



Nice to meet You FLORENCE!



Everyone's heard of Florence, one of the most beautiful cities in the world! But to really get to know the city you've got to stroll down its medieval alleyways and elegant streets, enjoy its ancient gardens and use eyes, ears and nose to take in all the interesting things around you. This travel guide tells you about museums and monuments (don't panic, only useful and curious information) and also provides tricks and tips on enjoying the city like authentic Florentines!



Follow the symbol and spread your creativity across, like an authentic painter...



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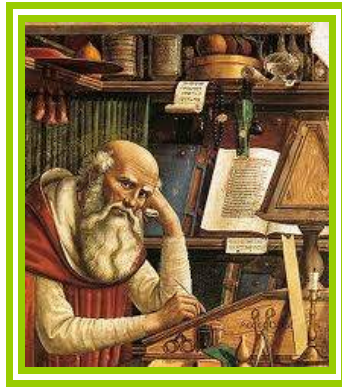


Proud to Be Humiliated

The Church of OGNISSANTI, built in the 1200s, is decorated with breath-taking frescoes. The church belonged to the Order of the Humiliated... who were probably very proud of those frescoes!

If Leonardo liked it...

Domenico Ghirlandaio's LAST SUPPER, completed around 1480, is located in the Ognissanti Convent (you can still see the sinopias, or the preparatory sketches made on the wall). Leonardo da Vinci himself was a big fan of this work, it was one of his favorite frescoes!

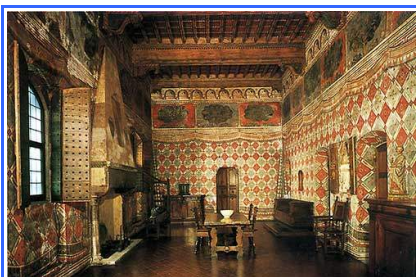


Head-to-head competition!

St. Girolamo in his Studio is also by Ghirlandaio, who painted it to "challenge" the nearby St. Augustine (who is also in his studio) by fellow artist Botticelli. You decide which fresco wins.

Guess who's in the picture!

In the VESPUCCI CHAPEL the members of the Vespucci family are gathered under the cloak of the Merciful Virgin, another fresco by Ghirlandaio. The first on the left behind the Virgin is Amerigo Vespucci, who "lent" his name to America!

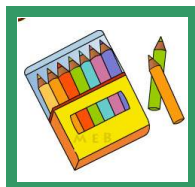


Work at Home!

A fabric merchant once lived in PALAZZO DAVANZATI. He used to roofed terrace on the top floor to dry his merchandise!

What was life like in the 14th-century Florence?

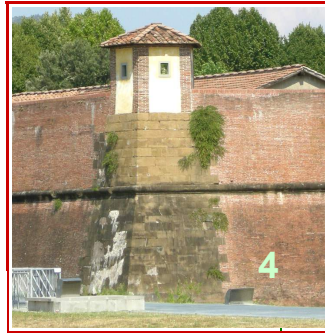
Find out for yourself at the PALAZZO DAVANZATI MUSEUM, or at the Casa Fiorentina Antica, which features a reconstruction of an early-Renaissance home, with original furniture and everyday objects! Don't miss the painting of the Owl Game (a real board game from 1400s) and the Parrots' Lounge.





Whose windows are whose?

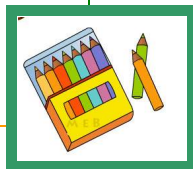
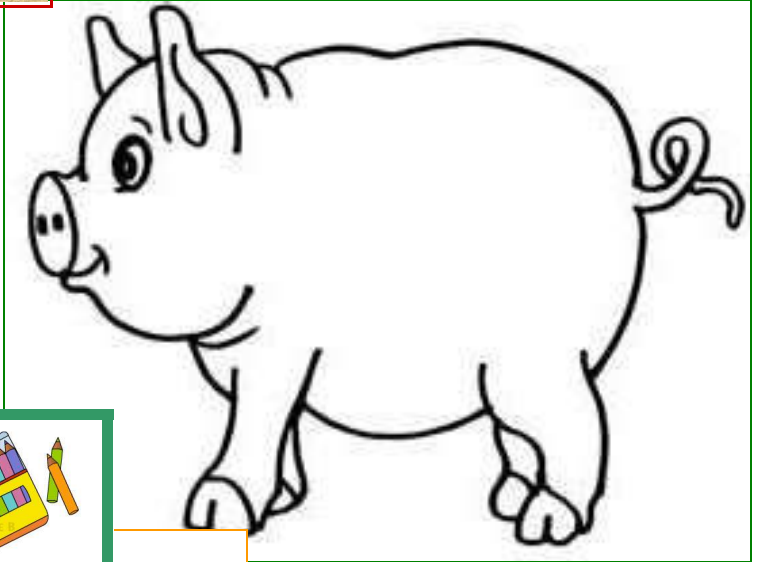
Match these details with the buildings they belong to. They all appear on the previous pages!



