

DANTE'S CRADLE

Suggests: itineraries you cannot miss when you visit





La Cupola by Brunelleschi:

From the solemnity of its 114 meters in height, the home of Santa Maria del Fiore is a wonder and still an unicum of the human genius since almost six centuries from its construction. The cupola is a majestic artistic and architectural project that was meant to eclipse any other building of the first Italian Renaissance. In spite of the skepticism of most people, Filippo Brunelleschi, whose methods haven't yet been fully understood by experts, succeeded in building a surprisingly daring and complex work which gave still unsurpassed primacy to Florence and its cathedral.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 240 mt**

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. 6:20 p.m. - Sat 8:30 a.m. 5 p.m.

Ticket: Euros 10

Closed: Sundays, New Year's Day, Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter, Saint John the Baptist (June 24th), Assumption Day (August 15th), All Saints' Day (the first of November), the Immaculate Conception (December 8th), Christmas, Saint Stephen (December 26th).



Il Campanile by Giotto

It is one of the four main components of Piazza del Duomo (the Cathedral's Square). Being 84,70 meters high and about 15 meters wide it is the most eloquent witness of Florentine Trecento gothic architecture. Covered with white, red and green marbles as well as the Cathedral, the majestic squared based bell-tower, regarded as the most beautiful in Italy, was begun by Giotto in 1334. When Giotto died in 1337 only the first part of the project had been carried out, up to the height of the hexagonal tiles, a kind of figurative story, executed by Andrea Pisano following Giotto's drawings. The work was continued by Andrea Pisano who carried out the first two floors following Giotto's project. The bell-tower was embellished by the lozenges decoration, Alberto Arnoldi's work.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 240 mt**

Opening hours: every day 8:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.

Closed: New Year's Day, Epiphany, Easter

Ticket: Euros 10



The Baptistry

The Baptistry of St. John is one of the most ancient churches in Florence, just in front of the cathedral, the church of Santa Maria del Fiore. Octagonal in plan, covered with marbles, the white one from Lunigiana, the green one from Prato, the Baptistry presents roof like a camp tent. Going inside, the first thing you notice is the precious mosaic of the cupola, one of the

biggest of the age to be decorated with this technique. The Baptistry was also enhanced in beauty by three enormous bronze doors. The oldest door, the south one, was made by the sculptor Andrea Pisano between 1330 and 1336. The north door, the second one to be constructed, was made by Lorenzo Ghiberti and his assistants Donatello, Paolo Uccello, Bernardo Cennini and Bernardo Ciuffagni with stories from the New Testament, Evangelists and Doctors. It is an evident evolution from the lines and criterions of Andrea Pisano with a clear tendency towards a free naturalism. The east door, which Michelangelo said was worthy of Paradise (Porta del Paradiso) is the Renaissance masterpiece of Lorenzo Ghiberti and his assistants, such as Luca della Robbia. Ghiberti and his "bottega" were ordered, without a competition, the work of the door which was carried out in a different size from the other two with ten large panels.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 240 mt**

Opening hours: every day 11:15 a.m. 6:30 p.m.

Ticket: Euros 10



The Cathedral (Duomo) Santa Maria del Fiore

The Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore is an imposing church in gothic style built on the place where once was the ancient Florence cathedral of Santa Reparata, whose remains are visible in the crypt. The Cathedral was begun at the end of the thirteenth century by Arnolfo di Cambio, while the beautiful cupola was added in the fifteenth century. The church was consecrated when the façade was not finished yet (it was completely remade in the nineteenth century). The façade was covered with pink, white and green marbles. On the contrary the interior is rather austere. The Cathedral is 150 meters

long, built in almost 170 years to be envied by the churches of the rivals Pisa and Siena. The most important Florentine artists took part in the construction of the building, such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Vasari, Talenti, Arnolfo di Cambio, Lorenzo Ghiberti.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 240 mt**

Opening hours: every day 10a.m. 5p.m.

