

## ½ or a full day? AREZZO

When you plan to visit Arezzo you need to know:

that on saturday morning the town is overcrowded for the market

that the first sunday of each month (and the previous saturday) there is the biggest antiquaria market of the all Italy

that on the last saturday of June and the 1th sunday of september, there is the "Giostra del Saracino" but tickets are very difficult to find. During the previous week several trials are run, with free or cheap entrance.

That road signs around the town are not so easy to understand and people is not very helpful with road directions, be patient!

Piero della Francesca frescoes can be visited only if you reserve in advance:  
<http://www.pierodellafrancesca-ticketoffice.it/>

**BUT:** the town must be seen anyway

Driving to Arezzo, you can stop to Castelnuovo, there the "Marino Fa Mercato" is a best shopping place if you need cheap stuffs of any kind. Some of them are of a local design, even if the most are produced in China or in the East of Europe. (from the shoes and dress to home pottery and a full home furniture).

When you arrive close to the city walls, turn left to the car park of Via Pietri, is a big one with both free and on charge park. From the park, you can easily arrive to the center with the escalators.

In a few, you will cross city walls and be hurled in the middle ages... landing in the Duomo square, with Duomo church and Palazzo dei Priori.

The Duomo, dedicated to S. Donato, It was designed by Margaritone and its construction began at the end of the 13th century and continued till the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The campanile, that you can see from every place, was erected half way through the 19th century next to the polygonal apse. The spire is 20th century.

The Cathedral houses wonderful and important works of art, like the stained glass windows by Guillaume de Marcillat, the "Maria Maddalena" by Piero della Francesca, the Funerary monument of Guido Tarlati (1276, Agostino di Giovanni e Agnolo di Ventura), the Main Altar (Giovanni Pisano).

**The Priori Palace**

it's now the seat of the offices of the town council. It was built in the 14th century and it has got a characteristic tower where you can find frescoes by Parri di Spinello and Teofilo Torri; you can also find paintings by Giorgio Vasari.

From the back of the Duomo opens a garden that is called "Il Prato" connecting the area to the

Fortezza Medicea, that was built in the 16th century by Medici of Florence; it's located at the top of the hill and it offers a wonderful view

From The Duomo square, follow Via Ricasoli, Via dei Pileati and Via Vasari to arrive in the

Piazza Grande,

it's the oldest square of the city and it's one of the most beautiful ones in Italy. Piazza Grande is very famous all over the world due to the film "Life is beautiful" of Roberto Benigni, and it's the scenario of the Saracen Joust. In this square, on every first Sunday of the month and Saturday before it, you can find the Antiques Fair.

The square boasts buildings built in a lot of epochs: on the southeast side there are medieval buildings (Palazzo Tofani, Torre dei Lappoli), on the north side there is Vasari's Palazzo delle Logge, on the west side there are the parish church of Santa Maria, the palazzo del Tribunale and the palazzo della Fraternita dei Laici.

The Palazzo della Fraternita dei laici was built in three different epochs, but the result is wonderful. The lowest part of the building is Gothic (14th century), but it was completed in Renaissance style by Bernardo Rossellino in the 15th century. The bell-gable was designed by Giorgio Vasari (16th century), and it houses one of the oldest working clocks (Felice da Fossato, 1552) that indicates hours, days and the phases of the moon.

Close to The Palazzo, you can see the back side of the Santa Maria church, its construction began in the second half of the 12th century, but it was completed in the 14th century. Torn around to admire the facade: The church is called "delle cento buche" (hundreds holed) for the shape of the facade and tower. On the facade there are also sculptures by Domenico Marchionne. The interior houses a wonderful polyptych by Pietro Lorenzetti (1320);

Now you are in the Corso Italia, go down and take via Cavour on your right, to the Piazza San Francesco, where you can find the Church of S. Francesco, it was designed by Frà Giovanni da Pistoia in the 14th century. The interior has one nave and houses frescoes by Spinello Aretino, Parri di Spinello, Desiderio da Settignano, Luca Signorelli. But of course the most important work of art is the "Legend of the True Cross" in the Bacci Chapel, the masterpiece by Piero della Francesca. This famous cycle of frescoes is one of the most significant works of Italian renaissance painting.

Back to Corso Italia, you can find at n° 14 the CASA MUSEO IVAN BRUSCHI, open 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm, closed on monday, Bruschi was an antiquarian and collector and one of the creators of the Antiquaria market, his house is an interesting show of manufactures from the preistory. Ticket 5 euro.

You can go along the Corso Italia for a shopping trip, do not waste your time to reach the roman amphitheatre: it's between via Crispi and via Margaritone. It was built in the 1st century with blocks of sandstone, bricks and marble and it contained about 8,000 spectators, but now you can see only its rests. For etruscan art, Cortona and Florence museums are more interesting than Arezzo one.

If you are looking for a place to eat, we enjoyed "Il Vesuvio" via Michelangelo 142, tel 0039 05753730216

Close to Arezzo, in the S. Zeno Area, the Arezzo Equestrian centre that is now one of the most active locations in the international equestrian world for hosting **important events**, **in the same area you find the Museo dell'ORO (museum of the gold) and UNOERRE show room**, Unoaerre Industries S.p.A. | Loc. San Zeno Strada E, 5 - 52100 Arezzo (Italia) **tel 0039 0575 9251**