



# Florence - Tuscany

Cradle of the Renaissance, romantic, enchanting and utterly irresistible, Florence (Firenze) is a place to feast on world-class art and gourmet Tuscan cuisine.

Few cities are so compact in size or so packed with extraordinary art and architecture masterpieces at every turn. The urban fabric of this small city, on the banks of the Arno river in northeastern Tuscany, has hardly changed since the Renaissance and its narrow cobbled streets are a cinematic feast of elegant 15th and 16th-century *palazzi* (palaces), medieval candle-lit chapels, fresco-decorated churches, marble basilicas and world-class art museums brimming with paintings and sculptures by Botticelli, Michelangelo et al. Unsurprisingly, the entire city center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Four full day tours are suggested, to visit Pisa, Siena, the Chianti Wine region and the Ferrari Museum outside Bologna



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### 1. Boboli Gardens

One of the greatest open air museums, with centuries-old oak trees, Sculptures and fountains offering changing colors of blooming flowers in spring and fall foliage and fragrant aromas.



### 3. Piazza della Signoria

A square in front of the Palazzo Vecchio. Named after the Palazzo della Signoria, also called Palazzo Vecchio. It is the main point of the origin and history of the Florentine Republic.



### 5. Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral

Begun in 1296 in the Gothic style to a design of Arnolfo di Cambio and was structurally completed by 1436, with the dome engineered by Filippo Brunelleschi.



### 2. The David by Michelangelo

A marble masterpiece of Renaissance sculpture created between 1501 and 1504. The original is in the Galleria dell'Accademia with a replica outside the Palazzo Vecchio.



### 4. Ponte Vecchio

A medieval stone closed-spandrel segmental arch bridge over the Arno River. It is noted for the shops built along it, as was once common. The present tenants are jewelers, art dealers, and souvenir sellers.



### 6. Uffizi Gallery

Famous for its collection of masterpiece paintings from the 14th century to modern times. Featured masters include Michelangelo, Raffaello and Caravaggio.



## Day Tours from Florence

### 7. Ferrari Museum—Modena

Combine a visit to learn the history of one of the world's greatest sportscars with the opportunity to discover a Balsamic Vinegar and Parmigiano Cheese experience



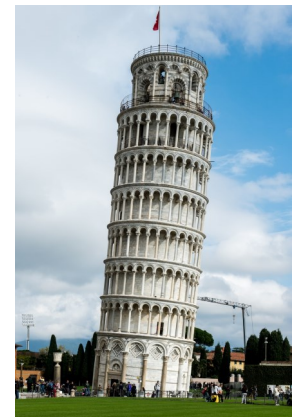
### 9. San Gimignano & Chianti

Hill town with a 12th century church and 13th century city walls. At the center of the Chianti wine producing region provides the opportunity to visit a vineyard.



### 8. Pisa

A small city with many attractions but best known for its 183 foot tall "Leaning Tower" completed in 1372.



### 10. Siena

Distinguished by its medieval brick buildings. The fan-shaped central square, is the site of the Palazzo Pubblico, the Gothic town hall, and Torre del Mangia, a slender 14th-century tower.

