

PISA 27. July – 30. July 2018

We signed up for a concert with [Andrea Bocelli](#) in his hometown of [Lajatico](#), located about 40 kilometers southeast of [Pisa](#). We decided to stay in Pisa, because Norwegian has a direct route there.

We thought we would take a taxi to Lajatico, but when we investigated further, we found out that it was not that easy. There are about 10,000 people coming to these concerts and in order to avoid complete traffic chaos, the authorities have introduced stringent traffic regulations. It is not allowed to drive to the concert arena. One can drive to a large parking lot where you can park the car. From there there will be buses to the concert arena. Afterwards, we heard that it took about 40 minutes.

We did not want to rent a car, so the next option was to choose a transport operator who has permission to drive almost to the concert arena. The best option appeared to be a company called [Arianna & Friends](#). They could pick us up in Pisa and drive us back. The cost was € 380 for a return ticket. Then we would be picked up at a central location in Pisa at 15.30 and likely return would be 02.30 at night.

We thought this was not a good option, either, so we sold the tickets. We did succeed in selling the flight tickets so we went on a sightseeing trip to Pisa. We talked to many Norwegians afterwards who said we could be happy that we had sold the concert tickets. They were very dissatisfied.



This is the area where the concerts are held.



This is from the concert this year. It was an opera show, '[Andrea Chénier](#)' by [Umberto Giordano](#).

This is the first opera that Andrea Bocelli heard and learned at the age of eight years.

The concerts are held every July in an outdoor amphitheater outside Lajatico. The amphitheater is called [Teatro del Silenzio](#).

We were transported by Bjørn from Kongsvinger to Gardermoen. He picked us up at 14.00 so we had plenty of time at the airport. The plane was about depart at 16.10 but it did not leave before an hour later. It should be in Pisa at 19.05, but it was a little late. Norwegian is often delayed.



We had booked at a hotel called [Grand Hotel de Duomo](#).



From the reception hall.

[Pisa](#) is located on the river [Arno](#) in Tuscany. It has 98,000 inhabitants. Pisa is a major commercial and maritime city with major tourist traffic. In the Middle Ages, Pisa was one of the four maritime republics (the others were [Genoa](#), [Amalfi](#) and [Venice](#)). Moreover, the city was a major trading venue.



We took a taxi from the airport to the hotel. When we asked the driver if she could recommend a good eatery, she recommended [Osteria i Santi](#). We went there later in the evening.



Here we are photographed by those who are sitting at the neighboring table.



After the food we had [Espresso](#) coffee and [Sambuca](#) liquor. See how pleased I was then!



In the morning we have this view from our room.



This is the view down the street in the opposite direction.

After breakfast we went for a round in town. The first picture we took was of [The Leaning Tower](#).



The building of the tower was started August 8, 1173. It was only made a three meter deep foundation, and the ground is weak and unstable. Therefore, the tower began to lean quite early. In 1178 the construction was stopped because Pisa was in almost constant war with Genoa, Lucca and Florence. It took almost 100 years for the construction to start again, in 1272. The next floors were built at an angle to compensate for the bias. The building stopped again in 1284. The last floor was not built until 1372. In January 1990 it was found that the tower had to be closed to the public. The bells were removed and the tower was secured with cables around the third floor. Houses and apartments in the risk zone were evacuated. After the stabilization work, the tower was again opened to the public on December 15, 2001.



The cathedral and christianity.



[Pisa Cathedral.](#)

The building of the cathedral began in 1063 and opened in 1118. Later, the church was enlarged. The church is dedicated to the Assumption of Virgin Mary.. The square with these buildings are called [Piazza dei Miracoli](#) or Piazza del Duomo. the whole square was declared a [UNESCO's World Heritage site](#) in 1987.

