

If you've never been to Florence and if you have limited time, here is how to make the most of it: a one-day-itinerary, almost museum-free, with many churches, squares, places... and a lunch break at the market.



A

SANTA CROCE CHURCH

Don't miss the **frescoes by Giotto** in the Bardi and Peruzzi chapels (some of the earliest and most important, *frescoes* in Florence), the tombs and memorials of famous Tuscans, including Galileo Galilei and Michelangelo, the **Pazzi chapel by Brunelleschi** and the small museum housed in the refectory that has Taddeo Gaddi's *Tree of Life* on one wall. [Opening hours Monday-Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm, Sundays and public holidays 2-5.30pm. Tickets: 4-6 €]

• www.santacroceopera.it/en/



B

OBLATE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Take a break and stop at the new Oblate Public Library to have a coffee on the terrace, with one of the best **view of the dome** of the Florence's Cathedral.

• www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_delle_oblate



C

PIAZZA DUOMO

Head to Piazza del Duomo, to admire the **Cathedral** (the fourth church of Europe by size!), with the **Cupola del Brunelleschi**, the **Giotto's Campanile** (bell-tower) and the octagonal **Baptistry of St. John**, one of the oldest buildings in the city (1059-1128) and renowned for its doors. If the line is not too long, you can try to climb to the top of the dome or bell tower, for a breathtaking view of Florence.

• www.museumflorence.com/en



D

BIGALLO MUSEUM

Enter the tourist information office which is located in the square (at the corner of Via Calzaiuoli) and book a free visit to the adjacent Bigallo Museum. This little precious museum contains works, paintings and sculptures, like a *fresco* produced by the workshop of Bernardo Daddi in 1342 – *Madonna della Misericordia* – featuring **the oldest known depiction of Florence**, in which we can recognize the baptistery and the incomplete facade of the Cathedral.



E

SAN LORENZO MARKET

Head to San Lorenzo area for **lunch**, which could be lampredotto at the traditional vendor inside the covered market or a bistecca fiorentina at a local trattoria. Don't forget to drink an espresso coffee, because there's plenty more to see!



F

SAN LORENZO CHURCH

This is the first whole building designed by **Brunelleschi**, who first did the facade of the Ospedale degli Innocenti and then the cupola of the Duomo – both projects that he didn't start. This church makes a lovely contrast to Santa Croce, because it's in the new Renaissance style, characterized by the harmonious alternation of grey pietra serena stone architectural accents and white wall. [Opening hours Monday-Saturday 10am to 5.30pm, Sundays and public holidays 1.30-5.30pm, closed November-February. Tickets: 4,50 € (Museum of the Treasure of San Lorenzo included)]



G

PALAZZO VECCHIO

Stroll down either via Roma or via Calzaiuoli for a bit of shopping, and then find yourself in **Piazza della Signoria** in front of Palazzo Vecchio, the city's seat of government. On the right side of the square is the **Loggia dei Lanzi**: an open-air museum containing original sculptures, such as Cellini's bronze *Perseus* and Giambologna's *Rape of the Sabines*. • museiciviciorentini.comune.fi.it/en/palazzovecchio/



H

PONTE VECCHIO BRIDGE

Walk to the end of the Uffizi buildings to the Arno and catch a view of the **river** and the universally famous **Ponte Vecchio** bridge. From this point you also have a good view of the **Vasari Corridor**, the hidden aerial passageway over Florence, linking Palazzo Vecchio to the Pitti Palace.



I

SANTA TRINITA CHURCH

Take via Tornabuoni – the luxury shopping street – and hop into the church of Santa Trinita where you'll be rewarded by a beautiful *fresco* by Ghirlandaio. Look carefully at the backgrounds of each scene as you should recognize some of these locations – you've seen them today!

