



IS IT SAFE?

Florence

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

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OVERALL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

RATING: ☒☒ Very safe — one of the safest major tourist cities in Europe.

Florence is one of the safest cities in Europe for solo travelers. Violent crime is extremely rare. The city's challenges are almost entirely limited to petty theft — pickpockets in the highest-density tourist areas, bag snatching near the Ponte Vecchio and the Uffizi queue, and the occasional overcharging taxi. None of these represent genuine danger. A traveler following this guide with basic urban awareness will have no difficulties whatsoever. Florence is a city where solo travelers regularly report feeling completely comfortable walking alone at midnight in the historic center.

RATING SCALE

☒☒ = Very safe

☒ = Safe

~ = Use awareness

! = Avoid at night

☐ = Avoid

The practical implication: the entire itinerary in this guide — from the Duomo to the Uffizi to the Oltrarno to Piazzale Michelangelo — is safe at all hours. Keep your phone in a zipped pocket in the Mercato Centrale and near the Ponte Vecchio. Don't leave a bag unattended at a café table. That is genuinely the full extent of required vigilance for most of Florence.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

☐☐ Very safe ☐ Safe ~ Use awareness ! Avoid at night ☐ Avoid

Historic Center (Centro Storico)	☐☐	The entire UNESCO zone is safe at all hours. Well-lit, well-policed, and heavily used by both residents and visitors.
Oltrarno	☐☐	South of the Arno: the most genuinely residential part of the historic city. Very safe for solo travelers at any hour.
San Lorenzo / Mercato area	☐	Densely busy during market hours. Standard pickpocket awareness in the covered market; comfortable evenings.
Santa Croce	☐☐	The eastern historic center: residential, quiet, and entirely comfortable. The Sant'Ambrogio market area is very safe.
San Frediano (western Oltrarno)	☐☐	The quietest and most genuinely local part of the historic center. Excellent for solo evenings.
Piazzale Michelangelo	☐	Very safe. The walk up Via dei Bastioni is quiet; keep standard awareness on the steps at dusk.
Santa Maria Novella station area	~	The immediate vicinity of the train station has the usual station-area character. Safe during the day; use awareness at night.
Outer suburbs / Peretola	☐	Safe residential and commercial areas not covered by this guide's itinerary.

GETTING AROUND SAFELY

Walking (historic center)	□□	The entire itinerary is walkable. Cobblestones throughout — wear shoes with grip. The Oltrarno and Boboli gardens are comfortable on foot at all hours.
Taxi / MyTaxi app	□	White metered taxis are reliable. The MyTaxi or ItTaxi app allows pre-booking. Standard city fare €8–12; fixed airport rate €22. Agree rate before departure for airport.
Tramvia T1/T2	□□	Clean, frequent, reliable. T2 to the airport; T1 for western suburbs. Validate ticket before boarding — inspectors are active.
Train (SMN station)	□□	Trenitalia and Italo high-speed trains. The station area needs standard awareness; the trains themselves are very safe.
Bicycle / E-scooter	□	Good bike lanes in the historic center. Mobike and e-scooter shares available. Be cautious of cobblestones and tourists.

COMMON SCAMS & RISKS

Pickpockets near the Ponte Vecchio and Uffizi:

The most concentrated pickpocket risk in Florence is in the queues and crowds around the Uffizi entrance, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Mercato Centrale. Use a crossbody bag in front, keep your phone in a zipped pocket, and do not put your camera bag down unattended.

Unofficial tour guides:

People offering guided entry to the Uffizi, the Accademia, or the Duomo at 'skip the queue' prices near the entrances are not official. Book e-tickets in advance. The queue bypass they promise often does not exist.

Restaurant menu bait-and-switch:

A small number of tourist-facing restaurants near the Duomo show one price on the outdoor menu and charge different prices inside. Verify the menu price before sitting; avoid restaurants without clearly posted prices. The trattorias in the Oltrarno and Santa Croce are not in this category.

Taxi overcharging from the station:

A small number of unlicensed drivers operate near Santa Maria Novella station. Use the official white taxis (metered, with taxi sign on roof) or the MyTaxi app. The app shows the fare estimate before booking.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

- Dial 112 for all emergencies across the EU — police, fire, and medical.
- Careggi University Hospital (Largo Brambilla 3) is the main public hospital — Florence's largest with a full emergency department. Approximately 4km from the historic center.
- Santa Maria Nuova Hospital (Piazza Santa Maria Nuova 1) is the closest hospital to the historic center — 10 minutes on foot from the Duomo. Emergency department open 24 hours.
- Misericordia di Firenze (Piazza del Duomo 19): medical clinic in the historic center offering immediate care. English-speaking staff. Good for minor illness or injury.
- Pharmacies (farmacie) are marked by a green cross. Many central pharmacies have English-speaking staff. Farmacia Comunale at Santa Maria Novella station is 24-hour.
- Heat risk: Florence in summer (July–August) regularly exceeds 36°C with high humidity. The historic cobblestone streets amplify heat. Carry water and schedule outdoor site visits for morning or after 5pm.
- EU citizens: bring your EHIC card. Non-EU visitors: travel insurance with medical coverage is strongly recommended.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Florence is excellent for solo women travelers. The city has a strong café and wine bar culture that is genuinely welcoming to single visitors — standing at the bar or sitting alone at a trattoria counter is entirely normal and unremarkable. The Oltrarno wine bars in particular are comfortable solo-visit environments at any hour. The risk of harassment is low by European standards; the standard precautions apply near the station at night. The historic center is walkable and well-lit; solo women travelers regularly report feeling entirely comfortable walking back to their accommodation at midnight.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police / Fire / Medical (EU Emergency)	112
Italian Police (Carabinieri)	112
Florence Police (Questura)	+39 055 49771
Santa Maria Nuova Hospital (central)	+39 055 69381
Careggi University Hospital	+39 055 7941
Tourist Medical Centre (English)	+39 055 475411
Poison Control (Italy)	+39 055 7947819
Crisis Text Line (international)	Text HOME to 741741

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