



## Here be landslides: Florence from Romans up to now

### Organizers:

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**Topic:** landslide risk, cultural heritage, urban planning, historical landslides

### General description:

The visit consists in a short walk in Florence historical center and its surroundings, lasting approximately 3 hours. The hills nearby “the Old Bridge” (Ponte Vecchio) have been historically affected by landslides that damaged the surroundings of Florence at least since the Renaissance. The lives of several prominent historical figures, including noblemen, artists, and scientists (e.g., Leonardo da Vinci) crossed somehow these landslides: some of these men proposed solutions that are still valid, other risked their lives during a landslide event.

The participants will be shown the local geology of the Florence plain from the most famous panoramic viewpoint of Florence and will be informed of the landslides, floods and construction stones that have shaped the historical city center, their impacts on cultural heritage, and ancient but clever remedial works. The walk is also a nice and informal stroll through history, anecdotes and even legends featuring UNESCO cultural heritage, sightseeing and beautiful landscapes. If needed, the local guides, geoscientists from the University of Florence, can use an easy and not-technical language, to encourage the participation of accompanying persons.

### Synthetic Programme:

- Florence 2000 years ago: Romans vs Etrurians in a peculiar geomorphological setting.
- Florence and its river between opportunities and disasters, with memories that only trained eyes can see.
- The spectacular “Piazzale Michelangelo” and its incredible history, forgotten even by Florence people (spoiler: landslides involved).
- High exposure: how humanity risked living without ice cream because of a landslide (or how a landslide gave us ice cream).
- Palaces and churches: the story of famous ancient buildings spoken by their very stones.

### Organization:

- This side event is free from charge.
- Upon registration, participants should specify the time slots in which they wish to take the walk.





- Choose between one of the following time slots:  
Monday 13 – morning (9.30-13.00)  
Monday 13 – afternoon (14.00-17.30)  
Saturday 18 – morning (9.30-13.00)  
Saturday 18 – afternoon (14.00-17.30)
- The meeting point is in front of the main entrance of Pitti Palace, located in Piazza Pitti. The tour is a loop and will finish near to the meeting point.



**Number of participants:** 30 people per time slot.

**Travel:** on foot.

**Total length:** 4 km.

**Difference in altitude:** 88 m.

**Requirements for participants:** comfortable shoes are recommended; the trip will include stairs.

