



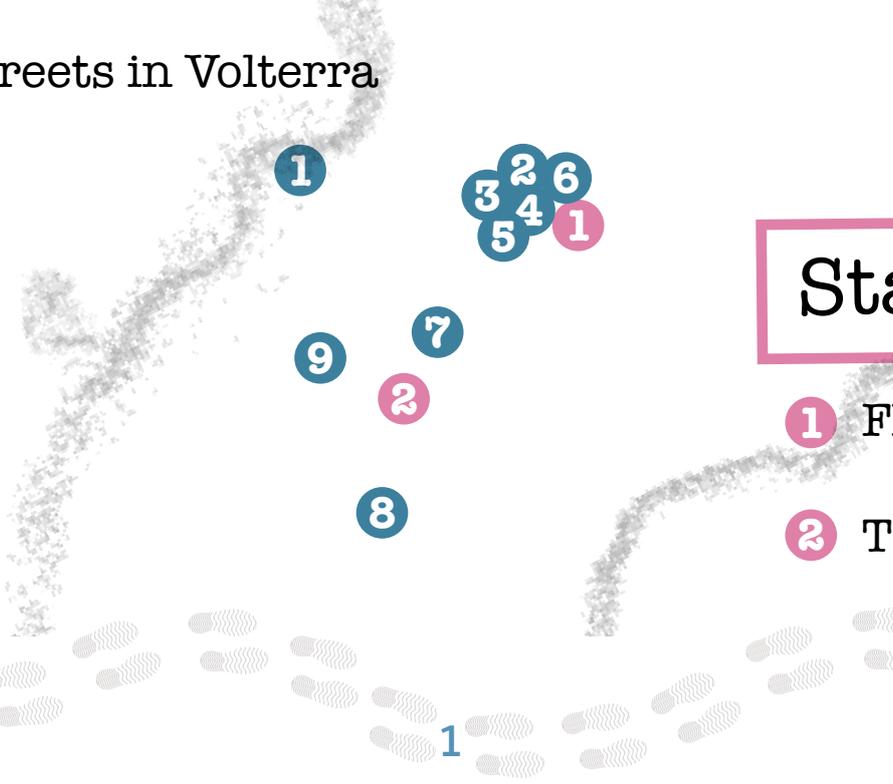
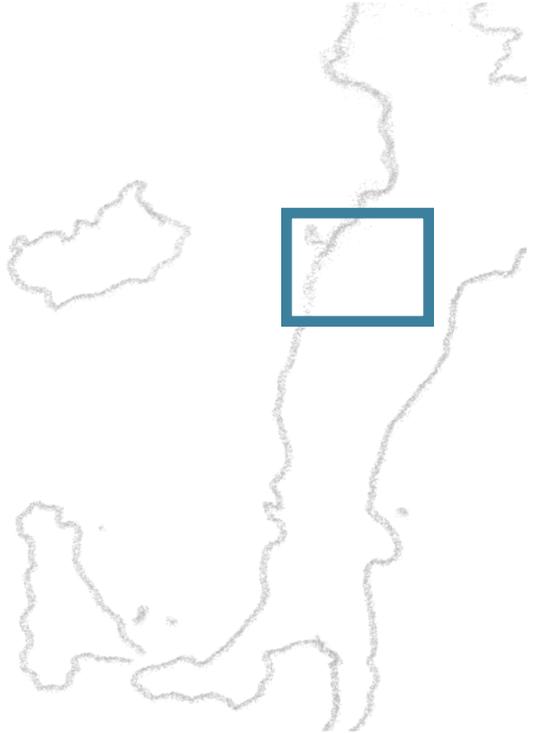
8 Days in Tuscany





Highlights

- 1 Leaning Tower of Pisa
- 2 Michelangelo's David
- 3 Mercato Centrale
- 4 Renaissance Art at the Uffizi
- 5 Dinner by Florence's Il Duomo
- 6 Giotto's Bell Tower
- 7 Towers at San Gimignano
- 8 Siena Cathedral and Town Square
- 9 Old streets in Volterra



Stay

- 1 Florence
- 2 Tuscan villa



Special Moments

Travel is about those special moments that make the trip memorable.
Here are the best from Tuscany.

