

Welcome to Florence!



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Best Places to Visit in Florence

1. Piazza Duomo



In Piazza Duomo there are three masterpieces that cannot be missed. Florence's beautiful Gothic cathedral, named *Santa Maria del Fiore* (Saint Mary of the Flower) can hold 20.000 people. Its exterior is made of green, pink, and white marble. Brunelleschi's Dome, *La Cupola*, is a masterpiece. You can climb the 463 steps to its top. The Baptistery is one of Florence's oldest buildings. It is made of green and white marble and has three sets of amazing bronze doors, one of them is so beautiful that Florentine people named it The Door of Paradise. The bell tower, known as the *Campanile di Giotto*, was designed by the famous artist Giotto.

2. Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo della Signoria



Piazza della Signoria, Signoria Square, is the heart of the historic center. It has been Florence's political center since the middle ages and Florence's town hall, the beautiful medieval Signoria Palace, sits on the piazza.

3. The Uffizi Loggia and the Uffizi Gallery



This is one of the most famous museums of paintings and sculpture in the world. Its collection includes several universally acclaimed masterpieces of all time, including works by Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raffaello, Botticelli, Giotto, Simone Martini, Piero della Francesca, Frà Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Mantegna, Correggio, and Caravaggio. German, Dutch and Flemish masters are also well represented with important works by Dürer, Rembrandt and Rubens. The Uffizi Loggia can be visited anytime even when the gallery is closed.

4. Ponte Vecchio



The Ponte Vecchio, the old bridge, was Florence's first bridge across the Arno River and is the only surviving bridge from Florence's medieval days as the others were destroyed in World War II. The Ponte Vecchio is lined with shops selling gold and silver jewelry. From the bridge, you'll have a great view along the Arno River and beyond.

5. Piazza Santa Croce and the Church of Santa Croce



The Church of Santa Croce (Saint Cross) is the largest Franciscan church in the world. Its most notable features are its sixteen chapels, many of them decorated with frescoes by Giotto and his pupils. The church became popular as a place of worship and patronage and it became customary for honored Florentines to be buried or commemorated there. For 500 years monumental graves were erected in the church including those of: Michelangelo, Galileo Galilei, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Niccolò Machiavelli, Vittorio Alfieri, Florence Nightingale, Gioacchino Rossini, etc.

6. Piazzale Michelangelo



Piazzale Michelangelo, Michelangelo Square, is one of the best and most famous lookouts for a stunning view of Florence, day or night. The panorama embraces the heart of Florence from Forte Belvedere to Santa Croce, across the lungarni and the bridges crossing the Arno, including the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo, Palazzo Vecchio, the Bargello and the octagonal bell tower of the Badia Fiorentina. You can get there with bus number 12 from the main train station, or you can walk there, but it is a 20 minutes uphill walk.

7. San Miniato Church



Near Piazzale Michelangelo (5 minutes walking distance) there is a wonderful Romanesque church, The Church of San Miniato al Monte. Built between the 11th and 13th century, the exterior of the Church of San Miniato is decorated with green and white marble in geometric patterns similar to the facades of Santa Croce and Santa Maria Novella. A mosaic from the 12th century decorates the facade over a central window. The monumental cemetery in front and back of the church contains the tombs of illustrious men, such as Carlo Lorenzini (Collodi), author of Pinocchio.

8. Boboli Garden and Pitti Palace



Boboli Garden is a park on a hillside in the middle of Florence behind the Pitti Palace. There are beautiful gardens and fountains and a great view of Florence from the Forte Belvedere. The Pitti Palace, Florence's largest palazzo, was once the seat of the Medici family. There are eight different galleries, including art, costumes, jewelry, and apartments. The Galleria Palatina inside Pitti palace has a beautiful collection of well-known paintings.

9. Galleria dell' Accademia



The original Michelangelo's David statue is in the Gallery together with a few other Michelangelo's statues and a museum of paintings of the 1200.

10. Piazza Santa Maria Novella



Santa Maria Novella is one of the biggest squares in the historical center of Florence. In the square sits the Dominican church of Santa Maria Novella. Both the square and the main train station take the name from the church.

