DAY 2 OF 10 · SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Florence *Awaits*

DUOMO · ACCADEMIA · OLTRARNO · PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

Florence ZTL Zone Warning — The historic centre is a Limited Traffic Zone (Zona a Traffico Limitato). Private cars are prohibited 7:30 AM – 7:30 PM Mon–Sat. We arrive by van. Do not attempt to drive in Florence — fines arrive automatically via license-plate cameras.

TEMP	SUNRISE	SUNSET	CONDITIONS
14–20°C	7:40 AM	6:17 PM	Warm & sunny

WHAT TO WEAR

Built for a Day on Your Feet

Walking shoes — your most important decision today

Florence is cobblestone everywhere. You will walk 8–12 km today. Blisters are not the memory you want. Wear your most comfortable shoes, tested ahead of time.

Layers — but skip the heavy jacket

It will reach 20°C midday in the sun. A light cardigan or shirt jacket you can tie around your waist is perfect. Museums are cool inside — don't go in sweating.

Cash — Florentine markets are cash-only

The San Lorenzo leather market and street vendors won't take cards. Carry €60–80 for shopping, lunch, gelato, and small purchases. ATMs are everywhere but have queues.

PACK YOUR BAG

Essential Day Kit for Florence

- ✦ **Accademia Gallery tickets (QR on your phone)** — Timed entry, pre-booked for the group. The David is the 10:00 AM stop.
- ✦ **Small daypack or crossbody bag** — Large bags must be checked at most museums. Small = no hassle. Keep valuables in a front pocket in crowded areas.
- ✦ **Refillable water bottle** — Florence has excellent drinking fountains (nasoni). Save money and stay hydrated between monuments.
- ✦ **Sunscreen + lip balm** — Piazza del Duomo, the bridge and Piazzale Michelangelo are all open spaces. You'll thank yourself by mid-afternoon.
- ✦ **Power bank (charged)** — Accademia tickets, navigation, photos, and WhatsApp all day. Your phone will not survive on its own.
- ✦ **Gel insoles (if you have them)** — Optional but highly recommended for 10+ km on cobblestones. Your feet will feel the difference by 3 PM.

INSIDER TIPS

Florence Like a Local

01

Piazzale Michelangelo at sunset

The panorama of Florence from up there — the Duomo, the Arno, the hills — is the best view in the city. It's free. We arrive around 3:30 PM to claim a spot before the sunset crowd; aperitivo starts about 5:45 PM and the sun sets around 6:17 PM.

02

The Accademia: the real David

Michelangelo's David is 5.2 metres tall, carved between 1501 and 1504. Allow 45–60 minutes inside, then walk south to Piazza della Signoria. The Uffizi is right there — worth a loop through the exterior courtyard — and the Loggia dei Lanzi has original Renaissance sculptures outdoors, for free.

03

Lunch at Trattoria Zà Zà

Beside the Mercato San Lorenzo and a Florence favorite since 1977 — lunch is at 1:00 PM. Bistecca alla Fiorentina is ordered by weight and served rare; share one between two people. The ribollita and the pappardelle with wild boar are also legendary. Lunch is paid at the restaurant.

04

The San Lorenzo leather negotiation

The asking price is not the real price. On leather goods, a polite counter-offer 10–20% below sticker is normal and expected. Say "posso avere un prezzo migliore?" (Can I get a better price?). Cash helps.

05

Gelato rule: no pictures of gelato

Avoid places where gelato is piled in colourful mountains — it's for tourists. Go to Gelateria dei Neri or Gelateria Sbrino. Real gelato is stored flat in metal containers with lids. Trust the plain-looking shop.

"Florence is where the Renaissance decided to live — and it never quite left."