Coming around
the corner to
face the David



Grabbing a picnic
and hiking to
Piazzola
Michelangelo



Wandering the
streets listening
to street music



Sunset dinner
Rooftop Bar



The first time
you see the
leaning tower



Climbing to top of
Tower-house Toscano
for view over the city



Grab a bite to eat
or a drink at the
main square in
Siena



Grab a bite to
eat in the main
town square in
San Gimignano

01 | Day



Daily Itinerary

1  Leaning Tower of Pisa + Field of Miracles 2-3 hours

 Ristorante Pizzeria Duomo 2 hours

Train to Florence 1-1.5 hours

 Dinner in Florence next to the Il Duomo 2 hours

 Florence

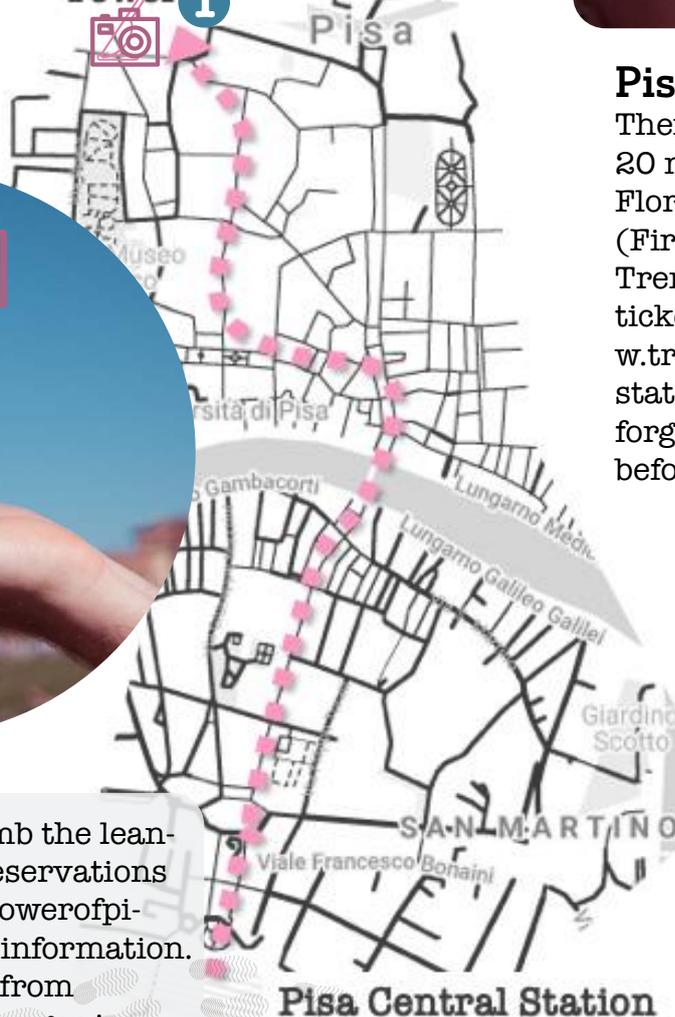
Arrival Pisa:

Train to Pisa City Center: watch out for signs for the Pisamover! Follow the signs and you can buy tickets before you step on the train.

Pisa Central Station. If you have luggage you can store it at Central Station luggage storage as you will leave later from here to Florence. Enjoy the day in Pisa!



Leaning Tower **1** 



Pisa to Florence:

There are trains almost every 20 min from Pisa Centrale to Florence Central Station (Firenze S. M. Novella) from Trenitalia. You can buy the tickets online (<https://www.trenitalia.com>) or in the station concourse. Don't forget to validate your ticket before getting on the train!

