

Italy Guide

PureAdventures



Pure Adventures

6501 E. Greenway Parkway, #103 - 439

Scottsdale, AZ 85254

USA/CAN: 800-960-2221 / Other: (001) 480-905-1235

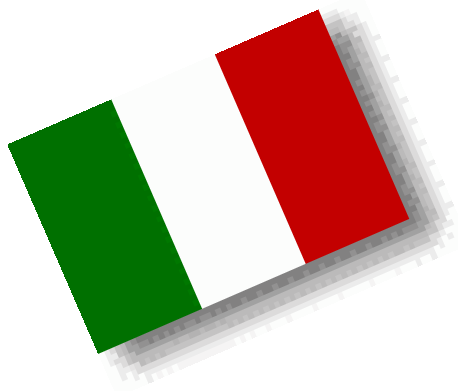
Fax: 602-357-7475

E-mail: info@pure-adventures.com

Website: www.pure-adventures.com

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Italy's Profile



Area: 116,303 square miles
Population: 56,778,000
Population density: 487/sq. mile
Capital: Roma (2,775,000 inhabitants)



Other important cities:

Milano (1,369,000)	Firenze (403,000)	Messina (231,000)
Napoli (1,067,000)	Bari (342,000)	Trieste (231,000)
Torino (963,000)	Catania (333,000)	Padova (215,000)
Palermo (699,000)	Venezia (309,000)	Cagliari (204,000)
Genova (679,000)	Verona (256,000)	Brescia (195,000)
Bologna (404,000)	Taranto (232,000)	Perugia (153,000)

Geography:

There is a great deal of variety in the landscape in Italy, although it is characterized predominantly by two mountain chains: the Alps and the Apennines. The former extends over 600 miles from east to west. It consists of great massifs in the western sector, with peaks rising to over 14,000 feet, including Monte Bianco (Mont Blanc), Monte Rosa and Cervino (the Matterhorn). The chain is lower in the eastern sector, although the mountains, the Dolomites, are still of extraordinary beauty. At the foot of the Alpine arc stretches the vast Po Valley plain, cut down the middle by the course of the river Po, the longest in Italy (390 miles), which has its source in the Pian de Re (Monviso) and flows into the Adriatic through a magnificent delta. The Alpine foothills are characterized by large lakes: Lake Maggiore and the lakes of Como, Iseo and Garda. The Apennines form the backbone of the peninsula, stretching in a wide arc concave to the Tyrrhenian Sea. The Corno Grande (Gran Sasso d'Italia) is the highest peak. A large part of central Italy is characterized by a green hilly landscape, through which the rivers Arno and Tevere (Tiber) run. The southern section of the chain pushes out to the east forming the Gargano promontory and, sloping down further south, the Salentine peninsula. It then proceeds to the west with the Calabrian and Peloritano massif stretching across the Strait of Messina into Sicilia. The principal islands are Sicilia, rising up to the great volcanic cone of Etna (10,860 feet) and Sardegna. The main archipelagos are the Tremiti Islands in the Adriatic Sea, the Tuscan Archipelago, the Pontine Islands, the Aeolian Islands and the Egadi Islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea off the coast of Sicilia.

Weather & Climate

The moderating influence of the sea and the protection given by the Alpine barrier from the cold north winds join to bless Italy with a temperate climate. Nevertheless, the weather varies considerably according to how far one is from the sea or the mountains. The winter is very cold in the Alps, cold and foggy in the Po Plain and the central Apennines mild and even warm on the Ligurian coast, the Neapolitan coast and in Sicilia. The summer is hot and dry, but the temperature is mitigated on the coast by sea breezes and in the Apennines and Alps it is pleasantly cool. In mountain areas, winter is ideal for skiing, and summer for excursions, hiking, etc. Seaside and lake resorts, with their excellent hotel facilities, have an intense tourist season in the summer, while the cities that are rich in art treasures are ideal in spring and autumn.

Documentation

First of all, U.S. citizens only need a valid passport to travel to Italy as long as their stay does not exceed 3 months. **You are required to carry identification with you at all times when traveling in Italy.**

If you lose your passport, contact:

ROME

United States Embassy

Via Vittorio Veneto 119A

00187 Roma

Tel. (06) 46741

Fax (06) 4882672

Canadian Embassy

Via G.B. de Rossi 27

00161 Roma

Tel (06) 445981

Fax (06) 44598.3750

For other country residents, ask your government for information before departure. It is strongly recommended that you make two photocopies of your passport and other important documentation, including your list of phone numbers that Pure Adventures provides you in your pre-departure package, before leaving home. Leave one copy at home with family or friends, and keep another with you but separate from the actual documents.

Visas

Required by all except nationals who do not require a visa to visit a country, which is a signatory to the Schengen Agreement: includes: USA, Canada, all EU countries, among many others, check with your government.

