

FLORENCE



TRAVEL TIPS

THE CITY



Florence is situated on the Arno river plain, surrounded by the beautiful hills that have made Florence famous in the world. Magnificent is the historical center (declared World Heritage in 1982 UNESCO) has buildings of considerable architectural and historical value as well as an extensive number of works of art. The structures are characterized by different origins : they cover a vast span of time ranging from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. But Florence is famous not only for monuments and museums but also for the beautiful surroundings. Wonderful and absolutely not to be missed is the landscape consisting of villas, convents, churches and small and picturesque villages. They date back to the period of Medici dynasty, between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, the years in which Florence enjoyed its greatest splendor period. The city has also provided a great contribution to the development of Renaissance period of artistic, cultural and literary history of Europe, which developed from the second half of the fourteenth century until the sixteenth century; this place is known as the "cradle of the Renaissance." In the city were born, lived and worked in many of the greatest artists belonging to the Renaissance current. It is especially thanks to their works that today the capital of Tuscany is visited every year by millions of tourists. The origins of the city date back to the Etruscan; known history of Florence began in 59 B.C. In Roman times the town was called "Florentia", that is "destined to flourish." His statement, which started as early as the first century BC, culminated three centuries later. Florence, after the Medieval age era to economic crash throughout Europe, was a notable expansion and emerged as one

of the most important centers of the cultural point of view of the Italian peninsula. From the eleventh century the city became more and more autonomy, it became a free commune in 1115. Soon, however, began to take shape the first internal conflicts between the feudal lords and the artisan class which resulted in two factions: the Ghibellini, favorable to the imperial cause, and Guelfi, siding for the Pope. Despite the struggles, he managed to win the fight against Arezzo, Pistoia, Siena and Volterra widening as its own territory. Between the end of 1200 and the beginning of 1300, the city flourished as one of the most important centers of Italy thanks the presence of bankers and artists such as Giotto and Dante Alighieri. In 1348 the plague struck the city: it was a very difficult period. Eventually the '300 civil war occurred among the bourgeoisie, and the common people. The revolt of the Ciompi (wool workers) of 1372 led to a reversal of the government and the rise of the common people in power. Meanwhile began to establish the prestige of the Medici family. In the Medici family, loved by Florentine for his patronage and for its liberality, stood out different figures. Who prevailed most was undoubtedly Lorenzo de 'Medici, called the Magnificent: he allowed the city to get some prestige throughout Europe in the artistic, cultural and economic development. Until his death (1492) carried out an intense mediation between the various Italian states always fighting each other and guaranteed the country a period of economic prosperity. The sixteenth century saw Florence before become a Republic, and then in 1537 the return of Medici family.

THE CITY



In 1569 he became a grand duchy Cosimo de' Medici, and in later centuries passed into the hands of Lorraine. After a short Napoleonic period (1799-1814), Florence participated in the wars of independence up to the final annexation in 1859, the Kingdom of Sardinia became the Kingdom of Italy in 1861. It was the capital of Italy from 1865 to 1871. During the XIX century the population doubled; tripled in XX with the growth of tourism, trade, industry and financial services. During the Second World War the city was occupied for a year by the Germans, only to be freed August 11, 1944. November 4, 1966 is recalled by the Florentines as the day of the flood Florence. Much of the town was invaded by River Arno. The raging waters brought destruction and some deaths. This immense drama was experienced by the world with a participation unique, giving soon start to an incredible solidarity. Today, the glorious old town, is full of points of interest not to be missed: the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore with Brunelleschi's dome symbolizing the great cultural tradition and the city's civic awareness; the basilica of the Holy Cross, with Michelangelo, Galileo, Alfieri, Canova, Machiavelli, Rossini and Foscolo tombs; the Uffizi Gallery, one of the most visited museums in the world, within which are exposed works by Giotto, Leonardo, Botticelli, Michelangelo and Raphael; the Old Bridge; Pitti Palace, now home to many of the most prestigious museums Florence and Piazza della Signoria, the center of Florentine politics since the fourteenth century.

FLORENCE



WHAT TO VISIT

Churches
Palaces
Museums
Monuments
Squares / streets
Structures / Parks

CHURCHES

1

Chiesa di San miniato al monte

Via delle Porte Sante - Firenze

Great testimony of Florentine Romanesque, dating back to the eleventh century, while the facade of the next century stands for the marbles white and green that create geometric patterns. In front is present a mosaic representing Christ between the Madonna and San Miniato and a golden copper eagle. The interior of the church is structured into three naves divided by columns and the floor is marble and depicts the signs of the zodiac.



2

Chiesa di Santo Spirito

Piazza di Santo Spirito, 30 - Firenze

The Church of the Holy Spirit is one of the most important religious monuments in Florence. The vestry is a small and precious jewel of the Renaissance, where Michelangelo lived for a short period of time. It appears that the Florentine genius, with the Medici help, lived in the sacristy of Santo Spirito following the father's death and that, as a token of gratitude, he gave the church a crucifix that created only 17 years old.



3

Chiesa di Santa Maria Del Carmine

Piazza del Carmine – Firenze

The Church stands out with an imposing rough stone facade in the square of the Carmine. The church was founded in 1268 and completed in 1476, has become most famous for the Chapel Brancacci with its frescoes by Masaccio and Masolino. It was devastated by fire in 1771 and rebuilt internally by Giulio Mannaioni in 1775 following a Ruggieri project. It houses paintings by Vasari.

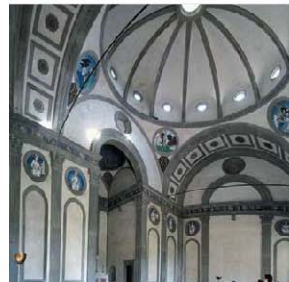


4

Cappella dei Pazzi

Piazza di Santa Croce, 16 – Firenze

The Pazzi Chapel, dating from 1460, is one of the most famous Renaissance architecture, Filippo Brunelleschi's masterpiece, overlooking the first cloister of the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence. Magnificent is the inside small dome with the Pazzi coat of arms, the work of Luca della Robbia. Inside, a small room was the place for the burial of members of the Pazzi family and private worship.



CHURCHES

5

Basilica di Santa Croce

Piazza di Santa Croce, 16 – Firenze

Here are buried Michelangelo, Galileo, Alfieri, Canova, Machiavelli, Rossini. Foscolo, also buried in the basilica, called the place that kept the "Urns of the Strong." Numerous works kept inside; The chapels are decorated with Giotto frescoes. Stories from the Life of St. Francis. In the Pazzi Chapel, where Giuliano de Medici was killed and Lorenzo de Medici the Magnificent wounded during the famous conspiracy, is preserved the Cimabue crucifix.



6

Chiesa di Orsanmichele

Via Orsanmichele, 7 - Firenze

Orsanmichele is one of the most important Florentine architecture of the fourteenth century. In the place, where until the twelfth century was the S. Michele in Orto oratory, in 1290 by Arnolfo di Cambio was built a loggia destined for the grain trade. This burned down in 1304 and in 1337 Francesco Talenti made rebuilt it even more big. At the end of the fifteenth century, the market was moved and the building was transformed into a church.



Battistero di San Giovanni

Piazza di San Giovanni, 1-10 - firenze

The Baptistry is placed in front of the Cathedral and its construction, with octagonal plant, dates back to the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Characteristic is the coating with two-tone green and white marble slabs. Three magnificent bronze doors by Andrea Pisano and Lorenzo Ghiberti stand out with an imposing great impact. It was built to receive the baptismal font of the Cathedral; internally you can see the splendor of the mosaics covering the entire dome and the vault of the tribune.