1 

As you walk down the street you will come to the moment where you can see the leaning tower over the buildings. Enjoy this, as it is from these buildings that you understand just how off it is!

1 If you want to climb the leaning tower, make reservations in advance. Visit towerofpisa.org for current information. The tower is open from 09:00-17:00, and longer in summer.



Daily Itinerary

Breakfast near Museum of San Marco 0.5 hour

2 Galleria dell'Accademia 2 hours

3 Mercato Centrale / Mercato di San Lorenzo 0.5 hour

Lunch Mercato Centrale 1 hour

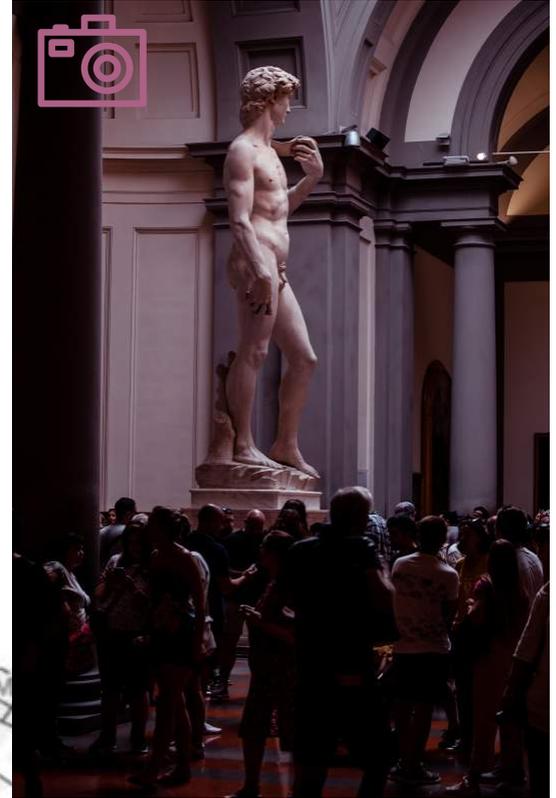
Medici Chapels 1 hour

Oficina Profuma 0.5 hour

3 Piazzela Michelangelo 3-4 hours

2 Definitely book your tickets in advance for Galleria dell'Accademia. Official tickets can be purchased here: <https://webshop.b-ticket.com/webshop/webticket/eventlist>. Other sites like [getyourguide](https://www.getyourguide.com) and [viator](https://www.viator.com) sell tickets as well. Museum open from Tue - Sun, 08:15-18:50.

02 | Day



3 Pack a picnic from food from Mercato Centrale and make the hike for the best sunset in Europe - in our opinion of course.



03 | Day

4

The Uffizi tickets, like the Accademia, should be purchased in advance to avoid long waits in line. Official tickets can be purchased here: <https://webshop.b-ticket.com/webshop/webticket/eventlist>. Other sites like [getyourguide](https://www.getyourguide.com) and [viator](https://www.viator.com) sell tickets as well. Museum open from Tue - Sun, 08:15-18:50.

