



★ Florence Walking Tour

Interests: history, archaeology, culture, architecture

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and take you to a relaxed tour of this great city. You will get to visit the magnificent architecture of the Duomo, one of the greatest examples of gothic architecture in Florence, Giotto's Bell Tower and of course the Baptistry dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Piazza della Signoria and Piazza Santa Croce will be also amongst the things you will get to see.

➤ Duomo of Florence Tour

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Discover Florence's iconic landmark, the Duomo, and gain an insider's view of one of the greatest architectural masterpieces of all times - Brunelleschi's amazing Cupola! Your knowledgeable guide will be there to lead you and share fascinating details about this famous symbol of Florence. Designed by Arnolfo di Cambio, the Duomo is the third-largest church in the world and was the largest in Europe when it was completed in the 15th century. Inside, admire different styles showing how tastes changed, discover masterpieces, and find out how the massive self-standing brick dome was built in order to withstand time, natural calamities and wars, 600 years after it was built. Climb to the very top of the Cupola for a stunning insider's view of Brunelleschi's genius and talent. Your exploration will continue on with a visit to the Opera del Duomo Museum. It reopened after extensive restorations in 2015 and it contains sacred art sculptures and reliefs by the greatest medieval and early Renaissance artists. The collection of masterpieces includes works by Donatello, Michelangelo, Luca Della Robbia and Arnolfo di Cambio, a life-size reconstruction of the Duomo's ancient façade and Ghiberti's original gilded doors.





➤ The Jewish Heritage of Florence

Interests: cooking, foodie, wine

Join a professional chef for a culinary adventure in the center of Florence. Your tour begins with a visit to San Lorenzo's Market, where you will learn more about typical Italian products and seasonings and select fresh, organic and natural ingredients for today's meal. Next, you will go to a beautiful characteristic apartment located right in the heart of Florence. Under the watchful eye of your chef and mentor, you will cook a complete meal with appetizers, a pasta dish, the main course (meat, fish, or vegetarian) and, of course, a dessert. After all the dishes are completed, you will gather around the dinner table and enjoy the meal you prepared, accompanies by fine wine.

★ Medici Chapel and San Lorenzo

Interests: history, architecture

Unlock the secrets of the infamous Medici Dynasty by visiting the Medici Chapels within the basilica of San Lorenzo. This vast complex of great historical and architectural interest significance is home to Michelangelo's spectacular sculptures and one of the lesser-visited gems of Florence. A large crypt holds the tombs of the Medici family and was built according to a design by Buontalenti. The underground chambers of the San Lorenzo Church house the simple tombs of Cosimo de Medici the Elder and the artist Donatello.