City Centre Map



Museum Opening Times

Museum / Gallery	Opening hours	What to see	Entrance Fee
Archaeological Museum Via della Colonna, 36 Phone number. 055 2478641 https://tinyurl.com/mtafzxa	Monday, Tuesday e Wednesday 8.30am - 2pm (last entrance 1.15pm). Thursday and Friday 1.30pm - 7pm (last entrance 6.15pm). Saturday and first sunday of the month 8.30am - 2.00pm (last entrance 1.15pm). Closed: 2th, 3rd, 4th e 5th sunday of the month; January first, 25th December	Contains a vast collection begun by the Medici family and continued by Lorena, including pieces from the Etruscan civilisation and a section dedicated to the Greek and Egyptian civilisations. It is classed as one of the most important archaeological museums in Italy.	Full ticket: 8 € Reduced ticket: 2 €
Silver Museum Palazzo Pitti Phone number 055 294883 https://tinyurl.com/3k54muja	Tuesday-Sunday: 8.15 – 18.50	The Museo degli Argenti displays silver, gold, stone, glass, and crystal ware, as well as precious china.	Full ticket: 5 € Online booking: 4 € 50% reduction for 18-25 year olds from the European Union and for regular state teachers
Stibbert Museum Via Stibbert,26 Phone number. 055 486049 http://www.museostibbert.it/	Open from Monday to Wednesday from 10 to 14 -Friday Sunday from 10 to 18 - Closed on Thursday	Frederick Stibbert left his collection to the city in 1906. The section dedicated to ancient arms and armour is of particular interest.	10 € Reduced for children under 12 years of age: 7€ Reduced for persons with disabilities, classes of compulsory school, summer centers: 2€
National Bargello Museum Via del Proconsolo Phone number. 055 210801 http://www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/	Monday - Saturday: 8.15-18:00; 2nd, 4th Sunday: 8.15-13.50; 2nd, 4 th Monday of the month, closed	The National Museum hosts masterpieces of sculptures.	Full ticket: 8 € Reduced: 2€ Online booking: 3 €
Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore Phone number. 0552645789 https://duomo.firenze.it/	Opening Times: Everyday 8.30 – 19.45	Houses works of art from Santa Maria del Fiore, great works of art such as the famous "Pieta" by Michelangelo and the Pulpit by Donatello.	Full ticket: 15 Reduced for children between 6 and 11 years old: 3 € Free entry for children younger than 6 years
The Medicee Chapels Entrance from Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini. Phone number. 055 213206 http://www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/musei/2/medicee/	Sunday 08.15-13.50 Weekly: 08:15-18.50 Closed on Tuesday	The museum is composed of the Sagrestia Nuova (New Sacristy; the Cappella dei Principi (Chapel of the Princes); the Crypt that houses the tombs of the Medici Grand	Full ticket: 9 € Reduced ticket: 2 € (valid for 18-25 year olds from the European Union and for regular state teachers)

		Dukes and their family members	
Santa Maria del Fiore (Cathedral) https://duomo.firenze.it/it/scopri/cattedrale-di-santa-maria-del-fiore	Cathedral: Open to tourists 10 - 17 during the week and in the afternoons on Sundays	The Gothic Cathedral and the remaining of the ancient Santa Reparata church.	Free of charge
Palazzo Pitti Phone number 055 287096 https://www.uffizi.it/palazzo-pitti	Palatine Gallery and Royal Apartments: Tuesday-Sunday: 8.15 - 18.30 Gallery of Modern Art and the Costume Gallery: Tuesday-Saturday: 8.15-13.50.	It houses various museums and galleries: The Gallery of Modern Art, The Palatine Gallery, The Argenti Museum, The Costume Gallery, The Coach Museum, The Ceramics Musuem, the Royal Apartments and the Apartments of the Duchess of Aosta.	Palatine Gallery and Royal Apartments: 16 € (+Boboli: 22€) Online booking: 3 euro
Boboli Gardens https://www.uffizi.it/giardino-boboli/	Tuesday-Sunday: 8.15 – depending on season	A beautiful example of 16th century Italian gardens.	Full ticket: 7 € Reduced ticket: 3 € (valid for 18-25 year olds from the European Union and for regular state teachers)
Uffizi Gallery Piazzale degli Uffizi, 6 Phone number. 055 218341 https://www.uffizi.it/gli-uffizi	Tuesday - Sunday: 8.15 - 18.30	The largest museum in Italy, it houses works of art from the XIII - XVIII centuries. Cimabue, Giotto, Masaccio, Leonardo, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Piero della Francesca, Raffaello, Caravaggio, Rubens, Rembrandt etc.	Basic ticket: 25 € Reduced: 2€ Online booking: 4 €
Palazzo della Signoria Piazza Signoria https://tinyurl.com/44c9ctez	Opening Times. Monday to Friday 9 - 19 , Sundays and holidays 8 - 13. Closed on Saturday.	It hosts the Cinquecento Hall , Francesco I 's study the Quartiere degli Elementi and the Gigli Hall.	Full ticket: 10 € Reduced ticket: 8€ (valid for 18-25 years olds from the European Union and for regular state teachers)
Galleria dell'Accademia Via Ricasoli 60 Phone number. 055 214375 https://www.galleriaaccademiafirenze.it/en/	Tuesday-Sunday: 8.15 - 18.50	It houses Michelangelo's David.	Full ticket: 12 € Reduced ticket: 2 € (valid for 18-25 year olds from the European Union and for regular state teachers).

