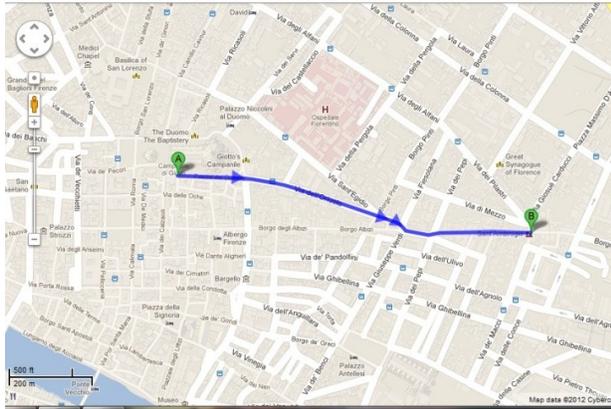


## neighborhood crawl: sant' ambrogio



**Distance:** 1.7 km from city center (about 1 mile)

**Time:** till your heart's content

**Cost:** \$0

**Directions:** From the Duomo head east on Via dell'Ortiolo. In about five minutes you will come to a small triangular piazza. Continue straight along the side of the gray building (the Post Office). In a moment you will notice that the road forks. Go left (Via Pietrapiana). On your right you will pass a large freestanding loggia with reliefs of fish adorning the top. Go about one more block and find yourself in Piazza Sant' Ambrogio.

### Places to see:

- **Chiesa di Sant' Ambrogio** - The original church here was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. However, the skeleton of the structure we see today was constructed in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Inside the decoration is classically Renaissance. Look at the names on the tomb markers around the sides of the church to find famous Florentine artists such as Andrea del Verrochio (Leonardo da Vinci's teacher), Pollaiuolo, and Granacci. Also take a moment to enjoy the artwork by such notable artists Andrea Orcagna, Filippo Lippi, Sandro Botticelli, Fra Bartolomeo and Cosimo Roselli. Make sure to go before noon or after 4 PM to avoid siesta hours. When you exit the church head to your left (south) to....
- **Via dei Macci** - This bustling street offers some famous Florentine eats. For a quick and cheap bite try the renowned street vendor on the corner at the mouth of the street. For those with a stronger stomach try a deep-fried pizza at *Pizzaioulo* (reservations necessary **055 - 24117**). If you are looking for something a bit healthier than street vendor food and pizzas take your first left and find the.....
- **Sant' Ambrogio Market** - Far enough from the city center to filter out most tourists, this market offers an more authentic market experience. Here you will find grandmothers bargaining with butchers and mothers filling bags with fresh produce for that night's dinner. You can find some great deals on everything from produce, to biscotti, to cheese. After you have feasted your eyes and bellies to your heart's content head back to Piazza Sant' Ambrogio. From the steps of the church head straight (west) out of the piazza. Walk along Via Pietrapiana until you reach....
- **Piazza dei Ciompi** - On the north side of the piazza you will find a large loggia with fish reliefs decorating the top. This is the medieval fish market loggia, originally located in the medieval central market. When the city was spruced up in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the ramshackle market was disassembled and the loggia was moved here. Walk through the loggia into the antiques market. If you are up for the challenge, you can find some real treasures amongst the chaos. After you've had your fill of Italian antiques head back to Piazza Sant' Ambrogio. Go back to the steps to orient yourself. This time, exit the piazza at one o'clock onto Via Pilastrini and find yourself in the.....
- **Jewish Neighborhood** - Store names written in Hebrew and advertisements for Kosher food will immediately indicate that you are in the small but rich Jewish neighborhood of Florence. Take your first right onto Via Farini to find the majestic green domes of the Jewish Synagogue. While entrance into the Synagogue is not free, the outer beauty of the structure alone is worth your visit. Stroll back to Piazza Sant' Ambrogio take a seat on the steps and enjoy people watching the people flooding in and out of.....
- **Cool Bar** - The official name of this Sant' Ambrogio hot spot is *Caffe' Sant' Ambrogio*. However, for obvious reason my friends and I like to call it *Cool Bar*. Italians LOVE Cool Bar and it seems as though Americans have yet to discover it, or, if they are like me, not felt cool enough to try it (took me 3 years!). At night, the bar spills out into the street offering you, the people-watcher, the opportunity to watch *cool* people, with their *cool* dogs, sipping their *cool* drinks, in their *cool* outfits. If you are adventurous, or just really cool, venture in for what is a very *cool* aperitivo.