8

Duomo di Santa Maria del Fiore

Piazza di San Giovanni, 1-10 - firenze

It was built starting in 1296 and concluded in the fifteenth century with the realization of the famous Filippo Brunelleschi's dome. The interior of the church is a beautiful sight with beautiful frescoes, sculptures and marble floor. The paintings on the dome form the largest mural cycle with sacred subjects known. Among the artists who have helped to beautify the church we can quote Paolo Uccello, Andrea del Castagno, Giorgio Vasari and Federico Zuccari.



CHURCHES

9

Cupola del Brunelleschi

Piazza del duomo - Firenze

The Brunelleschi Dome is the most famous building in Florence, symbolizes the big cultural tradition and the city's civic awareness. The completion of the works lasted a long time: in 1434 the dome was completed. The construction was started in the summer of 1420. The lantern dates from the years 1445 to 1461. The structure is really impressive: it has a diameter of 45.52 meters and height, without lantern, of 91 meters. The weight is instead estimated at 37,000 tons.



10

Chiesa di Santa Maria Novella

Piazza di Santa Maria Novella, 18-19 – Firenze

Also in this Florentine church you can see the Romanesque style with two-tone white and green marble with geometric designs outside and one inside the Gothic style. Its construction was begun in 1246 and the beautiful facade was revived in the mid of the fifteenth century by Leon Battista Alberti. Inside is the crucified works by Giotto, Masaccio and Uccello. Santa Maria Novella was the center of the Dominican order in Florence.



11

Chiesa di San Lorenzo e Cappelle medicee

Piazza di San Lorenzo, 8-9 - Firenze

The church of San Lorenzo is the oldest of Florence. It was consecrated by St. Ambrose in 393 and dedicated to the martyr Lawrence. It is considered one of the best buildings of the Renaissance. The facade remains unfinished even though there was a draft Michelangelo that was never realized. The old sacristy is the work of Brunelleschi and is decorated with frescoes by Donatello. It houses the Medici Chapels housing the tombs of 50 members of the noble Florentine family.



12

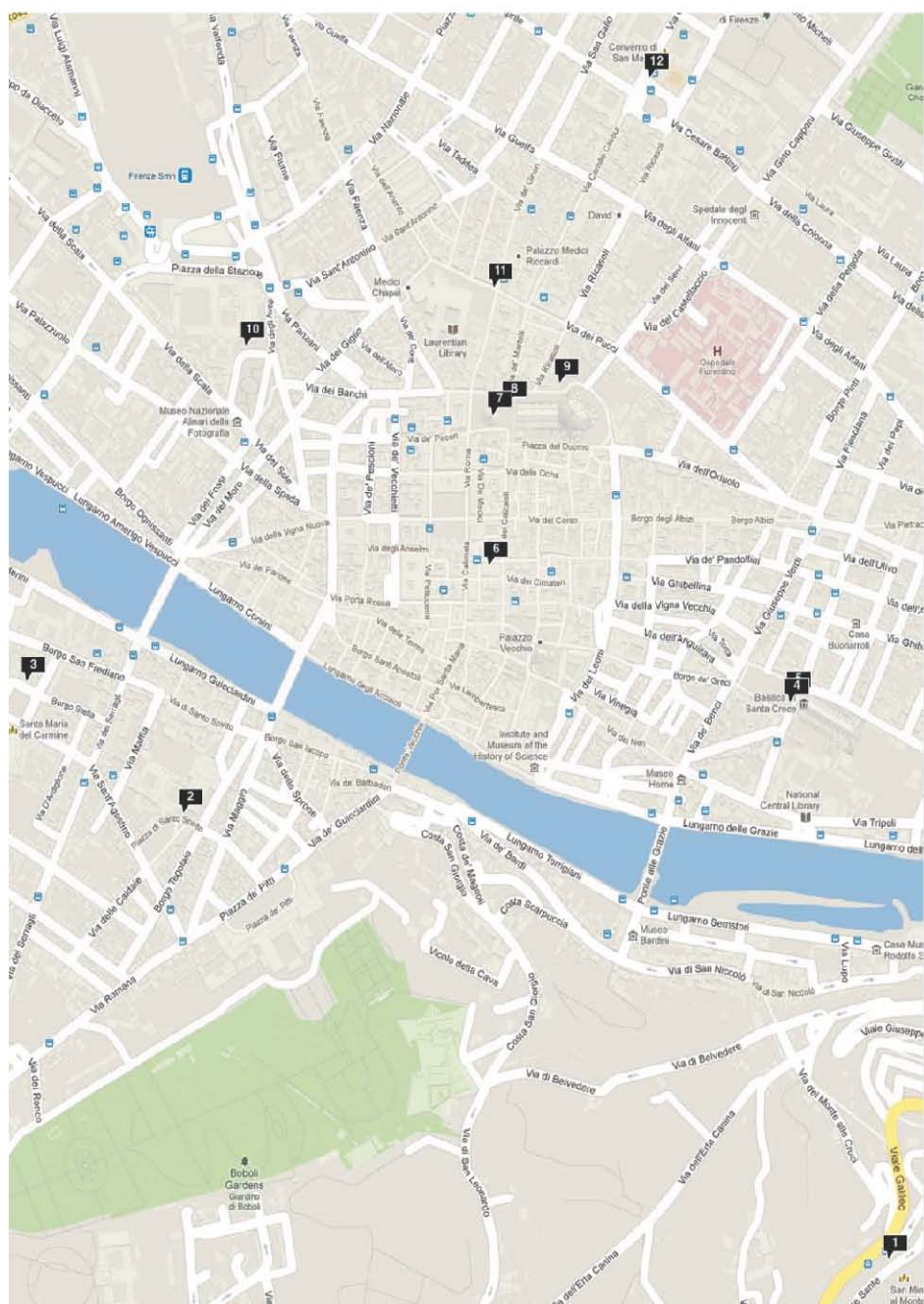
Chiesa di San Marco

Piazza di San Marco, 3 - Firenze

Here worked and lived Fra Angelico, a Dominican friar and artist early Renaissance. The beautiful Annunciation of the Virgin is located here. San Marco was founded in the thirteenth century by the monks Silvestrini. In 1437 Cosimo the Elder invited the Dominicans of Fiesole to move into the convent, which was reconstructed by Michelozzo, as a gesture to atone for his guilt of having accumulated money with the bank business.



CHURCHES



PALACES

1 Palazzo Pitti

Piazza de' Pitti - Firenze

It was built around 1450 by Luca Pitti on the project Brunelleschi, who was commissioned by the same ten years before. The structure of the building is typical of the Renaissance, in stone carved from the hills of Boboli. Today it is home to many of the most prestigious Florentine museums including the Gallery of Modern Art and the Palatine Gallery with frescoes by Pietro da Cortona.



2 Palazzo Bardi

Via de' Benci, 5 - Firenze

Built in the fifteenth century on family Busini order, on Brunelleschi drawing, towards the end of the sixteenth century, the palace became the meeting place for a group of writers, artists and musicians, known under the name of Florentine Camerata. The most interesting element of the building is the beautiful central court, designed by Brunelleschi, a square, with round arches that give rise to a porch full on four sides.



3 Palazzo Vecchio - della Signoria

Piazza della Signoria, 4- Firenze

Built in 1299 and designed by Arnolfo di Cambio, was at the time seat of the Priors of the Arts then became the headquarters of Signoria from which it derives its name, in the fifteenth century. It was also the residence of Cosimo I de' Medici and was decorated internally by Vasari, by Ghirlandaio and by Bronzino. The palace is very important for Florence and with its majesty represents a symbol for the city.



4 Loggia della Signoria

Piazza della Signoria, 1 - Firenze

Also known as the Loggia dei Lanzi because the lanzichenecchi encamped there in 1527 to move towards Rome. Built between 1376 and 1382 was used to host public meetings and ceremonies of the Florentine Republic as the settlement lordships. Stand out in the front four panels with allegorical figures of the cardinal virtues, work of Agnolo Gaddi. In the three arches are hosted sculptures of exceptional merit of Cellini and Giambologna.



