



*Pocket*  
**FLORENCE & TUSCANY**

**TOP SIGHTS • LOCAL LIFE • MADE EASY**

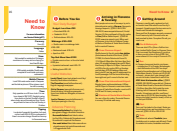
A thick, curved rainbow arc that starts from the left and curves upwards and to the right, ending at the top right edge of the cover.

**Nicola Williams**  
**Virginia Maxwell**

# In This Book

## QuickStart Guide

Your keys to understanding the region – we help you decide what to do and how to do it



### Need to Know

Tips for a smooth trip



### Neighbourhoods

What's where

## Explore Florence & Tuscany

The best things to see and do, neighbourhood by neighbourhood



### Top Sights

Make the most of your visit



### Local Life

The insider's region

## The Best of Florence & Tuscany

The highlights in handy lists to help you plan



### Best Walks

See the city on foot



### Florence & Tuscany's Best...

The best experiences

## Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free experience



### Getting Around

Travel like a local



### Essential Information

Including where to stay

Our selection of the region's best places to eat, drink and experience:

 **Sights**

















 **Eating**

 **Drinking**

 **Entertainment**

 **Shopping**


These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Telephone Numbers     |  Family-Friendly |
|  Opening Hours         |  Pet-Friendly    |
|  Parking               |  Bus             |
|  Nonsmoking            |  Ferry           |
|  Internet Access       |  Metro           |
|  Wi-Fi Access          |  Subway          |
|  Vegetarian Selection  |  Tram            |
|  English-Language Menu |  Train           |

Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighbourhood:



### Bar Hemingway

 Map p233, B2

Legend has it that Hemingway, wielding a machine gun, created this timber-paneled bar during his stay in Florence. The bar is a showpiece is a favorite hangout for expats and tourists. Open by Papa Ardenza. Dress code: smart casual. Hours: 6.30pm-2a.

## Lonely Planet's Florence & Tuscany

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city.

Inside you'll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We've split the city into easy-to-navigate neighbourhoods and provided clear maps so you'll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our 'Local Life' pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Florence & Tuscany.

And of course you'll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day's exploration.

It's your guarantee of a really great experience.

## Our Promise

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.

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## The Best of Florence & Tuscany

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### Florence & Tuscany's Best Walks

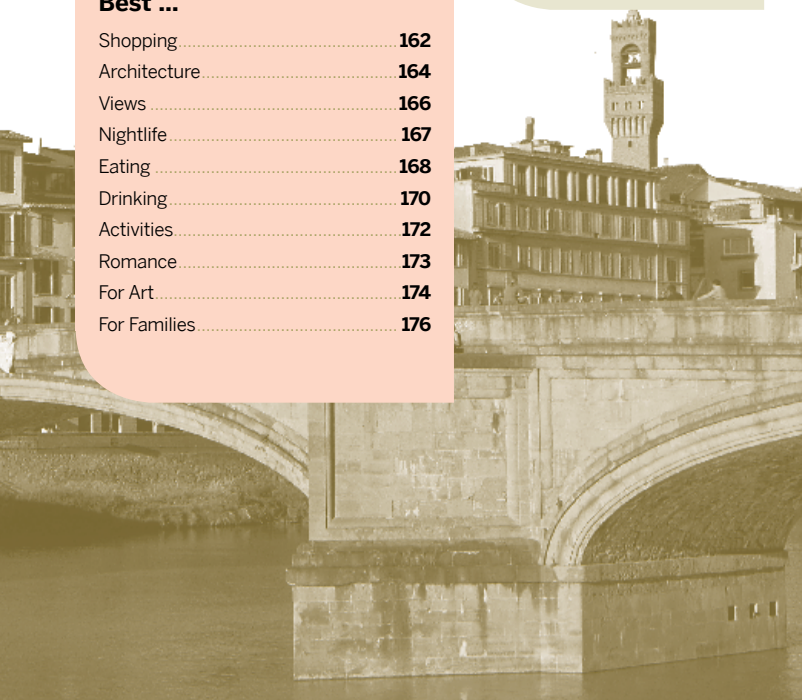
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## Welcome to Florence & Tuscany

Though surprisingly small, Florence (Firenze) is laden with cultural attractions and charm. Medieval streets evoke a thousand tales, and museums and churches safeguard the world's greatest repository of Renaissance art. Nearby destinations, including Siena, Pisa, Chianti, San Gimignano and Lucca, are similarly alluring, and are easily visited on day trips.

