



Tour Information



Frescoes in Florence





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

You do not need a visa for short trips to Italy.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200

Email: consolato.londra@esteri.it

Website: <https://conslondra.esteri.it/en/>

Important changes to requirements for British Nationals travelling to the EU

The introduction of the Entry/Exit System (EES) will gradually be introduced by 12th October 2025 and is expected to be fully implemented by 10th April 2026. EES is a new electronic system that will replace the manual stamping of passports and will be used to register non-EU nationals entering and exiting EU countries. When passing through passport control upon arrival, you will need to present your passport and also have your photograph taken and fingerprints scanned. If you are travelling via Eurostar from St Pancras or via the Port of Dover, please note that a dual British-French border control is in operation. This means your photograph and fingerprints will be collected before boarding in the UK, and you will not need to go through this process again upon arrival in the EU. **EES is free of charge, and you are not required to submit anything prior to travel.** Please note, at the time of publishing, there is no information on the start date for specific ports of entry after 12th October. **Check-in times should not be affected by these changes.**

Irish passport holders and British passport holders with EU residency are currently exempt from these requirements.

For further information please visit: <https://www.abta.com/tips-and-advice/planning->

[and-booking-a-holiday/upcoming-changes-travel-europe](#)



Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore, you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the flight reference number provided.

For more information, please visit:

www.easyjet.com

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels). If you book an upfront or extra legroom seat you can also take an additional large cabin bag on board.

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Transfers

On arrival in Pisa, transfer by coach (approx. 1 hour) to Hotel De La Ville in Florence.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.



Accommodation

Hotel De La Ville, Florence

Located in the historic centre of Florence the hotel is housed within two buildings, one of which was built around 1460 with important graffiti on the facade which is still visible today and created by Andrea di Cosimo Feltrini in 1579. The hotel is very warm and charming and offers a bar with lounge for an aperitif or snack. Bedrooms are comfortable with a classic design and Florentine style. They offer en-suite bathrooms, TV, telephone, wifi, safe, air-conditioning, minibar and hairdryer.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website:

https://www.hoteldelaville.it/?utm_source=gbp&utm_medium=organic



Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces.

Tuscan cuisine is based on four core ingredients: unsalted bread (crisp crust on the outside, light and airy inside), olive oil, meat (beef and game), and wine. Traditional food is simple and abundant, using the produce from the surrounding countryside, with most dishes being meat-based – *bistecca alla fiorentina* (large T-bone steak), *tagliata* (sliced rare beef), *arista* (roast loin of pork), *bistecchine di maiale* (pork chops), and well-braised game (boar, deer, rabbit).

Bread salad (*Panzanella*) or thick and rich soups are a popular first course – *zuppa di cipole* (onion soup), *pappa al pomodoro* (bread and tomato soup), *ribollita* (vegetable and bread soup), and *stracciatella* (egg and parmesan cheese soup).

Sliced meats (prosciutto and salame), *Crosti toscani* (sliced bread topped with a chicken liver pate), and *Fettunta* (bread with olive oil) are common *antipasti*. Side and vegetable dishes often use chick-peas and beans. Typical Florentine desserts include *Castagnaccio* (chestnut cake), *Bongo* (chocolate profiteroles), *Schiacciata alla fiorentina* (sponge

cake), *Schiacciata con l'uva* (sweet grape bread), and *cantuccini* (almond biscuits).

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* is requested.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality.

Tuscany's viniculture regions produce a wealth of high quality, world famous wines, with 80% of the production being reds, predominantly based on the *Sangiovese* grape variety. *Chianti*, *Brunello di Montalcino*, and *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano* are popular reds, the dry *Vernaccia di San Gimignano* an excellent white.

The renowned Tuscan dessert wine *Vin Santo* (holy wine) is generally made from *Trebbiano* and *Malvasia*, although *Sangiovese* is also used to produce a rosé version.

Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner – is included on 2 evenings

Taking food into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



Destination

When one considers Italian art, Florence, perhaps, is the first place that springs to mind and with good reason. As the birthplace of the Renaissance, it is packed with countless masterpieces, both in its museums and its public buildings, reflecting its pre-eminence in the 15th and 16th centuries. Join us for an extraordinary exhibition, 'Angelico'. The exhibition is split between the Palazzo Strozzi and Museo de San Marco, and is a celebration of one of the founding fathers of Renaissance art in Florence, exploring the production, development and influence of Fra Angelico's works. This is your chance to see restored masterpieces reunited for the first time in over 200 years, with pieces loaned from museums and art galleries from around the world, for a limited time. As well as this first major exhibition in Florence dedicated to Fra Angelico in over 70 years, we tour the churches and palazzo of Florence to view the most stunning frescoes, all in the company of art historian Clare Ford-Wille whose knowledge and passion will bring the art to life.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Florence

A centre of European trade and finance in the Middle Ages, Florence became an artistic and cultural hub during the Renaissance, partly thanks to the patronage of the wealthy and powerful Medici family. The majority of the town, now considered one of the world's most beautiful, was built during the Renaissance; statues, art, architecture and history turn the town into an open museum, with a hidden gem to be discovered at every street corner. The vibrant markets, the shaded café-lined squares and the many *gelateria* are equally delightful.