Passport Regulations:

A visa is not required for a U.S. or Canadian citizen holding a valid passport unless he expects to stay in Italy more than 90 days and/or to study or seek employment. If, after entering Italy, the tourist decides he would like to stay more than 90 days, he can apply, once only, at any police station (questura) for an extension of an additional 90 days. He will be asked to prove that he is a bona fide tourist with adequate means of support and that he does not request the extension for study or employment. As a rule, permission is granted immediately. Non-American citizens should check current visa requirements with the nearest Italian Consulate before departure.



Registrations for Tourists

The formality of registering with the police within 3 days of a tourist's arrival in Italy is attended to by the hotels one stays with. If staying with friends or in a private home, the visitor has to register in person at the nearest police station within a 3-day period. In Rome there is a special police information office to assist tourists. (Interpreters are available) telephone: 461-950 or 486-609.



Custom Regulations

Luggage is examined on entering and leaving Italy. Free entry is allowed for personal effects: clothing (new and used), books, camping and household equipment, fishing tackle, 1 pair of skis, 2 tennis racquets, laptop, music device (iPod, MP3, etc.), tape recorder or Dictaphone, baby carriage, 2 cameras with 10 rolls of film for each camera if not digital, 1 movie camera with 10 rolls of film, binoculars, personal jewelry, portable radio set (subject to a small license fee), 400 cigarettes and a quantity of cigars or pipe tobacco not exceeding 500 grams (1.1 lb).

All items mentioned above may be imported duty-free only on condition that they are for personal use and are not to be sold, given away or traded. A maximum of two bottles of wine and one bottle of hard liquor per person may be brought in duty-free. The bottles must not be opened. A maximum of 4.4 lbs. of coffee, 6.6 lbs. of sugar and 2.2 lbs. of cocoa are allowed duty-free.

Overseas tourists arriving in Italy after visiting other countries are allowed to carry with them souvenirs purchased and their receipts.

No vaccinations are required to enter Italy or to reenter the U.S. and Canada

Exports from Italy

There are no restrictions on gifts purchased in Italy except for antiques and works of art. These require the authorization of the Ministero dei Beni Culturali e Ambientali.

US Regulations on Purchases Abroad

Each U.S. tourist may bring back to the U.S. duty-free \$400 worth of goods purchased abroad. The goods must accompany the traveler. A flat rate of 10% is assessed on the next \$1,000 worth of goods purchased. Parcels containing gifts may be sent from abroad to the U.S. duty-free, providing the total value of such parcels received by one person, one day does not exceed \$50. Each package should be marked "Unsolicited Gift". The amount paid and the contents of the package should be declared.



Medical

Healthcare & Medical Assistance

Tourists requiring urgent medical care should go to the nearest hospital emergency room (airports and many train stations also have medical teams and first aid facilities). Those with serious illnesses or allergies should always carry a special note from their physicians certifying in detail the treatments in progress or that may be necessary.

Pharmacies (Farmacia), generally follow shops times (approx. from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m., Monday to Saturday, but in large cities many are open non-stop. Nighttime service is provided on a shift basis. Business hours and night shifts are displayed outside of each chemist's (they are also published in local papers). Before departure, it is advisable to procure a document certifying coverage by the national health-care service.

Medical Insurance

Italy has no medical program covering U.S. and Canada citizens. Therefore, U.S. and Canadian tourists are advised to take out an insurance policy before traveling. First Aid Service (Pronto Soccorso) with a doctor on hand is found at airports, ports, and railway stations and in all hospitals. Medicines can be obtained only from the pharmacy, whether they are on prescription or over the counter.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Dial:

118 - Medical Emergency

12 - Phone Directory Assistance

112 - Carabinieri's service

113 - Emergency Police Help

115 - Fire Department

116 - A.C.I. (Italian Automobile Club) for road side assistance

176 - International Inquires

REMEMBER! Though not mandatory, insurance is strongly suggested when traveling. Check with your own insurance company for best deal or Pure Adventures recommends Travel Guard. They can insure all different aspects of your trip! Credit cards can be useful insurance alternatives for rental cars. Also, double-check each insurance policy for lost or stolen luggage, airplane cancellation by airline, car rental (car rental companies offer their own insurance for an extra cost, though it is rarely the best).

Money

Tax refund for purchases made in Italy by non-resident visitors

According to the Italian law, based on the European Community provisions, as a non-resident visitor, you can claim a refund for goods and services tax paid for goods intended for personal or familiar use purchased in Italy. For more information see:

Agenzia delle Dogane [Italian Customs Agency] official web site
www.agenziadogane.it/italiano/dcagp/iva/iva-inglese.htm

Companies specializing in refunding sales tax

Premier Tax Free
www.premiertaxfree.com

Global Refund
www.globalrefund.com

Travelers Checks

Will shops in Italy accept traveler's checks? In major Italian cities and tourist areas traveler checks are accepted. The rate of exchange is calculated on the daily rate of exchange shown on the newspapers.