Ticket: Euros 10



The Old Bridge (Ponte Vecchio)

It is the most beautiful bridge in Florence and one of the most photographed in the world. Even if today tourists are attracted by the goldsmiths' shops, until 1565 the bridge was occupied by butchers and greengrocers. When the Vasari's Corridor was built above the bridge, they were dislodged and were replaced by goldsmiths and artisans, considered jobs more suitable to the beauty of the place. Since then gold has become

the leading character of the Old Bridge as well represented by the statue of Benvenuto Cellini, the most important Florentine goldsmith. In 1565 Giorgio Vasari for Cosimo I de' Medici built the corridor linking Palazzo Vecchio to Palazzo Pitti which was Medici's private residence. The corridor is about one kilometer long, starts from Palazzo Vecchio, goes through the Galleria degli Uffizi, then above the shops of the Old Bridge as far as Palazzo Pitti. It is told that Hitler ordered to spare the Old Bridge from the bombings of the Second World War. Sometimes beauty enlightens even the despots.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 600 mt**



Palazzo Vecchio

The first thing that strikes you about Palazzo Vecchio is that it is impossible to photograph it in its whole. Even if you go to the farthest part of Piazza della Signoria, you will not be able to take it all. It is too big and too high to take it in a single photo. But you cannot help taking a photo of it since it is considered as the best example of fourteenth century civilian architecture. What prevents it from going in full into one photo is the

"Torre di Arnolfo", 94 meters high and built around 1310, that brings on the top the large flag with the Florentine lily. At the entrance a copy of the David by Michelangelo shows off (and it is also a support for pigeons). This beautiful palace is in Piazza della Signoria, a place that for a long time was regarded as cursed, since it was here that Guelphs and Ghibellines used to fight. Now the traces of a bloody past are effaced and Piazza della Signoria is the centre of the social, civilian and politic life of all the citizens of Florence.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 650 mt**

Opening hours :every day 9 a.m. 7 p.m. - Thursdays and weekday holidays 9 a.m. 2 p.m.

Closed: New Year's Day, Easter, May Day, August 15th, Christmas.

Ticket: Euros 6



The Uffizi Gallery

A Caravaggio goes out, a Raffaello comes in. A Tiziano leaves for an exhibition abroad while the famous angels by Rosso Fiorentino come back. These are Uffizi, a kind of art supermarket, a casket of masterpieces from every century and a destination every art lover from all over the world dreams of. The tour starts from the Trecento hall and the three pieces by Cimabue, Duccio di Buoninsegna and Giotto representing

"The Virgin Mary on throne with the Child". Then it is a beauty crescendo: Botticelli, Leonardo, Signorelli, Perugino, Durer, Caravaggio are there waiting for you. Consider one whole day for the visit, wear a pair of comfortable shoes, and then enjoy the show.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 600 mt**

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8:15 a.m. 6:50 p.m.

Closed: Mondays, New Year's Day, May Day, Christmas.

Ticket: Euros 8



Cappella Brancacci

An angel with a sword is chasing Adam and Eve from Paradise. Adam is covering his face with a hand, he is weeping and hiding with shame. Eve's glance is transfigured by grief and she cannot hide her eyes since her hands are covering her breast. It is a harrowing scene, one of the highest in the history of art and it is located in the Cappella Brancacci in the church of Santa Maria del Carmine. Masolino and Masaccio, old and

young, master and pupil, frescoed the chapel together commissioned by Felice Brancacci. It is not easy to tell the frescoes by Masolino from the ones by Masaccio. Brancacci the maecenas compelled them to work on the same walls to avoid too evident style differences. They created an extraordinary pictorial tale about sin and other events from the Bible and the Gospel, leaving believers and nonbelievers amazed.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 1 km**

Opening hours: every day 10 a.m. 5 p.m. - holidays 1 p.m. 5 p.m.

Ticket: Euros 4

Where: Church of Santa Maria del Carmine, Piazza del Carmine

Important: booking is required- phone from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - phone 055 2768224 or 055 2768558



The Basilica of Santa Croce

Michelangelo's tomb, watched over by three sculptures which represent Painting, Carving and Architecture, competes for the first part of the Basilica with Galileo Galilei's tomb, located just in front. Nearby you find Dante's cenotaph, but not his remains, left in Ravenna where he died in exile. And also Vittorio Alfieri, Gioacchino Rossini and Ugo Foscolo, who described Santa Croce as the place that preserves the graves of Italian great people. But Santa Croce is not just a

collection of the remains of the Italians who went down in history. At the end of the Basilica there are chapels frescoed by Giotto with the history of Saint Francis' life. In the Cappella dei Pazzi, where Giuliano de' Medici was killed and Lorenzo il Magnifico injured during the famous conspiracy, you find the Crucifix by Cimabue.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 1 km**

Opening hours: every day 9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. - holidays 1 p.m. 5 p.m.

