

TOURIST GUIDE: FROM RIFREDI TO THE CENTER OF FLORENCE AND BEYOND

HOW TO REACH THE CENTER OF FLORENCE FROM RIFREDI

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

1. BY TRAM

- Take the T2 line from the "Careggi - Università" stop.
- Get off at "Alamanni-Stazione Santa Maria Novella".

2. BY BUS

- Recommended lines: 23 or 20.
- Get off at Santa Maria Novella station or St. Mark's Square.

3. ON FOOT

- From Piazza Dalmazia walk along Via Vittorio Emanuele II; when you arrive at the intersection with Via Celso, take Via Francesco Gianni to the bridge; continue on the bridge and skirt the Gardens of the Fortezza da Basso; take Via Valfonda and you will be in the center.
- Travel time: about 30-40 minutes.

WHAT TO SEE IN THE CENTER OF FLORENCE

1. PIAZZA DEL DUOMO

- Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore: Admire Brunelleschi's famous dome.
- Baptistery of San Giovanni: Known for its golden doors.
- Giotto's Bell Tower: Climb to the top for stunning views.



"Florence is a city that reveals itself slowly, like a book that is read with the heart." – Mary Shelley, author of Frankenstein, during her stay in Florence.

2. UFFIZI GALLERY

- One of the most famous museums in the world, with works by Botticelli, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.



"Art in Florence is not only to be admired, but to be experienced." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet and writer, during his Grand Tour.

3. PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA

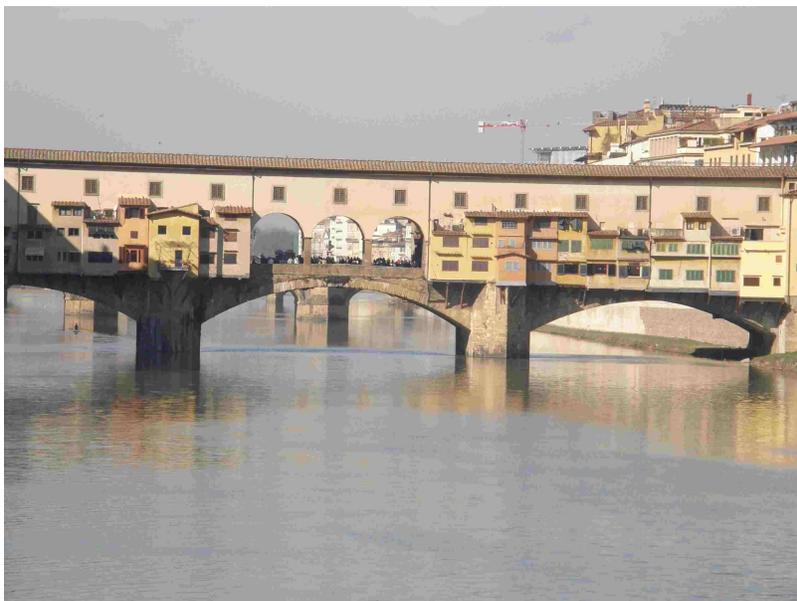
- Political heart of Florence, with the Palazzo Vecchio and the statue of David (copy) and the Lost



"Florence is the place where the Renaissance came to life, and its beauty is eternal." – Mark Twain, American writer.

4. PONTE VECCHIO

- The most iconic bridge in Florence, famous for its jewelers' shops.



"The Ponte Vecchio is like a jewel suspended over the Arno, a bridge between past and present." – Lord Byron, English poet.

5. PITTI PALACE AND BOBOLI GARDENS

One of the largest and most sumptuous residences in Florence, now home to several museums, including the Palatine Gallery. The Boboli Gardens are a magnificent example of an Italian garden.

Don't miss the view of Florence from the Belvedere Fortress, accessible from the gardens.



"The Boboli Gardens are an earthly paradise, where nature and art come together in perfect harmony." – Stendhal, French writer.

6. ACCADEMIA GALLERY

Here you will find Michelangelo's famous David, one of the most iconic sculptures in the history of art. The gallery also houses a collection of ancient musical instruments and works by Florentine painters.



Michelangelo's David is not just a sculpture, it is the very essence of human beauty and perfection." – Giorgio Vasari

7. BASILICA OF SANTA CROCE

- Great Italians such as Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli rest here.



"Santa Croce is the pantheon of Italians, a sacred place for those who love history and culture." – Percy Bysshe Shelley, romantic poet.

8. PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

A panoramic terrace that offers one of the most spectacular views of Florence, especially at sunset.



"From Piazzale Michelangelo, Florence stretches out like a painting, with its red roofs and the river flowing through it like a silver ribbon." – Mary Shelley

9. CENTRAL MARKET (SAN LORENZO)

A paradise for food lovers, with stalls selling typical Tuscan products and an upper floor dedicated to catering. Try the Lampredotto, sandwiches with porchetta and Tuscan wines.