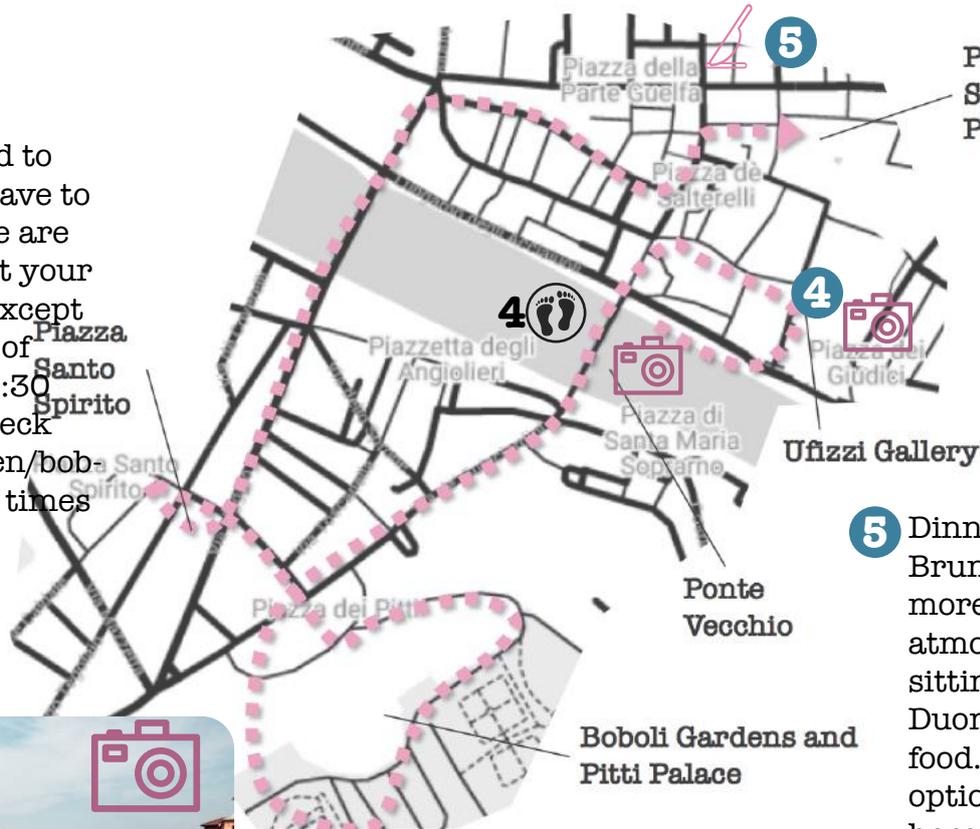


Grab a picnic and head to Boboli Gardens. You have to pay to get in, but there are plenty of places to rest your feet! Open everyday except first and last Monday of each month. 08:15-04:30 (later in summer). Check <https://www.uffizi.it/en/boboli-garden> for current times and tickets.



Daily Itinerary

-  Grab breakfast and eat by Ponte Vecchio 0.5 hour
- 4**  Uffizi Gallery 2-3 hours
- Boboli Gardens and Pitti Palace 2-3 hours
-  Picnic at Boboli Gardens 1 hour
- Piazza Santo Spirito 1 hour
- Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo Vecchio 1-2 hours
-  **5** Dinner at Brunelleschi Bistrot - eat outside 1 hour
- 4**  Walk streets listening to music



Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo Vecchio

- 5** Dinner at Brunelleschi's is more about the atmosphere and sitting under Il Duomo than the food. Explore some options around here if you don't like what you see at Brunelleschi's!

- 4**  Street music in Florence is really great. There is always something at Ponte Vecchio around Il Duomo. We also had a great time at Caffè Concerto Paszkowski in Piazza della Repubblica.

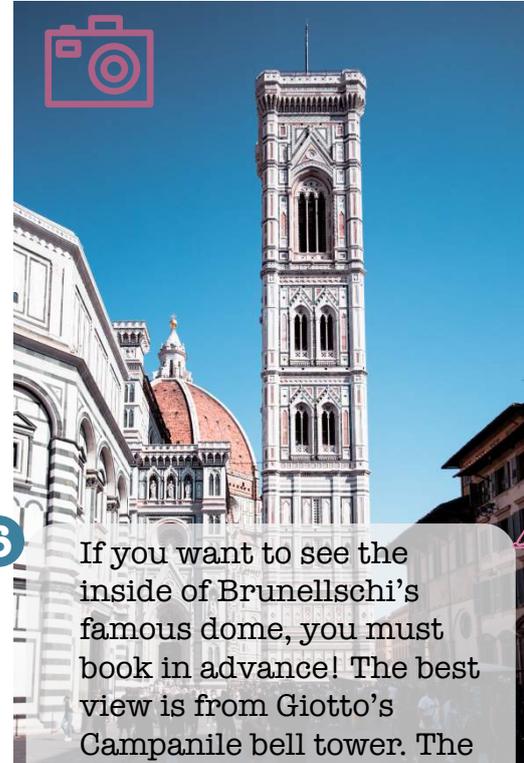
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Daily Itinerary

