

ITALIA

TRAVEL GUIDE



ITALIA

NATIONAL
TOURIST
BOARD

THE ART OF NEAPOLITAN PIZZAIUOLO



UNESCO
INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL
HERITAGE

ITALIA

NATIONAL
TOURIST
BOARD

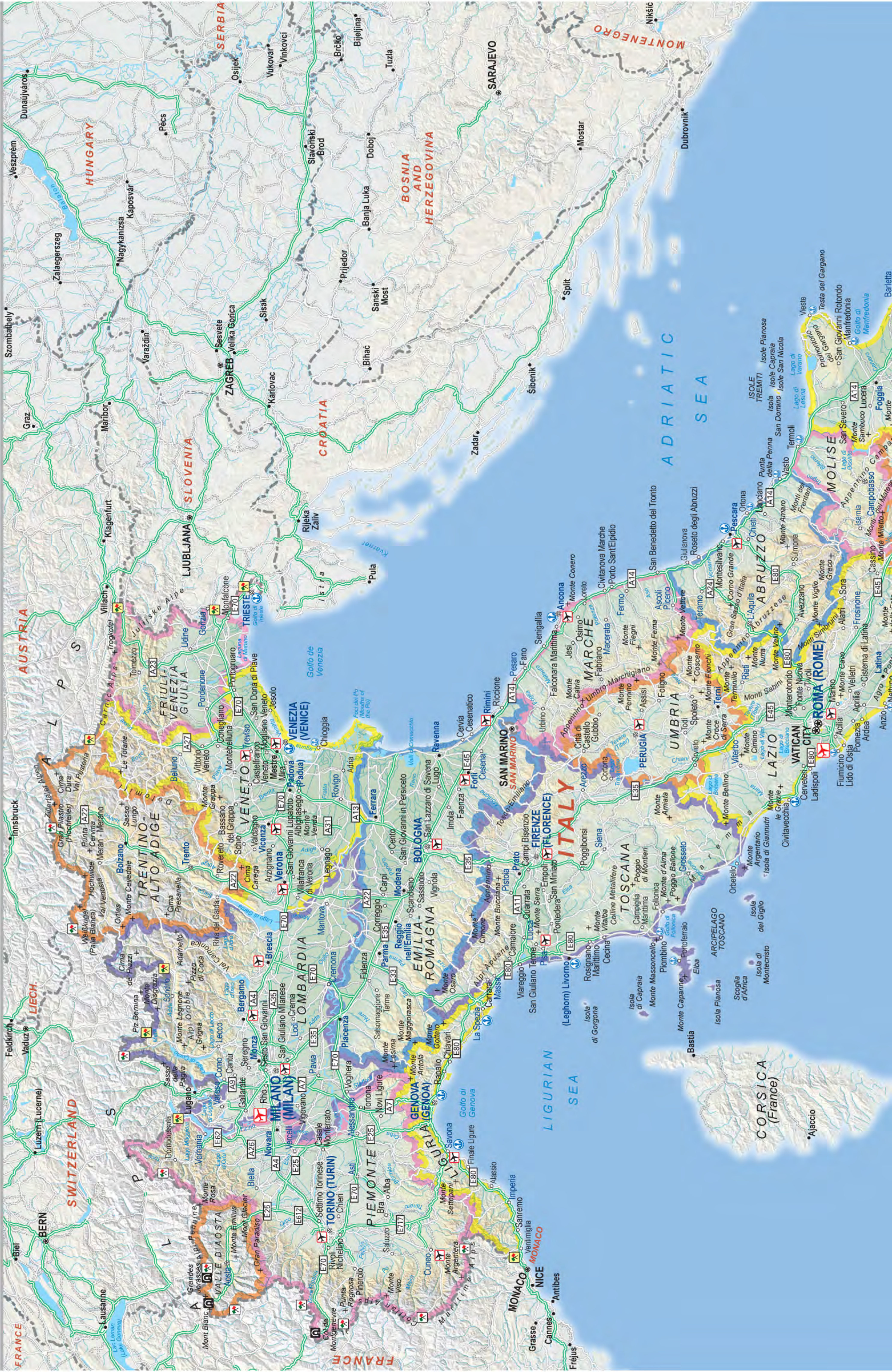
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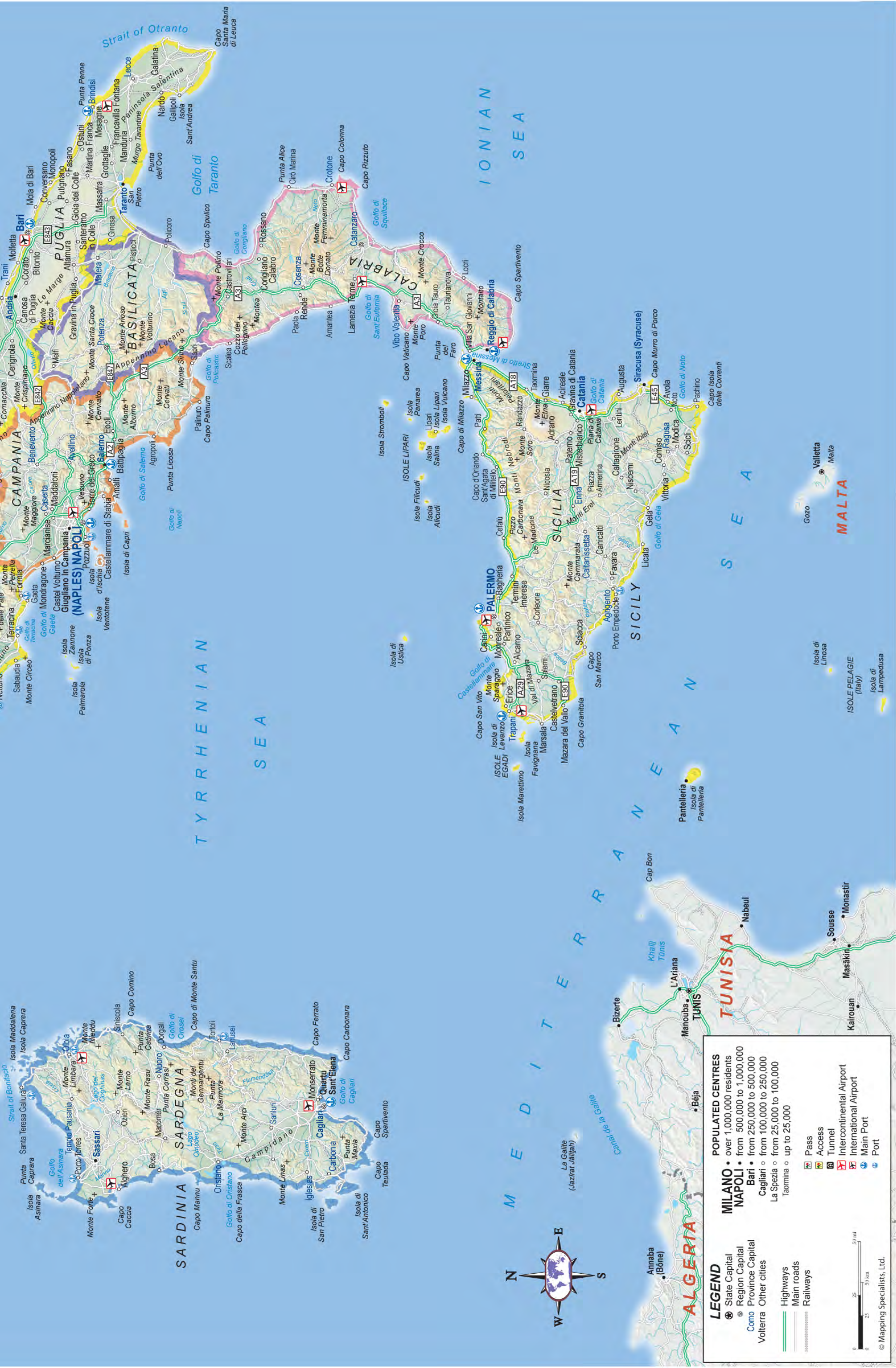
Welcome,

