

What is Italy like and why should I visit?

Italy



Italy is a boot-shaped peninsula that juts out of southern Europe into the Adriatic Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and other waters. Its location has played an important role in its history. The sea surrounds Italy, and mountains crisscross the interior, dividing it into regions. The Alps cut across the top of the country and are streaked with long, thin glacial lakes. From the western end of the Alps, the Apennines mountains stretch south down the entire peninsula.

West of the Apennines are wooded hills that are home to many of Italy's historic cities, including Rome (the capital city). In the south are hot, dry coastlands and fertile plains where olives, almonds, and figs are grown.

People and Culture

Since the rise of the Roman Empire, Italian art, architecture, and culture have had an influence around the world. Famed Italian painters include Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. Italy is also at the heart of the Catholic Church, which is governed from Vatican City, a city-state surrounded by Rome.

The family is at the centre of Italian society. Young people often live at home until they are in their 30s, even if they have a job. When parents retire, they often go to live with their children.

The Flag of Italy

Green = hope
White = faith
Red = charity



The flag of Italy is a three colour flag. It has three same-sized strips of green, white, and red, in order from left to right. Its current form was adopted on the 1st of January 1948. In Italy it is called the Tricolore.

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Vocabulary

tourism	When people travel to another place for pleasure or relaxation.
rural	A rural area or a countryside is a geographic area that is located outside towns and cities.
urban	An urban area is typically a town or city.
climate	The long-term weather pattern in a region, typically averaged over 30 years.
peninsula	A piece of land that is almost entirely surrounded by water but is connected to the mainland on one side.

Landmarks



Colosseum



Trevi Fountain



Leaning Tower of Pisa



Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore



Ruins of Pompeii



Grand Canal

Landscape/ Physical Features

Italy has a Mediterranean climate, which means it has hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. There are numerous rivers that flow through Italy, the longest of which is the Po, which is 405 miles long.

There are many picturesque lakes which are popular tourist destinations, including Lake Garda and Lake Como.



Poetry: 'I asked the little boy who couldn't see'

I asked the little boy who cannot see
"And what is colour like?"
"Why, green," said he,
"Is like the rustle when the wind
blows through
the forest, running water, that is
blue;
And red is like a trumpet sound;
and pink
is like the smell of roses; and I think
that purple must be like a
thunderstorm,
And yellow is like something soft
and warm;
And white is a pleasant stillness
when you lie.
"And dream."