NB. Opening times and entrance fees often change. Please check the web sites of the each museum / gallery.

For advanced booking for museums and galleries in Florence please visit Firenze Museis'website:
<http://www.b-ticket.com/b-ticket/uffizi/>

Eating in Florence



Recommended Restaurants

1) Il Latini

Palazzo Rucellai,

Via dei Palchetti 6R

Phone number. +39 55 21 0916

<http://www.illatini.com/>

Probably the most popular restaurant in Florence. Tuscan cookery.

2) Il Cibreo

via A. del Verrocchio 8r / via dei Macci 122r

Phone number. +39 055 234 11 00

<http://www.cibreo.com/>

Very popular restaurant in Florence. They also organize theatre performances.

3) Le Carceri

Piazza Madonna della Neve 3

Phone number. +39 0552479327

<http://www.ristorantecarceri.it/>

An interesting restaurant built within the ancient prison of Florence

4) Napoleone

Piazza Del Carmine 24

Phone number: 055 281015

<http://www.trattorianapoleone.it>

Very nice atmosphere.

5) Perseus

Viale Don Minzoni, 10/r

Phone number. 055 5048120

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfj7rmv>

Very good restaurant for eating beefsteaks and particularly the typical "Fiorentina" style beefsteak.

6) Il Cantinone

Via Santo Spirito, 6/r

Phone number (+39) 366 2573565

<http://www.ilcantinonedifirenze.it/it/index.html>

A typical "osteria" with typical Tuscan dishes and good wine.

7) Casa Toscana

Via Giovanni Da Verrazzano, 3/5 r

<https://www.trattoriacasatoscana.com/eat/>

A good restaurant with a cozy fireplace

ph. +39 055 226 0064

8) Mercato Centrale

Via dell'Ariento

<https://www.mercatocentrale.com/florence/how-it-works/>

You can shop for groceries in all stores and eat hot or cold food on the Mercato's tables

9) Il Santo Bevitore

Via S. Spirito, 64r

<http://www.ilsantobevitore.com/>

ph. +39 055 211264

10) Sabatini

Via Panzani, 9A

<https://sabatinifirenze.it/>

ph. +39 055 282802

Recommended Pizzerias

Pizzeria Il Pacchero

Borgo S. Jacopo, 64 rosso

Ph. +39 055 387 2843

<https://www.ilpacchero.com/>

Caffè Italiano

Via Stinche 11/13

Ph. +39 055 289080

<https://caffetailiano.it/>

I Tarocchi

Via dei Renai, 12-14r

Ph. +39 055 234 39 12

<https://pizzeriatarocchi.it/>

Pizzeria Giotto

Via Panzani, 57,

Ph. +39 055212287

<https://www.pizzeriagiotto.it/#/>



Florence by Night



Where to go for an Aperitif or after Dinner

1) B-Roof – Hotel Baglioni

Piazza dell'Unità Italiana, 6

Phone number +39 05523588560

<https://www.b-roof.it/it/aperitivi>

At the B-Roof's American bar you will find drinks of all kinds from the great mixology classics, to signature cocktails made specifically for events and theme nights. The Bar Card also includes a selection of savory items.

2) SE.STO on Arno - The Westin Excelsior Florence

Piazza Ognissanti, 3

Phone number +39 055 27152783

www.sestoarnano.com

On the top floor of The Westin Excelsior hotel, the bar has a beautiful terrace with a 360-degree view over the rooftops of Florence.

3) La Terrazza Rooftop Bar - Hotel Continentale

Lungarno degli Acciaiuoli, 2r

Phone number +39 055 27265987 - +39 3421234710

www.lungarnocollection.com

At the top of the medieval Torre dei Consorti, on the top floor of the Hotel Continentale, an intimate place with an incredible view of the wonders of Florence, especially at sunset.

4) Saporium Lounge

Lungarno Benvenuto Cellini, 69r

Phone number +39 055 212933

www.borgosantopietrosaporium.com

A very good place for an aperitif with signature drinks accompanied by tapas.

