



10 Places you can't Miss when you Visit 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.

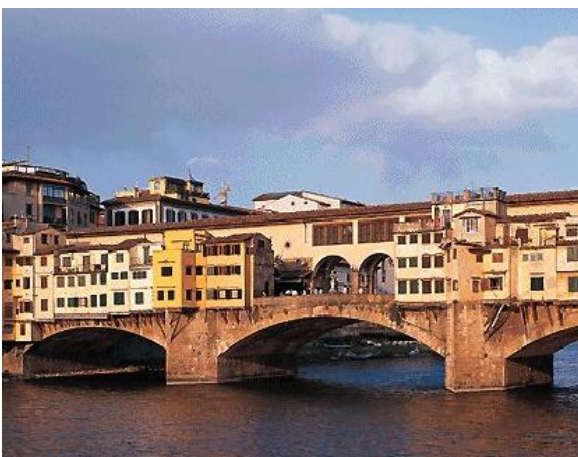
3. The Uffizi Loggia and the Uffizi Gallery



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 Uffizzi 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 honoured Florentines to be buried or commemorated there. For 500 years monumental graves were erected in the church including those of: Galileo Galilei; Lorenzo Ghiberti; Niccolò Machiavelli; Michelangelo; 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 e name from the church.

Map