Credit and Debit Cards

Can I use my Credit Card/Debit Card in Italy? Most reputable establishments will accept major credit cards. Those establishments accepting credit cards will post the logos in their front windows, just as they do in the USA and Canada.

Money Belt

Crowded tourist sites all over the world are at pickpocket and gipsy risk and Italy is no exception. One should always be on alert for these petty thieves, but a good offence is the best defense. Keep your money hidden preferably in an inside pocket or money belt



The Euro

The monetary currency is the Euro which is divided as follows: bills of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500; coins of 1, 2, 5, 10 Euros, 20 and 50 cents. **Once in Italy, how do I convert my dollars in Euros?** Tourists reaching Italy without foreign currency can obtain Euros through any bank, ATM machines, or exchange office (Ufficio di Cambio) at airports, seaports and railway stations in the main cities. It is advisable to keep receipts of currency exchanged in case it is necessary to reconvert Euros back into dollars before leaving the country.

Banking Hours

Banks in Italy are open Monday through Friday from 8:35 a.m. to 1:35 p.m. and from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.; in many tourist areas they are open nonstop from 8.30 a.m. to 4p.m. and closed all day on Saturday and Sunday and on national holidays. The afternoon one-hour opening may vary from city to city. Traveler's checks can be exchanged for Italian currency at most hotels and shops and at the foreign exchange offices in main railway stations and at the airports.

Are there ATMs in Italy? Will I need to know Italian to use the ATMs?

Yes. The ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) in Italy is known as Bancomat. There are many to be found in the large cities and even in small towns. The machines operate just as they do here; at the beginning of the transaction, it prompts the user for the preferred language. Using a credit card, or even better, a debit card or your local bank ATM card is very easy. One must first locate either the Cirrus or BankMate symbol (on the Bancomat and on your card) to insure the card is usable on that particular unit. Cirrus and BankMate are the two most popular and widespread banking systems in the world so they are the best to have. If you are unsure about the compatibility or the banking systems, contact your credit card company or local bank. After discovering the system is compatible, simply withdrawal money as you would at home. Of course, in Italy the money will be dispensed as Euros, but when you return home, your bank will have converted the Euros into dollars using the most beneficial exchange rate possible. Be careful though when using credit cards, as many banks are now charging foreign transaction fees, and large fees of 2.5% to 4% for cash advances which negate any advantage of using the Bancomat in the first place. One's best bet is to use your regular ATM card and simply withdraw money from your account just as you would do at your local bank.

Tipping

Tips are customary in Italy, but not essential. The tradition of the tip remains impervious to change, even though cafe or restaurant prices now more and more often include both cover charge and service. On paying the bill, if it is paid in cash it is a matter of leaving a few notes from the change, or saying to the waiter "va bene così" (it's all right), when the difference between the amount paid and the actual bill automatically becomes the tip. When using a credit card, there are two possibilities: if the total on the credit card slip is the same as the bill, again leave some notes as a tip; but if the amount or the total are blank, simply round up the total to include the tip when signing the credit card slip.

Hotels

A service charge of 15% to 18% is added to hotel bills. When all-inclusive prices are quoted, the service charge is already included. It is customary to leave an additional tip even when the service charge is already included. Only as a guideline, and depending on the category of your hotel, the following tips are suggested:

- **chambermaid:** 1-2 euro a day
- **concierge:** 3 euro a day, additional tip for extra services
- **bellhop or porter:** 1.5 euro per bag
- **doorman** (for calling a cab): 1 euro
- **room service waiter:** 1 euro minimum more depending on amount of bill
- **valet service:** 1 euro minimum
- **hotel bar:** 15%

Restaurants

A service charge of approximately 15% is added to all restaurant bills. It is customary, however to leave a small tip for good service as follows: waiter: 5% to 10% of check. You are now required by law to obtain an official receipt when eating at restaurants.

Cafes and Bars

15% if at a table and if a bill does not already include service charge. 20-50 centimes (change) while standing at a counter or bar drinking an espresso, cappuccino, etc. 50 centimes or more while standing at a counter or bar having cocktails or other alcoholic beverages, sandwiches, pastries and desserts.

Service station attendant

1 euro or more for extra service (cleaning windshield, giving directions) .

Taxis 10%



Safety Tips

- Use a secure method of transporting your money and documents. A money belt works great, you could also keep the paper money in "Ziploc bags" inside your money belt to avoid any damage by rain for example.
- If the belt does not appeal to you, try to use bags that can't be pulled easily from your shoulder – try a backpack for example. Nowadays, backpacks come in so many shapes, sizes and colors you will surely find one to your liking.
- Secure in the safe box of your hotel or in your suitcase locked: your passport, airplane tickets, train tickets, part of your money / traveler checks, etc...
- Only take with you what you need for the day: keep only a photocopy of your passport on you, 1 credit card, some traveler checks and some cash.
- Try to get used to the currency in a safe place like your hotel room and don't show a lot of cash in the street.

