

-Florence Fun Facts –

Florence Region: Tuscany
Country: Italy

Florence by the Numbers:

- Population of Florence metro region: 696,767 inhabitants
- Area of Tuscany: 8,876 sq. miles (about the size of the state of New Jersey)
- Average Elevation of Florence: 140 ft
- Annual Rainfall: 35 inches
- Average Winter Temperature: 55 degrees F°
- Average Summer Temperature: 81 degrees F°

Quick Facts:

- Time Zone: Central European Time Zone (GMT+1)
- Country Dialing Code: 39 Area Code: 055
- Currency: Euro (EMU)
- Electricity: 220 volts @ 50Hz Type B-Two Round Pin plug
- Major Airport: Amerigo Vespucci/Peretola Airport (FLR), and Galileo Galilei Airport (PSA)
- English Newspapers: "The Florentine" & "East Milano"
- Italian Newspapers: "Corriere della Sera", "La Nazione" & "Metro Florence"
- Principal Industries: Tourism, Fashion, Textiles, Wine, Agriculture
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1982)

Did You Know?

- Julius Caesar founded Florence in 59 BC as the retirement location for his veteran soldiers.
- People who live in Florence are called "Florentines."
- The Italian name for Florence is "Firenze".
- The city of Florence is considered the "birthplace of the Italian Renaissance" and the "Athens of the Middle Ages".
- Florence was home to the infamous Medici family from the 14th century to the 18th century.
- Leonardo da Vinci, polymath; Niccolo Machievelli, poet and philosopher; Galileo Galilei, astronomer and physicist; Amerigo Vespucci, explorer; Donatello, sculptor; Rafael, painter; Robert Cavalla, fashion designer; and Guccio Gucci, fashion designer and founder of the Gucci label all lived in Florence.
- In 1339, Florence became the first city in Europe to have paved streets.
- Florence Nightingale was born in and named after the city of Florence.
- There are 465 steps to the top of Brunelleschi's cupola.
- Ponte Vecchio is the only bridge in Florence to have survived WWII intact. Hitler declared it was too beautiful to destroy.
- Regional dishes include: Crostini Toscani, sliced bread rounds topped with chicken pate; Bistecca alla Fiorentina, a large very rare T-Bone steak cooked over charcoal; and Tagliata, sliced rare beef served on a bed of arugula, topped with slices of Parmesan cheese.

Places of Interest:

- Piazza della Signoria
- Uffizi Galleries
- Accademia
- The Duomo
- San Marco
- San Lorenze
- Ponte Vecchio
- Giotto Tower
- Piazzale Michelangelo
- Santo Spirito Church
- Santa Maria Novella
- Santa Croce
- Pitti Palace
- Boboli Gardens

Orientation:

- Located in a basin, among the Senese Clavey Hills, in northwest Italy about 75 miles from the Tyrrhenian coast at 43° 46'18"N, 11° 15'13"E.
- Florence is the capital city of the province of Florence and the Italian region of Tuscany.
- Rome is 172 miles to the south; Pisa is 65 miles to the west; Venice is 127 miles to the northeast and Milan is 185 miles to the north.

Florence National Holidays:

- Capodanno-January 1st
- Pasqua (Good Friday)-March/April
- Pasquetta (Easter Monday)- March/April
- Anniversario della Liberazione (Liberation Day)-April 25th
- Festa del Lavoro (Labour Day)-May 1st
- San Giovanni (St. John the Baptist Day-Patron Saint of Florence)-June 24th
- Ferragosti (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)-August 15th
- Tutti Santi (All Saints Day)-November 1st
- Immacolata Concezione (Immaculate Conception)-December 8th
- Natale (Christmas)-December 25th
- Santo Stefano (Boxing Day)-December 26th