5) Loggia Roofbar

Piazza Santo Spirito, 9

Phone number +39 055 2658376

www.palazzoguadagni.com/it/loggia-roof-bar/

The panoramic terrace offers a beautiful view of the city and the surrounding hills. An excellent bar for an aperitif while admiring the sunset over the red roofs of Florence.

6) Atrium Bar

Borgo Pinti, 99

Phone number +39 055 2626450

www.fourseasons.com/florence/dining/lounges/atrium_bar/

Excellent cocktails and aperitif. Booking is necessary.

7) Locale

via delle Seggiole, 12

Phone number. +39 055 9067188

www.localefirenze.it

Creative cocktails and original reinterpretations of the most classic drinks to be savoured in the winter garden

8) Colle Bereto

Piazza Strozzi, 5/r

www.cafecollebereto.com/

Phone number +39 055283156 or 348-8123060

Very trendy café for aperitivo.

9) Il Rifrullo

Via di San Niccolò 55r

Phone number +390 55 234 26 21

www.ilrifrullo.com/

Active since 1981, offering the opportunity to mingle with the locals. A good choice of aperitifs and cocktails. There is also a terrace.

10) Moyo

Via dei Benci, 23/r

Phone number +39 055 247 9738

www.moyo.it/

A cocktail bar with buffet for the aperitivo hour. A DJ plays club sounds in the back.

11) La Terrazza Rooftop Bar

Vicolo dell'Oro, 6

Phone number +39 055 2726 5987

www.lungarnocollection.com/it/la-terrazza-lounge-bar

Cocktails, aperitive and a beautiful view of Florence city. It closes at 9.00 pm.

12) Cabiria

Piazza Santo Spirito 4

Phone number 055 21 57 32

www.cafecabiria.com/

A modern and trendy venue with an atmosphere that is reminiscent of the old cafés of Paris. Live music is often played.

13) Floreal

Borgo San Frediano 27r

Phone number: +39 345 164 7856

[www.facebook.com/florealfirenze/?locale=it IT](https://www.facebook.com/florealfirenze/?locale=it_IT)

Original venue in terms of décor. Pleasant atmosphere and a wide selection of cocktails.

14) Kitsch Bar

Via San Gallo 22/r

Phone number: +39 328 903 9289

www.facebook.com/kitschfirenze/

Discos & Clubs



1) Space Club

Via del Palazzuolo 37

Phone number +39 055 293082 - https://www.facebook.com/spacefirenze2/?locale=it_IT

2) YAB

Via dei Sassetti 5

open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Phone number +39 055 215160

3) Tenax

via Pratese 46

Phone number +39 335 5235922 393 9204279 - <http://www.tenax.org/>

4) Otel

via Generale C. Dalla Chiesa, 9

Phone number +39 055 6503131 – <https://otelfirenze.it/>

5) Blue Velvet

via del Castello D'Altafronte 16r

Phone number +39 055 215521 - <https://www.instagram.com/bluevelvet.firenze/?hl=it>

6) Jaguar Florence Club

via della Fornace 9

Phone number +39 348 381 8527 - <https://www.facebook.com/jaguarprivateloungeclub/>

7) Full Up Club

via della Vigna Vecchia 23r

Phone number +39 055 293006 - <https://www.fullupclub.com/it/>

8) Twenty One

via dei Cimatori 13r,

Phone number +39 328 9552515 - <https://www.instagram.com/club21firenze/?hl=it>

Best Ice Cream Shops in Florence



- 1. Vivoli**
Via Isola delle Stinche, 7r, Firenze
Phone number +39 055 292334
<https://vivoli.it/>
- 2. Perché no?**
Via dei Tavolini, 19r, Firenze
Phone number: +39 055 239 8969
https://www.facebook.com/GelateriaPercheNo/?locale=it_IT
- 3. Gelateria La Carraia**
Piazza Nazario Sauro, 25/r, Firenze
Phone number: +39 055 280695
https://www.facebook.com/Gelaterialacarraia/?locale=it_IT
- 4. Gelateria Dei Medici**
Piazza Cesare Beccaria, 7R, Firenze
+39 055 475156
https://www.facebook.com/GelateriaDeMedici/?locale=it_IT
- 5. Carabé**
Via Ricasoli, 60/R, Firenze
+39 055 94 24 78
<http://www.ilparcocarabe.it/>
- 6. Badiani**
Viale dei Mille, 20/r, Firenze
Phone Number: +39 055 578682
<http://www.gelateriabadiani.it/it/home/>
- 7. Gelateria della Passera**
Via Toscanella, 15/red, Firenze
055 614 2071
Phone Number: +39 055 614 2071
<https://gelateriadellapassera.it/>

Shopping in Florence



Shopping Areas

Via Tornabuoni

This is where the famous names such as Gucci, Prada, Versace, Bulgari and Armani can be found.