-  Grab breakfast on road to Il Duomo. 0.5 hour
- 6** Il Duomo, Baptistery, Giotto's Tower 3 hours
- Piazza della Repubblica 0.5 hour
-  Lunch at Corte dei Pazzi 1 hour
- Basilica of Santa Croce and Michelangelo house 1 hour
-  **5**  Dinner at Rinascente Firenze 2-3 hours

04 | Day



6 If you want to see the inside of Brunellschi's famous dome, you must book in advance! The best view is from Giotto's Campanile bell tower. The inside of the baptistery and Il Duomo aren't really worth it, but if you pay to go up Giotto's Campanile then you might as well check them out too!



Il Duomo, Baptistery, Giotto's Tower

Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence

5  Reserve a dinner at the rooftop restaurant at Rinascente for a magnificent view over Il Duomo and Florence.

05 | Day



Daily Itinerary

Grab breakfast on way to bus to airport Depends

Pick-up car at Florence's airport 1 hour

Drive to San Gimignano 1.5 hours

7 Explore San Gimignano 2-3 hours

6 Lunch in Piazza della Cisterna 1 hour

Head to hotel Depends

Dinner by hotel

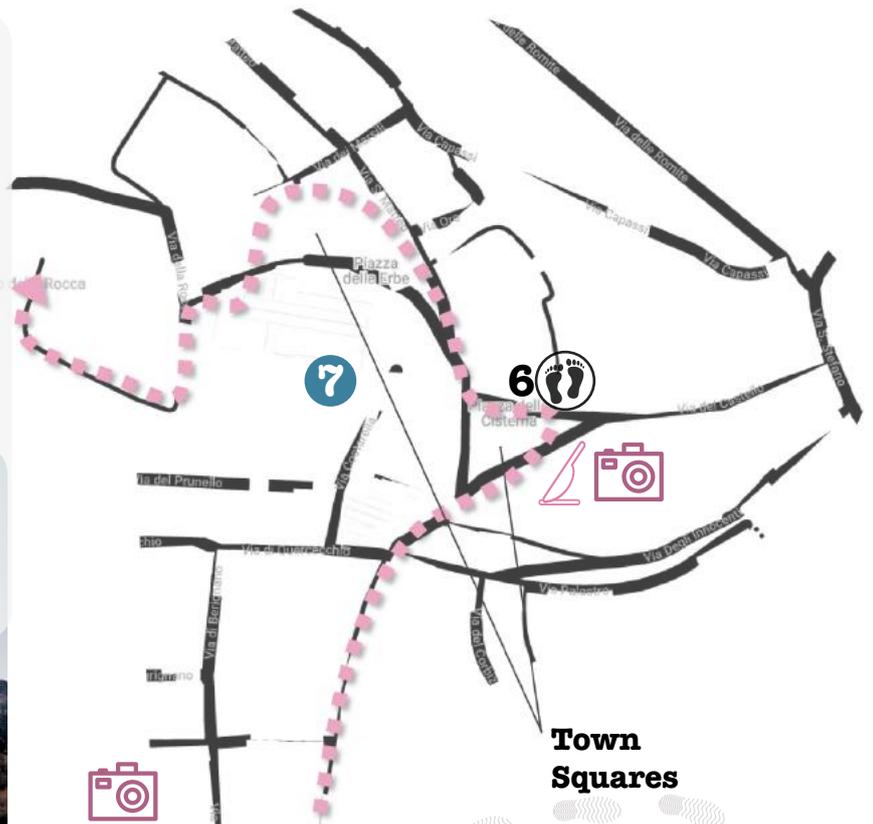
7 6 The town squares are the best part of San Gimignano - find a place to eat and grab a drink there. Climb a tower for an amazing view.