Journey through the following pages to glimpse a country that is not only rich in beauty, culture and art, but also offers an unforgettable sensory experience. Italy is blessed with a variety of extraordinary gifts to share with its guests. Whether you'd like to explore our well-preserved history, sample an explosion of flavors, or relax beneath calm blue skies, everything you'll need to start planning your trip is contained within this booklet. Italian hospitality remains one of the warmest in the world and we welcome you all year round. We hope that upon viewing these pages, you will be inspired and prepared to take the journey of a lifetime. Magic awaits you!

- The Italian National Tourist Board









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ART AND HISTORY

Since antiquity, Italy has been a vital global center of culture, art and history. Our museums, collections and archaeological sites reveal and celebrate the many civilizations that have shaped this country, their traces still inextricably woven into the present-day landscape.

Every corner of Italy holds wonderful surprises. With more cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites than any other country, our artistic and cultural heritage is one of the most treasured in the world.



Italy offers an exciting journey through time, from the Ancient Greeks and Romans to the present day. At every turn, visitors encounter the country's rich landscape and culture, history and art, architecture and city planning.

Our renowned cities of art include Rome, Florence, Assisi, Venice, Siena, Pisa, and Naples, but the entire country boasts towns of breathtaking beauty and cultural significance. We have 95,000 monumental churches, 40,000 forts and castles, 30,000 historical residences with 4,000 gardens, 36,000 archives and libraries, 20,000 historical cities and towns, 5,600 museums and archaeological sites, and 1,500 convents.