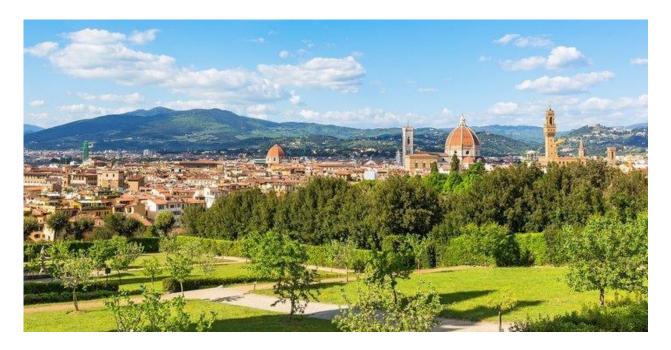
★ Food Tour in Florence

Interests: foodie, wine

A three-hour tour dedicated to the flavors of Florence, a different way to get to know the heart and soul of this renowned city that has embodied, since the Renaissance, the perfect equilibrium between Beauty and Grandeur, Art and Power. This same equilibrium is nowadays found in Florence cuisine, constantly striving between the two souls of the city: the House of Medici, aristocratic, powerful and future-oriented, architects of Florence prominence, and the stream of artists, craftsmen, and workers who gave the Medici ground and tools to build Florence splendor. All of these characteristics are still present in Florentine food, and your quide will proudly take you on a discovery of the very best the town has to offer. Meet your quide outside Bar Scudieri in Piazza S.Giovanni, and walk-in locals' shoes by sipping a caffè, accompanied by a homemade, mouthwatering pastry, to balance the strength of caffeine. Head then for the Mercato Centrale, an imposing XIX century building where butchers, fishmongers, and grocers display their goods in a triumph of colorful and lively bustle. Refreshed by some fruit or a smoothie, wander around to observe, breath, and take in the life of the market and, before leaving it, stop for a fritto Toscano, delicious battered, deep-fried fish and vegetable morsels. From here, head for the very heart of the city and its lively tiny streets to taste a fragrant schiacciata with truffles. All these strong flavors require a sweet interlude, and a creamy gelato will serve our cause, accompanying us Oltrarno, across the Arno River, to pay a visit to one of the finest warehouses in Florence, where we will be served cheese and cold cuts board accompanied by a goblet of Chianti coming from the hills around the city. Here, your guide bids you farewell.







★ Cooking in Florence

Interests: cooking, foodie, wine

Join a professional chef for a culinary adventure in the center of Florence. Your tour begins with a visit to San Lorenzo's Market, where you will learn more about typical Italian products and seasonings and select fresh, organic and natural ingredients for today's meal. Next, you will go to a beautiful characteristic apartment located right in the heart of Florence. Under the watchful eye of your chef and mentor, you will cook a complete meal with appetizers, a pasta dish, the main course (meat, fish, or vegetarian) and, of course, a dessert. After all the dishes are completed, you will gather around the dinner table and enjoy the meal you prepared, accompanies by fine wine.

★ Cooking in a Tuscan Villa

Interests: cooking, foodie

Leave the bustling city behind and embark on your very own Tuscan culinary adventure in the Italian countryside. Learn more about the traditional cooking methods and the history of the local cuisine, sample full-bodied red Italian wines, delicious bruschetta, organic food and cold-pressed olive oils amongst unspoiled vineyards and centuries-old olive groves. Since this is a very hands-on lesson, get ready to roll up your sleeves, work, laugh and taste together with your professional chef. The cooking class takes place in an old kitchen in a traditional rustic villa using authentic instruments, including a beautiful vintage stove. During the class, you will learn how to make homemade pasta from scratch along with a real Tuscan meal. Of course, after all the dishes are completed, you will gather around the table and enjoy the lunch you've just made.





★ Ballooing in Tuscany

Interests: nature, once in a lifetime experience

Get a birds-eye view perspective of picturesque Tuscany using the oldest successful human-carrying flight technology — a hot air balloon. Flights take place near dawn or dusk when the winds are the calmest. Upon arriving at the launch site you will be welcomed by your experienced and balloon licensed pilot who will introduce you to hot air ballooning and provide you with a full safety briefing. Climb into the balloon basket for lift-off, rising smoothly towards the clouds. It's a unique experience so, have your camera ready for some showstopping photos! The only thing breaking the silence will be the occasional roar of the burners but even that adds charm to the whole experience. After a magical hour in the sky, the pilot will find a suitable landing spot and bring the balloon to land. You will then have a Tuscan breakfast with local products and a glass of wine or soft drink to accompany it.

➤ Pisa and The Leaning Tower

Interests: architecture, history

Your driver will meet you at your hotel and start the journey towards Pisa, the birthplace of Galileo Galilei. Once you arrive, your Engligh speaking guide will introduce you to the most important sites of this city steeped in history. You'll get to see world-famous monuments and magnificent masterpieces such as the examples of architectural marvel concentrated in the Piazza Dei Miracoli: the Cathedral, where Galileo Galilei was inspired to invent the pendulum clock, the Baptistery, the Monumental Cemetery and of course the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa.







