



Looking forward to welcoming you in Florence, please find some useful information which could help you personalize your trip in our beautiful city,

Best regards,
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Access to Florence and Garage

Coming both from the North and from the South through "A1" toll motorway the suggested exit "CERTOSA". Then it will be sufficient to follow the sign for "CITY CENTRE".

The hotel also provides a private garage with a Valet service at the price of either €30.00 or €40.00 per day, depending on the car type. Parking is not permitted in the city centre the car must be parked in a garage or parking areas with a charge .

Please advise the concierge if you are arriving by car as the hotel is located in the historic centre centre and the access is controlled by CCTV cameras.

Arts & museums

The Florence city centre is a Unesco World Heritage Site. You will have the opportunity to visit some of the most important museums and artworks in Italy. Since you will only be in Florence for a short time, taking advantage of your precious short time is important. The suggestions of our concierge will help you to organize your visit:

Florence in 1 day: Being Florence an open air museum you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the birthplace of the Renaissance while walking to your first destination. Our concierge will be glad to reserve for you in advance the museums you like to visit. The Museo dell'Accademia and Michaelangelo's David could be your first stop, then you can have a walk to the nearby Dome to admire the magnificence of the Cupola designed by Brunelleschi, Giotto's bell tower and the beautiful Ghiberti's bronze doors of the Baptistery. From there, head over to the Bargello, and in the afternoon stroll to the Ponte Vecchio bridge, looking through the jewellery stores. Then turn around and walk straight ahead through the Straw Market of the Porcellino and San Lorenzo market, where you will be able to shop for leather and Florentine art craft.

Florence in 2 days: In the morning of Day 2 you could visit the Uffizi, to discover Botticelli's epic works. Please, remember to ask our concierge to reserve in advance! After lunch spend the afternoon in Santa Croce area, where Michelangelo is buried, or decide to explore the western side of Florence visiting Santa Maria Novella and the Cappelle Medicee which are not far from there.

Florence in 3 days: If you didn't visit Santa Croce start from there and explore the popular district of Sant' Ambrogio. Then cross the bridge to visit Florence's southern part, the Oltrarno, where you will enjoy the view of Brunelleschi-designed church of Santo Spirito and the frescoes in the church of Santa Maria del Carmine. This area is one of the most characteristic in Florence, full of artisans shops and restaurants. Moreover if you want to rest at the end of your day, The Boboli Garden behind the Pitti Palace, is the ideal place to relax.

We suggest always to book tickets for the Uffizi Museum and the Accademia in advance. Kindly let us know your favorite day. The cost for tickets with reservation is €15 per person and it may vary according to the temporary exhibition present in the museums . If you need a private guide please just advise us.

You can also consider many other options, like a visit to the Outlets, or a day trip to Siena, or a journey through the Chianti countryside. Simply think what interest you most and ask our concierge to create your itinerary.

Excursions

The Concierge can arrange Tours with a Mercedes or a Deluxe Minivan with an English speaking driver to:

- Siena, San Gimignano and Chianti wine Area
- Pisa and Lucca
- Arezzo, Perugia and Assisi
- Outlets

Also available:

Bus tours with a group or shuttle bus to the outlets

City events

Concerts, theatre and special events:

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino: April 29th - July 2nd 2009

There are many special events that are announced at the last minute. Make sure you ask for a list of the current events. We will also be happy to make reservations and help you procure tickets.

EXHIBITIONS

National Bargello Museum - Permanent exhibition: **collection of Renaissance sculpture, including works by Donatello and Michelangelo.**

The Leonardo da Vinci Museum - Permanent Exhibition: **Beautiful machines taken from Leonardo da Vinci's codes.**

National Bargello Museum - until July 12th 2009: **Gian Lorenzo Bernini and the birth of the baroque portrait.**

National Bargello Museum - until November 23rd 2009: **The restored David by Michelangelo.**

Palatine Gallery - until June 21st 2009: **Pietro Benvenuti the Imperial painter.**

Palazzo Strozzi - until August 30th 2009: **Galileo. Images of the universe from antiquity to the telescope.**

Please ask for more information if you are interested in English shows of Florence International English Theatre Company or if you want to know more about English movies screening in Florence.

Transfers

Transfers can be arranged to/from airports/train stations with advanced notice.

Mercedes transfer from Santa Maria Novella train station to the hotel €53,00

(from 8.00 pm to 8. am rate is €78,00)

Mercedes S series transfer from Santa Maria Novella train station to the hotel €154,00

(from 8.00 pm to 8.00 am rate is €187,00)

Mercedes transfer from Florence Airport to the hotel €83,00

(from 8.00 pm to 8.00 am rate is €128,00)

Mercedes S series transfer from Florence Airport to the hotel €189,00

(from 8.00 pm to 8.00 am rate is €225,00)

Mercedes transfer from Pisa Airport to the hotel €250,00

(from 8.00 pm to 8.00 am rate is €285,00)

Mercedes S series transfer from Pisa Airport to the hotel €420,00

(from 8.00 pm to 8.00 am rate is €462,00)

VAT is included. The cost can be added to the hotel bill.