"The Central Market is a riot of colors, flavors and scents, where Tuscan tradition comes to life." – Pellegrino Artusi (author of *Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well*)

10. MEDICI CHAPELS AND BASILICA OF SAN LORENZO

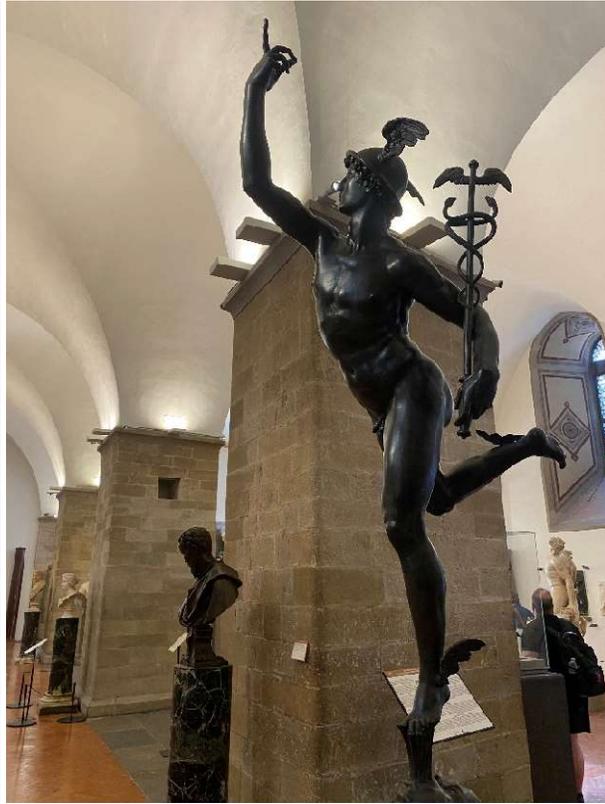
The Medici Chapels are the mausoleum of the Medici family, with works by Michelangelo. The Basilica of San Lorenzo is one of the oldest churches in the city.



"In the Medici Chapels, Michelangelo sculpted not only stone, but eternity itself." – John Ruskin (art critic and writer)

11. BARGELLO MUSEUM

A museum dedicated to sculpture, with works by Donatello, Michelangelo and other great Renaissance artists.



"The Bargello is a hidden treasure, where sculpture tells stories of passion and genius." – Henry James

HIDDEN GEMS IN FLORENCE: WHAT TO SEE OUTSIDE THE TOURIST FLOWS

1. CHURCH OF SANTO SPIRITO

- Where: Piazza Santo Spirito, Oltrarno.

- Why visit: Designed by Brunelleschi, this church is a masterpiece of the Renaissance. Inside, there is a crucifix attributed to Michelangelo, made in his youth. The square in front is lively and authentic, with markets and clubs frequented by Florentines.

- Curiosity: The façade is incomplete, but the interior is a triumph of architectural harmony.



2. IRIS GARDEN

- Where: Piazzale Michelangelo (entrance near the Piazzale).

- Why visit: A secret garden dedicated to the cultivation of iris, the symbolic flower of Florence. Open only from May to June, it offers spectacular views of the city and a peaceful atmosphere.

- Curiosity: The iris has been the symbol of Florence since the Middle Ages.



3. STEFANO BARDINI MUSEUM

- Where: Via de' Renai, Oltrarno.

- Why visit: A little-known museum but full of works of art, sculptures and ancient objects collected by the collector Stefano Bardini. The atmosphere is intimate and suggestive.

- Curiosity: The famous "Porcellino" of Florence (a copy) is located in the courtyard of the museum.



4. CLOISTER OF THE SCALZO

- Where: Via Cavour, near St. Mark's Square.

- Why visit: A small Renaissance cloister with monochromatic frescoes by Andrea del Sarto, which tell the life of St. John the Baptist. It is a place of silence and beauty, away from the crowds.

- Curiosity: Admission is free, but it is often closed; Check the timetable in advance.



5. SAN MINIATO AL MONTE

- Where: Via delle Porte Sante, Oltrarno.

- Why visit: One of the oldest and most evocative churches in Florence, with a breathtaking panoramic view of the city. The interiors are decorated with Byzantine mosaics and polychrome marbles.

- Curiosity: Every evening the Benedictine monks celebrate Mass in Gregorian chant.



6. HORNE MUSEUM

- Where: Via de' Benci, near the Arno.

- Why visit: A house-museum that reconstructs the atmosphere of a Renaissance residence, with original works of art and furnishings. It is a quiet and uncrowded place.

- Curiosity: The museum houses works by Giotto and other masters of the fourteenth century.



7. OBLATE LIBRARY

- Where: Via dell'Oriuolo, near the Duomo.

- Why visit: A public library with a terrace that offers spectacular views of the dome of the Duomo. It's a quiet place to read or take in the view.

