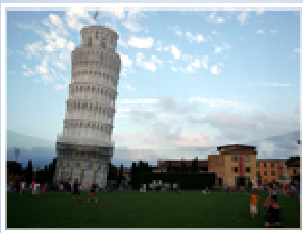


PISA

Pisa is in Tuscany, central Italy, on the right bank of the mouth of the **Arno River** on the Ligurian Sea. It is the capital city of the Province of Pisa. Although Pisa is known worldwide for its Leaning Tower, bell tower of the cathedral, the city contains more than 20 other historic churches, several palaces, and various bridges across the Arno River.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa (Italian: Torre pendente di Pisa) or simply **The Tower of Pisa** is the campanile, or freestanding bell tower, of the cathedral of the city. It is situated behind the cathedral and is the third oldest structure in **Pisa's Piazza del Duomo** (Cathedral Square) after the cathedral and the baptistry.

Although intended to stand vertically, the tower began leaning to the southeast soon after the onset of construction in 1173 due to a poorly laid foundation and loose substrate that has allowed the foundation to shift direction. The tower presently leans to the southwest.

The Piazza del Duomo ("Cathedral Square") is a wide, walled area at the heart of the city, recognized as one of the main centers for medieval art in the world. Partly paved and partly grassed, it is dominated by four great religious edifices: the **Duomo**, the **Leaning Tower**, the **Baptistry** and the **Camposanto**. It is otherwise known as Piazza dei Miracoli ("Square of Miracles"). This name was created by the Italian writer and poet Gabriele d'Annunzio. In 1987 the whole square was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The Baptistry of St. John is a religious building in **Pisa**. It started construction in 1152, in replacement of an older baptistry, and completed in 1363. It's the second building, in the chronological order, in the **Piazza dei Miracoli**, near the Cathedral and the famous Leaning Tower. The architect was Diotisalvi, whose signature can be read on two pillars inside the building. The structure is 54.86 m high, with a circumference of 107.24 m, and is the largest baptistry in Italy.

The Camposanto Monumentale ("monumental cemetery") is a historical edifice at the northern edge of the Cathedral Square. "Campo Santo" can be literally translated as "holy field", because it is said to have been built around a shipload of sacred soil from Golgotha, brought back to **Pisa** from the Fourth Crusade by Ubaldo de Lanfranchi, archbishop of Pisa in the 12th century. A legend claims that bodies buried in that ground will rot in just 24 hours.

The Knights' Square (Italian: **Piazza dei Cavalieri**) is one of the most important landmarks in Pisa, and the second main square of the city. This square was the political centre in medieval **Pisa**. After the middle of XVI century the square became the headquarters of the Order of the Knights of St. Stephen. Now it is a centre of education, being the main house of the Scuola Normale di Pisa, an higher learning institution part of the University.

INFORMATION

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