Italy Brief for American Tourists

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Just as the United States is subdivided politically into 50 states and 3,042 counties, Italy is subdivided politically into 20 regions, and 110 provinces. These are the 20 Italian regions which are also shown in the map above:

1. Abruzzo

2. Basilicata

3. Calabria

4. Campania

5. Emilia-Romagna

6. Friuli-Venezia Giulia

7. Lazio

8. Liguria

9. Lombardia

10. Marche

11. Molise

12. Piemonte

13. Puglia

14. Sardegna

15. Sicilia

16. Toscana

17. Trentino-Alto Adige

18. Umbria

19. Valle d'Aosta

20. Veneto

Italy is also further divided geographically into 4 general areas:

1. The North or *l'Italia Settentrionale* or *il Nord* (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Trentino-Alto Adige, Valle d'Aosta and Veneto);

2. The Center or *l'Italia Centrale* or *il Centro* (Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche, Toscana and Umbria);

3. The South or *l'Italia Meridionale* or *il Sud* (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise and Puglia);

4. The Islands or *l'Italia Insulare* or *le Isole* (Sardegna and Sicilia).

The official name of Italy is *la Repubblica Italiana* (the Italian Republic). The capital is Rome, or as the Italians call it, *Roma*. While the United States is a federal presidential republic, Italy is a parliamentary republic. Italy has a constitution just like the United States, but its principal political figures are not a President and Vice President, but a President (*Presidente*) or Head of State (*Capo di Stato*), and a Prime Minister (*Premier*) or President of the Council of Ministers (*Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri*). Italy's Head of State is Giorgio Napolitano, and its Prime Minister is Silvio Berlusconi—a well-known billionaire and head of a media empire.

Italy was already a unified peninsula in Roman times, and of course the borders of the Roman Empire extended far beyond the current borders of Italy today, but after the fall of Rome Italy became divided into several duchies, maritime republics, states and kingdoms, held by various powers, some of them foreign, some of them ecclesiastical—such as the Papal States. Italy's unification occurred in 1861, but it is important to note that Rome, the capital, still under the jurisdiction of the pope, was liberated only in 1870. When Italy was unified it was a kingdom called *il*

Regno d'Italia. With the fall of the Savoy (*i Savoia*) royal family at the end of World War II, who where largely blamed for the deeds of then Prime Minister Benito Mussolini, Italy in 1946 became a parliamentary republic. Italy joined NATO in 1949, the United Nations in 1955, and was one of the five founding members of the European Union (*Unione Europea*) in 1958.

Italy has a population of 59.5 million, which makes it the 23rd state in the world by population. Italy has an area of over 301,000 square kilometers or 116,000 square miles, which makes it the 71st state by size in the world, or just a little bigger than the state of Arizona. The ten largest cities by population are Rome (*Roma*), Milan (*Milano*), Naples (*Napoli*), Turin (*Torino*), Palermo, Genoa (*Genova*), Bologna, Florence (*Firenze*), Bari and Catania. Four of these cities are located in the north of Italy, two cities are located in the center, two in the south, and two on the islands. The data below are of the municipalities, and excludes the population of the greater metropolitan areas.

Pos.	City (*Città*)	Region (*Regione*)	Inhabitants (*Abitanti*)
1	Rome	Lazio	2,705,603
2	Milan	Lombardia	1,303,437
3	Naples	Campania	975,139
4	Turin	Piemonte	900,569
5	Palermo	Sicilia	666,552
6	Genoa	Liguria	615,686
7	Bologna	Emilia-Romagna	373,026
8	Florence	Toscana	365,966
9	Bari	Puglia	325,052
10	Catania	Sicilia	301,564

Major Italian Cities

Italy is now a multicultural society like many European countries, so it is no longer populated by Italian natives only. Besides an overwhelming Italian native population of about 56 million, Italy now has 376,000 Albanians, 343,000 Moroccans, 342,000 Romanians, 145,000 Chinese, 120,000 Ukrainians, and 101,000 Philippinos, so it is not unusual to see people who don't look Italian at all.

Italy religiously is no longer a monolithically Roman Catholic either, although Roman Catholicism remains the religion of the majority. According to baptismal records, 97.67% of Italians are Catholics (*cattolici*), while scientific polls say that 87.8% of the population declares itself Catholic, and only 36.8% declare to be practicing Catholics. Christians (*cristiani*)—Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, etc.—in Italy represent the majority. There are also significant minorities of non-religious (at least 4 million), Muslims (850,000), and Buddhists (110,000). According to the best statistics, there are about 236,000 Jehovah's Witnesses (*Testimoni di Geova*) in Italy who participate in evangelistic work.

