

WALKS FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS IN FLORENCE

RENAISSANCE LIFE FOR FAMILIES

DURATION: 3 hours

PRICE: €270 per group



During the Renaissance era, Florence was considered to be the epicenter of the artistic and commercial world. Art was changing dramatically, led mostly by new techniques introduced by Tuscan artists, and commerce was booming, thanks mostly to the city's powerful and talented trade guilds. Our Renaissance Life for Families walk offers the ideal opportunity for children (and their lucky parents) to learn more about the new and exciting changes that were taking place during this time period, and thus creating a context from which they can better understand further explorations in town.

A family-friendly introduction to life during the Renaissance

In order to have a unifying theme tying the walk together for younger participants, we will focus on two distinct aspects of Renaissance life; typical jobs and the home life. Emphasis will be placed on exploring the traditional jobs of the Renaissance; textile workers, market stall peddlers, goldsmiths, etc. The influence of the *Arti*, the trade guilds of the era, is omnipresent in the visual culture of the city and integral to understanding its economic history. We will discuss the typical workday of a Renaissance man and how this job was integrated into the whole of society.

We will then head to the recently restored Palazzo Davanazati, which offers the unique opportunity to explore a literal Renaissance-era household. How did Florentine families live? What did they eat? How did they decorate? What did they wear? What hobbies did they have?

During this three-hour family walk, we will explore these, and many other, public and private spaces which remain as testaments to life during the Renaissance, providing interesting ways for children to make parallels to their own, modern-day reality. The docent for the walk will be well-versed in an inquiry-based strategy which encourages participation and creativity among the children in the group.

Additional information about private versions of this walk:

In order to plan the best possible experience for your children, it would be helpful for us know some background. Have they traveled to other countries in the past? If so, where? Have they studied any subjects in school that would relate to the walk? Are they interested in art, music, even food! The more you can tell us, the better.

Due to the very interactive nature of this program and given the educational environment our docent aim to evoke, we adhere to a very strict maximum of 6 participants. Groups larger than 6 will need to book two separate walks that can run concurrently, but with different docents.

Doorways, Ltd. ~ 900 County Line Road ~ Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3105
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SYMBOLS AND LEGENDS OF FLORENCE

DURATION: 2 hours

PRICE: €220 per group



Florence is embedded with cherished symbols, which pop up all over town, sometimes when least expected. The town flower, the lily, can be spotted everywhere from fountains, to building facades, to flags. The family symbols of its historic clans such as the Medici's balls, the Pazzi's dolphins and the Strozzi's moons, decorate the facades of buildings. The beloved *Porcellino* (little pig), who stands guard at the town market, has become a veritable mascot of the city and there is no Florentine child who has not petted his golden snout at least once! During the course of this walk, the family will embark on a treasure hunt of sorts and enjoy spotting recognizable symbols throughout the city center. This two-hour orientation walk in the center of Florence is aimed at introducing families to the stories and legends of the city's past while acquainting them with its modern layout and present-day feel.

A Family-Friendly Orientation

The path of the walk can largely be decided on the spot, depending on the whims and interests of the group. Though, most families will want to focus on the compact center, the whole city is fair game, as every alley and street corner tells a different story. The docent leading this walk has been trained in an interactive, visual-thinking strategy which, along with some helpful didactic materials, will encourage discussion and participation among the children in the family.

This walk is an excellent way for families to build a knowledge base that will accompany them on their further explorations of the city. The city will become all the more familiar for everyone, after having been introduced to some of its most colorful characters and enduring legends.

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ARTE FIRENZE FOR FAMILIES

DURATION: 2.5 hours

PRICE: €250 per group



Created especially for our younger art enthusiasts, our Arte Firenze for Families walk acts as a primer to the rich collection of the Uffizi Gallery and to Florentine art and history, in general. The Uffizi is, perhaps, the best museum in the world in terms of its collection of Renaissance art, thus it will be an excellent text for our immersion into the art and culture of the time period. We will pair your family with an art historian, trained in an interactive inquiry-based learning technique, who will bring the collection to life, making what might be the kids' first museum experience both fun and informative.

A kid-friendly tour of the uffizi

We start our time together with a short introduction in Piazza della Signoria, discussing the Uffizi structure and its relation to Palazzo Vecchio, Florence's town hall, and the importance of the Medici family. After spending some time outside the museum, we will then continue on to the museum, where we will spend roughly two hours exploring the collection.

Focusing on recurring subjects, themes and symbols, the historical background in which the works were created and biographical information about the artists, themselves, the docent will be able to construct an engrossing dialogue with the children about the art; how, why and by whom it was created. This will create an atmosphere of exploration and participation which will encourage investigation and interaction. By the end of the walk, the children will have a very clear idea of how and why art is created and will be able to better appreciate the artwork they will encounter throughout their trip

Please note that the total price of the tour will include your entrance ticket(s) and timed reservation to the Uffizi. Your docent will have these with him/her on the day of the walk. The total ticket cost (14 euros) will be calculated when you checkout according to the number of people in your group.

The Uffizi experiences a large volume of visitors in the months May-early October. Because of the number of people visiting the museum, we may experience small waits in collecting our reserved tickets and getting through the security system at the entrance. Crowds might also compromise our "face time" in front of certain works inside. Your docent, a seasoned veteran of the museum, will organize the walk in light of this. Certain lecturing may be done to one side or the other of a work.

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THE PALIO - SIENA

DURATION: 3 hours

PRICE: €270 per group



The dramatic Palio horse race, held biannually in the lovely Tuscan city of Siena, is one of Italy's most loved and historic sports events. Thousands of fans from all over Italy squeeze into the Piazza del Campo to watch the race and cheer on the horses, but no one gets more excited about the Palio than the Sienese themselves, for whom the Palio is not just a race but an identity. The colorful race is a perfect window for kids into Sienese and Tuscan traditions and culture.

Siena, the Palio and the Contrada

The Palio started over 350 years ago, and contemporary life throughout the year still tends to revolve around preparations and loyalty to the seventeen *contrade*, the historic neighborhoods of the Palio race that go head-to-head twice a year. The complicated rules and maze of traditions can successfully be untangled only by a native Sienese - thus, our docent for the day will be a proud member of the Torre *contrada*. During our three-hour walk, we will wander through the Piazza del Campo, where all the action takes place. We will then visit various *contrade*, exploring their individual and unique traditions and significant places, including their meeting houses, museums (where Renaissance costumes, still worn on the day of the Palio race, are housed) and the fountain where the children of the *contrade* are symbolically baptised. Every *contrada* is symbolized by an animal - children will enjoy picking their favorite among the snail, owl, giraffe and unicorn.

Finally, we'll drive out to see the Torre horse that has actually won the Palio! This unique opportunity will provide a memorable, hands-on experience for children and adults, alike.

Additional information about private versions of this walk:

Please note that this walk cannot be scheduled for the actual day of the Palio race.

The Torre horse stables are located about 20 minutes away from the center of town. You will need a car or our car service to take you there. Please indicate if you would like for us to book you a car and driver.

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