Florence to Tuscany:

To get out of Florence fast, reserve your car at the airport of Florence (Aeroporto Amerigo Vespucci). For car rentals we use metasearch websites like <https://www.bil-liger-mietwagen.de> and <https://www.rental-cars.com>.

Public transportation to Florence Airport: from the Station Unità take the T2 to Aeroporto. It takes you about 25 min and leaves about every 5-10 min. At the airport, follow the sign for "Car Rental". It leads you to a Shuttle Bus, which takes you for free to the rental car offices.



Town Squares

Pay attention on the way to San Gimignano for views like this - they really give you an idea of just how many towers the city has!





Daily Itinerary

- Relaxed morning at hotel Until 13:00
- Drive to Siena Depends
- 8** Climb the panorama view at the Duomo of Siena and visit church 2 hours
- 7** Grab a bite to eat/drink at Piazza de Campo 1 hour
- Walk the streets 2 hours
- Dinner at Trattoria Grotta Santa Caterina da Bagoga 1 hour

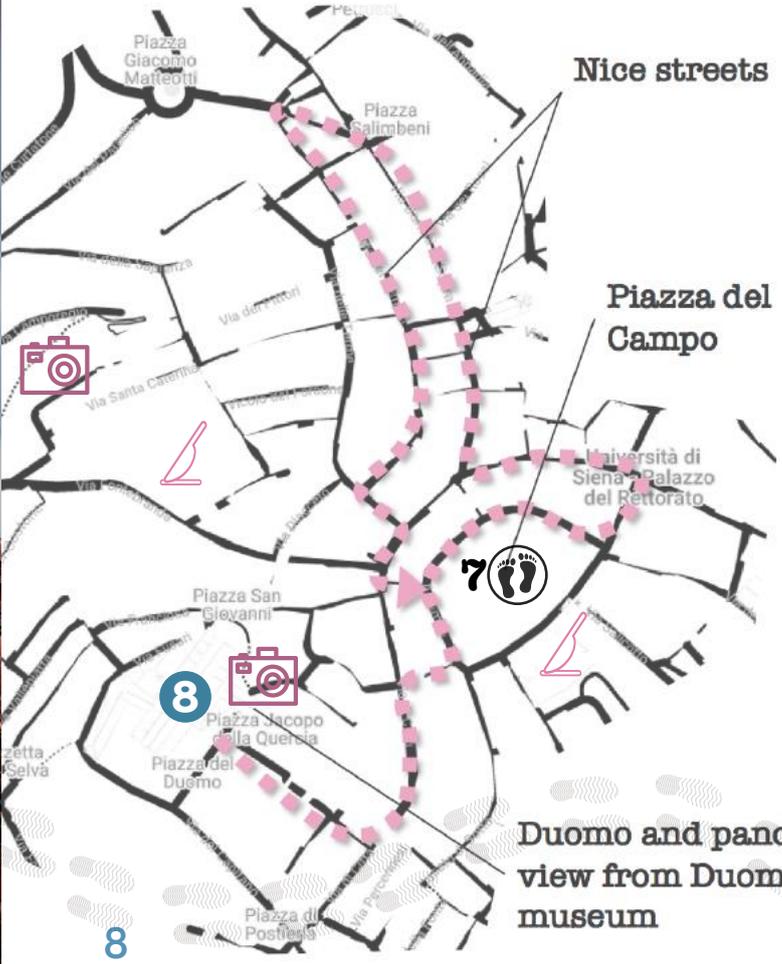
06 | Day



8 The panoram view (part of Duomo complete ticket) is the best view of both cathedral and Piazza de Campo. Line can take an hour or more. Buy your ticket from the main ticket office in the Piazza by the entrance to the cathedral. More information at <https://op-eraduomo.siena.it/en/>.