Piazza della Repubblica and Via Calzaioli Area

Here you can find both good department stores and very good shops

San Lorenzo and Via Nazionale Area

Here there nice shops that are less expensive compared to the areas mentioned above

Via Maggio Area

Home to several antique shops.

Markets

Mercato Centrale di San Lorenzo (food)

Piazza del Mercato Centrale

Monday – Saturday, 7 – 14

In winter, it opens also on Saturday afternoon.

Mercato di San Lorenzo

Piazza San Lorenzo and surrounding streets

Every day

In winter, it is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Mercato del Porcellino

Loggiato del Porcellino via Porta Rossa

Every day

Mercato delle Cascine

Viale Lincoln

Every Tuesday morning

Transports

Taxis:

Radiotaxi

Phone number: +39 055 4390 – +39 055 4242

There are taxi ranks in several points of the city.
You should read carefully the information about fares shown inside the taxi.

Starting rate: 3,30 € / Minimum fare: 5 €

Starting rate for holiday time: 5,30 € / Minimum fare: 7 €

Starting rate for night trip (from 10 p.m. to 6.00 a.m.): 6,60 € / Minimum fare: 8,30 €

Luggage (max 4 pieces): 1 € per piece

Rate fare from/to Florence (center) to/from Peretola Airport: about € 25,00

Other charges besides fare depends on the destination and supplements.

Buses:

Public urban transport: Buses and Tram

Tickets/Fares

Ticket valid for 90 minutes	1, 50 €
Ticket valid for 90 minutes purchased via text message	1, 80 €
Ticket valid for 90 minutes purchased on board (only for bus rides)	2, 50 €
Multiple ticket (10 journeys)	14,00 €

Bus and tram tickets can be bought at 1) tobacconists (Tabacchi), 2) newspaper stands (Edicole) and 3) totems available close to each tram stop. Tickets must be stamped in the machine once on board the bus / the tram.

Renting bikes or scooters

Alinari

Via Guelfa, 85r

Phone number: +39 55280500

Florence by bike

Via S. Zanobi, 120/122r

Phone number: +39 55488992

NB. The mentioned fees may have changed: please check them before purchasing tickets.

Emergency Numbers

Police	Phone number: 112
Questura (police station):	Phone number: +39 5549771
Urban police Emergency calls:	Phone number: +39 55328333
Medical emergency service:	Phone number: 118

Hospitals and Pharmacies

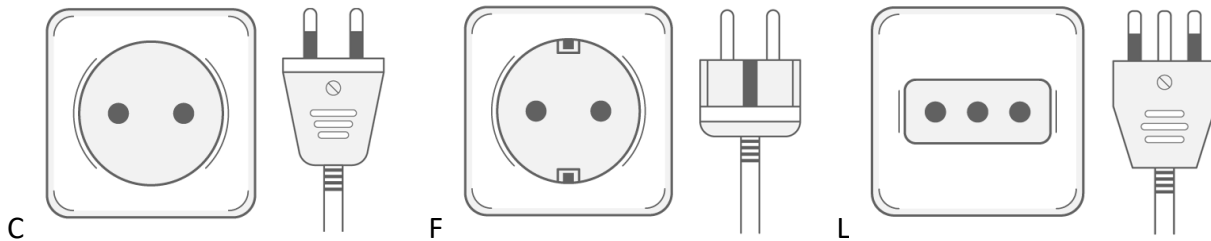
Hospital of Careggi - Viale Morgagni, 85.	Phone number: +39 554277111
Hospital S. Maria Nuova, Piazza S. Maria Nuova, 1	Phone number: +39 5527581
24 hours Medical Service Via Lorenzo il Magnifico, 59 Fee-paying service English, German and French speaking practitioners and specialists on call 24 hours (specialists by appointment).	Phone number: +39 55475411
Chemists open 24 hours a day : Farmacia comunale , 13 interno Stazione S. M. Novella Molteni Via Calzaiuoli, 7r All'Insegna del Moro - Piazza S. Giovanni, 20r	Phone number: +39 55289435 / +39 55216761 Phone number: +39 55289490 Phone number: +39 55211343

Tourist Information

<p>Tourist information can be found at the following offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piazza Stazione • Via Cavour 1 (near Il Duomo) • Borgo Santa Croce 29 	<p>Opening hours: 9.00am – 1.45pm Mon-Sat Opening hours: 8.15am – 1.30pm Mon-Sat Opening hours: 8.15am – 1.30pm Mon-Sat</p>
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Power Plugs and Outlets

The outlets and plugs used in Italy are C, F & L. Take a look at the pictures below to see what each plug and outlet type looks like.