Visitors can tour the private residences of ancient and noble families and explore world-famous museums such as the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, the Capitoline Museums in Rome, or the Brera Art Gallery in Milan. Italy's exciting past comes alive at impressive archaeological sites such as Pompeii and Herculaneum. This tradition of beauty, art and culture continues today in the numerous cultural, artistic, and musical events that animate Italian life.



To experience Italy's unparalleled art firsthand is to fall in love with the soul of the country. Whether visiting archaeological sites, architecture, museums or galleries, you'll discover the astonishing ways Italy's craftsmen and artists have expressed themselves throughout the ages.

HISTORICAL PERIODS

The Etruscans - 8th to 2nd century BC

Magna Graecia - 8th to 3rd century BC

Roman Period - 8th century BC to 5th century AD

Early Christian and Late Medieval - 4th to 11th centuries

Romanesque - 11th to 12th centuries

Gothic - 12th to 13th centuries

Renaissance - 14th to 16th centuries

Late Renaissance and Mannerism - 16th to 17th centuries

Baroque - 17th to 18th centuries

Neoclassicism - mid-18th to mid-19th century



CULTURE

Italy is synonymous with music and art. Throughout the year, visitors and locals enjoy a wide range of traditional and modern cultural events of international renown.

Enjoy theater and ballet performances year-round or come for unique events such as the Venice Biennale, with its focus on design and contemporary art. Milan's La Scala and the Arena di Verona evoke intense emotions in music lovers from around the world, and carnivals (held most notably in Venice, but also in many other regions), as well as historical and religious representations that fill the country with fantasy and vitality throughout the year.

For more information
check out italiafestival.it



Italy boasts over 3,500 museums, art galleries and archaeological sites. Some are state-owned while others are privately owned, so opening hours may vary. Check italia.it for a complete list of Italian museums by region. Some of the most popular venues showcasing ancient and contemporary art include:

Florence - the Uffizi Gallery, the Galleria dell'Accademia, the Palazzo Pitti with the Galleria Palatina; Venice - the Accademia delle Belle Arti. Milano - Palazzo and Pinacoteca Brera and Santa Maria delle Grazie (Da Vinci's Last Supper); Turin - the Egyptian Museum (Palazzo dell'Accademia delle Scienze); Naples - the Palazzo Capodimonte with Pinacoteca, the Archeological Museums and the Royal Palace; Rome - Villa Borghese Museum, the Castel Sant'Angelo on the Tiber River, Scuderie Papali, Palazzo Altemps and the Museum of Modern Art.





Italy is a natural film set. Its astonishing beauty, from modern cities to Renaissance palaces, vibrant islands to amazing natural landscapes, provides the perfect setting for film productions of all kinds. In short, Italy is an ensemble of art, culture, natural landscapes, traditions and magic... in a word, diversity. Enjoy this hospitable country and its countless daily events!

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Italy counts 54 UNESCO World Heritage Sites within its borders, more than any other country on the World Heritage List. These sites are officially designated in UNESCO'S 1972 World Heritage Convention. The goal of the Convention is to identify, according to precise criteria, areas, zones and places containing unique characteristics of particular importance with regard to culture, archaeology, environment or landscape.

Italy's well-known World Heritage Sites include the Dolomites, the city of Verona, Ferrara and the Po River Delta, the historic centers of San Gimignano, Florence and Rome, Hadrian's Villa and the Villa D'Este at Tivoli, the archaeological areas of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata, the Sassi (Rupesian architecture and churches) of Matera, the Amalfi Coast, and the Aeolian Islands, among many others.



All 54 UNESCO sites have long been travel destinations for those seeking history, art and culture in the Bel Paese ("beautiful country").

Renewed efforts to preserve these sites include the call to everyone to get to know them better. Visit the UNESCO website to journey into some of the most fascinating places on earth!

Visit unesco.org/countries/italy





CUISINE

Italy has always been synonymous with "good food." One of the world's most famous cuisines, Italian cooking offers an unmistakable explosion of flavors, scents, and aromas, with an immense variety of regional dishes and recipes for the culinary explorer.

Journey through Italy's gastronomic culture in search of ancient recipes, genuine products, simple food inspired by classic Italian cooking, and innovative new creations. World-renowned products such as Parmigiano Reggiano (Parmesan) cheese, prosciutto di Parma and San Daniele (dry-cured ham), Modena balsamic vinegar, Genoa's pesto, buffalo mozzarella from Campania, Alba truffles, and cured meats are just some of the celebrated creations that make Italy the land of good food. And how could anyone forget pasta and pizza, universal symbols of Italy.





Italy's wines, those noble ambassadors of Italian excellence, must not be neglected. Experience the unparalleled pleasure of tasting a fine wine in its native environment—a glass of Chianti or Brunello di Montalcino in Tuscany, a Barbera or Barolo in Piedmont, a Prosecco di Valdobbiadene in Veneto, a Lambrusco in Emilia Romagna, or one of the great reds of the Valtellina, to name just a few. The experience will open your senses and reveal a world of tastes that tempt the palate, eyes, and heart.

