



PISA

Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa: A Marvelous Journey Through History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJnxsX0NLcA>

Piazza dei Miracoli, Pisa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOBgOmS3-Oc>

Piazza dei Miracoli



The Piazza dei Miracoli [*Square of Miracles*], formally known as Piazza del Duomo [*Cathedral Square*], is a walled 8.87-hectare (21.9-acre) compound in central [Pisa](#), [Tuscany](#), Italy, recognized as an important center of European [medieval art](#) and one of the finest architectural complexes in the world. It was all owned by the [Catholic Church](#) and is dominated by four great religious edifices: [Pisa Cathedral](#), the [Pisa Baptistery](#), the [Leaning Tower of Pisa](#) (the cathedral's bell tower), and the [Camposanto Monumentale](#) [Monumental Cemetery]. Partly paved and partly grassed, the *Piazza dei Miracoli* is also the site of the Ospedale Nuovo di Santo Spirito [*New Hospital of the Holy Spirit*], which now houses the Sinopias Museum [*Museo delle Sinopie*] and the Cathedral Museum [*Museo dell'Opera del Duomo*].

The whole Christian life of faith is summed up in these 8.8 hectares. For centuries a person would be born at home then:

- ✓ Baptized—in the **baptistry**;
- ✓ Prepared for and received over time, the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage or Ordination in the **Duomo** [cathedral]; the **belltower** belongs to the Duomo;
- ✓ When ill the person went to the **hospital of the Holy Spirit** where, if gravely ill, the person received the Anointing of the Sick;
- ✓ And when God called, the person was buried in the **camposanto** [Holy Ground], the cemetery.

1. Baptistry of San Giovanni

The baptismal font of Saint Giovanni can be found opposite the cathedral in *Piazza dei Miracoli*. The round Baptistry was first built in Romanesque style but was completed in Gothic style by the Pisano brothers due to lack of financial resources. Nicola Pisano also made the marble pulpit in 1260. The inlaid marble baptismal font is by the hands of Da Como.



2. The Duomo [cathedral of Pisa]



Pisa Cathedral is located in *Piazza dei Miracoli* and was built by Buscheto from 1064. The cathedral is an example of a Pisan-Romanesque architectural style. The exterior is characterized by the four-part facade consisting of arches and colonnades. In

the left arcade is the tomb of the architect and on the outside, you will also find the bronze doors from 1180. In the Duomo, you must see the pulpit of Pisano, the mosaics in the apse and the tomb of the Emperor of Camaino.

3. Leaning Tower of Pisa Most people know the campanile or the freestanding bell tower of Pisa under the term: Leaning Tower of Pisa. The Torre Pendente was built from 1173 on swampy ground, so the tower started to collapse when the third floor of the tower was placed. Nevertheless, construction continued, so that the building was finished in 1350. Several interventions have already been made to reduce the slope of the tower. This makes the building safe and accessible to the public again. The tower is about 56 meters high and originally belongs to the Duomo, which is also located in Piazza dei Miracoli.



4. Camposanto (Holy Ground)

A fourth landmark of the *Piazza dei Miracoli* is the *Camposanto*, the cemetery. The construction of this cemetery was started in 1278 by Di Simone and according to legends the structure with its marble arcades is said to contain earth from the Holy Land.



There were also beautiful frescoes, but as a result of bombing during the Second World War, only parts of them are left.