy.

GALLERIA DELL'ACCADEMIA

Home to one of the Renaissance's greatest masterpieces: Michelangelo's David. You will stop here on the Onward Travel walking tour!

SAN MINIATO AL MONTE

A scenic basilica standing atop one of the highest points in Florence. This fine Romanesque structure is considered one of the most beautiful churches in Italy.

PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA

Picturesque piazza, once home to the "bonfire of the vanities" in 1497 when a radical friar urged residents to burn their worldly possessions.

BIKE RENTAL

Grab a violet colored ride from the bikeshare in front of Stazione di Santa Maria Novella from Milleunabici. ID as a deposit; 2 Euro per hour.

TEATRO DEL MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINA

Check the venue calendar for opera, classical music, and ballet performances.



Central Florence

The arrow on the map indicates the location of Hotel Pendini, just beside Piazza della Repubblica



Exploring Beyond The City

Florence is a wonderful base for exploring the region. Here are a few suggestions for day trips outside the city.

TRUFFLE HUNT

San Miniato is a small, medieval hilltop town about an hour from Florence. It is well known for truffles, in fact the world's largest white truffle, weighing in at 2,520 kg, is in the Guinness Book of World Records and was discovered in San Miniato in 1954. Onward Travel can organize a private driver (300€ total for up to 7 people) and a truffle hunt/lunch. Or you can join a small group truffle hunt tour from Florence. Enjoy walking in the woods with the truffle hunter and his dogs. Then dine on a truffle-filled lunch. Very interesting and *delizioso!*

LUCCA

This small city has beautiful Renaissance era walls built to fortify the town. The walls are now a lovely park stretching 2.5 miles and you can walk or bike the ramparts. The town itself is wonderful for strolling, dining, and shopping. You'll see beautiful Romanesque architecture. Casa di Puccini, where the great opera composer was born, is now a house museum.

Lucca is a one-hour train ride from Florence. Trains run frequently. You won't be far from Pisa if you want to add that to the route and lay eyes on the Leaning Tower.

THE CINQUE TERRE

Many people are interested in visiting the Cinque Terre when in Central Italy. It is best to spend a couple days in Cinque Terre to see all 5 villages, but there are day trip options from Florence such as Viator's Cinque Terre Semi-Private Day Trip from Florence.

Florence is easily accessible by train and the main train station, Firenze Santa Maria Novella, is conveniently located in the city center.

There are nonstop, high speed trains to Rome, Perugia, Milan, Arezzo, Livorno, Pisa, Bologna, and more!

To view schedules and book tickets, visit www.trenitalia.com/en

FIESOLE

A small town located 5km northeast of Florence, Fiesole sits above Florence and provides lovely views. There are villas, gardens, and a few restaurants here. There is also an archeological area dating back to the 4th century BC, when an Etruscan temple was built.

You can reach Fiesole via the ATAF bus #7 from either the SMN train station or San Marco Square in Florence. Buses run about every 20 minutes and drop you off right in the main square in Fiesole. Take the same bus to head back down into Florence. The double-decker, open top red Florence Sightseeing bus also makes its way to Fiesole.