## 8 Top Sights



# Florence & Tuscany Top Sights



D. BOND/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

### **Duomo** (p24)

Florence's iconic landmark.

### **Galleria degli Uffizi** (p30)

Europe's finest Renaissance art collection.



TRABANTOS/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

## Galleria dell'Accademia (p64)

The world's most famous statue.



LORENET/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



MOOMUSICIAN/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

## Basilica di Santa Maria Novella (p50)

Renaissance magnificence in a sacred monastery.

## 10 Top Sights

### Palazzo Pitti (p100)

Museum meanderings in a Renaissance palace.



BRIAN KINNEY/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

### Basilica di Santa Croce (p84)

Frescoed chapels and famous graves.



FRANCO VOLPATO/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



ANDREI YBAGHIK/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

### Museo del Bargello (p86)

Italy's finest collection of Tuscan Renaissance sculpture.



ALVARO GERMAN VILELA/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

### Opera della Metropolitana di Siena (p140)

Arranged around Siena's *duomo* is a cluster of ecclesiastical buildings.

## Piazza dei Miracoli, Pisa (p128)

Pisa's 'Field of Miracles' is one of Italy's major tourist drawcards.



HAUT H/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



KAMIRA/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

## San Gimignano (p154)

A walled hilltop town that lures summer day-trippers.

## Lucca (p136)

Lovely Lucca endears itself to everyone who visits.



ARCANEL/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



PRANGARIN WONGPUN/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

## Chianti (p152)

A postcard-perfect part of Tuscany.



# Florence & Tuscany

## Local Life

*Local experiences and hidden gems to help you uncover the real region*

Florence's 377,000 residents enjoy a lifestyle that is crammed with culture, back-dropped by history and anchored by family, faith and food. Head to their neighbourhoods, churches, cafes and restaurants to see what makes life here so special.



GORAN BOGICEVIC/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

### A Boutique Shopping Spree (p34)

☒ Historical cafes ☒ Fashion and art boutiques



ROUTE66/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

### A Day in Fiesole (p80)

☒ Romantic city views ☒ Historic buildings

## A Night Out in Santa Croce (p88)

☒ Bars and clubs ☒ Fabulous dining



**Other great places  
to experience the  
region like a local:**

Le Passeggiata (p40)

Cocktail Culture (p124)

Wine tasting (p123)

Tripe Carts (p42)

Third-Wave Coffee  
& Gin (p96)

Riverside Street Food  
(p95)

Lunch at the Market  
(p92)

A Secret Garden  
(p120)

Picnic Perfect (p59)

Hipster Hang-out  
(p73)

## City of Artisans (p114)

☒ Artisan workshops ☒ Independent designer boutiques





# Florence & Tuscany

## Day Planner

### Day One



Journey into the Renaissance with a morning of mind-blowing 15th- and 16th-century art at the **Galleria degli Uffizi** (p30). Break for coffee on the rooftop terrace where the Medici clan would listen to music on the square below. Post-museum, clear your head with a **Piazza della Signoria** (p39) stroll.



Meander south to the river and cross **Ponte Vecchio** (p122). Look for hacked street signs by **Clet** (p110) in this bohemian neck of the woods – buy postcards to send home at his art studio here. Explore **Basilica di Santo Spirito** (p118) and magnificent **Cappella Brancacci** (p118; reservation required), grabbing a quick coffee or tea at the Oltrarno branch of **Ditta Artigianale** (p124). As the sun sinks, hike uphill to **Piazzale Michelangelo** (p106) for swoon-worthy views of the city followed by *aperitivi* (pre-dinner drinks) at **Le Volpi e l'Uva** (p109).



