

1 DAY IN LUCCA

Lucca can be easily visited as a day trip from Florence, although I suggest to spend one night in town to thoroughly enjoy its treasures and experience its charm after dark. All the places highlighted below can be seen on this [online map](#). Please note, opening times and entrance fees may change throughout the year.

WHAT TO SEE

The Ancient Walls

Take a stroll or a bike ride along the 4km panoramic walkway atop Lucca's ancient walls before heading into the historic center. Enjoy some people watching at one of the pretty cafés and ice-cream parlors that you'll find along the way.

St. Martino's Cathedral

Piazza Antelminelli

website: www.museocattedralelucca.it

Time: 9:30am-6:00pm Mon-Fri, 9:30am-6:45pm Sat, 12:00pm-6:00pm Sun

Tickets: €3 (or €9 including entrance to the cathedral, the bell tower, the museum, the baptistery and the church of St. Giovanni and Reparata)

The Cathedral features a fantastic collection of art, including Ilaria del Carretto's tomb by Jacopo delle Quercia and the incredible Volto Santo, a XIII-century wooden crucifix of the Holy Face which is an ancient symbol of Lucca.

Puccini Museum

Corte S. Lorenzo, 9

website: www.puccinimuseum.org

Time: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Mon – Sun (closed on Tuesday)

Tickets: €7

The heart of the museum is Puccini's birth home, which contains original objects once belonged to the musician, including the Steinway & Sons piano used to compose the Turandot.

Church of San Michele in Foro

Piazza San Michele

Time: 7:40am-12:00pm and 3:00pm-6:00pm every day

Tickets: free

This is one of the most beautiful buildings in Lucca, featuring a stunning marble facade exquisitely decorated with detailed sculptures.

Guinigi Tower

Via S. Andrea

Time: 9:30am-6:30pm (time may vary throughout the year)

Tickets: €4 (or €9 including also the Clock Tower and the Botanical Garden)

Climb the 230 steps to the top of the tower, where you will see a fascinating garden (yep, trees grow on top of towers, too!) and enjoy some amazing views of the whole town and the surrounding hills.

Clock Tower

Via Fillungo, 20

Time: 9:30am-6:30pm every day

Tickets: €4 (or €9 including the Guinigi Tower and the Botanical Garden)

This is Lucca's highest tower, less busy than the Guinigi Tower but with equally stunning views from the top. Here it is also possible to admire the XVIII-century manual clockwork mechanism.

Piazza dell'Anfiteatro

This is a beautiful oval square where colorful buildings are built around the original elliptical structure typical of Roman amphitheatres - a true jewel! The place is very lively, with lots of cute restaurants and cafés.

Via Fillungo

Lucca's main street, lined with pretty shops, bars and restaurants.

San Frediano Basilica

Piazza San Frediano

website: www.sanfredianolucca.com

Time: 9:00am-6:00pm every day

Tickets: €3

This is one of the oldest churches in Lucca, named after an Irish bishop who founded it in the VI century. It features a beautiful golden mosaic on the facade, while inside you'll see stunning frescoes, tombs by Jacopo della Quercia and the mummified body of St Zita, a popular local saint who was also mentioned in Dante's Inferno.

Botanical Garden

Via del Giardino Botanico, 14

Time: opening times vary a lot throughout the year, check [this website](#) for detailed info

Tickets: €4 (or €9 including the Guinigi Tower and the Clock Tower)

Established in 1820, this beautiful garden contains a rich variety of trees and medicinal plants, as well as a library and a laboratory-museum.

WHERE TO EAT

Osteria Baralla

Via dell'Anfiteatro, 5

website: www.osteriabaralla.it

An atmospheric bistrot with excellent homely food.

Trattoria da Leo

Via Tegrini, 1

website: [Tripadvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com)

Quaint trattoria serving traditional dishes (their chocolate cake is to die for!).

Da Pasquale

Via del Moro, 8

website: www.dapasquale-lucca.com

Very popular restaurant with delicious food and a great wine list (the place is tiny so better to reserve a table in advance).

Pizzeria da Felice

Via Buia, 12

website: www.pizzeriadafelice.it

Try the 'cecina', a flatbread made with chickpea flour to be eaten straight from the oven with some salt and pepper.

Pan di Strada

Corso Giuseppe Garibaldi, 34

website: [Tripadvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com)

Simply the best panini in town!

WHERE TO STAY

Residenza Il Cactus

Via Bigingari, 162

website www.residenzailcactus.com

*Simple and clean accommodation just outside the walls.
They provide bikes to explore Lucca.*



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