For more information about Florence, please visit: <http://www.visitflorence.com/>

Palazzo Davanzati

Palazzo Davanzati is a 14th-century medieval tower house in Florence that has been transformed into a museum, the Museo della Casa Fiorentina Antica (Museum of the Antique Florentine House). It is a rare example of a medieval Florentine residence, showcasing the transition to a Renaissance palace. The museum is known for its preserved rooms and collections that offer a glimpse into life in the past,

including its unique kitchen and innovative bathroom facilities.

For more information about Palazzo Davanzati, please visit:

<https://bargellomusei.it/musei/palazzo-davanzati/>

Church complex of Sant' Apollonia

The Sant' Apollonia complex was a former Benedictine convent, founded in 1339. Part of the monastery has been converted into a museum dedicated to the fresco "The Last Supper" by Andrea del Castagno.

For more information about Sant' Apollonia, please visit:

<https://renatoprosciutto.com/apollonia-convent-last-supper-florence/>

Basilica of Santa Maria Novella

The Basilica is one of the most important religious buildings in Florence. Besides being a place of worship, the church is an exhibition space of undoubted prestige, thanks to the presence of works by many of the greatest artists of the Renaissance era who wanted to leave their mark in the church. The complex is also formed by the beautiful outdoor spaces, which include the Green Cloister, with the frescoes "on the green ground" (thus the name) by Paolo Uccello; the Cappellone degli Spagnoli and the Cloister of the Dead. Also, the refectory, which houses paintings and sacred vestments, goldsmith, relics and liturgical garments.

For more information about Santa Maria Novella, please visit: <https://www.smn.it/it/>

Palazzo Medici Riccardi and Museum

The palace Palazzo Medici Riccardi was built by Michelozzo di Bartolomeo for Cosimo de' Medici between 1444 and 1484. The main draw of the palace is definitely the Chapel of the Magi with walls covered by frescoes by the Renaissance master Benozzo Gozzoli. Palazzo Medici Riccardi also houses temporary exhibitions of contemporary artists.

For more information about Palazzo Medici Riccardi and Museum, please visit:

<https://www.palazzomediciriccardi.it/en/museo/>

Palazzo Strozzi

The three crescent moons on the Strozzi coat-of-arms symbolise the aspiration to good fortune of this family that played such an important role in city life both with its patronage of the arts and its banking and mercantile ventures. The Strozzi opposed the Medici and so Cosimo the Elder banned the family's male members from Florence in 1434. Filippo Strozzi's exile was lifted in 1466 and on his return home he devoted his energies to building a residence with the ambition of creating the "largest and finest palazzo" in Florence. It took him from 1473 to 1489 to acquire the land "in the most convenient and lovely spot in the city".

For more information about Palazzo Strozzi, please visit: <https://www.palazzostrozzi.org/en/>

Museo de San Marco

The San Marco museum was built between 1473 and 1452 by Michelozzo; an architect highly respected by the Medici. By the end of its construction, this convent was one of the newest and more comfortable in Italy. This Michelozzo project ended with the construction of a large renaissance-style, graceful and elegant building and in 1869 it was declared a National Monument and it opened its doors to the public.

The San Marco Museum is located in a former monastery founded in the 13th century and today houses frescoes by Ghirlandaio, Fray Bartolomé, as well as many paintings of his followers. One of the highlights of the museum is the Annunciation fresco on top of the staircase leading to the dormitories, a symbol of purity, obedience, and faith. The Library Hall, also commissioned to Michelozzo, is considered one of the best examples of Renaissance interiors, with its arcades supported by narrow pillars with Ionic capitals.

For more information about the Museum of San Marco, please visit: <https://www.visitflorence.com/florence-museums/san-marco.html>

Church of Santa Maria del Carmine

The main church of this name is located in the Oltrarno district of Florence, Italy, on the south bank of the Arno River. The church was founded by Carmelite friars in 1268.

Most of the original church's interior was destroyed in a devastating fire in 1771, but the Brancacci and the Corsini chapels miraculously survived. The church was rebuilt in a Rococo style in 1782, while its

façade, like many Florentine churches, remains unfinished.

The Brancacci Chapel, located in the left transept, is often called a "miniature" museum of Renaissance art and is the primary reason for visiting the church. Commissioned in 1424 by the wealthy merchant Felice Brancacci, the frescoes illustrate the life of St. Peter. The work was begun by Masolino da Panicale and his young pupil Masaccio. Masaccio left for Rome in 1428 and died shortly after, leaving the cycle incomplete. Filippino Lippi completed the remaining sections between 1481 and 1485.

