

**ICE**  
***International Congress of  
Egyptologists***

**Firenze, Italia**  
**August 23/30 2015**

# Why Florence?

The reasons why are obvious: it is internationally renowned as an Art city, for its cultural traditions, its geographic position and the famous Tuscan countryside.

*Bidding for the Congress is an initiative of the Florentine Egyptian Museum.*

*The Egyptian Museum of Florence hosts the largest collection of artcrafts in Italy after the one in Turin.*

*The nucleus of the collection was part of the Medici collection dating back to the XVIII century. In the XIX century the Granduke of Tuscany Leopoldo II with the French king Charles X, financed a scientific expedition to Egypt direct by Champollion and Rosellini: the collected artcrafts were divided by the Louvre and Florence. The Florence Egyptian Museum was officially opened in 1855; from 1880 Ernesto Schiaparelli was the person entrusted with the museum's organization. Under Schiaparelli, the collection expanded with further excavations and purchases carried out in Egypt. The museum now hosts more than 14.000 artifacts including one of the most important cloths collection from the Coptic period.*

Florence has all the necessary facilities: an airport, railways connection and main motorways.

Tuscan settings are ideal for any event. The splendid Tuscan cities, sumptuous villas, fantastic castles, enchanting gardens, wonderful bridges, and serene hilly countryside are a feast for the eyes.

But Florence also has the advantage of having congress facilities right in the middle of the city's business centre, near all the major hotels and tourist attractions and at a stone's throw from the railway station and from the airport terminal.



*In Florence, art and culture are part of daily life: they live with the people, fill the air, grace the city's streets and buildings, greet you on every corner.*

*In Florence you are surrounded by austere looking 14th-century palaces, where power changed hands, history was written, where the great artists displayed their talents decorating the homes of princes and courtiers. Palaces, museums, churches, libraries, squares, streets and alleyways are treasure chests of art and culture.*

## How to get to Florence

**Every year over 7 million visitors come to Florence from all over the world.**

*Florence has always been a destination for travellers throughout history. Its central position has favoured the exchange of ideas and trade. Florence still maintains its ancient tradition of being a place for exchanging knowledge on an international level.*

*Every visitor is an honoured guest, made to feel at home thanks to the city's warmth and fine hospitality.*

**BY PLANE:** Amerigo Vespucci Airport connects Florence with all the major cities in Italy and abroad: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Brussels, Frankfurt, Geneva, Lyons, London, Madrid, Munich, Paris, Timisoara, Tirana, Vienna, Zurich and guarantees connections with all intercontinental flights departing from Rome. For some destinations there are up to 4 or 5 daily flights. Other important connections are routed through the nearby Galileo Galilei Airport in Pisa: the journey by the airport shuttle train to and from Florence takes 55 minutes one way.

