

WHEN IN ROME...

Lungotevere de' Cenci
00186 Roma RM, Italy

If you hop on the train and head an hour and a half south of Florence, you'll reach none other than Rome! When you think of Rome, your instinct is to picture the monumental Colosseum, Roman Forum, and of course, the Vatican. However, Rome also has a bustling Jewish Ghetto that's worth the trip. Today you can find mostly locals hanging out in the small piazzas and chatting while sitting on benches with friends. If you want to learn about the history, there's a free tour of the ghetto you can download on the Rick Steve's app. It'll take you to the Great Synagogue of Rome, a large and stunning building that overlooks the Tiber River. This art-deco synagogue's style strongly contrasts with its Moorish counterpart in Florence. After you've toured the temple, be sure to stop by one of the kosher bakeries. The donut I got at Kosher Cakes bakery was so good, I went back for a second one!



RUTH'S RESTURANT

Via Luigi Carlo Farini, 2a
50121 Firenze FI, Italy

Finding kosher food in Florence is pretty difficult, but don't worry! You can find Ruth's Restaurant right next to the synagogue. Ruth's is a kosher restaurant that is under the supervision of the Chief Rabbi of Jewish Community. Not only is the food kosher, it's also homemade and delicious! If you get tired of pasta and pizza all the time, be sure to stop by Ruth's to grab a falafel, some couscous, or a dessert like the apple streusel. This area of the city is also beautiful and more peaceful than the city center, so be sure to stroll around and check it all out!



JUDAISM IN FLORENCE

A guide to Jewish life in Florence and how to explore some of Italy's hidden treasures.

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF FLORENCE

Via Luigi Carlo Farini, 6
50121 Firenze FI, Italy



When you gaze out at the skyline of Florence, something that might stand out to you is a large green dome. Everyone knows the Duomo! But most people are left pondering as to what building this green dome belongs to. It's the Great Synagogue of Florence! Known by the locals as Tempio Maggiore, the synagogue was created in 1882 and serves not only the local Sephardic community of Florence, but also visitors from all over the world. And given the grandeur of the building, reflecting the Moorish style of Spain, it is certainly worth a visit.



The synagogue not only holds religious services, but has its own museum as well. Going to the museum gives you the opportunity to take your time and enjoy the beauty of the synagogue. Take in the giant dome, the intricate tiled designs, and all the history the synagogue has to offer. Then, head upstairs and see the museum. It communicates the interesting history of the synagogue and Jewish community in Florence through a vast collection of artifacts of the Jewish faith. If you don't know much about Judaism before the visit, you'll learn more about it through the descriptions offered for each object. If you have prior knowledge, you're sure to appreciate the collection that has been saved and preserved through the years.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM



As the capital of the Tuscan region, the Chabad of Tuscany resides in Florence. The directors of the Chabad house are Rabbi Levi and Sonia Wolvovskiy who are sure to welcome you with open arms. With weekly Shabbat dinners and fun activities like challah baking, there's always something going on. During my time in Florence, I was even lucky enough to get to make scarves that the Rabbi brought to Israel and donated to those in need. It's a wonderful chance to connect with Jewish people from the area and around the world and provides a true sense of home even thousands of miles away from Philadelphia.

CHABAD OF TUSCANY

Borgo Pinti, 8
50121 Firenze FI, Italy