Tuscan Wine and Cheese Tour

Interests: wine, foodie, nature

Spend a day in the heart of Tuscany and familiarize yourself with all the characteristic products of this verdant Italian region. Your English-speaking driving escort will take you to Greve in Chianti, a small town that is also known as the home of the world-renowned family-owned Falorni Butchery that produces some of the top local delicacies such as pecorino cheese, salami, prosciutto, and other mouthwatering savory treats. After some time at your disposal in Greve, you will continue on towards Corzano and Paterno farmhouse that spans over 140 hectares and produces some of the finest wines, olive oil and pecorino cheese in the region. After the visit of the cellars and cheese factory you will enjoy a light lunch with wine and cheese tasting, freshly baked Tuscan bread, jam, and honey, two types of extra virgin olive oil and traditional home-made dessert. Your last stop of the day before returning to the hotel will be in Badia a Passignano, picturesque town with an imposing Benedictine Abbey of San Michele Arcangelo a Passignano.

Pisa and Lucca with Lunch Tour

Interests: architecture, foodie, history

After meeting your English-speaking driving escort, you will start your journey towards the town of Pisa, where you will be overwhelmed by the pieces of art concentrated in Piazza Dei Miracoli: the Cathedral, where Galileo Galilei was inspired to invent the pendulum clock, the Baptistery, the Monumental Cemetery, and the famous Leaning Tower. After exploring the most famous sites of Pisa, your tour will continue to Lucca, another gem of Italian architecture. Surrounded by an almost intact city wall, Lucca is a charming town with a pedestrian island that allows visitors to wander around and enjoy the vibrant shops and cafes at their own pace and without noisy traffic. During the tour, you will also enjoy a light lunch with wine at a local restaurant in Lucca.







➤ Siena & San Gimignano with Dinner in a Boutique Winery Interests: nature, foodie, architecture

Today's adventure starts in Siena, where you will embark on a guided walking tour of the city. You will discover all the gems this Italian marvel has to offer such as the Piazza del Campo, the main central square where the famous Palio horse race takes place every year, as well as exploring quieter backstreets. Discover the Torre del Mangia for an eerie glimpse of life as a medieval bell ringer and the beautiful mosaics and library of the Cathedral of Siena. During the visit, you will have the opportunity to sample some of the amazing local products. Your exploration continues to San Gimignano, unique in the preservation of about a dozen of its tower houses, which, along with its hilltop setting and encircling walls, form an unforgettable skyline. After some free time in San Gimignano, gaze in awe at a marvelous sunset on the Tuscan hills and then enjoy a typical Tuscan dinner and wine tasting in the cellar of a fascinating noble Villa in the Chianti countryside. After your delicious meal, you will start your journey back to Florence and, time permitting, you will end this beautiful day with a stop at Piazzale Michelangelo belvedere, for a breathtaking view of Florence.







➤ Tour to the Cinque Terre

Interests: architecture, nature

Today you will explore one of the most picturesque coastlines in the World, the Cinque Terre area, named after a string of 5 villages climbing the rocks overlooking the lovely Ligurian sea. Their beauty has remained unspoiled through the centuries because of the very difficult access by large vehicles, due to the nature of the ground. Your English-speaking driving escort or driver will meet you at your hotel and take you out of Florence along the motorway towards La Spezia giving you some information about the territories we are going through. Once you arrive in La Spezia you will take the panoramic road to reach Manarola, where you will be welcomed by the wonderful view of the landscape from the hill. The driver will escort you during your visit to Manarola and, while you will have time at leisure, he will purchase your local train tickets and take you to Monterosso by train. When you arrive in Monterosso he will escort you to the local restaurant, where you will enjoy lunch. The tour will continue either by ferry or by train, according to the weather conditions. In Vernazza, another jewel of this area, you will have time at leisure to try the "pagiugo", the delicious local ice cream. On the return journey, just after Vernazza, if time permits you might have the opportunity of tasting the local wine (sciacchetrà and limoncino).