**BY TRAIN:** Florence is a major railway junction with high-speed service to all the Italian cities.

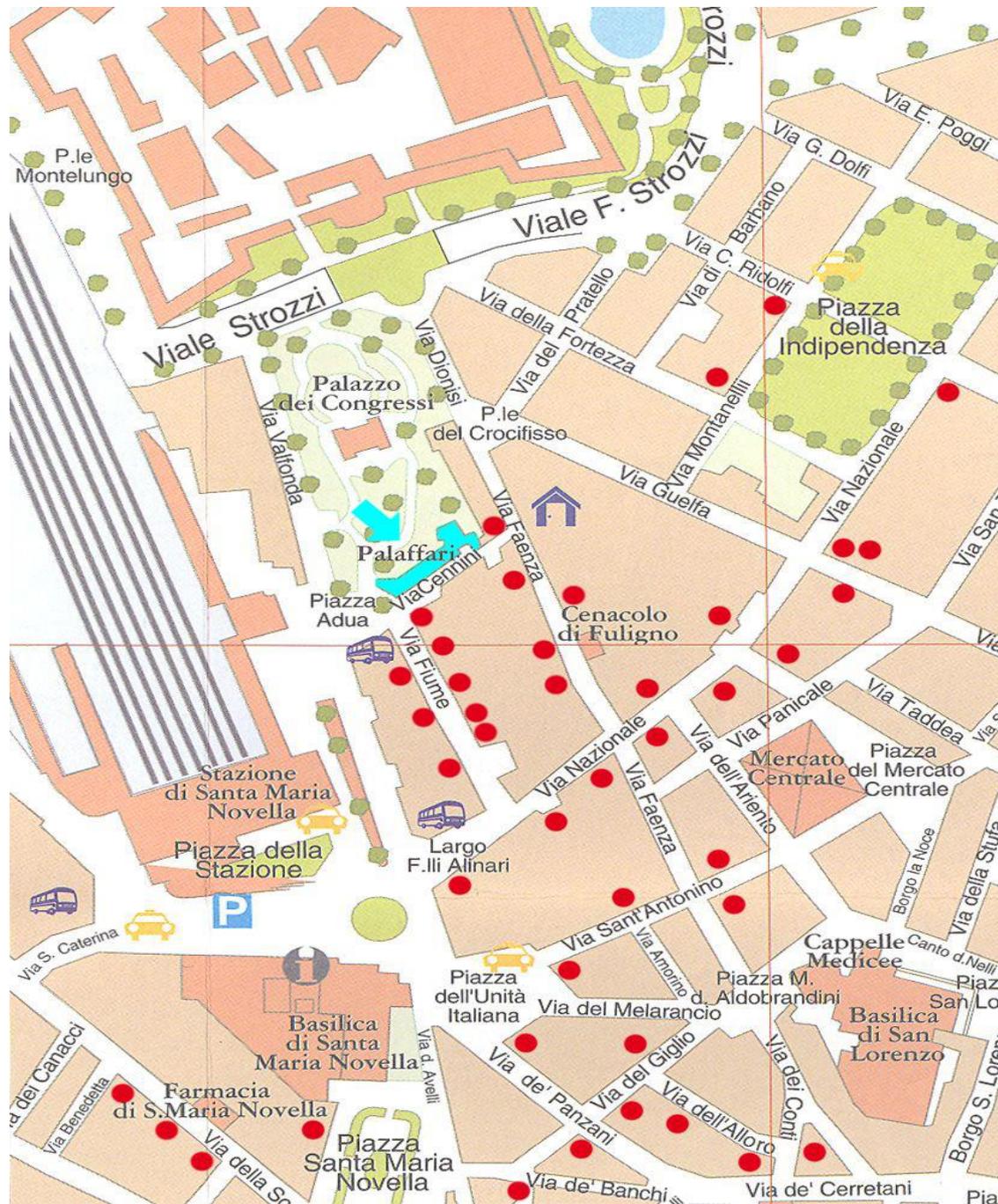
**BY CAR:** the A1 motorway connects Florence to Milan and Rome (approx. three hours). The A11 is the connection to Pisa, (50 minutes), Leghorn, Genoa and Turin. There are excellent highway connections to Siena (45 minutes).

**BY BUS:** there is bus service to all Tuscan towns and major European cities.

# Accommodation

All the selected hotels are within walking distance from the train station, the historic center and shopping district. A wide range of accommodation facilities, going from 2\* to 5\* hotels and residential apartments is available. Low cost accommodation such as hostels and B&B are also available.

● Hotels



## Welcome Reception

Considering the importance and prestige of the International Congress of Egyptologists, a special permission will be filed with the Municipality of Florence to exceptionally host a welcome cocktail in **Palazzo Vecchio's stunning Salone dei Cinquecento**: a once-in-a-lifetime event!



Palazzo Vecchio, originally known as Palazzo della Signoria, has been housing the office of the Mayor of Florence since 1872.

Designed by Arnolfo di Cambio in the late 13th century, it was the seat of the republic's government. The palace retained this political role under the Medici rule and even after the Grand Duke transferred his residence to Palazzo Pitti. It was this move that caused it to be dubbed *Palazzo Vecchio* – the “old” palace.

The magnificent Florence City Hall is not only a prestigious home for great masterpieces, but also a place where architecture, sculpture, painting and the so-called “minor” arts come together to form a rich and unique complex of living history and art.

## Visits & Excursions

Visits & excursions are mainly based on what makes FLORENCE so famous worldwide: **art, traditions and culture..... wine, fashion and cuisine**. On one side, you can plunge into Arts history visiting our city, a real open sky museum; on the other side, you can relax and tour in our countryside with its wonderful wine and hills landscapes.

A great choice of tours would be available for ICE participants & accompanying persons through the Local Organizer: from half day visits to 2/3 days post- congress tours (Turin, Pisa, Rome and Naples)

**A special itinerary dedicated to the Egyptian archeological finds in Tuscany will obviously be the highlight of the programme!**