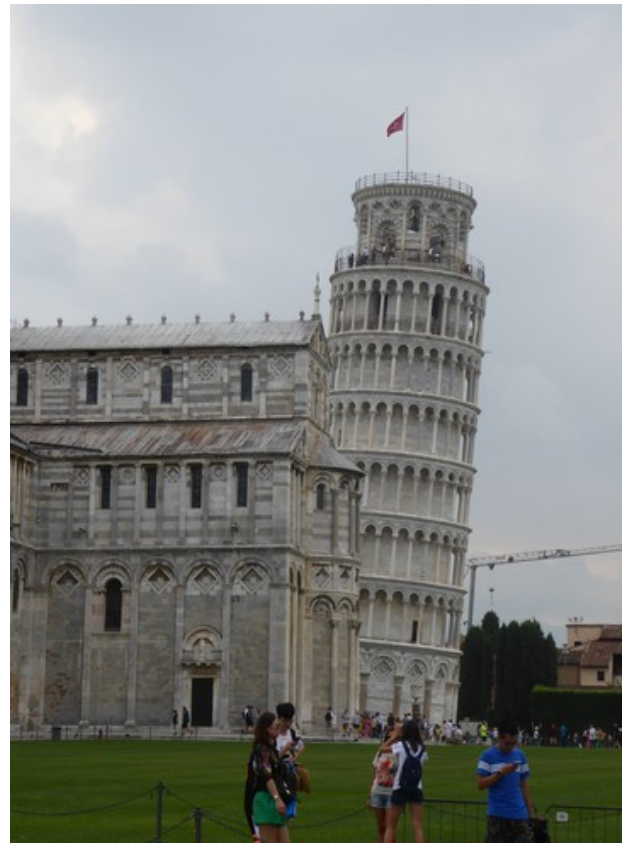


On the square stands Fontana dei Putti with three angels on the top. It was built in 1659 to get water to its inhabitants. The angels did not get in place until 1746.



[Pisa Baptistery.](#)

The building started in 1152 and it was completed in 1363.



Here you can see that the tower is still leaning quite much.



This is [Sinopie Museum](#).



The entrance to Piazza dei Miracoli through the [city wall](#) from the west, Porta Nuova or Porta di Santa Maria, opened in 1562.



The cathedral seen from the west.



This is the old port, Porta del Leone, [the Lion Gate](#).



North on Piazza dei Miracoli is the cemetery [Campo Santo](#), located.



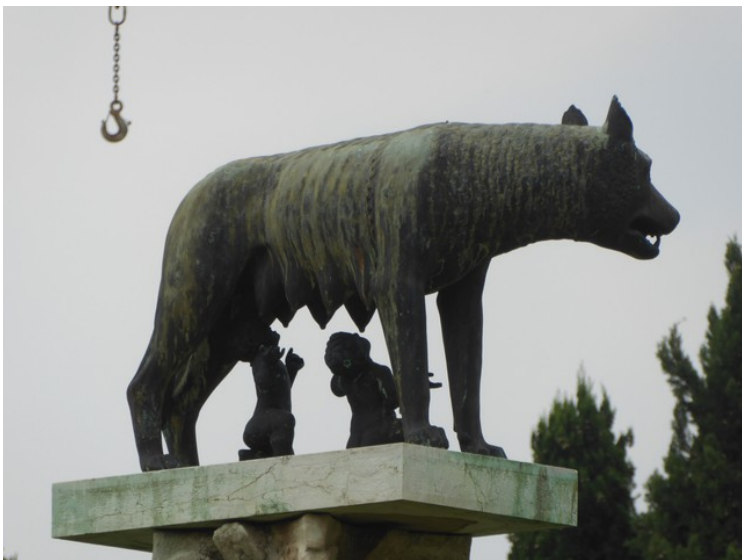
Here is one who walks the dog.



The cathedral seen from the northwest.



A fallen angel with damage to the wings and head. It is made of [Igor Mitoraj](#).



A statue with the wolf and [Romulus and Remus](#) stands on the square east of the cathedral.



The whole statue.



The leaning tower and cathedral seen from the east.

As we had walked around the Piazza dei Miracoli, we went towards the River Arno on Via Roma. This is an old worn door.