All sockets in Italy provide a standard voltage of 230V with a frequency of 50Hz.

Please visit <https://world-power-plugs.com/italy> for more details about plugs, **outlets**, **electronic equipment** and converters that you might need to bring with you when travelling to Italy.

Double-Deck Bus Tour of Florence



CitySightseeing Firenze

Meeting Point - Walking Tour
 Via Broletto 1, across The della Repubblica, in front of Sant'Antonio
 Via Broletto 1, just at Palazzo Vecchio, in front of Sant'Antonio

MAPaPLAN.com

PRESENT THIS MAP AT LA RINASCENTE STORE
 YOU'LL GET 10% OFF
 ON YOUR PURCHASES

laRinascente
 DEPARTAMENTO DE TURISMO DE LA CIUDAD DE FLORENCIA

Orari - timetable

LINEA "A"	LINEA "B"	LINEA "C"
1. FLORENCE - SAN MARCO	1. SAN MARCO - SAN MARCO	1. SAN MARCO - SAN MARCO
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Tickets and info: <https://tinyurl.com/9wbfuyz2>

Afternoon Trips from Florence

1) Fiesole



Fiesole is a pretty town in the scenic hills above Florence with Etruscan roots, Roman ruins, and views of Florence on clear days. In summer, there are breezes to cool the temperature and outdoor performances in the Roman Amphitheater.

Fiesole was probably founded in the 9th-8th century BC, as it was an important member of the Etruscan confederacy, as may be seen from the remains of its ancient walls.

The first recorded mention on the town dates to 283 BC, when the town, then known as Faesulae, was conquered by the Romans. In pagan antiquity it was the seat of a famous school of augurs, and every year twelve young men were sent thither from Rome to study the art of divination. Sulla colonized it with veterans, who afterwards, under the leadership of Manlius, supported the cause of Catilina.

Fiesole was the scene of Stilicho's great victory over the Germanic hordes of the Vandals and Suevi under Radagaisus in 405. During the Gothic War (536-53) the town was several times besieged. In 539 Justinus, the Byzantine general, captured it and razed its fortifications.

It was an independent town for several centuries in the early Middle Ages, no less powerful than Florence in the valley below, and many wars arose between them; in 1010 and 1025 Fiesole was sacked by the Florentines, before it was conquered by Florence in 1125, and its leading families obliged to take up their residence in Florence.

By the 14th century, rich Florentines had countryside villas in Fiesole, and one of them is the setting of the frame narrative of the Decameron, also Boccaccio wrote the poem "Ninfale fiesolano". Robert Browning also mentions "*sober pleasant Fiesole*" several times in his poem, Andrea del Sarto.

Getting to Fiesole

To get to Fiesole take bus no 7 from the main train station in Florence (Firenze Santa Maria Novella)

2) Siena



Siena is a place of great environmental and artistic interest with a wealth of important monuments including: Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful medieval squares in Italy, Palazzo Pubblico (13th-14th century in Gothic style) overlooked by the bold Torre del Mangia (14th century, 102 m. high) and Palazzo Sansedoni (13th-14th century, altered in the 19th century); in Piazza del Duomo lie the Duomo (12th-14th century), one of the best examples of Gothic in Italy, with beautiful graffito and intarsia flooring, Libreria Piccolomini (in the left aisle, with valuable 16th century frescoes) and the 14th century Baptistry (font by Jacopo della Quercia), the Spedale di S. Maria della Scala (13th-14th century) and the remains of the Duomo Nuovo (14th century).

The Palazzo Pubblico, complete with chapel and meeting rooms, once housed the Podestà and the Council; today it is the town hall. The blind arcade on the ground level suggests commercialism rather than fortification. The Gothic mullioned windows were later copied in other Sienese buildings. The Palazzo Pubblico is the most monumental building surrounding the Campo, the most important public space in Siena.

The Campo was paved in 1333-34, signalling its importance in civic life. The Campo is also famous as the site for the Palio (horse race) as well as other yearly events. The Cappella di Piazza, a small chapel, is to the left, above which rises the Torre del Mangia, a tall bell-tower--102M to the tip of the ironwork, built between 1325-44. The tallest tower in the city, and taller than the one on the Palazzo Vecchio built somewhat earlier in Florence, it rang the time and announced curfews, as well as calling the Council to meetings.

Getting to Siena

Buses leave for **Siena** from the SITA bus station in Via S. Caterina da Siena 17 R (very close to the main train station).