Phone & Post

Country Direct Service

From phones in major cities, to connect to a US long distance service, dial:

1721011 for AT&T

1721022 for MCI

1721877 for US Sprint

The numbers above work for Rome, Milan, Florence, Naples, Venezia, Torino, Catania, Vicenza, Livorno, Olbia, Bologna, Brindisi, Cosenza, Formia, Genova, Latina, Padova, Palermo, Perugia, Pescara, Pordenone, Pisa, and Trieste. When calling from pay telephones, just insert a prepaid card. You automatically reach an operator in the country of destination, avoiding all language difficulty.

Canada can be reached by dialing **1721001**



Public Telephones

Public telephones are available throughout Italy.

Either local or international calls require the use of a phone card (Carta Telefonica), which may be purchased at any newsstand, tobacco shop or "bar" coffee shop).

Cell Phones

Cellular coverage in Italy is excellent. In Italy, as in most countries in the world, the cell phone standard used is the GSM standard. If your current cell phone does not have this capability, you will need to either rent or purchase a cell phone that will work on the overseas networks. Your current cellular provider can give you what is known as a SIM card, which is the brain of the phone and you can easily slip into the GSM phone. This way, you will be able to retain your current phone number in the US or Canada. If your phone isn't equipped to work in Europe, you might want to rent a phone. We recommend Phone Rental or Cell Hire, who makes it convenient since they deliver the phone to your home before your departure: www.cellhire.com

Internet Cafes

No matter how responsible you try to be with your phone card, you can run up quite a bill when you call your parents/ your kids/ your significant other. E-mail may be an alternative and less expensive mean of communication. Whatever e-mail service you use in your daily life, I would set up web-access mail for your trip (like the mail offered by Yahoo! Hotmail, etc.). It is the easiest to use abroad since the only software and configuration you need are built right into the browser. Set this account up before you leave home, so you don't waste valuable time abroad.



Postal Service

General Delivery-Mail can be addressed c/o Post Office by adding "FERMO POSTA" after the name of the town. The addressee can claim mail at the Central Post Office upon identification by passport. Stamps may be purchased only at tobacco shops and at the Post Office. Always check at the counter for the exact fare to the country of destination.



Post Offices are open from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. On Saturdays they close at 12:00. Post Offices at airports and main Post Offices in large cities are open 24 hours a day for registered mail and telegram services.

Holidays & Miscellaneous

Offices and Shops are closed all Sundays in Italy. Sometimes in major tourist areas the shops stay open, especially during high season.

Here is the list of National Statutory Holidays:

JANUARY 1 - New Year's Day
JANUARY 6 - Epiphany
APRIL 20 - Easter Sunday
APRIL 21 - Easter Monday
APRIL 25 - Liberation Day
MAY 1 - Labor Day
JUNE 2 - Republic Day
AUGUST 15 - Assumption of the Virgin
NOVEMBER 1 - All Saints Day
DECEMBER 8 - Day of Immaculate Conception
DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day
DECEMBER 26 - Santo Stefano (Boxing Day)

Offices and Shops are also closed in the following cities on the local feast days honoring their patron Saints:

APRIL 25 - San Marco (VENEZIA)
JUNE 24 - San Giovanni Battista (FIRENZE, GENOVA, TORINO)
JUNE 29 - San Pietro e Paolo (ROMA)
JULY 15 - Santa Rosalia (PALERMO)
SEPTEMBER 19 - San Gennaro (NAPOLI)
OCTOBER 4 - San Petronio (BOLOGNA)
OCTOBER 30 - San Saturnino (CAGLIARI)
NOVEMBER 3 - San Giusto (TRIESTE)
DECEMBER 6 - San Nicola (BARI)
DECEMBER 7 - Sant'Ambrogio (MILANO)



Shopping

Although normally shops are open from 9am to 1pm and 3:30-4pm to 7:30-8pm, in large cities and tourist areas shops have a tendency to stay open from 9.30am to 7.30pm with possible variations from town to town. Department stores such as La Rinascente, Coin, and Upim are found in many Italian cities and towns and are open from 9.30am to 7.30pm. Some excellent purchase options are: Clothes for men and women (dresses, shoes, gloves, silk ties, shirts); lacework, jewelry, leather goods (handbags, cases, boxes, luggage), ceramics, gold and silver items, alabaster, woodwork, straw, embroidery, glass and crystal ware.

Electrical Appliances

The electrical current in Italy is AC - the cycle is 50Hz 220 V. A tourist carrying electrical appliances to Italy should have a transformer, either obtained before leaving your country or bought at an electrical appliance shop in Italy. Plugs have round prongs, not flat, therefore an adapter plug is needed.

Laundry and Dry Cleaners

Most hotels have laundry and dry cleaning facilities. If the hotel does not provide these services, the desk clerk can direct you to the nearest shop (tintoria) or you can look in the Classified Telephone directory under Tintorie (cleaning and pressing) or Lavanderie (laundry).