In the side street Via Angelo Galli Tassi there are a couple of restaurants.



Further on Via Roma we looked into [the botanical garden](#).



Now it was time for a beer.



Then we came down to the river [Arno](#). We stand on the bridge Ponte Solferino and look northeast.



Here we look in the opposite direction.



Right at the Ponte Solferino and right by the river is the church [Santa Maria della Spina](#).



Inside the church.

The church was known to have a thorn from the crown of Jesus, but after a rebuilding of the church, the thorn was moved to Chiesa di Santa Chiara.



Figures on the front wall of the church.



Then we went back across the river and up Via Santa Maria where our hotel is located.



It was popular with horse taxi. We saw many of them the days we were in town.



After we had relaxed in the hotel, we went straight down the street to eat a little. We shared a pizza with anchovies.



In the evening we would go to Osteria in Santi, but they had not opened yet, so we sat at this restaurant right next to, Ristoro Pizzeria Bar La Terrazza Pisa. We regretted afterwards because it was a disappointing experience.



The wine was fine enough.



The same was the view.



After we had eaten we went back to the hotel where we had the roof terrace to ourselves.



Here I sit.



I was taken picture of without my knowledge.



We had bought [Bivrost](#) on the plane. It is a gin that is produced in Troma. It was quite good.



The next day, on Sunday, we went for a new sightseeing trip. This is the church [San Sisto](#).



Then we came to [Piazza dei Cavalieri](#). This was the political center of the Middle Ages. We have [Palazzo della Carovana](#) on the left. There is a school there today, Scuola Normal Superiore. Church of [Santo Stefano](#) on the right.



This is [Palazzo del Consiglio dei Dodici](#).



Outside Palazzo della Carovana stands this statue of [Cosimo I de' Medici](#).



[Palazzo dell'Orologio](#) - [Torre della Muda](#) o della Fame.

Next to Santo Stefano there is a statue of the mathematician [Ulisse Dini](#).



The street ahead is called Via Ulisse Dini. Here we come to [Palazzo del Podestà](#).



Then we came to Via Guglielmo Oberdan. We went first right there.



Stylish street lamp.



Via Guglielmo Oberdan.



Via Guglielmo Oberdan



Salza is said to be the coffee bar in Pisa with the best coffee. All the tables were busy.



This square is called Largo Menotti Ciro.



Nice archways.



More archways.



The front of a Catholic church called San Michele in Borgo.



The entrance.



The whole front wall.



This is the bridge called Ponte di Mezzo with Palazzo Pretorio at the left.



This is Piazza Garibaldi with a statue of [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#). He was one of the most important people during the unification of Italy.



View from Piazza Garibaldi down the river Arno.



An elaborate decoration over an archway.



Then we needed a glass of beer at [Lo Sfizio](#).



After the break, we went to the end of the street. Then we came to the city walls.



Here lies the [Baths of Nero](#).



A bathhouse.



From the Baths of Nero we see the street called Via Maffi Pietro Cardinale. It is heading towards the leaning tower.



Before moving on, I had to have a picture of the nice trees.



Right next to the Baths of Nero is a city port called [Porta a Lucca](#).



In the evening we ate at a restaurant right out on the street.



It is called [Ristorante Antica Bottega](#).



Local vine.



Outside the shop next to the restaurant we discovered [Pinocchio](#).



There were always a lot of people on the street outside the hotel.



The last night we were in Pisa I took a picture of the tower and the cathedral.
It was taken from our room with my cellphone,

On Monday we relaxed at the hotel until we were to leave for the airport. We were just out at the restaurant on the street and ate a couple of times. We did not go from the hotel until 18 o'clock by taxi.

The plane was scheduled to depart at 20.35. We did not think it should be possible because the check-in went very slow. We had to be guided through a separate security control gate and we were the last to board. Nevertheless, the plane was about to depart at the scheduled time.

The plane was at Gardermoen at 23.30 and after we had got our luggage, we could go out to Bjørn who came to pick us up. It was very convenient for us.