PALACES

5

Palazzo Borghese

Via Ghibellina, 110 – Firenze

Built in the mid-fifteenth century, the palace is characterized by a central body, slightly advanced, and two lateral symmetrical wings. Inside, the main hall is decorated with large statues in the Egyptian style, while the first floor of the monumental halls are distinguished by the splendor and magnificence, with a great profusion of gilded stucco, marble statues, columns, carved chandeliers, paintings. Worthy of note is the great Monumental gallery.



6

Palazzo Davanzati

Via Porta rossa, 19- Firenze

It dates back to the middle of the fourteenth century, built by the Davizzi, rich and powerful merchant family, was acquired in 1516 by Bartolini who subsequently sold it to Bernard Alessandra in 1578. At the beginning of the twentieth century was later acquired by the antiquarian Elia Volpi, who restored it and furnished it for make a reconstruction of an ancient Florentine house. The Palace is in fact known as the museum of the ancient Florentine house.



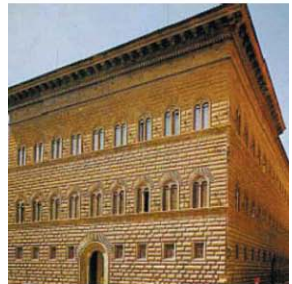
7

Palazzo Strozzi

Piazza degli Strozzi, 5 - Firenze

Has an imposing size, is one of the most beautiful Italian Renaissance palaces.

The Strozzi family was exiled from Florence in 1434 because of his opposition to the Medici, but thanks to the fortune accumulated by Filippo Strozzi as a banker in Naples, he could do return to the city in 1466 with the aim of raising the largest palace that had ever been seen in Florence. It was started in 1489, but finished after some time. Today it hosts major art events.



8

Palazzo Rucellai

Via della Vigna nuova, 8-18 - Firenze

It was built between 1446 and 1451 by Bernardo Rossellini on Alberti drawing on the orders of Giovanni the Magnificent, a member the illustrious family of the Rucellai. The exterior of the Palazzo Rucellai is harmonious and elegant. In front resort rings with diamonds feathers and distinctive emblems of the Ruccellai. Very interesting is the courtyard and the chapel of the Temple of the Holy Sepulchre made by Alberti in 1467. The palace now houses the Museo Alinari.



PALACES

9

Palazzo Antinori

Piazza degli Antinori, 3 – Firenze

It was built between 1461 and 1469 and is considered one of the most beautiful Renaissance palaces in Florence, with an elegant arcaded courtyard the center with a shaft and a lovely rear garden; is inspired by the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, but it has an architectural form even lighter and more elegant. We are still living the Antinori wine producers whose trade is still witnessed by an open window on the Trebbio alley from which they still sell wine.



10

Palazzo Arcivescovile

Piazza di San Giovanni, 17-red - Firenze

Built on the ruins of a previous building bishop's palace was commissioned by Pope Leo XI, who commissioned the work, the architect Giovanni Antonio Dosio between 1573 and 1584. Completely renovated between 1893 and 1895 by Felice Franciolini, today the building presents outside the coat of arms of Archbishop Agostino Bausa, while inside are preserved traces of the frescoes of Nicodemus Ferrucci.



11

Palazzo Medici - Riccardi

Via Camillo Cavour, 3-10 – Firenze

The building is a work of Michelozzo, commissioned by Patriarch of the Medici, Cosimo the Elder. It was the General headquarters of the Medici family until the middle of the sixteenth century. It is a Renaissance masterpiece of civil architecture, preserves the jewel Chapel of the Magi by Benozzo Gozzoli, full of portraits of Medici and personalities of their times. Today it is headquarters of the province of Florence.



12

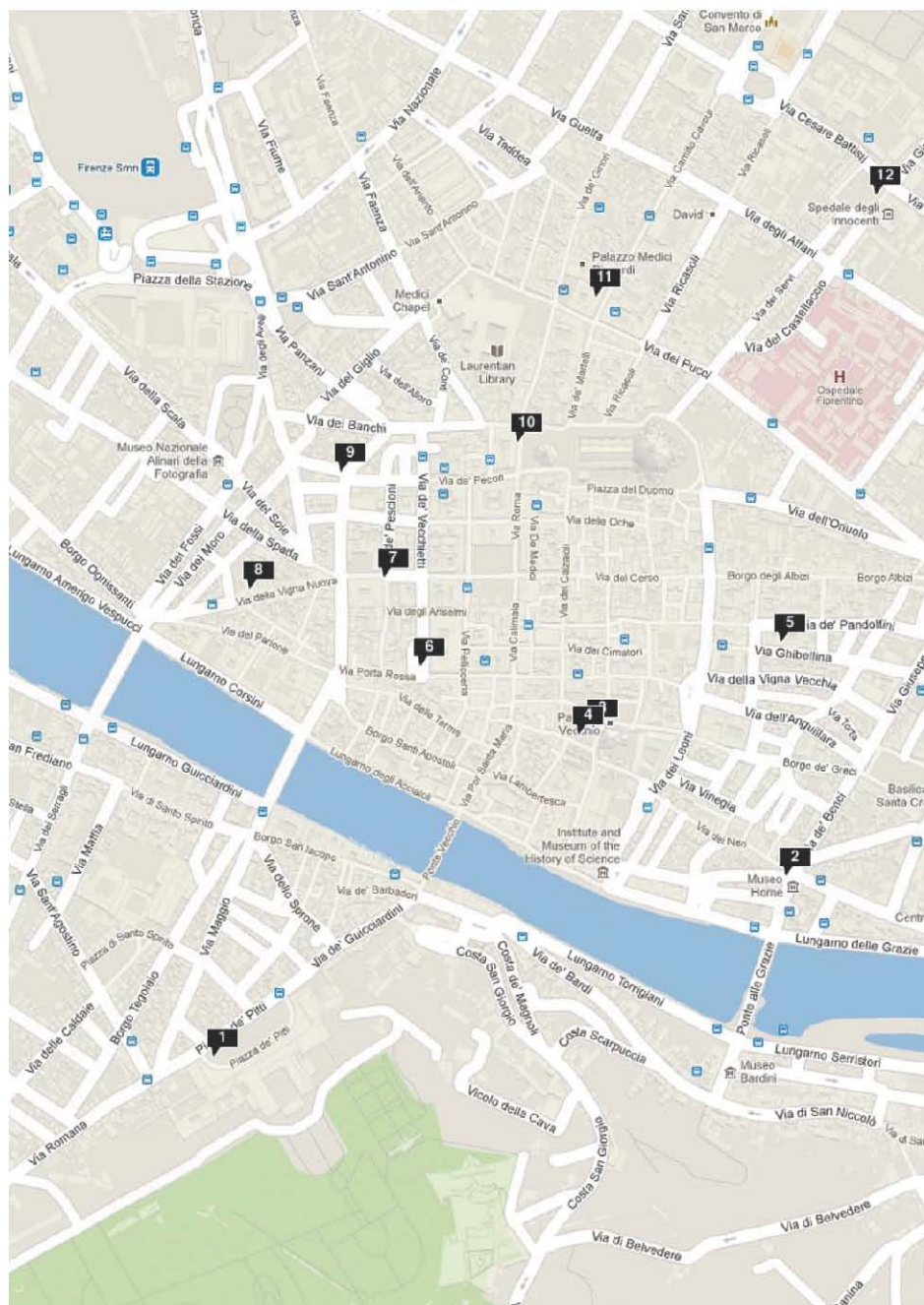
Ospedale degli innocenti

Piazza della Santissima Annunziata, 10-13 - Firenze

It was built by Brunelleschi in the fifteenth century. A few years later were added ten o'clock round terracotta by Andrea della Robbia. In the loggia above the portico there is a small museum of works of art collected over the centuries thanks to donations. In the museum we find frescoes and works of Botticelli, Luca della Robbia, Piero di Cosimo and you can admire the beautiful "Adoration" of Domenico Ghirlandaio, the Michelangelo master.