Pure Adventures Helpful Tips

#1. It is strongly recommended that you make 2 photocopies of your passport and other important documentation, including the list of phone numbers that Pure Adventures provides to you in your pre-departure package, before leaving home. Leave 1 copy at home with family or friends, and keep another with you, but separate from the actual documents.

#2. It is suggested, though not required, that passengers hold return or onward tickets and proof of financial means.



International flights require you to be at the airport 2 to 3 hours in advance of your flight. Also, for return flight, the airlines prefer that you confirm 72 hours in advance of your flight. This is not critical, but good information to ensure your preparations to meet your flight time.

When traveling to Italy from North America you will arrive the day after you left, generally in the morning. You will be somewhere between 6-9 hours ahead of North America. There are several methods to overcome the change and many suggestions. None may work for you, but trying to sleep on the plane will help you. Also, plenty of rest prior to departure will help. Upon arrival in Italy it will become difficult, as the first day goes on, to continue without sleep. If you cannot go on, take a short nap, with emphasis on short! Then go to bed early. Upon return, you will no doubt remain jet-lagged for a few days. You will arrive home (if you travel to North America) in the evening on the same day you left Italy.

Earplugs can be very useful, both on the plane and in a hotel at night. They are light and easy to carry. Every traveler should have some.

Time In terms of standard time zones, Italy is six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time in the USA and Canada. Daylight saving time in Italy goes into effect each year usually from the end of March to the middle of October.

Airports

There are many domestic links between the Italian airports. The main airports are two in Roma: Fiumicino (FCO) and Ciampino (CIA), two in Milano: Linate (LIN) and Malpensa (MXP), Napoli (NAP), Torino (TRN), Venezia (VCE), Genova (GOA), Bologna (BLG), Firenze (FI), Pisa (PSA), Palermo (PMO), Catania (CTA), Cagliari (CAG), Alghero (AHO), Ancona (AOI), Bari (BRI), Bergamo (BGY), Brindisi (BDS), Lamezia Terme (SUF), Olbia, Costa Smeralda (OLB), Perugia (PEG), Pescara (PSR), Reggio Calabria (REG), Trapani (TPS), Trieste (TRS), Verona (VRN). Every airport has connections with the towns.

Domestic service is operated by Alitalia and a few affiliated companies. Flights can be booked at ticket counters in major cities and at authorized travel agencies. Recently, Ali- card was introduced: a credit card valid for domestic Alitalia flights that offers discounts and other advantages. Alitalia and affiliated companies offer special rates for young people, adults over 60, tourist groups, and families.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO USE ONLY OFFICIAL TAXIS WHICH ARE EASILY IDENTIFIABLE. IGNORE OFFERS FROM DRIVERS OF PRIVATE CARS WHO OFTEN LOITER AROUND AIRPORTS AND RAILWAY STATIONS.

Extra charges: Night service supplement between 10pm and 6am . Sunday and holiday supplement Luggage (per item). For taxi trips outside the city boundaries, fares will be based on distance.

Highways and Roads: Maps, Routes and Tolls

There is an extensive and well-maintained road network. Tolls are charged on the autostrade (highways). As in the rest of continental Europe, vehicles travel on the right and overtake on the left. The wearing of seatbelts is compulsory for front and back seat passengers as well as for the driver. The use of portable telephones is prohibited if they require intervention by hand to function. The letter "A" indicates highways and Roads followed by a number written in white on a green background. They are almost all subject to tolls, except for some brief stretches, especially approaching urban areas. Tolls are paid in cash at highway exit points. It is also possible to pay by Viacard Telepass cards (systems that make automatic payment possible without stopping at the toll booths) or Viacard a highway toll payment card which can be bought, at a value of either 25 / 50 / 75 Euro, on the highway, in many banks or in ACI offices. ACI provides complete car service throughout the country. Calls for assistance can be made 24 hours a day by calling 803.116 or by using the emergency booths located every 2 km along the roadway, They have buttons with a wrench symbol, to be used in the event of a breakdown, and with a red cross symbol for a first-aid emergency. Service areas are very frequent along all of the highways. The rest stops are always open, and, in addition to refueling, they also offer other services such as restaurants, bars, information offices, and banking windows.

Driving License Regulations

Italy recognizes driving licenses and other traffic documents that are valid in other countries. U.S. and Canadian driving licenses are valid in Italy but the license must be accompanied by a translation or an international license (check your local AAA in USA or CAA in Canada). For motorists not in possession of an International Driving license, the ACI (Automobile Club d'Italia) will issue a declaration upon presentation of a U.S. or a Canadian license. The declaration is obtainable at any ACI offices. Seat belts are compulsory in Italy.

Gasoline

Gasoline is called benzina, unleaded gasoline is benzina senza piombo and diesel is gasolio. Almost all the service stations in the country are equipped with pumps for lead-free gasoline (95 octane) and diesel fuel. Service stations are open from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. They follow a shift system on weekends and holidays.

