



## Florence

[www.mega.it](http://www.mega.it)  
[www.firenze.net](http://www.firenze.net)

[www.comune.firenze.it](http://www.comune.firenze.it)  
[www.turismo.toscana.it](http://www.turismo.toscana.it)

Although Florence has roughly 400.000 inhabitants, thus making it a relatively small city, in recent years, due to an increase of immigration from nearby countries, Florence has expanded, creating new neighborhoods north of the river Arno, west and east.

For the best view of the city, in its entirety, take a walk up to (G7) Piazzale Michelangelo. From there you can see just how far Florence has stretched out and yet how small and compact the actual historic center is, lying in the river valley, with some of the ancient walls still standing and close by beautiful hills rising on either side.

Tourists visiting Florence will not need to wander out of these walls as most of the churches, museums, historic buildings etc.. are all conveniently located within walking distance of each other as well as food stores, newspaper stands, cafes, department stores and famous clothing boutiques right in this compact and easy-to-get-around area of Florence.

However, if and when you tire of the chaos of the city, visit the perfectly preserved surrounding hillsides such as Fiesole, Settignano, Santa Margherita a Montici etc... and see the beautiful ancient vineyards and olive groves still thriving so close to that very chaos.

The small area of the historic center is divided up into four neighborhoods (quartieri) with the river Arno running through it from east to west.

The neighborhoods are known as:

- Santa Maria Novella
- San Giovanni
- Santa Croce
- Santo Spirito

There are several bridges in Florence that connect the north side of the city to the "Oltrarno" side. The bridges are:

- Ponte Giovanni Da Verrazzano
- Ponte San Niccolò
- Ponte alle Grazie
- Ponte Vecchio
- Ponte Santa Trinità
- Ponte alla Carraia
- Ponte Amerigo Vespucci
- Ponte della Vittoria

Most of the main sights and museums lie north of the two central bridges in the area surrounding the church of the Duomo.

#### **WALKING DISTANCES**

From (E6) Ponte Vecchio (Palazzo Pitti side) to (G2) Piazza della Libertà will take 25-28 minutes.

From (H5) Piazza Beccaria to (E4) Piazza della Stazione (Central Train Station) will take 25-28 minutes.

#### **STREETS**

In Florence a double address system is used. One building can have two totally different numbers. One marked in red and another marked in black or blue.

Red numbers correspond to businesses, stores, restaurants and have an "r" after the number. Blue numbers are for private residences.

Furthermore following an intersection or curve, streets might suddenly change names. Don't forget to keep your map on you and keep your eyes open when looking for a specific address to make sure that the street name still corresponds to the one you want.