PALACES



MUSEUMS

1

Galleria Palatina

Piazza de' Pitti, 1 – Firenze

The Gallery is located on the left side of the Palazzo Pitti and was created between the late eighteenth and early decades of the nineteenth century by Lorena, who placed it in the halls masterpieces from the Medici collections. A beautiful collection that includes works by artists such as Raphael, Rubens, Caravaggio, Tiziano, Pietro da Cortona and other Italian and European masters of the Renaissance and seventeenth centuries. The magnificent walls were decorated by Pietro da Cortona.

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 8.15 to 18.50. Admission € 8.50, reduced € 4.25.



2

Galleria d'Arte moderna

Piazza de' Pitti – Firenze

This beautiful collection is housed, as well as other museums, inside the sumptuous Palazzo Pitti (the second floor). The gallery exhibits paintings and sculptures, mostly Italians, the end of the eighteenth century (the neoclassical period) until the years of the first World War. The current layout dates back to 1972-1979, but restorations in the halls were also held in 2005. Modern Art gallery has more than two thousand works.

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 8.15 to 18.50. Admission € 8.50, reduced € 4.25.



3

museo Stefano Bardini

Piazza dei mozzi - Firenze

It is one of the richest museums so-called "minor" in the city. It takes the named after its founder Stefano Bardini (1836-1922), the most authoritative Italian antiquarian. Thanks to Stefano Bardini rediscovered and spread the taste for Renaissance architectural decorations, for sculpture in plaster and the clay. The palace, home of the museum, it was purchased and renovated by the same Bardini in 1881. Here are authentic pieces, such as gables, doors and stairs.

Open Monday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 11.00 to 17.00. Admission € 5.



4

Galleria degli Uffizi

Piazzale degli Uffizi - Firenze

The building was built by Vasari in the half of 500. The name stems from the fact that at the time was to accommodate the "offices" of the judiciaries. At that time, the Grand Duke of Tuscany Cosimo de' Medici had dominance and destined to host some of the rooms the art collections of the family. In the museum, one of the most visited in the world, with works by Giotto, Leonardo, Botticelli, Michelangelo and Raffaello.

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 8.15 to 18.50. Admission € 6,50, reduced € 3.25.



MUSEUMS

5 museo Gucci

Piazza della Signoria, 9-10 – Firenze

Opened September 28, 2011, on the occasion of the ninetieth the Florentine fashion house, the museum, located at the Palazzo della Mercanzia, traces the history of the Gucci brand, from the first productions of the 30s to those of today.

Open every day from 10.00 to 20.00.



6 Corridoio Vasariano

Lungarno degli Archibusieri, 4 - Firenze

It's a raised path along more than a kilometer, which connects Palazzo Vecchio to Palazzo Pitti, passing through the Galleria Uffizi. It was built by Grand Duke Cosimo I in 1565 on the occasion of the marriage of his son Francesco with Giovanna of Austria, realized by Vasari. This corridor was thought to allow the granduques to safely move from their private residence at the palace of government and it was a reason of prestige for the Medici.



7 museo nazionale del Bargello

Via del Proconsolo, 4 - Firenze

The Palace of the Bargello is one of Florence's most ancient public buildings. It was the scene of several conflicts: from the popular rebellions, fires, natural disasters, which have caused serious damage to the building, to the contrasts between the Papacy and the Empire and among the Guelfi and the Ghibellini. From 1574 the Palazzo del Bargello became a city jail and took its name from the Bargello, head Guards. The most famous work of this museum is the David of Donatello.

Open daily from 8:15 am to 13:50. Admission € 4, € 2 reduced.



8 museo - Casa di Dante

Via Dante Alighieri, 4 - Firenze

In 1200 in the Florence historical center, between the church of S. Martino and Piazza dei Donati, stood the houses of the Alighieri. In the first years of the twentieth century, the City of Florence built the Dante's house, where the tradition says the poet was born. Here it's situated the Museo Casa di Dante, which contains testimonies concerning the youth of Dante, public life, the painful period of exile.

Winter hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 10.00 to 17.00. Summer hours: all days from 10.00 to 18.00. Admission € 4.



MUSEUMS

museo dell'Opera del Duomo

Piazza del Duomo – Firenze

The collection of the Museo dell'Opera of Santa Maria del Fiore is in largely consists of sculptures and furnishings disused Cathedral, the Campanile and the Baptistery. Inside we find an important nucleus of Gothic and Renaissance statuary. Among the most important works of Pisano, Arnolfo di Cambio, original reliefs of Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise, the Pietà Bandini of Michelangelo and one of the largest collections in the world of Donatello's works.

Open every day from 9.00 to 19.30; Sundays until 13.45. Entrance € 6.



10

Galleria dell'Accademia

Via Ricasoli, 22-red - Firenze

It is famous in the world thanks to the sculptures of the famous Michelangelo's David. The Accademia Gallery was founded by Grand Duke Leopoldo di Lorena, who decreed the constitution in 1784 to house a collection of old paintings, modern and sculptures in order to facilitate the understanding and study to young students from the nearby Academy of Fine Arts.

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 8.15 to 18.50. Admission € 6,50, reduced € 3.25.



11

museo Archeologico

Via della Colonna, 38 - Firenze

In the Archaeological Museum of Florence is one of the largest collections in the world of Etruscan art. In the gallery of bronzes are performed three beautiful Etruscan bronzes: the famous Chimera wound by Bellerofonte, the statue of Minerva and the Orator, funerary monument of the third century. It also houses the fascinating Egyptian collections, the richest in Italy, after those of Turin.

Friday: 14:00 to 19:00; Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 to 19:00; Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sundays: 8:30 to 14:00. Admission € 3, € 2 reduced



