A FIRST WALK · FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

Florence: squares, sculpture and the Arno

Link the Duomo, Piazza della Signoria, Ponte Vecchio and Santa Croce through central Florence. This exterior walk gives you four different ways to read the city without scheduling a museum visit.

1.71 km / 4 stops / 50-75 min with pauses / one way



1. Piazza San Giovanni

2. Piazza della Signoria

3. Ponte Vecchio

4. Piazza Santa Croce

Start & finish

Start in Piazza San Giovanni, on the public west side of the cathedral complex. Finish in Piazza Santa Croce. This is an open route rather than a circuit back to the railway station.

Make it shorter

Finish in Piazza della Signoria after the Duomo. Add the river only if you have time and energy for the longer route.

Desk-reviewed 30 October 2026. Not field-tested. Follow current local signs.

Look closer at each stop

01 Piazza San Giovanni

Start outside the cathedral complex and compare coloured stone, arches and the dome visible above. This is an orientation stop, not a queue for admission.

Next: 459 m to stop 2. Route includes Piazza San Giovanni, Piazza del Duomo, Via dei Calzaiuoli.

02 Piazza della Signoria

Palazzo Vecchio and the open sculpture setting make this a strong contrast with the cathedral square. Look at the tower and the spaces between the statues from ground level.

Next: 327 m to stop 3. Route includes Calimaruzza.

03 Ponte Vecchio

Walk onto the bridge’s public passage and pause where it widens. The shops and river view explain how a bridge can feel like a short street of its own.

Next: 927 m to stop 4. Route includes Piazza di Santa Croce.

04 Piazza Santa Croce

Finish in the long square before Santa Croce. Compare its façade and open foreground with the first square; the church interior is a separate visit.

Underfoot & access

Stone paving, crowded lanes and occasional service traffic. The bridge is busy and has open viewing points; keep children away from the edge. No tower climb or museum interior is required.

Before you go

Cathedral, baptistery, galleries and church admission have separate arrangements. Give worshippers and entrance queues space. The guide focuses on visible façades and public squares.

Sources & route review

Feel Florence: Piazza della Signoria

Feel Florence: official city map

Map: OpenStreetMap / Valhalla pedestrian routing. Distances follow the mapped line; suggested visit times include pauses and are editorial estimates, not a timed on-site walk.