7 There is so much happening in Siena's Town Square that enjoying the sites and sounds from a restaurant with a drink and some food is the perfect way to wind down for a bit!

Best part of Siena is exploring the streets and hills with another great viewpoint from Basilica Catheriniana San Domenico.



8 Duomo and panorama view from Duomo museum

07 | Day

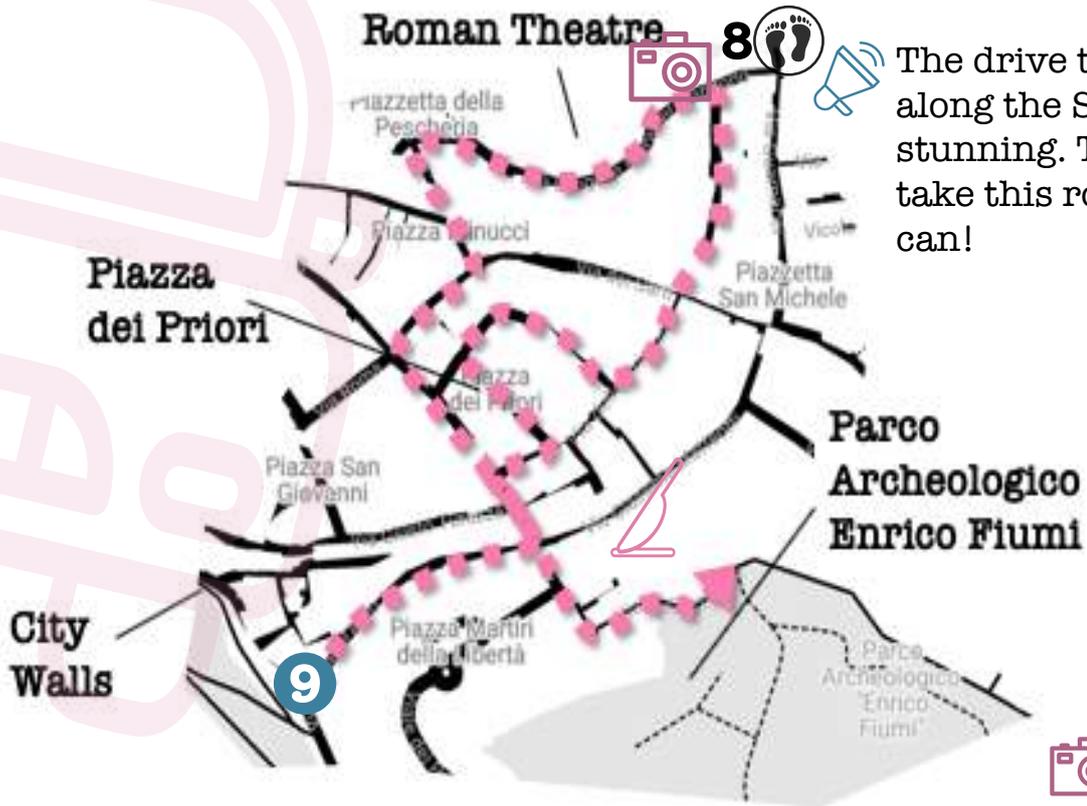


Daily Itinerary

8 Volterra isn't big, but offers some stunning views. Walk the city walls, check out the old Roman Amphitheater, and climb the old tower at Tower House Toscano.

9 some stunning views. Walk the city walls, check out the old Roman Amphitheater, and climb the old tower at Tower House Toscano.