The church closes at 5.45pm



J

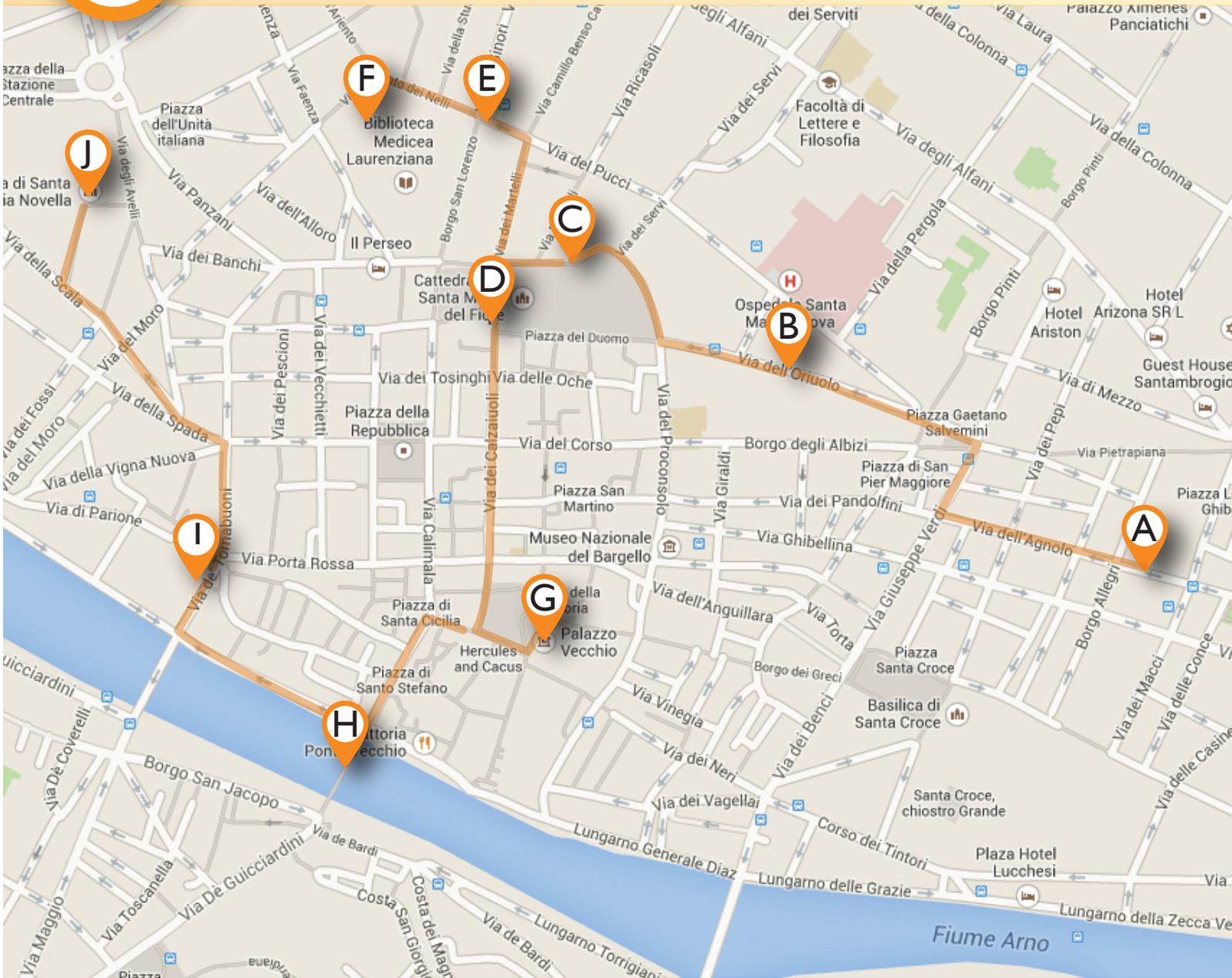
SANTA MARIA NOVELLA CHURCH

Santa Maria Novella is a Gothic structure with a Renaissance facade by the great architect Alberti. It houses the important *fresco* known as **Masaccio's Trinity** that is one of the first major studies in scientific perspective. The **monumental complex** of Santa Maria Novella can be visited with a single ticket including the Basilica, the Museum, the Cloisters – Cloister of the Dead, Green Cloister – the Spanish Chapel, the Ubriachi Chapel, the Refectory; on special open days, visitors can also tour the magnificent Great Cloister; currently part of the Scuola Marescialli e Brigadieri dei Carabinieri. [Opening hours Monday-Saturday 9am-5.30pm, Sundays 1-5pm from October to June, noon-5pm from July to September. Tickets: 5 €, reduced 3€]

• www.chiesasantamarianovella.it/en



One Day in Florence MAP



Notes...

Tuscany Arts 