Food and drink may be a necessity, but since ancient times they have also been a sophisticated pleasure, a philosophy, and a science. Decisions are made around a table set with food and wine, which, like culture, art and love, has its own rituals. These pleasures bring people together and make moments memorable. One cannot truly know Italy's soul until one has experienced its cuisine.



SIGHTSEEING TOURS

One doesn't just "see" Italy. A vacation in this vibrant land is a total sensory and cultural immersion. Following are just a few of the better-known city tours, usually booked at local hotels and travel agencies.

ROME

CLASSICAL ROME

Via Veneto, Palazzo Margherita, Aurelian Walls, Villa Borghese Gardens, Via Quattro Fontane, Quirinale Palace, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Castel Sant'Angelo, and St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

Aurelian Walls, Vatican City Walls, Vatican Museums (visiting the Spiral Staircase, Tapestry Gallery, Gallery of Maps, Raphael's Rooms, Sistine Chapel, Sacred Art Museum and the Vatican Library).

HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS TOUR

A daily two-hour tour with commentary in several languages. Participants can hop on and off the bus as many times as they wish within a 24-hour period at designated spots, which include the Capitol, Piazza Venezia, Roman Forum, Colosseum, Castel Sant'Angelo, and Vatican City.



FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

MORNING TOUR - CLASSIC FLORENCE

Academy Museum with the original David by Michelangelo, Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Baptistry, Giotto's Bell Tower, Ponte Vecchio, and Piazzale Michelangelo.

HALF-DAY TOUR-PISA

Cathedral, Baptistry and the Leaning Tower.

FULL DAY TOUR - SIENA, SAN GIMIGNANO

Motorcoach drive through the Chianti region to Siena and San Gimignano.



VENICE

MORNING TOUR - CITY SIGHTSEEING TOUR ON FOOT

Piazza San Marco, Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs, Piombi Dungeons.

AFTERNOON TOUR - MURANO, BURANO, TORCELLO

Panoramic cruise of the Venice Lagoon, Murano (visiting the glass factory), Burano (lace schools), Torcello (visit the Basilica).

EVENING TOUR - GONDOLA SERENADE

Tour by gondola (6 passengers per gondola) with singers and musicians.



PERFORMING ARTS

With its proud tradition in composition, performance and, of course, opera, Italy perpetually resounds to music—ancient, classical and modern. Musical events, both official and impromptu, delight locals and visitors alike. Major symphonic series and recitals are organized year-round by music conservatories, festivals and the country's legendary musical institutions, frequently featuring world-famous artists.

Among Italy's most renowned musical events are the Verona Opera Festival, held in summer and attended nightly by international crowds of over 15,000; the concert season at Teatro La Scala in Milan; the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence; the Festival Dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, and the Umbria Jazz Festival, held in various cities in Umbria.



OTHER MUSICAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Aosta: Organ Music Festival (mid-July to mid-August)

Barga (Lucca): Opera Barga (mid-July to mid-August)

Bolzano: Int'l Piano Competition Ferruccio Busoni (August)

Brescia: Piano Festival (May and June)

Catania: Performances at the Greek-Roman Theatre (June to September)

Cervo (Imperia): Chamber Music Festival (July and August)

Gardone Riviera: Performances in the open-air theater of the Vittoriale degli Italiani (July and August)

Lucca: Sacred Music Festival in major churches (April to June)

Monreale & Palermo: Sacred Musical Festival (Oct. and Nov.)

Pavia: Concerts in the Certosa (July to September)

Rome: Concerts in the Basilica of Massenzio (June to August)

Taormina: Music and drama festival (July and August)

Trieste: Operetta festival (July and August)

Urbino: Drama and art exhibitions; concerts in the Renaissance Theatre (August)

Spoletto Festival in Umbria: (June - July)

Umbria Jazz: (July)

Viterbo: Baroque Music Festival (August)

Viareggio: Festival Pucciniano (August)

For more information visit: italia.it/en/travel-ideas



SPORTS AND WELLNESS

Italy offers endless exciting opportunities for those seeking a vacation dedicated to sports and physical activity. Experience nature up close in both summer and winter, surrounded by Italy's unique landscapes and breathtaking scenery.

Combine travel with your passion for golf, cycling, rafting, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding along spectacular bridle paths, and experience an exciting variety of outdoor sports.

Well-equipped facilities will ensure that your needs are met and your expectations are exceeded. For water sports enthusiasts, Italy's countless marinas and ports, overseen by various tourist organizations, offer activities such as windsurfing, kitesurfing, swimming, sailing, motor-boating, and waterskiing.

For mountain lovers, infinite options await. Summer activities include biking, walking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting and kayaking along streams and rapids, fishing in the pristine waters of rivers and lakes, and paragliding or hang gliding over spectacular landscapes. In winter, the mountains become a paradise for skiing, snowboarding, and other winter sports.