Outlets

The recent opening of prestigious designer outlets shops in the Florence Area could be an interesting shopping excursion. They are easily reachable by public and private transfers.

The Mall : Bottega Veneta, Fendi , Ungaro, Zegna, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Hogan, I Pinco Pallino, La Perla, Loro Piana, Marni, Salvatore Ferragamo, Sergio Rossi, Tod's, Yves Saint Laurent, Burberry's.

Open from Monday to Saturday from 1 am to 7 pm. Sunday open from 3 pm to 7 pm

Industria Outlet: Dolce & Gabbana, Loewe, Celine, Fendi

Space Outlet : Prada, Miu Miu, Helmut Lang, Prada Sport, Jill Sander

Open from Monday to Friday from 10 am to 7 pm

Saturday from 9.30 am to 7.30 pm Sunday open from 2 pm to 7.30 pm

Barberino Designer Outlet: CK jeans, Prada, Guess, Pollini, Missoni, Bruno Magli, Puma, Adidas, Bose, Pal Zileri

Open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 9 pm. Open Monday from 2 pm to 9 pm

Valdichiana Outlet: Calvin Klein, Benetton, Sergio Tacchini, Lagostina

Open every day from 10 am to 9 pm with the exception of Monday with a later opening time of 2 pm

Private Transfer to outlets (the Mall and Prada or Barberino) costs € 290,00 for 4 hrs. Cost can be added to the hotel bill.

It is possible to reserve the shuttle to The Mall in advance. Every day at 9.30 am or 2.30 pm., leaving from the hotel and coming back after 3 hours. Ticket costs 25 € and should be paid cash directly to the driver.

Prices and timing can change without notice. Please contact us for reconfirmation.

Personal Shopper

A first class shopping experience, half day or full day with your personal shopper which will introduce you to the Florence's high end boutiques according to your desires and preferences.

The cost can be added to the hotel bill.

Day spa – Beauty treatments

If you wish to live an urban Spa experience in the space of a single day, Gabrio Staff Olimpo is the perfect way to relax and reenergize yourself in the heart of Florence : hairdresser, wellness centre and solarium and a complete range of services administered by a qualified team.

Hot stone massage, classic body massage, connective tissue massage , steam bath, plantar reflexology , are only some examples of the services offered in this metropolitan oasis

Gabrio Staff services are available also in the hotel by appointment.

Restaurant reservation

Florence lends itself to some fine dining experiences all around the city and there are vast choices among a variety of excellent restaurants: from sophisticated gourmet restaurants to fun, casual typical trattorias.

May we suggest:

- **ORVM Restaurant at the Westin Excelsior:** offers dishes inspired by the Mediterranean gastronomic tradition accompanied by Tuscan traditional wines and by the best choice of international wines, in an ambience featuring architectural details and furnishings that contribute to create a unique place inspired by the charm of the roaring twenties.
- **InCanto Restaurant at the Grand Hotel:** with its open kitchen it combines Italian Cuisine and Tuscan flavors, using the freshest seasonal ingredients. A wide wine selection coming from InCantinetta, the private wine cellar of the Grand Hotel, based mostly on Tuscan wines, will accompany your menu choice. InCantinetta can be booked for private dinners and wine tasting.

Outside Florence

Osteria di Passignano, Antinori: Located about 40 minutes driving out of Florence, in the Chianti Area. It is the perfect setting for one day in the beautiful Tuscan countryside. Wine tasting is available together with a visit of the prestigious winery of the Antinori family.

Florence for kids

There are many things you can take your children to: the association **Museo dei Ragazzi** within the Palazzo Vecchio proposes storytelling, costumed re-enactments and a behind the scenes tour of the palace's secret passages. The **Stibbert Museum** holds a massive collection of armors, swords and shields in an old villa north of the city, while the **Museo di Storia della Scienza** is home to intriguing objects and inventions such as Galileo's telescope. **La Specola** houses a huge variety of stuffed or life size animals and anatomical models of humans from the 18th Century.

The **Boboli Gardens** with labyrinths, grottoes, fountains, statues and hiding places are a great diversion for children, not to mention the amazing views over the city. **Le Cascine** is Florence's largest park to the west of the city, is also the site of regular fairs and markets. The Park also hosts various playgrounds.

Sport activities

All the main sport activities are available in Florence or immediately outside Florence (Golf, Tennis, Swimming, Horse-riding, Biking) and there will also be the possibility to become member of exclusive Clubs renting all the materials and getting private lessons with personal trainers.

Just let us know which sport are you interested to practice during your stay upon you room reservation request and we will forward all information.

Weather in Florence

In autumn (Sept.-Nov.) in Florence the average temperatures are 42°F–80°F (6°C-27°C). Winter (Dec.-Feb.) can be chilly and wet with average temperatures of 35°F–54°F (2°C-12°C). Spring (March-May) arrives soon though and average temperatures range from 41°F–74°F (5°C-23°C). Summer (June-Aug.) can be hot and humid with average temperatures of 59°F–88°F (15°C-31°C). Climates may vary, please ask the hotel concierge for more details before your arrival.

Information in this document was current at the time of printing in May 2009.