Closed: New Year's Day, Easter, Saint Antony from Padua (June 13th), Saint Francis (October 4th), December 25th and 26th

Ticket: Euros 5

Where: Piazza Santa Croce



The Church of Santa Maria Novella

The church was built by the dominicans friars in 1278 and it became a wonderful example of " Tuscan Romanesque", thanks to white, black and green marbles. The interior is with three aisles and your eyes are immediately attracted by the Crucifix by Giotto, a juvenile production that has been recently restored and hangs from the central vault. In the transept, inside the Cappella Strozzi, you will find a wonderful series of frescoes by Filippino Lippi. The Tornabuoni Chapel shows a famous series

of frescoes by Ghirlandaio where you can see the portraits of important people of that age, such as Tornabuoni. In the Gandi Chapel you find the Crucifix by Brunelleschi, the only wooden work of the artist. The most important work in Santa Maria Novella is the Trinity by Masaccio which represents something totally revolutionary in art.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 350 mt**

Opening hours: Mon.-Tue.- Wed.-Thur.-Sat. 9 a.m. 5 p.m. - holidays 9 a.m. 2 p.m.

Closed: Fridays, Sundays, Christmas, New Year's Day, Easter, May Day, August 15th

Ticket: Euros 2,70.



Accademia Gallery

In 1784 the Gallery of the Accademia was created for Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo's will in order to show the great examples of the Florentine art to the students of the neighbouring Academy of Fine Arts. It is one of the most fascinating collections of Michelangelesque sculpture, but it also contains other artists' sculptures and paintings

from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century. No doubt the most important work of the Academy is David by Michelangelo that was once exposed to wind and cold in Piazza della Signoria where it has now been replaced by a copy.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 850 mt**

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 8:15 a.m. 6:50 p.m.

Closed: Mondays, New Year's Day, May Day, Christmas, Easter, August 15th

Ticket: Euros 6,50

Where: via Bettino Ricasoli 60 - phone 055 294883



Palazzo Pitti (The Pitti Palace)

Palazzo Pitti, renowned building, was the ancient residence of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany and of the king of Italy. Now it is an important museum made up by different galleries which contain collections of paintings and sculptures, artistic pieces and porcelains. The complex is composed by the Palatine Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art. Behind Palazzo Pitti you find the famous Boboli Garden, where Florentine people love spending their spare time to find some peace

and to escape the summer heat, surrounded by Medici family's glory and grandeur.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 1 km**

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8:15 a.m. 6:50 p.m.

Closed: Mondays, New Year's Day, May Day, Christmas.

Ticket : cumulative (Galleria Palatina, Museo degli Argenti, Galleria d'Arte moderna, Giardino di Boboli, Museo del Costume and Museo delle Porcellane): Euros 11,50

Where: Piazza Pitti



Bargello National Museum

It is one of the oldest Florentine civilian buildings and it was created to be the worthy residence of the Capitano del Popolo. This building was the scenery of many conflicts: popular risings, fires, natural calamities seriously damaged the palace, and also the disputes between Guelphs and Ghibellines. Since 1574 the

palace became the city prison and took its name from Bargello, the chief of Police who examined and arrested criminals with the help of his guards. The most famous work of this museum is David by Donatello: the statue has different meanings as it may represent whether the biblical hero or Mercury, the Roman god. His glance is a mixture of typically adolescent haughtiness and malice. David has the eyes of one who knows to have achieved great deeds and he is proud of it.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 700 mt**

Ticket : Euros 4

Where : via del Proconsolo,4 - phone 055 2588606



The Church of San Lorenzo and the Medicean Chapels

This church is one of the oldest in Florence and it has been its cathedral for 300 years. The Medici family had it built as their private parish church; in 1419 they decided to enlarge it and they committed the work to Filippo Brunelleschi who made of it a true masterpiece. His talent created the Old Sacristy together with

Donatello's genius. In the same church but entering from outside you will find the New Sacristy with the Medicean Chapels that contain the tombs of 50 exponents of the noble Florentine family. The New Sacristy is a masterpiece by Michelangelo who started the work in 1520 and continued it for almost 14 years, with many breaks, up to his leaving for Rome where he was going to build the Cupola of Saint Peter. Here you can see the tombs of Lorenzo il Magnifico and Giuliano de' Medici embellished with the Virgin Mary and the Child, autographic work by Michelangelo.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 270 mt**

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. - Sundays and holidays (January 6th, August 15th, the first of November, December 8th) 1 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

Closed: New Year's Day, Easter, St Antony from Padua (June 13th), St Francis (October 4th), December 25th and 26th.