Whatever the season, whatever your passion, Italy is the place for a sport-related vacation beyond compare!



ITALY: TERRITORY OF WELLNESS AND BEAUTY

Feeling good in Italy is easy. Why not take a holiday devoted to health, beauty and physical well-being? Italy boasts the largest number of thermal spa centers in the world, with a tradition of body and soul treatments that dates back thousands of years to ancient Rome. Our numerous natural thermal springs are renowned for their therapeutic properties and their excellent aesthetic treatments. Go back in time by visiting ancient baths that have remained intact for centuries. Their natural saunas, hidden caves surrounded by vegetation that produce hot steam with a pleasantly ferrous scent, are excellent spots for reinvigorating the body and treating the skin.

A thermal spa vacation is always revitalizing, thanks to effective treatments and a wide range of services, but most importantly, thanks to the enchanting natural landscapes in which they are located. Some of Italy's world-famous thermal spas include Saturnia, Montecatini, Bagni Vignoni, San Gimignano, Abano, Bormio, Salsomaggiore and Ischia, to name just a few. In addition, a wide array of options and treatments can be found at wellness centers in Trentino-Alto Adige, Umbria and Tuscany.

For more information visit: italia.it/en/travel-ideas



SHOPPING

SAY HELLO TO SOME GOOD BUYS

Italian goods are renowned for their quality, design and style, with every town offering unique craftsmanship. From Milan's trendy fashion designs to Como's silk and Cremona's violins, Italy is a shopper's and gift-giver's wonderland, where you will always find more than you bargained for. Popular markets include:

ROME

Porta Portese (Every Sunday)

The enormous flea market specializes in clothes, shoes, music CDs, house & kitchen wares, outdoor gear, luggage, tools and much more.

Campo de' Fiori (Mon-Sat)

The day's freshest food produce and meats are the main attraction in this exuberant Roman piazza.

FLORENCE

Piazza San Lorenzo (Daily)

Stroll this famous market specializing in clothing, souvenirs and leather goods.

Mercato Centrale (Mon-Sat)

This 2-level indoor market features fragrant cheeses and fresh meats and a kaleidoscope of vegetables and fruit.

TURIN

Porta Palazzo (Mon-Sat)

This celebrated market, one of Europe's largest, is held in the Piazza della Repubblica, highlighted by a vast selection of delectable food items.

MILAN

Fiera di Senigallia (Saturdays)

Set by Navigli's charming canals, the numerous stands contain new & used articles from the ethnic & modern to the vintage & collectible.

Mercato di Viale Papiniano (Tue & Sat)

This gigantic market hosts plenty of vendors showcasing their wares, especially clothing & shoes.

NAPLES

Mercato di Antignano (Mon-Sat)

Food, clothing & houswares await the eager shopper at this engaging marketplace, located in the Vomero district

BOLOGNA

La Piazzola (Fri & Sat)

Clothing, shoes & more are found at this labyrinthine shopper's paradise.

AREZZO

Piazza Grande (First weekend of each month)

Antique buffs will enthuse over the selections of collectible items and heirlooms.



Shopping is a typical pastime of the Italian lifestyle and also a genuine occasion to socialize and meet friends. If you are looking for great deals, you can wander through Italy’s charming “mercatini,” where you can find great bargains on items ranging from leather goods to antique furniture. Two of the most popular markets are the Porta Portese in Rome and the San Lorenzo market in Florence. If you intend to splurge on a once-in-a-lifetime shopping experience, drift into one of the many “gioiellerie” and choose from a wide selection of unique and beautiful jewelry. To guarantee that you bring home the correct size of your fabulous Italian purchases, use the size-conversion chart below.

Women’s dresses, coats and skirts Italian American	38 6	40 8	42 10	44 12	46 14	48 16	50 18	
Women’s shoes Italian American	36 5	37 6	38 7	39 8	40 9	41 10		
Men’s suits Italian American	44 34	46 36	48 38	50 40	52 42	54 44	56 46	
Men’s shirts Italian American	36 14	38 15	39 15.5	41 16	42 16.5	43 17	44 17.5	45 18
Men’s shoes Italian American	39 7	40 7.5	41 8	42 8.5	43 9.5	44 10.5	45 11	46 11.5

Italy's fashion industry is famous worldwide. It's no surprise that a country with such a proud artistic heritage has produced renowned designers who are at the forefront of fashion and style.

Whether you are looking for great handbags, shoes, gloves or belts, you will find top-quality leather goods in Italy's fine leather stores and markets. The most famous include Via Montenapoleone in Milan, Via Tornabuoni in Florence, and Via Condotti in Rome, legendary shopping meccas that offer prime targets for the "fashionista." Many other cities throughout Italy offer the same high quality and sophistication. Stroll Italy's elegant and stylish streets and check out the season's latest fashion trends even before they hit the runways.