The three little pigs

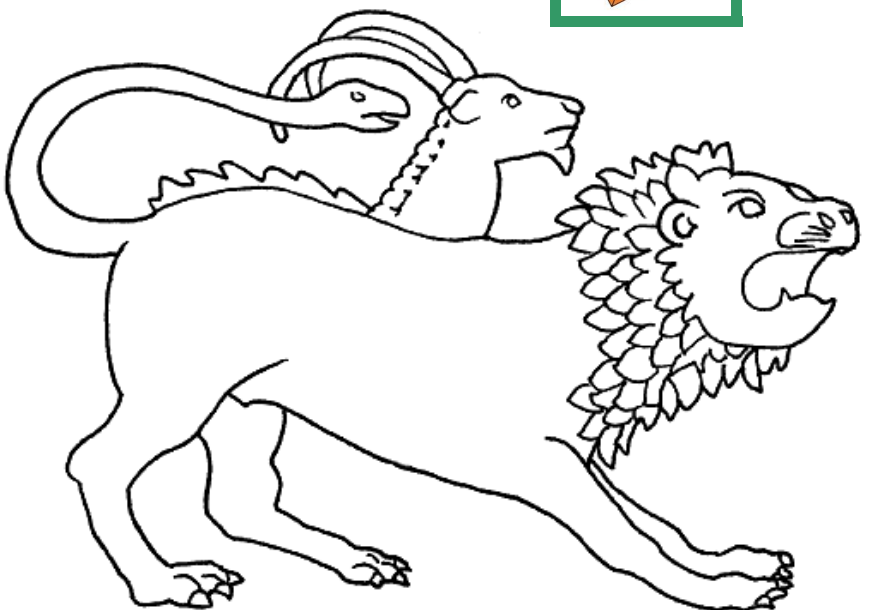
In Piazza del Mercato Nuovo stands a bronze statue of a wild boar, called the LITTLE PIG. Tradition has it that whoever touches its nose shall one day return to Florence – which may be why the boar's nose is so shiny! It's a copy of a 17th-century sculpture by Pietro Tacca, who copied it from an ancient Greek original on display at the Uffizi Gallery.

1. Palazzo Davanzati - 2. Palazzo Medici Riccardi
3. Orsanmichele - 4. Fortezza Da Basso



Vintage Collections

If you like monsters, you'll adore the CHIMERA OF AREZZO a bronze beast that's part lion, part snake and part goat! It's in the ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM – which is one of the most well-stocked in Italy – along with Roman, Egyptian and Etruscan pieces.





At the Movies?

The church of SANTA FELICITA is said to be one of the oldest in Florence, dating all the way back to the third century AD! The Medici made this their private family church, and had it connected to Palazzo Pitti by the Vasari Corridor. Inside its Capponi Chapel you can admire the *Deposition*, painted by Pontormo in 1525 – a spectacular work of art, which looks like a dramatic scene from a movie.



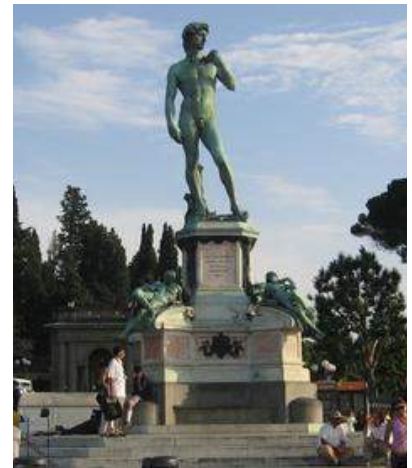
Costa to costa to costa

Costa San giorgio, Costa de' Magnoli and Costa Scarpuccia are not only shortcuts through the Santo Spirito District, but constitute special strolls in and off themselves.

The first takes you from Belvedere Fort to the Church of Santa Felicita in just a couple minutes. The second starts at the corner between via de' Bardi and the Piazzetta di Santa Maria Sopr'Arno and leads to Costa San Giorgio. The latter of the three connects Costa San Gorgio to via de' Bardi. All three run up the side of the hill, so if you want to keep your cool, take them in the downhill direction – from either the Belvedere Fort or Piazzale Michelangelo toward Ponte Vecchio and the Arno River.

Worthwhile Walking

Is walking six kilometers no sweat for you? Then take a hike up the Viale dei Colli, which is one of the nicest walks in Florence. Midway up, stop and visit PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO, which is decorated with bronze reproductions of his most famous sculptures, and offers an incomparable view of the entire city! The piazzale was designed by Giuseppe Poggi in 1869, when Florence was the capital of Italy.



Eagle eye!

Viewing Florence from Piazzale Michelangelo, can you make out the following city landmarks??



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