Information about Siena: <http://www.siena.turismo.toscana.it> (the website is available also in English)

3) San Gimignano



San Gimignano is a charming hill town of 7000 inhabitants, which has preserved its medieval appearance more completely than any other town in Tuscany. It stands 334 mts above the sea level on the site of a small Etruscan settlement dating from the Hellenistic period (third to second BC). Its history begins around the Tenth Century.

The town is famous for its numerous towers which make it conspicuous from a great distance and provide one of the most remarkable sights in Italy. It is possible to walk along the 13C walls from which there are fine views of the rich agricultural farm land which surrounds the town

Getting to San Gimignano

Buses leave for San Gimignano from the SITA bus station in Via S. Caterina da Siena 17 R (very close to the main train station).

4) Pisa



The Leaning Tower is the most famous image of the city, it is one of many works of art and architecture in the city's Campo dei Miracoli or "Field of Miracles", to the north of the old town center. The Campo dei Miracoli also houses the Duomo (the Cathedral), the Baptistry and the Camposanto (the monumental cemetery).

Other interesting sights include:

Knights' Square (Piazza dei Cavalieri), where the Palazzo della Carovana, with its impressive façade designed by Giorgio Vasari may be seen.

The church of St. Francis, designed by Giovanni di Simone, built after 1276. In 1343 new chapels were added and the church was elevated. It has a single nave and a notable belfry, as well as a 15th century cloister. It houses works by Jacopo da Empoli, Taddeo Gaddi and Santi di Tito. In the Gherardesca Chapel are buried Ugolino della Gherardesca and his sons.

The Borgo Stretto, a neighborhood where one can stroll beneath medieval arcades and the Lungarno, the avenues along the river Arno. It includes the Gothic-Romanesque church of San Michele in Borgo (990). Remarkably, there are at least two other leaning towers in the city, one at the southern end of central Via Santa Maria, the other halfway through the Piagge riverside promenade.

Getting to Pisa

To get to Pisa you can get the train from Santa Naria Novella Train Station.

Two-Way Ticket € 11.20

NB: Remember to convalidate your ticket in the yellow machine on the station platform before boarding the train !!!

Trains from Florence to Pisa run every half hour. The journey time is just over one hour. For information about the train timetable please check: www.trenitalia.it

5) Lucca



Lucca has one particularly stunning feature - ancient ramparts that ring the old city. The inhabitants built these brick walls in the 16th century for defense. Today, walk (or bike) around the city on the wide shaded walkways atop the walls.

Worth seeing are the churches San Michele in Foro and San Frediano, the cathedral San Martino, the shopping street via Fillungo, Palazzo and Torre Guinigi (14th c.) and the Piazza Anfiteatro. On the ruins of the Roman amphitheater, churches and houses were built, which now form a beautiful oval square.

The facade of the San Frediano church is decorated with a lavish thirteenth century mosaic; the interior is worth seeing and houses a richly carved baptismal font as well as a shrine to Lucca's saint, Santa Zita.

In the Duomo (11th-13th century, Romanesque) there is the beautiful Tomb of Ilaria del Carretto, a sculptural masterpiece by Jacopo della Quercia (1408).

Piazza Anfiteatro is another 'must-see' in Lucca. Some original Roman elements remain, particularly within the outer walls. This ancient site constitutes one of the most characteristic and original monuments of the city.

"Via Fillungo" is the main shopping street of Lucca downtown. The ancient *cardo maximus* of the Roman city is today a lively street with elegant traditional shops, medieval towers (of which the oldest and most interesting is the Tower of Hours, which can be visited), and noblemen's palaces.

Guinigi Tower is located in one of the most characteristic medieval neighborhoods of the city. It is the only remaining example of home of Gothic nobility, with elegant quadriforium on the facades, large internal rooms, and a second doorway for carriage access.

Almost certainly the most photographed view in Lucca, the facade of San Michele in Foro is a delight. The upper section gives the impression of a propped-up film set - the windows look through onto thin air - as money ran out before that part of the church could be raised to the level of the facade. Every single column is different; some are elaborately carved, some twisted and spiralling, others are like striped sweets.

Getting to Lucca

To get to Lucca you can get the train from Santa Naria Novella Train Station.

Two-Way Ticket € 10.00

NB: Remember to convalidate your ticket in the yellow machine on the station platform before boarding the train !!!