Traffic Tips

Speed limits are fixed at 50 km (31 miles) per hour in urban areas, 90 km (56 miles) per hour on secondary and local roads, 110 km (68 miles) per hour on main roads outside urban areas and 130 km (80 miles) per hour on highways, with penalties for violation in proportion to the amount of the excess. On highways (autostrade): no U-turns are permitted and stopping is permitted only in emergency parking areas or parking lanes. The Italian Highway Code follows the Geneva Convention and Italy uses international road signs. Driving is on the right, passing on the left. Violators of the Highway Code are fined; serious violations may also be punished by imprisonment. Lanes: On three-lane roads, the middle lane is reserved for passing, which must always be signaled in advance with the directional signal, which must be kept on while passing.

Buses

Good coach services run between cities and towns and there are also good local bus services. A major Italian company that operates throughout the country is called SITA S.p.a., Viale dei Cadorna 105 - 50129 Firenze. Tel 055 214721, Fax 055 284661.

Validating Rail, Bus & Subway Tickets

Please note that in order to avoid heavy fines, it is vitally important to remember to validate any rail, bus and subway tickets purchased for use on the Italian public transport system. In the case of rail travel, machines for date stamping your ticket are located on station platforms and are usually yellow in color. It is extremely important to validate your ticket before boarding to avoid fines.

Tickets for buses and the subway tend to be time-limited (often one hour) and it is therefore necessary to complete your journey within the allotted time and purchase a new ticket for any additional travel. Machines for date stamping your ticket are located in the foyers and beside barriers in the case of subway travel and on board buses. Daily, weekly and monthly passes are also available. Tickets for buses and the subway cannot be purchased on board and must be obtained prior to boarding from newsagents, tobacconists, ticket kiosks or bars.

Rome

Getting There...

Fiumicino – Leonardo da Vinci International Airport, the main airport, is located 35 km/22 miles from the city center. By bus: Night bus operated by CO.TRA.L to Rome Termini railway station and Rome Tiburtina station. Ticket price is about €5.16 (ticket can be purchased also on the bus). By train: Special train “Leonardo Express” to Termini railway station operates a service every 30 minutes from 06.37-23.37 (ticket fare €8.00). There is also another metropolitan train (FM1) to Tiburtina railway station, Fara Sabina and Orte (ticket price €4.70). By taxi: Taxi to Rome city centre takes approx. 45-50 minutes and costs about €36.00. We recommend you to use only authorized taxis (white vehicles with a taximeter are available at the arrival terminal) (Tel. 06-3570). By car: The airport is approx. 32 km to the city centre. Different car rental agencies operate at the airport arrival terminal. Link with motorway A1 Rome- Fiumicino - Exit 30 to GRA (ring road). Tourist office: Tel. 06 36004399.

Ciampino - By bus+underground: Bus operated by CO.TRA.L departs from Terminal 2 and stops at Anagnina subway station (take train to city centre). By bus+train: Bus service to Ciampino railway station and train to Rome city centre. By taxi: Taxi rank is located opposite the International Arrivals hall. In addition to current standard fares, supplement for luggage and night time are requested. By car: The airport is approx. 14 km to the city centre. Different car rental agencies operate at the airport arrival terminal. Via Appia Nuova in direction of Rome to reach the old city centre in approx. 20 minutes.

Rome, capital of Italy, as well of the region. Other important cities are Frosinone, Latina, Viterbo and Rieti.

Territory

The region, with undulated hills, stretches from the western butresses of the Apennines to the Tyrrhenian Sea. The landscape is varied and presents flatlands, on the coastline and in the hinterland, ridges and calcareous highlands. Latium has four very ancient volcanic districts, where the craters of extinct volcanoes form the lakes of Bolsena, Vico, Bracciano, Albano and Nemi.

Art

Latium is the cradle of Roman civilization and it is incredibly rich in outstanding relics of the different periods. The traces of the Etruscan civilization are remarkable and can be found at Veio, Vulci, Tarquinia and Cerveteri. The region has always been the center of an intensive artistic life, which, from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century, has had as cardinal point the presence of the Church (the Vatican City, seat of the papacy, is in the heart of Rome).



Museums in Rome

In Rome, the National Museum houses the most important archaeological collections in the world, while the Capitoline Museum holds the oldest classic sculptures. In the Museum of the Palazzo dei Conservatori, Greek and Roman sculptures. Etruscan vases, paleochristian sarcophagi can be admired. The Pinacoteca Capitolina houses remarkable pictorial works. In the Museum of Rome there are civic documents, from the Middle Ages to the present day. Tourists should not omit a visit to the Barracco Museum, with Assyrian, Babylonian, Egyptian and Etruscan relics and to the National Museum of Castel Sant'Angelo. The Doria Pamphili Gallery houses a highly valuable private pictorial collection. Moreover, there are: the National Gallery of Ancient Art; the Borghese Museum and Gallery; the National Museum of Villa Giulia. The imposing complex of the Vatican Museums contains numberless outstanding masterpieces.