Relax at the hotel	Depends
Drive to Volterra	Depends
Piazza dei Priori	0.5 hour
Roman Theatre	0.5-1 hour
8 Tower-house Toscano	0.5-1 hour
Parco Archeologico Enrico Fiumi and food/drink at Café Etruria	1-2 hour
9 Walk the city walls	1 hour
Dinner by hotel	



8 The drive to Volterra along the SR68 was stunning. Try to take this route if you can!





Daily Itinerary

Relax at the hotel

Drive to Pisa airport

Say goodbye to Tuscany!

08 | Day



Take your time on the way back and enjoy the drive!

SUMMARY

Things to do up front:

Book a car from Florence airport to Pisa airport as this is a special booking (changing pick-up and drop-off locations) you may have to book further in advance. Just to be safe make sure your rental has unlimited miles.

Book accomodation as soon as you can to get the best deals as this area is not your typical backpacker area.

Book tickets for Ufizzi, Galleria dell'Accademia , and the Il Duomo dome climb in advance to avoid unnecessary waiting in lines and/or potentially not getting into one of the three (like we experienced with the dome climb).

Don't stress too much, we booked everything about 3 weeks in advance and still were able to have the perfect vacation.

Money: Italy is pretty modern with payment with cards like in restaurants, public transportation, and shops. Still there will always be places where you just need cash, so better be safe and carry some cash with you.

Best travel period: Tuscany year round is great, it only depends on what you prefer:

- March, April, May, September, Oktober - you find the most comfortable temperatures but also need to deal with crowds
- June, July, August can be really hot but therefore its less crowded and and you can enjoy the pool and the museums are air conditioned.
- November, december, january, february can be rainy and cold but you are then traveling really off-season and get great deals and less crowds.



Where to Stay

This is really subjective, obviously. We use Booking.com and Airbnb.com to explore different options. For us, the first thing we look at is location. A place that is close to the major sites will cut down on time you spend getting in to the city. For example, we stayed a 7 minute walk from Il Duomo in Florence and in a small farmhouse just a little ways from Colle di Val d'Elsa. Both locations allowed us to either see sites in Florence easily and quickly, or have a maximum of a 45 minute drive to get to many day trip possibilities.

Next, we look at cleanliness, ratings, and anything specific we want for the trip. We absolutely wanted a pool for our hotel in Tuscany, so that helped us filter places to stay.

When booking, look for places where you can cancel for free - this will help you book a place that looks great, but also allow you the opportunity to find the perfect place in a more relaxed state.

Eating in Tuscany

Eating in Tuscany is an absolute delight - with pasta, pizza, and ice cream. In addition, the meats and cheese are to die for. Here are a couple of ideas of where we ate and were happy with the food and service.

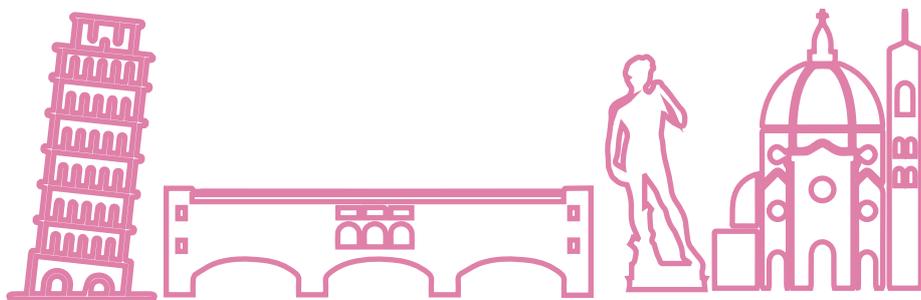
Florence

Corte dei Pazzi
Rinascente
Picnic food from Mercato di San Lorenzo
Brunelleschi Bistrot (more for view of Il Duomo.)

Tuscany

Bel Mi' Colle in Colle di Val d'Elsa
Bagoga Restaurant in Siena
If you want to have a Tuscan farm experience, Ristorante agricolo Tenuta di Mensanello serves everything from their own lands, including wines.





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