12

museo dei Serial Killer

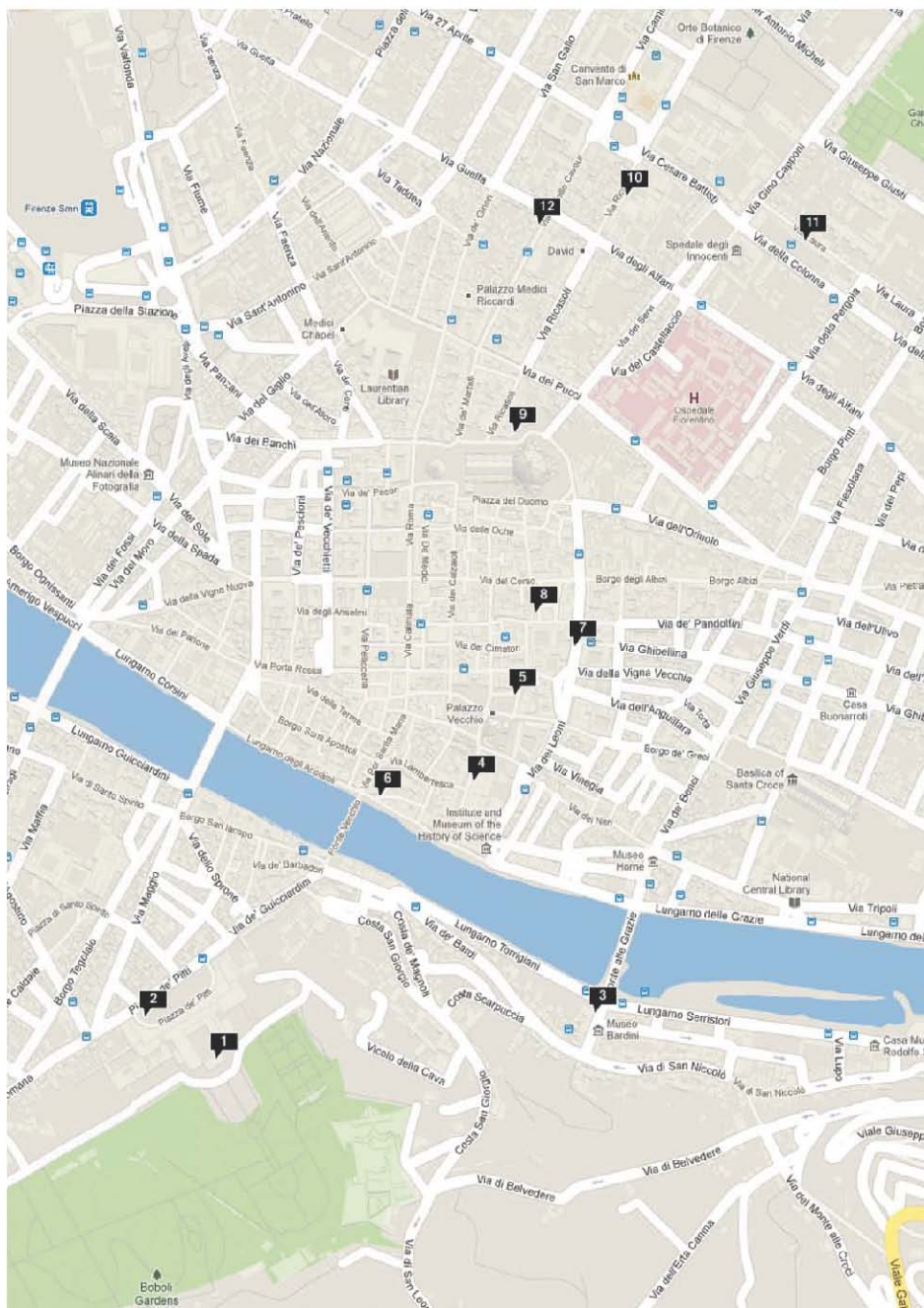
Via Camillo Cavour, 25 – Firenze

It is a unique museum of its kind in the world. The Criminal Museum tells, through a guided tour and media, the story of the greatest serial killer foreigners and Italians. It offers a chilling reconstruction of real history happened, biographical and in-depth studies about the mad mind of psychopaths of every time and place. It's a unique experience, unthinkable and incredibly overwhelming.

Open every day from 10.00 to 23.00. Admission € 10.



MUSEUMS



MONUMENTS

1 Porta del Paradiso

Piazza di San Giovanni, 1-10 - Firenze

Made by the goldsmith and sculptor Lorenzo Ghiberti between 1425 and 1452 is one of the most famous works of the Renaissance and the east gate of the baptistery. Consists of ten square panels that tell more than fifty episodes whose general theme is to of salvation. Considered from his position as a masterpiece of bronze sculpture, was greatly admired by Michelangelo, who gave him the name that is still famous (Paradise's door).



2 fontana del nettuno

Piazza della Signoria – Firenze

In 1559 Cosimo I de' Medici announced a competition to create the first public fountain in Florence, which was attended by the the most important Florentine sculptors of the time: he was chosen the Neptune of Ammannati. It was inaugurated on the occasion of the marriage of Francesco I de' Medici and Giovanna of Austria in 1565 The Neptune marble, with the traits of Cosimo I de' Medici, stands on a pedestal decorated with statues of Scilla and Cariddi. The tank has octagonal shape..



3 Ercole e il Centauro nesso

Piazza della Signoria, 1 - Firenze

Marble sculpture by Giambologna, in 1599 it was placed at the crossroads of the Carnesecchi, and was later transferred first under the loggia of the Uffizi, then the square which is close to the Ponte Vecchio and finally, in 1812, in the Loggia dei Lanzi, current home. Characteristic element of the work is the great strength plastic expressed by the twisting of the body of the centaur Nessus, bent by Hercules strength.



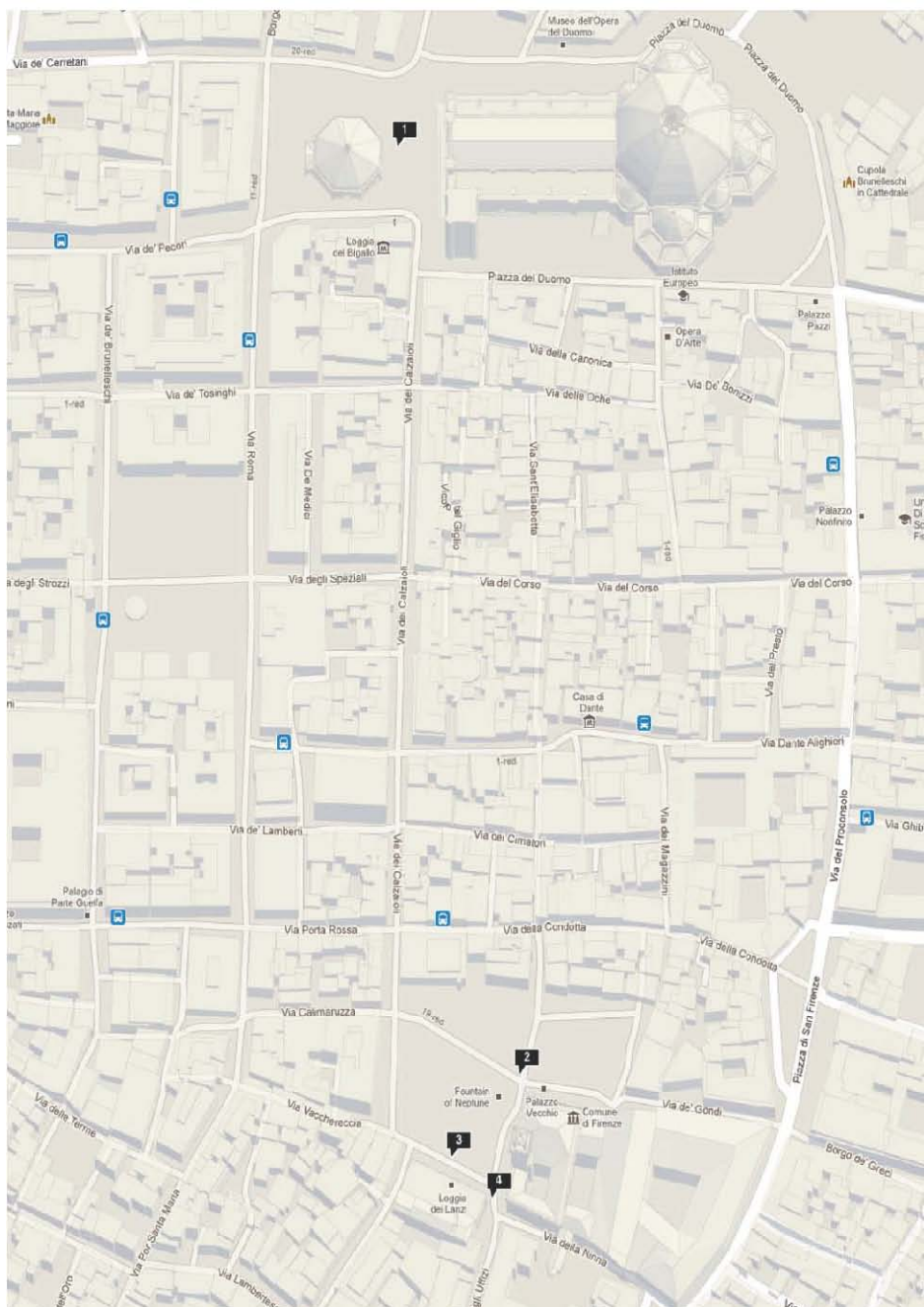
4 Ercole e Caco

Piazza della Signoria, 2 – Firenze

Located in Piazza della Signoria in front of Palazzo Vecchio and side of the copy of Michelangelo's David, is a sculpture in marble by Baccio Bandinelli completed in 1533, not without difficulty, that addresses the issue of the strength and ingenuity of allegorical Hercules defeat the evil of Caco (episode narrated in the saga of the 'Twelve Labors of Hercules'). The work is placed on a base carved with bas-relief busts of the faun which bears the signature of the author.