GENERAL INFORMATION

MODES OF TRAVEL

Italy is easy to reach. It offers excellent air links with the rest of the world, as well as many routes by train, by sea, or by Europe's extensive motorway network. Once you arrive, travel within Italy is simple. All the main cities are connected with frequent daily flights. The rail network is spread over more than 15,000 kilometres, offering uniform coverage throughout the country. Traveling by car is more convenient still, with a dense network of motorways, dual carriageways and trunk roads that allow visitors to reach any location in the country simply and rapidly. Italy's islands are accessible by regular ferry services from towns and cities along the mainland coast.

BY PLANE

International flights connect with almost all of Italy's numerous airports, although the primary entry points for intercontinental and international arrivals are "Leonardo da Vinci" (Rome Fiumicino) and "Malpensa" (Milan). A wide range of flights are available from both traditional and low-cost airlines, covering a vast array of destinations. Airports are serviced by a dense network of taxis, buses and trains, which allow visitors to reach their final destinations with ease. Consult the websites of the following regular and low-cost airlines for further information on routes, flight times, pricing and availability:

Alitalia- alitalia.com Air Italy- airitaly.com

Delta- delta.com United- united.com

American Airlines- aa.com Emirates- emirates.com

Norwegian- norwegian.com Easy Jet- easyjet.com

Ryanair- ryanair.com Airdolomiti- airdolomiti.it

Air Valle- airvallee.com

BY SHIP

Italy is surrounded by water. Those who love traveling by sea can arrive via national and international passenger ships and ferries that link to the world's main ports. Its numerous islands offer visitors incredible experiences as they explore each island's unique history and natural beauty. Larger islands of historical interest include Sicily or Sardinia, while smaller islands such as Capri or Ponza offer fascinating exotic settings to explore. All of Italy's islands are connected to the mainland by ferries that run year-round, and many allow you to bring your car. Below is a list of the main ferry companies serving Italy:

Alilauro- alilauro.it

Blue Star Ferries- bluestarferries.com

Fragline Ferries- ferries.gr/fragline

Grandi Navi Veloci- gnv.it/en

Grimaldi Lines- www.grimaldi-lines.com

Jadrolinija Lines- jadrolinija.hr/en

Moby Lines- moby.it

Snav- snav.it

Superfast Ferries- superfast.com

Tirrenia- en.tirrenia.it

Visitors can also use the ferries to navigate Italy's northern lakes such as Lake Como, Lake Garda and Lake Maggiore. For more information and scheduling details visit navigazionelaghi.it



BY CAR

The extensive European motorway network makes it easy to come to Italy by car or by motorbike from Austria, France, Switzerland and Slovenia. The main mountain passes, open all year, are the Mont Blanc Tunnel, which from Chamonix links France to the A5 motorway for Turin and Milan; the Great St. Bernard Tunnel, which links Switzerland with the A5; and the Brenner Pass through Austria, which links with the A22 motorway for Bologna. The alpine tunnels may often be closed during winter, and sometimes even in autumn and spring, as a result of heavy snow. For further information check autostrade.it

BY TRAIN

Traveling by train in Italy will never lose its particular charm. Frequent daily train service connects the country to major towns and cities in Austria, Germany, France and Eastern Europe. Both daytime and overnight services between Italy and the rest of Europe are known for their high quality, speed, and comfort. It is advisable (and in some cases compulsory) to book a seat. Some international rail companies also offer the opportunity for visitors to transport their own motor vehicle. For further information visit trenitalia.com or italotreno.it

BY BUS

Many comfortable coach services take passengers over the alpine borders into Italy. The Eurolines consortium, which gathers together the main European coach companies, has information offices in Italy's main towns and cities, and offers services departing from over 30 locations throughout Italy. These coaches offer all the services and facilities necessary for a comfortable journey, and of course offer services to and from the major cities such as Milan, Rome and Florence. For additional information, it may be useful to consult the website busweb.it, for a detailed list of the scheduled coach services operating in approximately 30 European countries. For more information please visit italia.it/en/useful-info

BY MOTORBIKE

Italy is the ideal destination for motorbike tours. In the summer, the country's roads fill up with bikers attracted by the breathtaking scenery offered by coastal stretches, rolling hills and tree-lined roads through the mountains. A wide array of routes is offered by both public and private organizations for motorcyclists to explore the country from north to south, from the sea to the mountains. Bikers may also have access to some limited traffic areas in major cities. Safety helmets are mandatory.

BY BIKE

Amateur cyclists and cycle tourists will find Italy a wonderful place to explore. Cycle your entire route, or create a unique itinerary—bicycles can be loaded onto all trains displaying the appropriate bicycle logo. For information, visit: trenitalia.com The cheapest way to travel is to purchase a separate ticket for your bicycle; tickets are also available from automatic ticket machines and are valid for 24 hours from the time of issue. Visitors who choose to take a trip to any of the major or minor islands will find it even easier to take their bicycle with them, as all ferries and ships carry bicycles free of charge.

