

4-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

4 Day Florence Itinerary for Art & History Lovers

A 4 day Florence itinerary for art and history lovers, with the Duomo, Uffizi and Vasari Corridor, palaces and gardens across the Arno, then Michelangelo and the Medici.



AT A GLANCE

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*Day One***The Classic Centre**

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Vivoli Affogato and Gelato / Uffizi Gallery / Vasari Corridor

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*Day Three***Palaces & Gardens**

Palazzo Pitti (Galleria Palatina) / Boboli Gardens / Gelateria La Carraia

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*Day Four***Michelangelo & the Medici**

Accademia Gallery / Medici Chapels / Osteria Pastella

DUOMO • PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

Day One: The Classic Centre

Today we're in the streets around the Duomo. We're heading for the cathedral, where the green, pink and white marble is unlike anything else, then the 463 steps up the dome. After that it's the buskers in Piazza della Repubblica, a schiacciata at All'Antico Vinaio, and we end on Ponte Vecchio.



STOP 1 / 7:30 AM

Train to Florence

We took the train from Venice to Florence, but it should be similar wherever you're coming from! Italo train runs across all major cities of Italy with multiple departures a day so you can...

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STOP 2 / 10:30 AM

Massimo Leather

A leather jacket was one of our big bucket list items in Florence, and this family-run shop in the San Lorenzo leather quarter is where we found ours. The selection was HUGE, and Andre helped us patiently the whole time...



STOP 3 / 12:00 PM

Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore

Full disclaimer: we never made it inside - the line was four hours long the day we went. But the outside alone still made this one of my favorite cathedrals of our...

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STOP 4 / 1:30 PM

Climb of Brunelleschi's Dome

Climb the iconic Brunelleschi's Dome! After walking up 463 steps, you finish at the lantern terrace, the highest point over the historic center that's open to th...

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STOP 5 / 2:30 PM

Piazza della Repubblica

We found this square just by wandering around Florence, and it was the liveliest stop of our afternoon. There were live buskers performing and a cute little merry-go-round turning in the middle....

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STOP 6 / 3:30 PM

All'Antico Vinaio

This is probably the most famous sandwich spot in all of Europe, and it's born right here in Florence. I'd heard this place was overhyped, but I HAD to try the staple! And I'm so glad I ignored those haters because I loved...



STOP 7 / 4:30 PM

Ponte Vecchio

You're crossing a bridge from 1345 that's still lined end to end with goldsmiths' shops, which is why people call it the most precious bridge in the world. Look up and you'll spot the Vasari Corridor,...

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PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA · SANTA CROCE

Day Two: Uffizi & Vasari Corridor

Today we're starting at Vivoli, then going deeper into Florence's art and civic history. From the Uffizi and Vasari Corridor, we continue through Palazzo Vecchio before finishing at Santa Croce.



STOP 1 / 8:00 AM

Vivoli Affogato and Gelato

Vivoli is known for their famous affogatos. The line was long when we went but moved fairly fast, took maybe 25 minutes. Perfect for those who love both coffee and ice cream. My favorite was the pistachio for its nutty flavor,...



STOP 2 / 9:00 AM

Uffizi Gallery

Botticelli's Birth of Venus is the one you're going for, and it hangs in Room A9 - tempera on canvas, painted around 1485. Many of the art pieces you see at the Gallery were actually commissioned or collected by the Medici...

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STOP 3 / 11:30 AM

Vasari Corridor

The Vasari Corridor is a 750-meter elevated passage built by Giorgio Vasari in 1565 above central Florence. The one-way walk starts inside the Uffizi, crosses Ponte Vecchio and exits near the Boboli Gardens. Walking the Medici...

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STOP 4 / 12:30 PM

Palazzo Vecchio & Arnolfo Tower

Palazzo Vecchio is still Florence's working town hall, and the museum inside takes you through the state rooms the Medici governed from, right on Piazza della...

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STOP 5 / 2:30 PM

Pino's Sandwiches - Salumeria Verdi

Florence is Panini capital, and a friend sent us to this family-run salumeria near Santa Croce. It's been making its own schiacciata since 1991 and builds more than thirty sandwiches to order. Plenty o...



STOP 6 / 3:30 PM

Basilica di Santa Croce

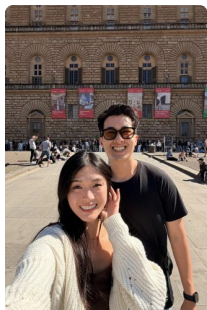
This Basilica is where Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli all lie, among close to 300 tombs and memorials to Florentine figures. This is literally the true Florentine Hall of Fame, to put it in other words! I recommend a...

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OLTRARNO · SAN FREDIANO · PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

Day Three: Palaces & Gardens

Today we're crossing the Arno for the Medici collections at Palazzo Pitti and the sculpture-filled Boboli Gardens. After a gelato by the river, we end above the city at Piazzale Michelangelo.



STOP 1 / 9:00 AM

Palazzo Pitti (Galleria Palatina)

One ticket here gets you five separate collections, so it's really a stack of museums folded into a single palace. The art is stunning, and rooms of completely...

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STOP 2 / 11:30 AM

Boboli Gardens

The Boboli Gardens is basically the backyard of the Medici's residence, Pitti Palace. It's basically like an open air museum with Buontalenti's grotto sitting along the path, renaissance sculptures placed between the hedges,...

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STOP 3 / 3:30 PM

Gelateria La Carraia

Gelateria La Carraia sits right at the Oltrarno end of Ponte alla Carraia, the second-oldest bridge in Florence, so you eat your cone with the river in front of you. It's been scooping since 1990, and the counter runs to...



STOP 4 / 4:30 PM

Piazzale Michelangelo

Honestly, a 10 out of 10 viewpoint. You can see the Duomo and its dome, Palazzo Vecchio with the Arnolfo tower, and the Arno running under Ponte Vecchio. You really can see ALL of Florence from up there, and those red...

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SAN MARCO · SAN LORENZO · SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

Day Four: Michelangelo & the Medici

Today we're tracing Michelangelo and the Medici across Florence's northern quarter. David comes first at the Accademia, followed by the Medici Chapels. After lunch, we continue to Santa Maria Novella and finish with the sculpture collection at the Bargello.



STOP 1 / 8:00 AM

Accademia Gallery

The Accademia is a compact Florence museum with the largest collection of Michelangelo's sculptures in the world. Its rooms move from Michelangelo's unfinished Prisoners to early Florentine paintings, Giambologna's full-scale...

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STOP 2 / 11:00 AM

Medici Chapels

This is the Medici family's own burial complex. You start underground in the crypt, where the grand dukes are buried, from Cosimo I all the way through to Gian Gastone. Then you climb up into the Chapel of the Princes, the...

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STOP 3 / 12:30 PM

Osteria Pastella

Best meal we had in Florence, HANDS DOWN! The signature truffle tagliatelle gets flambéed inside a whole wheel of Grana Padano Cheese right at your table. They scrape out the melted cheese, toss the pasta through it, then...



STOP 4 / 2:30 PM

Santa Maria Novella

One ticket covers the whole Santa Maria Novella complex. Inside the basilica you get the frescoed chapels, the sacristy and the cemetery, with Ghirlandaio's Stories of Mary and St John the Baptist running across the main...

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STOP 5 / 4:30 PM

Museo Nazionale del Bargello

The Bargello calls its sculpture collection the most important of the Italian Renaissance anywhere in the world, and the roll call backs that up. Donatello's...

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