MONUMENTS



SQUARES/STREETS

1

Piazza San Lorenzo

Piazza San Lorenzo - Firenze

Famous for its lively market of San Lorenzo, the square has various interesting buildings the Basilica of San Lorenzo, the Medici Library, and the Palazzo Medici Riccardi. Also, here is positioned the statue of Giovanni delle Bande Nere, by Baccio Bandinelli.



2

Piazza Santa Maria Novella

Piazza Santa Maria Novella – Firenze

Built on the initiative of the Municipality since 1287 ended around 1325, after demolishing the houses that were there. The square was created to accommodate the growing number of faithful who flocked to the sermons of the Dominicans. The area became, thanks to its amplitude, the scene of parties and shows as the Palio dei Cocchi, for which they were erected two obelisks.



3

Piazza di San Giovanni

Piazza Di San Giovanni - Firenze

The present square was built in the nineteenth century, after the partial demolition of the Archbishop's Palace to give space view to the Baptistry and join in a straight line Via de 'Martelli and Via Roma. The square takes its name from the Baptistry, which dominates in to the center.



4

Piazza del Duomo

Piazza Del Duomo – Firenze

Originally located on the north side of the original quadrilateral, with the founding of the Baptistry in the early Christian era, the square became the religious center of the city. Today, dominated by the cathedral, houses to some of the most important buildings of the city, among which, in addition to the cathedral itself, the Giotto bell tower, the Palace of the Canons, and the Palazzo Strozzi di Mantova.



SQUARES/STREETS

5

Via Roma

Via Roma - Firenze

Built after the demolition of the Old Market, in the street there are many nineteenth century buildings, created by a team of four architects after the disembowelment, which Joseph Snitches, Luigi Buonamici, Torquato Lungo and Giuseppe Rossi. The road today has a mainly commercial vocation, with many shops surrounding it, as well as important buildings, such as the Savoy Hotel and the historic Caffè Gilli.



6

Piazza della Repubblica

Piazza Della Repubblica – Firenze

Dating back to Roman times, rectangular square, in the high Middle Ages was densely built and become one of the main favorite city spot, because it was the venue of city market. However, the present urban look is the result of many interventions made after the Florence proclamation as Italy capital. The area is now the scene of street artists and impromptu performances.



7

Via dei Calzaiuoli

Via Dei Calzaiuoli – Firenze

Expanded for the first time in the fifteenth century, when it was dedicated to numerous clothing shops and footwear, the street was the natural link between the religious and the political power. Once divided into small segments narrower, which had alternated various names, now is definitely the way most central and elegant street of Florence.

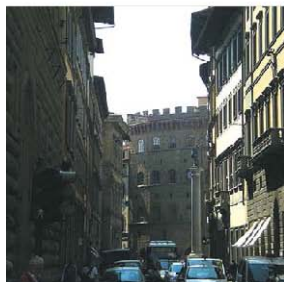


8

Via de' Tornabuoni

Via De' Tornabuoni – Firenze

Formerly occupied by the Roman walls and vintage Matildina from the bed of Mugnone, is now a luxurious street of the Florence historic center, and one of the most elegant streets of the city, thanks to presence of the best designer boutiques and high fashion jewelry.



SQUARES/STREETS

9

Piazza della Signoria

Piazza Della Signoria - Firenze

It was the focus of Florentine politics since the fourteenth century. The square has witnessed all the major and most significant political events such as the return of the Medici in 1530 In this square Savonarola who was accused of heresy and burned at the stake. Among the many statues that adorn the square the Michelangelo's David (copy) was placed in front of the Palazzo Vecchio to symbolize the power of the Florentine Republic in contrast to the Medici tyranny..



10

Piazza Santa Croce

Piazza Santa Croce – Firenze

The square, which formerly consisted in a real island formed by two arms of the Arno, was born with the aim of contain the multitude of faithful who want to listen the the friars Franciscans sermons. Area being very large and regular in shape, in the Renaissance became the ideal place for knightly jousts, parties, shows and competitions popular as costume football, who still held there every June.



11

Piazza Santo Spirito

Piazza Santo Spirito - Firenze

Founded in the thirteenth century, to accommodate the crowds that attended the Augustinians prayers, the square has been since the Middle Ages one of the places in the city where conduct parties, games and events, notably among them the most important is the Festa di San Rocco. Today the square filled with restaurants, night clubs, workshops and artists' studios, is also the venue for several markets and flea markets.



12

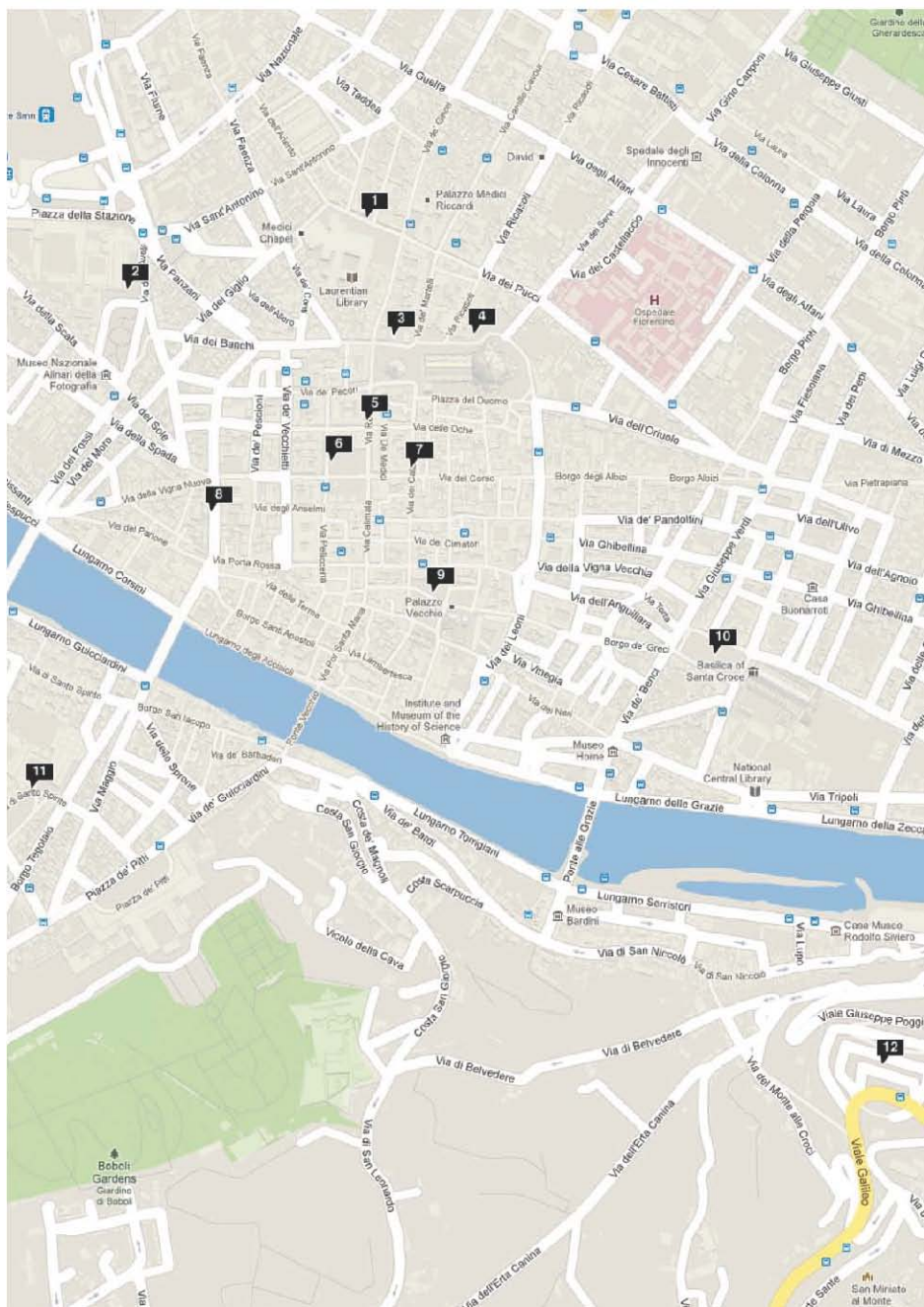
Piazzale Michelangelo

Piazzale Michelangelo – Firenze

Designed in 1869 by the Florentine architect Giuseppe Poggi, Piazzale Michelangelo offers a beautiful panoramic view of Florence and the Arno. This sumptuous terrace is typically nineteenth century. Poggi designed the square as a monument to the celebration of Michelangelo and his works, which were to be displayed here.



