



EXPLORING ON YOUR OWN

Students: Present your student ID at most sites to receive a discount on tickets

Tip – Reserve tickets online or directly at the ticket booth on-site at least 1-2 days in advance so that you may skip the lines

FLORENCE SITES

The Duomo	Cathedral	10 AM – 5 PM
	Dome	8:30 AM – 6:20 PM
	Baptistry	8:15 AM – 6:30 PM
	Bell tower	8:15 AM – 6:15 PM
	Crypt	10:00 AM – 5 PM
	Museum of the Duomo	9 AM – 7 PM
Accademia	8:15 AM – 6:50 PM, closed Mondays Address: Via Ricasoli 58/60 12.50 EUR, reserved tickets recommend to skip line Home to Michelangelo's David as well as important Renaissance painting and sculpture.	
Bargello Museum	8:15 AM – 5 PM; closed Monday Address: Via del Proconsolo, 4, 50122 Firenze, Italy 7 EUR at the door Former prison and barracks, currently home to a collection of art, ceramics, sculpture and other collections from around Italy.	
Galileo Museum	9:30 AM – 1 PM TUES; 9:30 AM – 6 PM Wed-Mon Address: Piazza dei Giudici 1 9 EUR Celebrating the works and inventions of Galileo Galilei	

- Medici Chapel Inconsistent hours Sundays and Mondays, Tues – Sat mornings
 Located on one side of the San Lorenzo Basilica, church of the Medici Family, the chapel houses the tombs of the storied family created by Michelangelo himself.
- Piazzale Michelangelo & San Miniato
 Open-air space with garden and café offering commanding views over the city. San Miniato church is located a few hundred meters away from the piazza and is one of the oldest churches in Florence.
- Uffizi Gallery 8:15 AM – 6:50 PM; closed Monday
 Address: Piazzale degli Uffizi, 6, 50122 Firenze FI, Italy
 12.50 EUR at the door, more online for reserved tickets (recommended to skip the lines)
 Florence’s largest collection of Renaissance art including Boticelli’s *Birth of Venus* and *Primavera*.
- Santa Croce 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM everyday
 Address: Piazza Santa Croce
 6 EUR
 Gorgeous church with connected Pazzi Chapel. Home to tombs of Galileo, Machiavelli and Michelangelo
- Santissima Annunziata 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 4 – 6:30 PM everyday
 Address: Piazza Santissima Annunziata
 Free admission
 Gorgeous church with a large collection of art and frescos
- Boboli Gardens 8:15 AM – 6:30 PM everyday
 Located behind the Pitti Palace
 10 EUR
 Designed by Giorgio Vasari and other Renaissance artists for the Medici family. Sprawling grounds and stunning views of Florence.

- Bardini Gardens 10 AM – 7 PM, closed Mondays
 Address: Costa San Giorgio 2
 8 EUR
 Renaissance villa and sculpted gardens overlooking the city
- Cascine Park Located along the Arno River on the western side of the city center, this is a great space to enjoy a walk or run, or a visit to the pool (during summer months)

DAY TRIPS FROM FLORENCE

Your starting station: Firenze S. M. Novella (Santa Maria Novella)

Tickets for half or full-day trips can be purchased at the train station either at the self-service machines or even the news stands. The green machines are for tickets on the small, slow regional trains for destinations such as Monterosso al Mare, Pisa, Siena and Cortona. The red and white machines are for the faster trains for destinations such as Rome, Venice and Milan.

I do not recommend waiting in the long lines at the ticket windows.

I highly recommend using www.trenitalia.com to plan your trip at least 24 hours in advance, see train scheduled, and even purchase your tickets online (using CC or PayPal) and allowing you to print your tickets and have them before you arrive at the station.

The train station is a 20-minute walk from the hotel. Plan on arriving at least 15-20 minutes prior to your scheduled train departure time in order to find the platform, stamp your train ticket (necessary for any tickets that do not have the specific travel date and time already printed on them), and board the train. The train station has cafes and shops if you need to get a coffee or food to take on the train with you.

- Siena A jewel of Tuscany, Siena offers a great half or full-day trip by train. Visit the incredible Duomo and the Piazza del Campo. Climb the bell tower and enjoy the quaint shops and restaurants.

- Lucca A super charming walled city just a short train ride from Florence. Lucca is full of gorgeous churches, incredibly charming shops and piazzas, and a great place to spend a lovely morning or afternoon.
- Rome Rome can also be a day tour from Florence for the ambitious. It's only 1hr 30min on the fast train, and when you arrive you can take a metro to the Vatican Museums. If you want to visit the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, I suggest pre-purchasing tickets online to skip the line.
<https://biglietteriamusei.vatican.va/musei/tickets/do?action=booking&codiceLivelloVisita=9&step=1>
From there, head to Piazza Navona, see the Pantheon and Trevi Fountain, and hop over to the Colosseum and Forum (either enter or just visit from the outside). In order to see everything in a day, you must plan get train tickets in advance, pre-purchase museum tickets, and know that you might have to take a few taxis or order to see everything and get back to Roma Termini station to return to Florence.
- Venice An iconic Italian city with some of the most unique architecture in the world, Venice is a trip you can definitely do in a day. Once you arrive in Venice (2hr 10min on train from Florence), you can take the Vaporetto waterbus to Piazza San Marco, or follow the signs on the street to walk there. I usually depart Florence around 9 AM, arrive in Venice, and make the walk towards San Marco, take a ride in a gondola ride, have lunch, check out Piazza San Marco, and finally head back to Florence on a 5 or 6 PM train.
- Cinque Terre A 2.5 hr train ride each way (with several train changes in Pisa and Le Spezie), leave on one of the earliest trains, and come back on one of the latest trains to maximize your time. Visit the beach and hike or take the quick train between each of the 5 towns. In Le Spezie or any of the 5 Cinque Terre towns, buy a 24-hour pass allowing you access to the trails and train. Trains from Florence: Your destination should be "Monterosso al Mare".

- Verona The city of Romeo and Juliette, Verona is a charming town in northern Italy. Enjoy a visit to the famous Arena, Juliette's balcony, and enjoy some very traditional food in one of Verona's classic eateries.
- Assisi Home to the basilica of St. Francis, this is one of the most charming towns in Italy. Located on a hilltop in Umbria, the gorgeous views and charming streets offer a lovely place to explore for a day. Trains take 2hr 30 min each way. Great way to journal or relax and read a book while taking in the countryside scenery.
- Pisa Home of the leaning tower, this is a quick half-day visit from Florence. Pisa is somewhere you can get to easily and comfortably by train. However, the tower is the only site in Pisa worth visiting. If there is a time crunch, or if you have other cities or sites you want to visit, I would skip Pisa.
- Milan Italy's fashion and industry capital, Milan has a completely different feel than any other Italian town. Mixing traditional culture with modern flare, Milan is fun to see in a day. Explore the Duomo and its surrounding streets with high-fashion stores and sites.
- Bologna A young, fun Italian town, Bologna is easy to get to and from and lovely to walk around explore the shops and check out the main piazzas. Bologna is home to some great food including the typical meat ragù sauce, called *Bolognese* in Italian. Check out a restaurant or two for a hearty meal here.