Ticket: Euros 5

Where : Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini 6 - phone 055 2388602



Church of Santo Spirito

It is one of the most important monuments in Florence, even if it is less famous than the other churches. Its fame is due most of all to the Sacristy, a little and precious jewel of the Renaissance, where Michelangelo lived for a short period. It is indeed told that the Florentine genius, with Medici's help, lived in Santo Spirito after his father's death and as a sign of gratitude he gave to the church a crucifix that he accomplished when he was only 17. The work's paternity is periodically discussed, even if at the moment almost everyone accepts the idea that it is a work of the Florentine artist. The Sacristy, with a hall by Sansovino who was inspired by the Roman Pantheon, was begun by Giuliano da Sangallo and finished by Antonio del Pollaiuolo. On the altar in the transept you can see one of the most important works of the church: the virgin Mary with the Child and San Giovannino, San Martino and Santa Caterina martyr by Filippino Lippi. In the square in front of the church you will find the Cenacolo of Santo Spirito embellished with a majestic fresco by Andrea Orcagna which represents the Crucifixion and Christ's Last Supper.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 800 mt**

Opening hours: Mon.- Sun. 10 a.m. 12 p.m. 4p.m. 6p.m.
Closed : Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sunday afternoons
Where : piazza Santo Spirito



Church of Dante and Beatrice (or of Santa Maria dei Cerchi)

It must not have been easy to remain separate. Dante's house was only 20 meters far; it is still there and you can visit it every day. Beatrice would go to mass in the little church where the members of her family (the Portinari) and those of Gemma Donati's (Dante's wife) were engraved. They would meet in the lane or in this little church, and that was all their love could be allowed. The

real name of the church is Santa Margherita die Cerchi, but for everyone is the church of Dante and Beatrice. An (ugly) painting hanging on a wall remembers their first fleeting glance, the moment when Dante falls in love with Beatrice. But the tickets left on her tomb ("Please, let him come back to me", "Help me, I don't want to lose him") make of this place a symbol for all the lovers, especially for the ones who spend their life without ever getting together.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 550 mt**

Where: via Santa Margherita - follow the indications for Dante's house.



Piazzale Michelangelo

It is the most famous observation post of the city panorama, represented on numberless picture cards and a destination tourists visiting Florence cannot renounce. It was built in 1869 on the plan of the architect Giuseppe Poggi on a hill just south of the historical centre, as a completion of the restoration works of Arno's left bank.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 4,5 km**

How to get there: by bus n.12 from Santa Maria Novella, Piazzale Michelangelo stop. Otherwise you can walk up the stairway from Piazza Poggi.



Basilica di San Miniato al Monte

Built between the eleventh and the thirteenth century, the façade is decorated with green and white marbles which compose geometric patterns, like those on Santa Croce's and Santa Maria Novella's façades. A twelfth century mosaic embellishes the middle of the façade. From the square in front of the church you can enjoy an enchanting view of Florence, from the Cathedral to Palazzo Vecchio, as far as the ancient walls that surrounded the city.

The interior of the church is in Romanesque style with three naves, a raised chancel and a crypt. You will admire the magnificent central floor of the thirteenth century. At the end of the nave you come to the marvelous Chapel of the Crucifix by Michelozzo (1448), behind which you find the crypt decorated with the frescoes by Taddeo Gaddi. Just above the crypt, you see the raised chancel, surrounded by marble transennas. You can also admire a precious wooden choir of the fourteenth century. The monumental cemetery, in front and behind the church, shelters the tombs of many illustrious personalities, among whom Carlo Lorenzini (Collodi) who wrote "Pinocchio".

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 4,5 km**

Opening hours : Mon.-Sat. 9:30 a.m. 7 p.m.

Free entrance

How to get there: by bus n.12 from Santa Maria Novella, Piazzale Michelangelo stop. Otherwise you can walk up the stairway from Piazza Poggi.



Boboli Garden

The Boboli Garden, one of the most beautiful gardens in Italy, offers to visitors avenues, fountains, lakes, an amphitheater and sculptures scattered everywhere. Artists such as Niccolò Tribolo, Giorgio Vasari and Bernardo Buontalenti contributed to the creation of this wonderful work of art you can walk across.

➤ **Distance from La Culla di Dante: 1 km**

Opening hours : Mon.- Sun. 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. (Nov.Dec.Jan.Feb.) 8:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. in summertime (from March to October)

Ticket: Euros 7

Where: Piazza Pitti