Stay on the Oltrarno for a sensational dinner at **Essenziale** (p119) or **Burro e Acciughe** (p120). Afterwards, hit the on-trend, bar-busy district of San Frediano for craft cocktails at **Mad Souls & Spirits** (p123) or **Dolce Vita** (p125). Later, track down **Rasputin** (p123), the city's secret speakeasy open until the wee hours.

### Day Two



Prepare yourself for monumental sacred art and architecture on **Piazza del Duomo**: visit the **cathedral** (p24), climb up its **campanile** (p26), duck into its **baptistry** (p26) and end on a giddy high with a hike up into the frescoed dome of Brunelleschi's **cupola** (p25). Complete the story inside the **Grande Museo del Duomo** (p27).



Lunch at **Irene** (p40) or **Trattoria Le Mossacce** (p41). Window-shop on **Via de' Tornabuoni**, breaking for a cheeky truffle *panino* (sandwich) at **Proccacci** (p46) or drink at fashionable **Caffè Giacosa** (p57). Mooch west, along boutique shopping streets **Via della Spada** or **Via della Vigna Nova**, to **Basilica di Santa Maria Novella** (p50). If you have time, modern-art museum **Museo Novecento** (p54) is superb. Cross **Ponte alla Carraia** and savour a gourmet *aperitivo* at **Il Santino** (p123) or Japanese-inspired sake cocktails at **Kawaii** (p124).



Dine by candlelight at **Il Santo Bevitore** (p119). For *dolci* (sweets) grab a gelato from **Gelateria La Carraia** (p122) to enjoy over a scenic riverside walk by night. Later, dance to spaghetti jazz and quaff cocktails beneath the stars at **Santarosa Bistrot** (p122).

### Short on time?

We've arranged Florence & Tuscany's must-sees into these day-by-day itineraries to make sure you see the very best of the region in the time you have available.

## Day Three



Begin the day in San Marco with a glorious 360-degree admiration of the world's most famous naked man, Michelangelo's original *David*, at the **Galleria dell'Accademia** (p64). Continue to the soulfully uplifting **Museo di San Marco** (p69), followed by a cappuccino or specialist coffee at **Ditta Al Cinema** (p74). End the morning with the emotive **Museo degli Innocenti** (p70).



Grab a quick lunch at **Pugi** (p74) or lounge with hipsters at **La Ménagère** (p71). Saunter south to Piazza della Signoria where the city's most famous David copy guards Palazzo Vecchio. Duck east to **Museo del Bargello** (p86) to admire David versions by Donatello and Andrea Verrocchio, then nip back to **Palazzo Vecchio** (p38) in time to visit the fortress palace and catch sunset views from the top of its striking Torre d'Arnolfo – a Florentine landmark. Savour a hot chocolate at **Caffè Rivoire** (p34) or an aperitivo at **Coquinarius** (p44).



Dine at **Il Teatro del Sale** (p89) or **Trattoria Cibrè** (p92). If the former, sit back and enjoy the theatre show. Otherwise, explore the happening district of Santa Croce by night.

## Day Four



Begin with a gulp of coffee and daily Florentine life inside San Lorenzo's buzzing **Mercato Centrale** (p71) then weave your way south to your next ports of call: **Basilica di San Lorenzo** (p68), **Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana** (p68) and absolutely dazzling **Museo delle Cappelle Medicee** (p68), a must-see for Michelangelo lovers. End with a market eatery lunch: at **Da Nerbone** (p72), **Trattoria Mario** (p71) or the **Mercato Centrale** (p71) food hall on the first floor.



Spend the afternoon exploring the galleries and garden of the monumental **Palazzo Pitti** (p100), home at various times to members of the powerful Medici, Lorraine and Savoy families. Be sure to pop into the nearby **Giardino Bardini** (p106) – a path links it with Pitti's Giardino di Boboli – and end with an early-evening drink across from the palace at **Enoteca Pitti Gola e Cantina** (p123).



Dinner is an upmarket affair, highly memorable, at **La Leggenda dei Frati** (p107) or **San Niccolò 39** (p108). After dinner, hobnob with hipster Florentines over a cocktail nightcap and twinkling night-time views up high at **Flò** (p109).