- Fun fact: The library is housed in a former medieval convent.



8. BRANCACCI CHAPEL

- Where: Church of Santa Maria del Carmine, Oltrarno.

- Why visit: A masterpiece of Renaissance art, with frescoes by Masaccio, Masolino and Filippino Lippi. It is less known than other churches, but it is a real gem.

- Curiosity: The frescoes are considered one of the first expressions of Renaissance perspective.



9. VIA DELL'AMORINO

- Where: Between Piazza Santa Croce and Borgo Allegri.

- Why visit: A small hidden street with a romantic and authentic atmosphere. It is away from the tourist flows and perfect for a quiet walk.

- Curiosity: The name of the street derives from a medieval legend. In the street lived Nicia Calfucci with his beautiful wife, Lucrezia, who had been desired by Callimaco dei Guadagni for a long time. The couple was unable to have children and as often happened at the time, the husband blamed his wife for sterility. One day an accomplice of Callimachus, Ligurius, presented himself to Nicias and revealed to him an infallible method to cure his wife's sterility. The solution was the mandrake: a magical plant of which she had to prepare an infusion for Lucrezia to drink, with the only caveat that the first to have sex with her - after drinking the potion - would die. Nicias in desperation consented to this practice and pressed by Ligurio entrusted him with the task of finding a wretch whose life he could sacrifice. Finally Callimachus' wish became reality and he was able to consummate a night of love with Lucretia.



MEDICI VILLAS NEARBY

1. MEDICI VILLA OF PETRAIA

- About 5 km from Rifredi, famous for its gardens and frescoes.



"The Medici villas are the symbol of the power and beauty of the Renaissance." – John Ruskin, British art critic.

2. MEDICI VILLA DI CASTELLO

- Close to Petraia, known for its Renaissance gardens.



"The gardens of Castello are a masterpiece of engineering and art, where the water dances to the rhythm of the wind." – Francesco I de' Medici.

3. MEDICI VILLA OF CAREGGI

- About 4 km from Rifredi, residence of Lorenzo the Magnificent.



"Careggi is the place where humanism found its home, under the guidance of Lorenzo the Magnificent." – Marsilio Ficino, Renaissance philosopher.

AAPERITIF IN FLORENCE

1. TOBACCO MANUFACTORY

- Address: Via delle Cascine, 33, 50144 Florence

- A former industrial plant transformed into a cultural and social meeting place, perfect for an alternative aperitif.

2. THE ROOFTOP BAR TERRACE (CONTINENTAL HOTEL)

- Address: Vicolo dell'Oro, 6R, 50123 Florence

- A terrace with panoramic views of the Ponte Vecchio and the Arno, ideal for a romantic or chic aperitif.

3. LOCAL

- Address: Via delle Seggiole, 12R, 50122 Firenze

- A sleek and modern venue, known for its creative cocktails and sophisticated atmosphere.

4. SE·STO ON ARNO ROOFTOP BAR (THE WESTIN EXCELSIOR)

- Address: Piazza Ognissanti, 3, 50123 Florence

- An exclusive terrace with breathtaking views of the city, perfect for a luxury aperitif.

5. ARTISAN COMPANY

- Address: Via dei Neri, 32R, 50122 Florence

- A trendy bar with a great selection of cocktails and a young, lively atmosphere.

6. CAFFÈ SANT'AMBROGIO

- Address: Piazza Sant'Ambrogio, 7R, 50121 Florence

- A historic and authentic place, frequented by locals, with a relaxed atmosphere.

7. NEGRONI

- Address: Via dei Renai, 17R, 50125 Florence

- A tribute to the famous Florentine cocktail, with a wide selection of classic and innovative drinks.

8. RASPUTIN

- Address: Via de' Bardi, 5R, 50125 Florence

- A hidden speakeasy bar, with an intimate atmosphere and high-quality cocktails.

9. FUSION BAR & RESTAURANT

- Address: Vicolo dell'Oro, 5R, 50123 Florence

- An elegant venue with a fusion of international flavours, perfect for a refined aperitif.

10. VOLUME

- Address: Piazza Santo Spirito, 5R, 50125 Florence

- An artsy and alternative bar, with a casual vibe and a vibrant cultural scene.

USEFUL TIPS

- Buy museum tickets online to avoid queues.
- Wear comfortable shoes: Florence is a city to explore on foot.
- If you visit the Medici villas, check the opening hours in advance.
- Visit early in the morning or at sunset: The lesser-known places are even more magical at these times of the day.
- Talk to locals: Ask Florentines for advice on discovering secret corners.
- Take your time: Florence is a city that reveals itself slowly, step by step.

"Florence is a dream that repeats itself every time you visit it, a place where time stops and the soul is regenerated." – Herman Hesse, writer and poet.

MAP AND INFO

<https://www.guidaperfirenze.com/mappa-turistica.html>