

FLORENCE



Florence will capture your imagination and inspire you. No trip to Florence is worth doing unless you make time to visit the city's splendid galleries. It's a feast for the eyes and the soul.

Getting there:

Dublin to Bologna: Direct flights on selected days with Aer Lingus. *Bologna to Florence* – Direct trains daily, journey time 40min approx.

Dublin to Pisa: Direct flights on selected days with Aer Lingus. *Pisa to Florence* – Direct trains daily, journey time 1hr approx

Where to stay:

- **Academy Hostel, 9 Via Ricasoli** – This central hostel was voted best Italian hostel in 2008. Its central location cannot be beaten.
- **Archi Rossi Hostel** – Free breakfasts and dinner for its guests make it a really popular place to stay! Located close to Santa Maria Novella train station makes it a perfect choice.

Top things to do:

- **Galleria dell' Accademia** – Try not to trip over the dozens of art students littering the floor as you make your way down to Michelangelo's David, which is housed here. Queues can be quite long for Galleria degli Uffizi so be prepared! Tuesday-Sunday: 8.15 - 18.50
- **Galleria degli Uffizi** - The *Galleria degli Uffizi* holds the world's most important collection of Renaissance art but it's also Italy's most crowded museum. You can buy tickets ahead to avoid long lines.
- **Boboli Gardens and Pitti Palace** - A huge park on a hillside in the middle of Florence behind the Pitti Palace, this was once the seat of the Medici family. Here you'll find beautiful gardens and fountains

and a great view of Florence. For more info on Florence's museums, visit www.firenzemusei.it/.

- **Il Duomo and Campanile** – Towering above all other buildings, Brunelleschi's Dome is a stunning masterpiece of construction. Tickets can be bought to climb the 463 steps to the top of the dome. Meanwhile next door to Il Duomo sits the Campanile, climbing to the top of this bell tower offers a birdseye view across the city.
- People watch from **JJ's Cathedral** - Get here early if you want the only balcony table overlooking the Baptistery and Il Duomo (the most coveted drinking spot in Florence) and watch the world go by...blissful!

Nightlife in Florence:

- **100% Pub Crawl** -meets every evening from 8:30 to 9:30 pm in front of the David's Replica in Piazza Della Signoria. €20 to join in for the night, well worth it though!
- **Italian nightlife often occurs on the streets!** Be entertained by dozens of live musicians and street performers in any of Florence's popular squares as you sit out with your glass of vino and tapas.
- **The Yab** - Via Sasseti 5r - Great dance club, decent cover charge but well worth it. Full of Italians, travelers, and of course study abroad students.
- **Tenax** - Via Pratese, 46 – Another large and vibrant nightclub which is generally where the local Florentines will go out, if you want a real taste of Italian nightclubs, this is it!

Top Tips:

- If you fancy a quiet night, head to the Odeon Cinehall, Via Sasseti 1, where they screen films in English.
- Book ahead for the Museums and Galleries to avoid disappointment.