ASSISTANCE

Drivers who find themselves in emergency situations are guaranteed 24-hour assistance from ACI, the Italian Automobile Club, a federation that groups together the 106 Provincial automobile clubs set up to represent and protect the interests of drivers in Italy. You can call 803.116 from any phone, or visit the official website aci.it. The radio also offers information on traffic conditions. The three national "RAI" radio stations transmit the "Onda Verde" traffic news about every 30 minutes.



DOCUMENTS

What documents are required to enter Italy?

U.S. Citizens do not need a visa to travel to Italy for a stay up to 90 days. All you require is a valid U.S. passport. The passport must also be valid for at least 6 months from your date of return.

European Citizens whose country is under the authority of the Schengen Treaty may enter Italy with nothing more than a valid identity card or passport.

Citizens from all other countries must show their passports at the border. A visa is required, indicating the length of the holder's stay at his or her destination. Visa applications specifying the reason for the trip must be made at the Italian Consulate in the applicant's country of residence and are generally issued 90 days after the application has been made. Once visitors arrive in Italy, those who will not be staying in a hotel or similar accommodation facility must register with the local police headquarters within eight days of their arrival in the country.

EMBASSIES

Italy's capital, Rome, hosts the embassies of over 200 countries. Embassies can provide information on their country's cultural events and initiatives that take place in Italy, on business opportunities, and on the procedures for working in Italy or obtaining authorization to teach. Below are the details of the American Embassy in Rome.

A complete list of embassies can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ROME

Via Vittorio Veneto, 121

00187 - Roma RM, Italy

Tel. +39.06/46741

Website: it.usembassy.gov



ACCOMODATIONS

HOTELS

Italy's 32,000 hotels are classified into six categories: 5-Star Deluxe, 5-Star, 4-Star, 3 Star, 2-Star and 1-Star. Most quote all-inclusive rates, including taxes and service.

BED AND BREAKFAST

A Bed and Breakfast is an officially recognized guest room in a private home. Comprehensive listings of Bed and Breakfasts and B&B home-stays can be found by visiting anbba.it

ALPINE HUTS

The Club Alpino Italiano owns nearly 600 huts in the mountain districts and publishes a yearly book with a map and information on access, equipment and rates. For more information visit cai.it

YOUTH HOSTELS

The Italian Youth Hostels Association (Associazione Italiana Alberghi per la Gioventu' or AIG) operates over 50 hostels throughout Italy. For more information visit aighostels.it

AGRI-TOURISM

For those seeking holidays in harmony with nature, rural cottages and farmhouses are available for vacation rental. For information, contact Agritulist at agriturist.it

CAMPING

Camping is very popular in Italy, with over 1,700 official sites. Nominal fees are charged per person on a daily basis. Full details on the official camping sites in Italy are provided in the publication *Campeggi in Italia*, published by the Touring Club Italiano. For a complete guide visit campeggi.com

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

For listings of convents, monasteries and other religious institutions, please contact the regional tourist office or your local church.



CURRENCY

Italy has used the euro since 2001. One euro is divided into 100 euro-cents. There are eight different coins (1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 euro-cents) and seven notes (5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros).

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are a common payment system in Italian shops, which generally display the symbols of the credit cards they accept on the outside door. If you pay by credit card you will be asked to show an identity document.

ATM

Using your ATM card is the easiest and most convenient way to get cash when needed. Just make sure that your card has logos on the back reading NYSE – MAESTRO and PLUS or CIRRUS, and that your PIN code is numeric only. Check with your bank for restrictions and fees.

ELECTRICITY AND WATER

How does the electrical system work in Italy?

In Italy, the electrical current is 220 volts AC (50 Hz). Electrical sockets comply with European regulations. In most hotels you will find adaptors for different types of plugs.

Is tapwater drinkable in Italy?

The supply of drinking water is guaranteed throughout Italy. The water from taps and fountains is checked regularly, and is perfectly safe to drink unless there is a notice indicating otherwise.

ACCESSIBILITY

Over the course of the last century, tourism has become a primary social need. Italy's tourism industry recognizes that it is essential to grant access to tourist experiences to all citizens and visitors, regardless of their personal, social, economic, or any other condition. To help plan your trip, please visit accessibleitaly.com