Italy is a member of the G8, also known as 'Group of Seven and Russia', which is an interna-

tional forum for the world's major industrialized democracies. Italy is also the 7th country on the planet in terms gross domestic product (GDP). Italy's economy is now largely oriented towards the service sector, which in 2006 represented almost two-thirds of the GDP. The rest of the economy is industrial, with about 22% of the GDP, but if one excludes the construction sector, the percentage of the industrial sector GDP falls to 18%. The agricultural sector is now only a small sector of the overall economy. The most productive sector of the Italian economy is made up of small businesses. Large companies are almost always managed by the founding families or foreign groups, while public financed stock companies never became popular. Even in the financial industry, despite the tendency towards concentration of assets, most banks are small compared to European banks. The north of the country is highly industrialized, probably in fact the most industrialized area in Europe, while in the south unemployment is much greater, and agriculture is still an important sector of the economy. Tourism represents a major industry. Italy has to import most raw materials, as well as 75% of its energy—partly due to hostility towards the nuclear energy option. Tax-dodging, high public debt, and organized crime constitute major obstacles to the country's virtuous development.

Italy's educational system is basically a three tier system with primary education in the first 5 years (*scuola elementare*), a secondary education of the first degree of 3 years (*scuola media*), and a secondary education of the second degree of 4 to 5 years (*scuola superiore*, which can be *licei*, *istituti tecnici*, or *istituti professionali*, depending on the student's orientation). Until recently, Italians could leave school after 8th grade, or after completing the secondary education of the first degree. Now with the new education reform (*riforma Moratti*), Italians must complete 12th grade either in the lyceums, technical or professional institutes. Students who wish to continue and go to university, must sustain the difficult entry exam called *esame di maturità*.

While Italy has the most number of linguistic minorities of any European nation, the predominant spoken language, and the language of public schools and universities, is Italian. Some countries in Europe where English is not official still have many non-native English speakers, such as the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. In Italy only a minority, about 24%, can speak English sufficiently to be understood, so some knowledge of Italian can be very useful in most situations.

Italian Words and Phrases For Travelers

Yes = Sì

No = No

Thank you = Grazie

Thank you very much = Grazie Mille

You're welcome = Prego

Please = Per favore

Excuse me = Mi scusi, Scusa

Hello = Salve, Ciao

Goodbye = Arrivederci, Ciao

So long = Addio

Good morning = Buon giorno

Good afternoon = Buon pomeriggio

Good evening = Buona sera

Good night = Buona notte

I do not understand = Non capisco

How do you say this in [Italian]? = Come si dice questo in [italiano]?

Do you speak ... = Parla ...

English = inglese

French = francese

German = tedesco

Spanish = spagnolo

Chinese = cinese

I = Io

We = Noi

You (singular, familiar) = Tu

You (singular, formal) = Lei

You (plural) = Voi

They = Essi (m), Esse (f)

What is your name? = Come si chiama? Come ti chiami?

Nice to meet you. = Felice di conoscerla. Felice di conoscerti. Piacere.

How are you? = Come sta? Come stai?

Good = Buono (m), Buona (f), Bene

Bad = Cattivo (m), Cattiva (f), Male, Non bene

So so = Così così

Wife = Moglie

Husband = Marito

Daughter = Figlia

Son = Figlio

Mother = Madre

Father = Padre

Friend = Amico (m), Amica (f)

Where is the bathroom? Where is the toilet? = Dove è il bagno?

zero = zero

one = uno

two = due

three = tre

four = quattro

five = cinque

six = sei

seven = sette

eight = otto

nine = nove

ten = dieci

eleven = undici

twelve = dodici

thirteen = tredici

fourteen = quattordici

fifteen = quindici

sixteen = sedici

seventeen = diciassette

eighteen = diciotto

nineteen = diciannove

twenty = venti

twenty one = ventuno

thirty = trenta

forty = quaranta

fifty = cinquanta

sixty = sessanta

seventy = settanta

eighty = ottanta

ninety = novanta

one hundred = cento

one thousand = mille

one million = un milione

How much does this cost? = Quanto costa?