SQUARES/STREETS



STRUCTURES/PARKS

1 Arco di Trionfo

Piazza della Libertà, 11 – Firenze

Built in the eighteenth century by architect Jean-Nicolas Jadot, the arc was built to celebrate the entry of Asburgo-Lorena, after the extinction of the Medici family. While a plaque located on the inner side, dated November 11, 1916 and dedicated to King Victor Emanuele III, emphasizes the power assumed by the people as a result of Unification.



2 Ponte Vecchio

Ponte Vecchio, 1 – Firenze

From the old bridge you can see a picturesque landscape, one of the most beautiful and romantic of Florence, every day visited by a myriad of tourists. The Ponte Vecchio is the oldest of Florence, the only miraculously saved from destruction of the Second World War. It houses the goldsmith shops that have supplanted those which were once butchers' and greengrocers.



3 Torre dei Belfredelli

Borgo San Iacopo, 9 - Firenze

One of the best preserved medieval towers in Florence, as well as one of the tallest still standing, shows the typical coating of filaretto stone and several not aligned windows, it is recognizable for the dense ivy that covers the bottom..



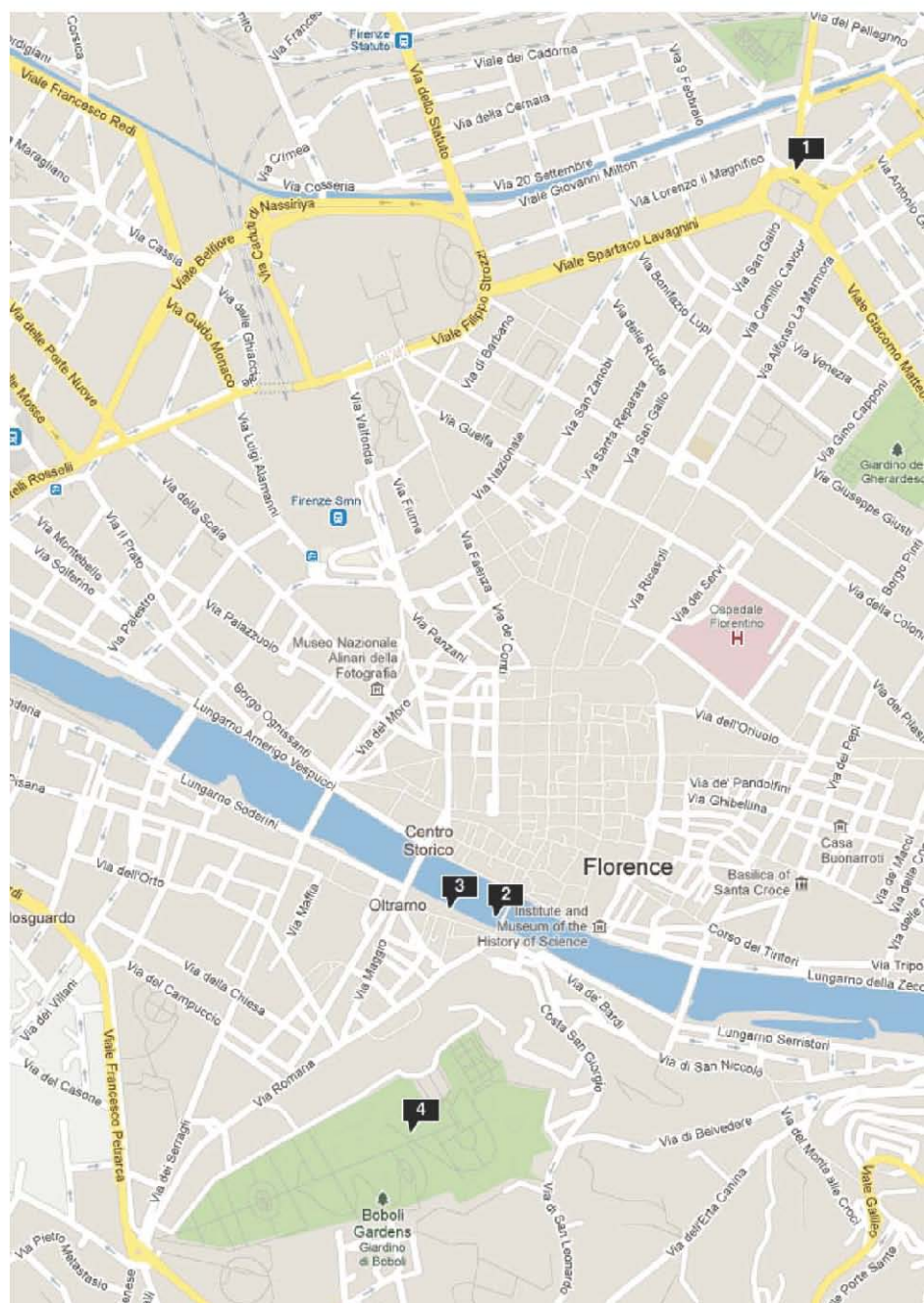
4 Giardini di Boboli

Giardino di Boboli - Firenze

The Florentines like to spend their free time in the Boboli Gardens, to escape the chaos of the city and to breathe the glory and greatness of the Medici Family. Boboli in fact contains works and buildings documenting the taste and magnificence of this family that has been the sole owner of this wonderful green space until the middle of the eighteenth century, then when taken over by the Asburgo-Lorena, although their large art lovers.



STRUCTURES/PARKS



SURROUNDINGS

TRIP TO FIESOLE

Located on a hill overlooking Florence, Fiesole is one of the most important Etruscan cities in the southern foothills of the Apennines Tosco-Emiliano. The city is a popular tourist destination, as well as the numerous Etruscan and Roman ruins, also for the beauty of its surrounding landscape. Center of the city is Piazza Mino da Fiesole, which is overlooked by the Romanesque cathedral Palace Altoviti and the Town Hall.



Cattedrale Di San Romolo

Piazza della Cattedrale, 3-8 - Fiesole

Erected in 1028 by the Bishop Jacopo Bavaro, the church was enlarged in the thirteenth century. In later years were made new transformations, until in 1878-1883 the architect Michelangelo Maiorfi did a thorough restoration, which involved the complete reconstruction of the facade. Inside the noteworthy ten scenes frescoes depicting the life of St. Romulus, works Mino da Fiesole and the triptych by Bicci di Lorenzo.



Teatro romano

Via Giovanni Dupré - Fiesole

Made at the time of Silla according to Greek models, the theater presented 3 rows of seats and nineteen distinct tiers divided by five steps, the whole surmounted by lodges (the tribunalia), for the most eminent personages. Today the building is used during the summer period for performances of opera Summer Fiesole.



Tempio etrusco - romano

Via Andrea Costa- Fiesole

Built between the second half of the fourth century B.C. and second centuries BC, the temple, probably an ancient Capitulum (The Capitol is a term used to describe a temple dedicated to the Capitoline Triad, or the gods Jupiter, Juno and Minerva), presents still parts of the cell, the staircase with seven steps, and the bases of the three columns of the portico. Among these ruins have been found, also, silver and bronze coins, and remains of a burial barbaric Lombard period.