Florence

Florence is the capital of Tuscany. Other important cities are Siena, Pisa, Arezzo, Pistoia, Lucca, Livorno, Grosseto, and Massa Carrara.



Art

Tuscany is unrivaled as a cradle of all-time art. One can find examples of every age and style: from the Etruscan civilization (Fiesole, Chiusi, Volterra, Populonia) to Roman monuments and ruins from the Romanesque architecture to the impressive Gothic cathedrals, to the exceptional artistic explosion of the Renaissance.

Territory

The region stretches over the slope of the Apennines, in front of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The Tuscan landscape is mainly mountainous and hilly, with a flat area besides the sea (the Maremma). The coastline presents different aspects, offering both long sandy expanses and headlands. In front of the coast there are the small enchanting islands of the Tuscan archipelago.



Museums in Florence

Florence has preserved its masterpieces and great works of architecture over the centuries. The most important collection of paintings in the world is offered by the Uffizi Gallery; visitors can enter the very interesting Designs and Print Room; the collection of self-portraits. Great paintings can be seen in the Gallery of Palazzo Pitti, with Tiziano's and Raffaello's masterpieces. Florence also has the Museum of the Costume and the Museum of the Carriages; the beautiful Italian gardens can be admired in the Giardino di Boboli. In the Museum of the Opera del Duomo the famous "Pietà" by Michelangelo can be admired. Then, there are the Museum of the Bargello, St. Mark's Museum, the Academy Gallery and the Ethnologic Museum Stibbert. Pisa, an ancient Roman naval base and maritime republic, has the Museum of the Sinopie, which holds the preparatory drawings for the frescoes, and the National Museum of St. Matteo. Siena is a well-preserved medieval city; here there are the Civic Museum, which houses the Histories of Alexander III, the Museum of the Opera Metropolitana and the Pinacoteca Nazionale, with Senese painting. Tradition and art are strong everywhere: in Arezzo the Gallery and the Medieval and Modern Museum can be visited.

Italy has a long recorded history that the biggest problem facing the traveler is to choose among the nation's endless cultural attractions. All main centers, most of the provincial cities and many quite small towns have museums.

Of all the countries in the world, there is none more magical than Italy, a traveler's dream destination. Ancient monuments and archeological sites are perfectly preserved; the museums are bursting with the genius of Italy's finest sons: Raffaello, Michelangelo, Tiziano, Canova; contemporary architects are still inspired by ancient buildings and squares (piazze). Italian cities are veritable living museums.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

According to UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural branch, two thirds of the world's historical artistic heritage is in Italy. Tuscany, which is only one region of Italy, by itself, possesses more artistic treasures than the whole of Spain, which is the second country in the world for cultural heritage. Practically all major styles of Western architecture can be found in Italy. The following Italian sites have been placed by UNESCO on its World Heritage List:

- 1979** Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (Lombardy)
- 1980** Historic Centre of Rome, the properties of the Holy See, and San Paolo fuori le Mura (Latium)
- 1980** Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie (Lombardy)
- 1982** Historic Centre of Florence (Tuscany)
- 1987** Venice and its Lagoon (Veneto)
- 1987** Piazza del Duomo - Pisa (Tuscany)
- 1990** Historic Centre of San Gimignano (Siena, Tuscany)
- 1993** I Sassi di Matera (Basilicata)
- 1994** The City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas (Veneto)
- 1995** Historic Centre of Siena (Tuscany)
- 1995** Historic Centre of Naples (Campania)
- 1995** Crespi d'Adda - Capriate (Lombardy)
- 1995** Ferrara, City of the Renaissance and its Po Delta (Emilia-Romagna)
- 1996** Castel del Monte - Bari (Apulia)
- 1996** The Trulli of Alberobello - Bari (Apulia)
- 1996** The Early Christian Monuments and Mosaics of Ravenna (Emilia-Romagna)
- 1996** The Historic Centre of the City of Pienza (Siena, Tuscany)
- 1997** The 18th-Century Royal Palace at Caserta (Campania)
- 1997** The Residences of the Royal House of Savoia (Piedmont)
- 1997** The Botanical Garden, Orto Botanico - Padua (Veneto)
- 1997** The Cathedral, Torre Civica and Piazza Grande - Modena (Emilia-Romagna)
- 1997** The Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Ercolano, and Torre Annunziata (Naples, Campania)
- 1997** Villa Romana del Casale - Piazza Armerina (Enna, Sicily)
- 1997** Su Nuraxi di Barumini, Cagliari (Sardinia)
- 1997** Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto) (Liguria)
- 1997** The Amalfi Coast, Costiera Amalfitana - Salerno (Campania)
- 1997** The Archaeological Area of Agrigento (Sicily)
- 1998** Cilento and Vallo di Adriano National Park (Salerno, Campania)
- 1998** Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia (Udine, Friuli-Venezia Giulia)
- 1998** Historic Centre of Urbino (Marches)
- 1999** Villa Adriana (Tivoli - Latium)
- 2000** City of Verona (Veneto)
- 2000** Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands, Sicily)
- 2000** Assisi, the Basilica of San Francesco and Other Franciscan Sites (Umbria)
- 2001** Villa d'Este, Tivoli (Latium)
- 2002** Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto (South-eastern Sicily)
- 2003** Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy



Italian Language

In Tuscany, Puglia, most of Umbria, and other main tourist destinations, English is spoken fairly widely. Still, learning just a few simple Italian words certainly enhances a visit to Italy. The Italians are proud of their language, so visitors should take a little time to become familiar with some basic Italian vocabulary.

