



# Italy

## Destination Guide

### Traveling To & From

**Airport Procedures** - Be sure to check in for your flights about 12-24 hours prior to travel through the online app or website.

**Arrival Procedures** - At customs, your passport will be verified, and you'll be asked about your reason for travel - for vacation and leisure, of course!

### Getting Around

**Transfers**-If this was arranged by my travel agency, locate your driver who most likely has your name on a sign near the designated pick-up area at the airport. The transfer company will take you from the airport to your hotel.

**Cabs** - If you didn't elect for a transfer, locate the cab pick-up area at the airport and offer them your destination's address.

**Rental Cars** - If you rented a car for your trip, head to the car rental pick up area. During the time of your rental agreement, you'll obtain an international driving permit that licenses you to drive in that area. It may be a good idea to familiarize yourself with the local traffic laws prior to getting behind the wheel. Important to note is that almost all credit card companies do NOT offer car rental insurance in Italy.

**Buses** - If bus tickets are included in your package, your tickets will be included in your confirmation numbers. If bus tours weren't included in your package, you can hop on the bus by purchasing an admission pass by the day or by the ride. See nearby bus stop attendants for help! They'll explain different routes and other important information!

**Walking Around** - Around your hotel, you will find plenty of shops, pubs, restaurants, etc.

### Currency

**Cash** - The euro is used Italy. It's a great idea to exchange cash at your bank for a small fee prior to your trip, rather than at the airport or in destination for a larger exchange fee.

**Credit** - Call your card company and banks before you travel to advise them of your travel dates and destinations. Some fees and restrictions may apply. Please note that sometimes you can use international ATMs for a fee.

**Tipping** - Tipping is cash only as Italian bills do not include a tip line. Most Italians tip for exceptional service; 10-15% is customary.

### Communications

**Language** - Italian is the most widely spoken language in Italy and while you may find the occasional Italian fluent in English, it's a good idea to bring along a translation book, download some apps, or learn some key words before traveling.

### Packing for Your Trip

**Clothing** - Italy has a typical Mediterranean climate of dry summers and wet winters, with each season being a little lower in temperature than the surrounding countries. Pack mindful layers, knowing the seasons, winds, proper footwear; daytime is for activewear and keep your style neat but comfortable for the evenings. Check your guided tour itinerary to know for certain what activities you'll want to pack for.

**Accessories** - In addition to your walking shoes and boots, you may want to bring hats to stay out of the sun and your own refillable water bottles. Rome in particular has many water spouts (it looks like a nose) and in Italian it is called "nasone" which produces the best water in the city and is safe and delicious!

### Other

Please be aware that water and bread are not free.

You may see a charge for "coperto" usually 2 euros per person, which is a cover charge for dining at a table. If ordering a coffee, if you consume it at the bar, the price is less.

**Bathroom tip/etiquette**, bars will usually allow non patrons to use their facilities, but it is polite to order a coffee or a cocktail at the bar. Bathrooms are difficult to find, and often there is a tip required to enter. So carry some coins!

### Technology

**Internet** - Some areas provide public Wi-Fi like in restaurants and hotels. Connections can be spotty in rural areas. Hotspots may not be provided outside of the US. Check with your providers.

**Electricity** - Bring along a converter adapter as suggested for your destination to plug in and charge your devices. No surge electric strips may be recommended in addition to the converter adapters. Use caution as selecting the wrong type of adapter could cause electrical fires or overheated devices. Charged-at-home power banks are also a great idea for charging on the go.

**Cell Phones** - Be sure to let your cell phone provider know of your travels. International travel packages may need to be purchased for service.

### Emergencies

**Emergency Number** - The main emergency number in Italy is 112

**US Embassy** - A great safety resource for Italy is: <https://it.usembassy.gov/>

**Travel Protection** - Should you need to file a travel protection claim, you will most likely be reimbursed on a credit card for approved claims. See travel protection policies for details.