What is this? = Cosa è questo?

Ok, I'll buy it. = Va bene, lo compro

I would like to buy ... = Mi piacerebbe comprare ...

Do you have ... = Avreste ...

Do you accept credit cards? = Accettate carte di credito?

Open = Aperto

Closed = Chiuso

Postcard = Cartolina postale

Stamps = Francobolli

A little = Un poco, Un pò, Pochino

A lot = Molto, Un sacco, Moltissimo

All = Tutto, Tutta, Tutti, Tutte

Breakfast = Prima colazione

Lunch = Pranzo

Dinner = Cena

Vegetarian = Vegetariano (m), Vegetariana (f)

Kosher = Kasher

Cheers! = Alla salute! Cin cin!

Please bring the bill. = Il conto, per favore.

Bread = Pane

Beverage = Bevanda

Coffee = Caffè

Tea = Tè

Juice = Succo

Water = Acqua

Beer = Birra

Wine = Vino

Salt = Sale

Pepper = Pepe

Meat = Carne

Beef = Manzo

Pork = Maiale

Fish = Pesce

Poultry = Pollame

Vegetable = Legumi, Verdura, Ortaggio

Fruit = Frutta

Potato = Patata

Salad = Insalata

Dessert = Dessert, Dolce

Ice cream = Gelato

Where is ...? = Dove si trova ...?

How much is the fare? = Quanto costa il biglietto?

Ticket = Biglietto

One ticket to ..., please. = Un biglietto a ..., per favore.

Where are you going? = Dove sta andando? Dove stai andando? Dove va?

Where do you live? = Dove abiti? Dove abita?

Train = Treno

Bus = Bus, Autobus

Subway, Underground = Metropolitana

Airport = Aeroporto

Train station = Stazione del treno

Bus station = Stazione degli Autobus

Subway station, Underground station = Stazione della metropolitana

Departure = Partenza

Arrival = Arrivo

Car rental agency = Autonoleggio

Parking = Parcheggio

Hotel = Albergo, Hotel

Room = Camera, Stanza

Reservation = Prenotazione

Are there any vacancies for tonight? = Ci sono posti liberi per questa notte?

No vacancies = Tutto occupato. Niente camere libere

Passport = Passaporto

Left = Sinistra

Right = Destra

Straight = Sempre Diritto

Up = In alto, Su

Down = In basso, Giù

Far = Lontano

Near = Vicino

Long = Lungo

Short = Corto, Breve

Map = Mappa, Cartina geografica, Cartina stradale

Tourist Information = Informazioni turistiche

Post office = Ufficio Postale, Posta

Museum = Museo

Bank = Banca

Police station = Polizia, Stazione di polizia

Hospital = Ospedale

Pharmacy, Chemists = Farmacia

Store, Shop = Negozio

Restaurant = Ristorante

School = Scuola

Church = Chiesa

Restrooms = Toilettes, Bagni, Servizi

Street = Strada, Via

Square = Piazza

Mountain = Montagna, Monte, Picco

Hill = Collina

Valley = Valle

Ocean = Oceano, Mare

Lake = Lago

River = Fiume

Swimming Pool = Piscina

Tower = Torre

Bridge = Ponte

What time is it? = Che ora è?

7:13, Seven thirteen = 7:13, Sette e tredici

3:15, Three fifteen = 3:15, Le tre e quindici

3:15, A quarter past three = 3:15, Le tre e un quarto

11:30, Eleven thirty = 11:30, Le undici e trenta

11:30, Half past eleven = 11:30, Le undici e mezza

1:45, One forty-five = 1:45, L'una e quarantacinque

1:45, A quarter till two = 1:45, Le due meno un quarto

Day = Giorno

Week = Settimana

Month = Mese

Year = Anno

Monday = lunedì

Tuesday = martedì

Wednesday = mercoledì

Thursday = giovedì

Friday = venerdì

Saturday = sabato

Sunday = domenica

January = gennaio

February = febbraio

March = marzo

April = aprile

May = maggio

June = giugno

July = luglio

August = agosto

September = settembre

October = ottobre

November = novembre

December = dicembre

Spring = Primavera

Summer = Estate

Fall, Autumn = Autunno

Winter = Inverno

Today = Oggi

Yesterday = Ieri

Tomorrow = Domani

Birthday = Compleanno

Happy Birthday! = Buon compleanno!