Italian is one of the major languages of the world, spoken by 59 million as their mother tongue and about 85 million bilingual people around the world. It belongs to a group of languages called "Romance" or "Neo-Latin" that evolved from Latin, the language of Latium in Ancient Italy, or more specifically, the city of Rome.

English - *Italian*

Greetings:

Hello! - *Salve!*
 Hi! (Bye, bye!) - *Ciao!*
 Good morning! - *Buon giorno!*
 Good afternoon! - *Buon pomeriggio!*
 Good evening! - *Buona sera!*
 How are you? - *Come sta?*
 How're you doing? - *Come va?*
 We're feeling fine. - *Ci sentiamo bene.*
 Thanks, just fine. - *Grazie, va bene così.*
 Good-bye! - *Arrivederci!*
 See you soon. - *A presto!*
 I enjoyed myself very much. - *Mi è piaciuto molto.*
 Good night! - *Buonanotte!*

Medical:

Where can I find a doctor? - *Dove posso trovare un dottore?*
 Where is there a hospital? - *Dov'è l'ospedale più vicino?*
 Where is the closest pharmacy? - *Dov'è la farmacia più vicina?*
 It hurts here. - *Mi fa male qui.*
 I have a fever. - *Ho la febbre.*
 I feel dizzy. - *Mi gira la testa.*
 I feel sick. - *Ho la nausea.*
 I have a stomach ache. - *Ho mal di stomaco.*
 Do I need a prescription for this medicine? - *Ci vuole una ricetta per questa medicina?*
 I've caught a cold. - *Ho preso il raffreddore.*

Accommodations:

Do you have any vacancies? - *Avete una stanza libera?*
 I have a reservation. - *Ho prenotato una stanza.*
 What is the charge per night? - *Quanto si paga per notte?*
 Do you need our passports? - *Vuole i nostri passaporti?*
 Can I leave my luggage here? - *Posso lasciare il mio bagaglio qui?*
 Where is room 308? - *Dov'è la camera numero trecentotto?*
 The key, please. - *La chiave, per favore.*
 Please wake me at 7:30 tomorrow. - *Per favore, mi svegli domani alle sette e mezzo.*
 There isn't any hot water. - *Non c'è acqua calda.*
 The shower isn't working. - *La doccia non funziona.*

Eating Out:

A table for one/two/four, please. - *Un tavolo per una persona/per due/per quattro, per favore.*
 May I see the menu? - *Potrei vedere il menù?*
 Is there a children's menu? - *C'è un menù per bambini?*
 A liter of house red, please. - *Un litro di vino della casa, per favore.*
 What would you recommend? - *Cosa ci consiglia?*
 I'm vegetarian. - *Sono vegetariana.*
 What's the name of this dish? - *Come si chiama questo piatto?*
 Can I have another knife/spoon? - *Potrei avere un altro coltello/cucchiaio?*
 Waiter/waitress! - *Cameriere/cameriera!*

Useful Words:

Ash tray - *il portacenere*
 Bottle - *la bottiglia*
 Bottle opener - *l'apribottiglia*
 Bowl - *la scodella*
 Bread basket - *il cestino del pane*
 Carafe - *la caraffa*
 Corkscrew - *il cavatappi*
 Stand - *l'oliera*
 Cup - *la tazza*
 Saucer - *il piattino*
 Cutlery - *le posate*
 Decanter - *la caraffa*
 Egg cup - *il portauova*
 Fork - *la forchetta*
 Glass - *il bicchiere*
 Water glass - *da acqua*
 Wine glass - *da vino*
 Knife - *il coltello*
 Mustard jar - *la mostardiera*
 Napkin - *il tovagliolo*
 Pepper mill - *il macinino del pepe*
 Pepper shaker - *il portapepe*
 Plate - *il piatto*
 Bread plate - *il piattino*
 Soup plate - *il piatto fondo*
 Pot - *la brocca*
 Coffee pot - *la caffettiera*
 Tea pot - *la teiera*
 Salt shaker - *il portasale*
 Spoon - *il cucchiaino*
 Soup spoon - *per la minestra*
 Teaspoon - *il cucchiaino*
 Sugar bowl - *la zuccheriera*
 Tablecloth - *la tovaglia*
 Toothpick - *lo stuzzicadente*
 Tray - *il vassoio*