Trains from Florence to Lucca run every half an hour. Journey time is 1hr 15 mins / 1 hr 35 mins. For information about the train timetable please check: www.trenitalia.it

Information about Lucca: <http://www.luccatourist.it/> (the website is available also in English)

6) Barberino Shopping Outlet



Shops

Abital, Adidas, Baldinini, Black Box, Bose, Bottega Verde, Bric's Store, Brookfield, Bruno Magli, Calzedonia, Caractère, Carlo PignaPhone numberli, C'è Bassetti, CK Jeans, CK Underwear, Clan International (Belstaff/Capalbio), Coccinelle, Colombo Collezioni in Cachemire, Compagnia delle Pelli, Corso Roma, Cotton Belt, David mayer, Docksteps, Elena Mirò, Eredi Pisanò, Fila, Flannel Bay, Fornarina, Gas, Golden Lady, Griogioperla, Guess, Guess Accessories, Guess Kids, Guru, Il Lanificio, John Ashfield, K.I.D.s, La Casa Italiana, Lagostina, L'Altramoda, Les Copains, Levi's-Dockers, Lovable Playtex Planet, Malloy, Mariella Burani, Marlboro Classic, Massimo Rebecchi, Maui Bear, Missoni, Moreschi, Motivi, Nautica, Officina di Ricerca, Pal Zileri, Pinko, Piquadro, Pollini, Prada, Puma, Pupa Outlet, Q Come Quore, RCR - Royal Crystal Rock, Rifle, Robe di Kappa, Rocco Bormioli, Segue, Sergio Tacchini, Sia, Slam, SPT - Société Pour Le Tricot, Stefanel, St.Diego-A-Style, Sunglass Time, Tailor Club, Tezenis, The Bridge, The End, Ugo Colella, United Colors of Benetton, Vestebene, Wrangler-Lee

Getting there: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

There is a Turistic Bus which leaves from the Auto Stazione Sita, located in Santa Maria Novella Square, at 9.30 AM, 2.00 PM, and 4.30 PM.

Returning buses from the Barberino Designer Outlets depart at 12 PM, 3.00 PM, and 7.00 PM.

Price is 9 Euro return ticket.

Getting there: Every day

The SITA Bus service runs every day.

Buses depart from the Autostazione Sita in Santa Maria Novella at 9.00 AM, 1.30 PM, 1.55 PM, 2.30 PM, 5.10 PM, 6.45 PM.

Buses depart from the Barberino Designer Outlets at 11.30 AM, 3.30 PM, 5.30 PM (Saturdays 4.45 PM), 9.30PM.

Price is about 3 Euro

Opening Times

Tuesday – Sunday 10 - 21

Monday: February, March, April, May, October and November: CLOSED

January, June, July, August, September and December: OPEN 14-21

Information about Barberino Designer Outlet: <http://barberino.mcarthurglen.it/> (the website is available also in English)

Useful Italian Words & Phrases

01. Greetings

English	Italian
Hello!	Ciao!
Good morning!	Buongiorno!
Good evening!	Buona sera!
Good-bye!	Arrivederci!
See you soon!	A Presto!
Good night!	Buona notte!
Bye!	Ciao!

02. Introductions

English	Italian
My name is...	Mi chiamo.....
What is your name?	Come ti chiami?
Pleased to meet you!	Piacere!
Where are you from?	Da dove vieni?
Are you from France?	Vieni dalla Francia?
No, I am Belgian.	No, vengo sono belga

03. General questions and answers

English	Italian
Excuse me, do you speak English?	Scusi, parla inglese?
I am sorry, I don't speak Italian	Mi dispiace, non parlo italiano
I understand very little.	Capisco poco
I am sorry, I don't understand	Mi dispiace, non capisco

04. Please and Thanks

English	Italian
Thank you!	Grazie!
Please	Per favore
Yes, please!	Sì, grazie!
No, thank you!	No grazie!

05. Places

English	Italian
Airport	Aeroporto

Railway station	Stazione
Travel agency	Agenzia di viaggi
Hotel	Albergo
Bank	Banca
Shop	Negozi
Museum	Museo
Market	Mercato

06.Directions

English	Italian
Where is the post office, please?	Dov'è l'ufficio postale, per favore?
Go straight ahead!	Sempre dritto!
Turn right!	Gira a destra!
Turn left!	Gira a sinistra!

07.Means of transport & travelling

English	Italian
car	macchina
plane	aereo
train	treno
bus	autobus
Two tickets, please!	Due biglietti per favore!
How much is it?	Quanto costa?
Where is the booking-office?	Dov'è la biglietteria?
What time is the train?	A che ora è il treno?

8.Signs

English	Italian
Entrance	Ingresso
Exit	Uscita
Open	Aperto
Closed	Chiuso
Departures	Partenze
Arrivals	Arrivi



Have a great time in Florence!