The frescoes are considered a cornerstone of Renaissance painting. Masaccio's work was groundbreaking for its use of single-point linear perspective (a technique learned from Brunelleschi), revolutionary realism in depicting human emotion and anatomy, and mastery of chiaroscuro (light and shade). Key scenes include Masaccio's *The Tribute Money* (which uses a continuous narrative technique to tell three parts of the story in one fresco) and *The Expulsion of Adam and Eve*. The chapel also contains *St. Peter Healing the Sick with his Shadow* and *The Distribution of Alms* by Masaccio.

For more information about the Church of Santa Maria del Carmine and the Brancacci Chapel, please visit:

<https://www.florence-museum.com/brancacci-chapel.php>

Basilica di Santa Trinita

The Church of Santa Trinita belonged to the Strozzi family and then passed to the Medici family.

In 1400 many important painters worked for the church (the Sassetti Chapel by Ghirlandaio was completed between 1483-1486). In 1500 and after the Counter-Reformation (1564), important structural works by Buonotalenti started. Buontalenti worked on the facade and on the Main Chapel (Cappella Maggiore).

For more information about the Basilica di Santa Trinita, please visit:

<http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/santa-trinita.html>

Basilica di Santa Croce

The Basilica of the Holy Cross is a medieval church in Florence, most well known for its beautiful decoration and its status as the burial site of many of Florence's most famous individuals.

For more information about the Basilica di Santa Croce, please visit:
<https://www.visitflorence.com/florence-churches/santa-croce.html>

Basilica di San Miniato

Built in 1018 on the site of a 4th century chapel, the lower part of the facade is decorated by fine arcading; the upper part is simpler and has a fine 12th-century mosaic of Christ between the Madonna and St. Miniato. The Basilica has an unfinished 15th century campanile that was damaged during the siege of Florence in 1530. The Bishop's Palace, the fortifications, the monumental cemetery and the Basilica all stand at the top of a hill called Monte alle Croci, which overlooks Piazzale Michelangelo below and over the entire city of Florence. The interior of this magnificent example of Florentine Romanesque architecture (it originally belonged to the Benedictine monks and then passed to the Olivetan friars in 1373) is tripartite with a trussed timber roof.

For more information about the Basilica di San Miniato, please visit:
<https://www.visitflorence.com/florence-churches/san-miniato.html>

Convent of San Domenico, Fiesole

The Convent of San Domenico is a Dominican convent in Fiesole, Italy, situated between the hill of Fiesole and the suburbs of Florence. It was founded in 1406 and completed in 1435 on the initiative of Giovanni Dominici and the bishop of Fiesole, Jacopo Altoviti, both of them friars at the Basilica of Santa Maria Novella in Florence.

Fra Angelico was a friar here, and painted several artworks for the convent, including the Fiesole Altarpiece and the *Coronation of the Virgin* (now in the Louvre of Paris). Pietro Perugino's *Madonna with Child between Saints John the Baptist and Sebastian*, painted here in 1493, is now at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. Also here is the 'Baptism' of Lorenzo di Credi, a free rendering of the Baptism in the Uffizi, the panel attributed to master Verrocchio and to Leonardo himself.

For more information about the Convent of San Domenico, please visit:
<https://www.fiesoleforyou.it/en/church-and-convent-of-san-domenico/>

Your lecturer / Guide

Clare Ford-Wille. Clare has taught art history for over 35 years and continues to lecture at the University of London, Morley College, the City Lit, the V&A, and for NADFAS across Britain and abroad.

A Birkbeck graduate, she brings vast experience and enthusiasm to every tour she leads. Her deep knowledge and passion for art and history enrich each journey with insight, making her tours both engaging and illuminating.

Reading Suggestions

Paul Strathern, *The Medici: Godfathers of the Renaissance.*

From the core of the ruling Medici, to family members making their fortune elsewhere and artists and architects supported by the Medici family, this study of the rise and fall of the powerful and successful Medici family and their role in the Italian Renaissance is an excellent and informative read.

Richard Turner, *Renaissance in Florence: The Invention of a New Art.*

An overview of the social, political, economic and cultural events happening in Florence at the time of the emergence of what came to be known as the Renaissance.

Judith Testa, *An Art Lovers Guide to Florence.*

More than a guide book, Judith Testa offers an in-depth description of Florence's Renaissance art, putting the works she studies into a political, religious and familial context. A fascinating and inspiring read.

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Grading

This tour has been graded as **Moderate:** Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Florence at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings can be quite cool and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Italian

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Immaculate conception (08 Dec); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops & Museums – Department stores are open 0830-1930 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are

closed between 1230-1530. Please note than some museums close on Mondays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

Clothes & Shoes –You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good flat/grip walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside office hours, please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7441 343850

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate General Milan

Via S. Paolo, 7

20121 Milan

Italy

Tel: +39 (0)6 4220 2431

Fax: +39 (0)2 8646 5081

Italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230 and 1400-1600. Phone lines open 0900-1700. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +39 (0)6 4220 2413.

Travel Editions Group Ltd

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Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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