SHOPPING

MARKETS AND FAIRS

SAN LORENZO MARKET

From Tuesday to Saturday. Piazza San Lorenzo.

The San Lorenzo market is the most important market of Florence. Here you will find stalls of clothing, belts, wallets, and many articles of leather; as well as souvenirs and gadgets.;

CENTRAL MARKET

From Monday to Friday from 7.00 to 14.00, and on Saturdays from 7:00 am 17.00. Via dell'Ariento..

Housed in a building with iron large windows, central market can be considered the most active and lively market of the Florence historic center. Spread over two floors: the lower floor you'll find cheese, meat, fish and local product sellers, while at the upper floor a wide range of fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers sellers.

CASCINE MARKET

On Tuesdays from 7.00 to 14.00. Parco delle Cascine.

Considered the biggest and cheapest market of Florence, is ideal for those who have to buy fruits, vegetables, clothes, shoes, appliances and antiques objects. The advice is to go there in the morning soon enough: first because it takes at least a couple of hours to see it all; second because by mid-morning is filled with people.

FLEA MARKET

Every day from 9.00 to 19.30. Piazza dei Ciompi.

Here you can find furniture and antiques, paints, coins and jewelry, antiques and dusty books. Is it really worth doing a ride just to relive a bit 'of Florentine past, through the ancient objects exposed. The best day to visit is last Sunday of each month, when the stalls extend into the surrounding streets.

PORCELLINO MARKET

From Monday to Saturday from 8.00 to 19.00. Piazza mercato nuovo.

Set up under the porch, this familiar market, which takes its name from the statue the boar, hosts special stalls specialized in Florentine straw products, articles embroidered, leather goods, wooden objects and flowers.

LA FIERUCOLA

Every third Sunday of the month. Piazza Santo Spirito.

Fierucola market is devoted entirely to organic. Here is in fact promotes organic agriculture and biodynamic agriculture on a small scale, with the sale rural gastronomy, food products but also the manual crafts, made of completely handmade pieces, natural and free of chemicals harsh.



© Laura Padgett

SHOPPING

SHOPPING

For shopaholics Florence is the ideal destination. The city, full of workshops, stores, outlets and markets, will satisfy the needs and all tastes.

From workshops to the best designer boutiques and high fashion jewelry.

For those who want to buy clothing of the great Italian and foreign brands, we recommend the luxurious Via Tornabuoni, where you will find numerous clothing stores, but also Piazza della Repubblica, which is overlooked by many famous brand shops. Do not miss Via Roma and Via Calzaioli, as well as Via de 'Cerretani. The area of the Pitti Palace and Santo Spirito (in particular, Via Maggio) is instead invaded by local craft shops and antiques. Another place not to be missed is the famous Ponte Vecchio, known worldwide for hosting many jewelers.

PITTI IMMAGINE

Conceived with the aim of promoting the industry and fashion design, Pitti Immagine is a unique event in Italy, whose origin dates back to the early fifties with the first fashion shows organized in Florence in the White Room of Pitti Palace, and the subsequent establishment of the Florence Center for the Italian Fashion.

This foundation is a great organization that arrange every year several events dedicated to the clothing and textiles, communication events and projects that explore the fashion and its culture.

During this event the most successful fashion designers and the most prestigious brands shows the new fashion collections, launching on the international market the latest trends of an industry constantly evolving and always looking for inspiration and new ideas.

Selected buyers from the United States, Russia, China and Hong Kong, Korea, and several European country, together with exhibitors from around the world, make Pitti Immagine a landmark event for the entire landscape of fashion.

It would be reductive to define Pitti Immagine only a clothes and fashion shows, the event, which also houses openings, gala evenings, presentations and exclusive parties, it is actually a great showcase on the state of Italian and world fashion and the evolution of the global taste.



EVENTS

LA CAVALCATA DEI MAGI

January 6

The Magi Cavalcade is a solemn costume procession that parade every year, along streets of the Florence historic center, the three Magi, accompanied by the procession of the Florentine Republic, the parade is inspired by the famous fresco by Benozzo Gozzoli exposed in Chapel of the Magi in Palazzo Medici Riccardi, depart from Piazza Pitti and runs along the old city streets until the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Here, in memory of the Magi visit to the Child Jesus, are offered gifts to Jesus image and to all the children in attendance.

FESTA DI SAN GIOVANNI

June 24

The festival, is organized in honor of the patron saint of Florence, St. John the Baptist, has ancient origins, so that in the Middle Ages, June 24th, heralds used to banish the festivities from the main points of the city. According to the tradition, on this day the nobles and lords were obliged to offer the holy candles, a part of which was to burn all year in the Baptistry. With the increase of the Florence power, the candles, became increasingly larger and decorated. Even today, in the morning June 24th a short procession parades through the center streets goes to offer the candles to their patron. But the most awaited event by the citizens and by tourists is the fireworks show, runs the evening on the Piazzale Michelangelo.

FESTA DEL GRILLO

Every year on Ascension Day in the Cascine Park

The origin of the Cricket Feast are to be traced the ancient celebrations for the spring arrival, during which the young boys after adorned with flowers the doors or windows of their girlfriends, they used to give them a small cage containing a cricket. In popular tradition, in fact, the cricket "chirping" was considered a good luck charm and an home protector. Today, during the feast parents give their children small cages where to place within crickets reproductions.

LA FIORITA

Mat 23. Piazza della Signoria

La Fiorita is a Celebration organized in honor of Fra Girolamo Savonarola, a Dominican and San Marco Prior, who was killed at the stake May 23 1498 in Piazza della Signoria. Today, in honor of the Saint, the holy mass is celebrated in Palazzo Vecchio, while the square, decorated with flowers (Hence the name Fiorita), is organized a musical and a flag-wavers performance .



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EVENTS

CALCIO STORICO FIORENTINO

June. Piazza Santa Croce

The Calcio Storico Fiorentino is an ancient game, that was practiced already by the legionaries of the Roman Florentia, such as athletic training. The most famous and memorable game of "Football in Livery" was played February 17th, 1530, while the city was besieged by the imperial troops in Piazza Santa Croce among the "Whites" and "Greens." The protagonists of this game, the kickers, were originally identified in the collectively imaginary as the "gentlemen" with good reputation who appeared in sumptuous uniforms. Among the famous kickers include many members the Medici family and various Grand Dukes of Tuscany. The Calcio Storico, also known as calcium in costume, until the eighteenth century was played the day of Carnival or during special occurrences in the main city squares. But unfortunately, this tradition fell into disuse until May 1930 (fourth centenary of Florence siege). Today are played three matches, two semi-finals and a final, which must take place June 24, the feast of St. John. During the tournament, preceded, according to sixteenth century tradition, a parade of more than 500 people in costume, they are the four teams that will compete and represent four Florence

districts: the "Green" for the St. John district, the "Reds" for the Santa Maria Novella Station district, the "Blues" for Santa Croce district, and finally the "Whites" for Santo Spirito district. The team at the end of All matches scores the highest number of "Goal", receives award a heifer.

SCOPPIO DEL CARRO

Easter Sunday. Piazza Duomo

The Explosion of the Cart is a feast of ancient origins, which is still commissioning scene according to the typical features of a time. The star of the day is a chariot of the eighteenth century, the center of which is fixed an iron wire on which, at noon on Sundays of Easter, slips the dove. At this point are activated a series of firecrackers and hundreds of smoke, accompanied by hissing and bursts, which color the wagon. But the highlight moment of the show is the lighting of the pinwheel wagon, which, after a loud bang, opens like the lily petals, on which are shown signs of Florence, ancient Pazzi family, and UN. All this is accompanied by a clergy procession, that from the church of Saints reaches the Baptistery, where they take start the sacred functions.