MUSEUMS - BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE

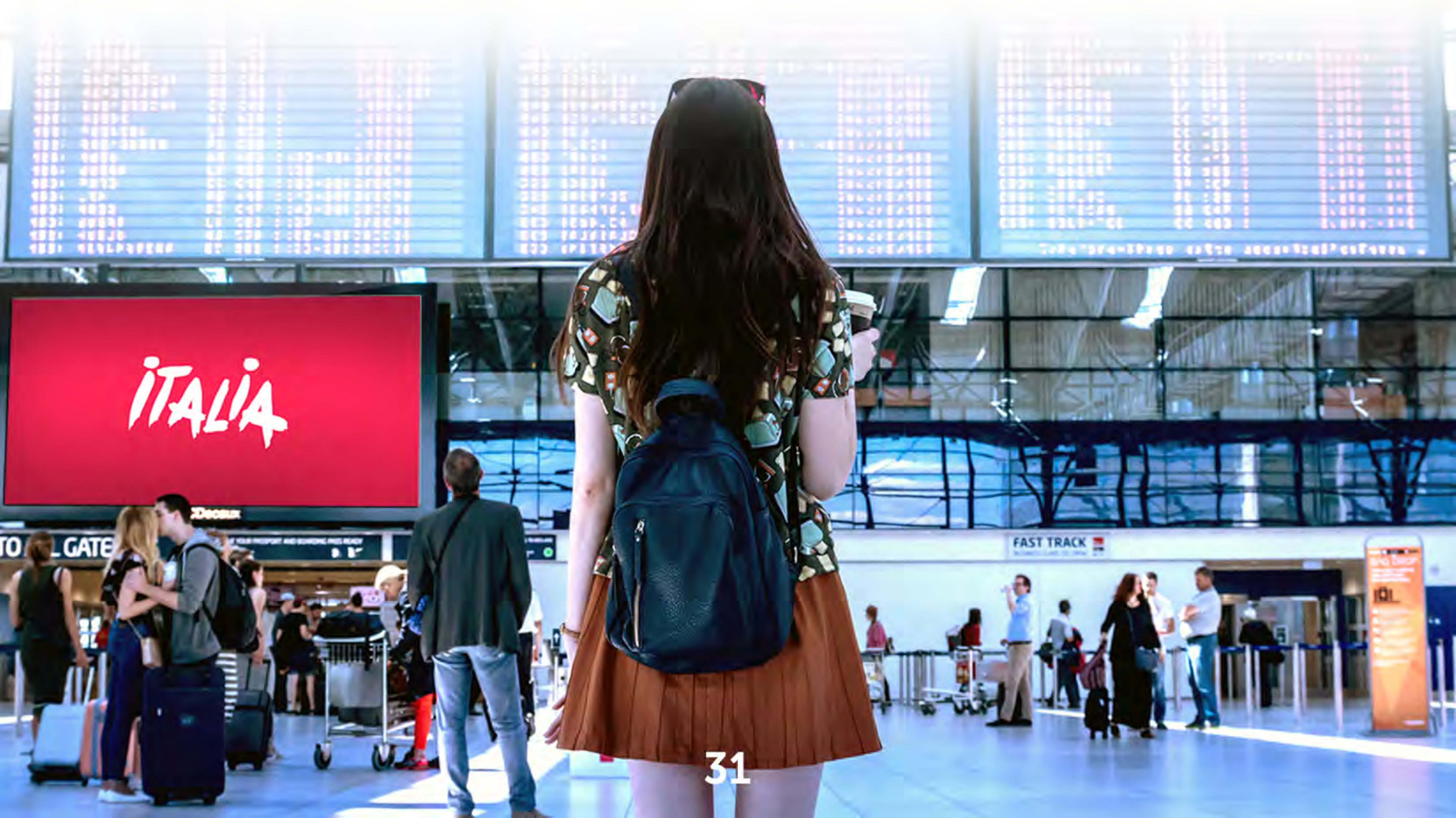
Enjoying Italy's cultural heritage has never been easier. From the Colosseum to the Uffizi Gallery, from Pompeii to Leonardo's Last Supper, from the Savoy Residences to the Galleria dell' Accademia in Venice, you can buy tickets to the most popular Italian cultural experiences online. Use online ticket booking and purchasing services to access the entire national artistic system, choosing the products best suited to your needs directly from your smartphone or PC. Please visit the web pages of the museum centers and related service agencies in order to access the online booking facilities found at italia.it/en/useful-info



TIPS FOR TOURISTS

As in any country, in Italy it is helpful to keep in mind a few basic precautions to ensure smooth and enjoyable travel. Use our checklist and rest easy when visiting the *Bel Paese*.

1. **Buy all tickets for travel and transport from authorized vendors only.** Purchasing tickets online sometimes guarantees extra promotions and/or discounts.
2. **Ride in authorized taxis only,** marked by official signs and identification. Ask for the driver's cost estimate for your route in advance, read rules and regulations posted inside the taxi, and keep an eye on the cab's meter from the beginning to the end of your journey. Remember that any transport of baggage usually guarantees the first bag free of charge. Always ask for an official receipt for the price you pay.
3. **Check and double-check map locations** for your lodging and general area of touristic interest. Be aware of distances from airports/stations and your chosen lodging. Stay informed about lodging prices and finer details when booking and checking out.
4. **When possible, always pay with traceable instruments** (debit, credit card, travelers' checks and even your smartphone), but be sure to have cash on hand for places that do not accept cards or electronic payments.
5. **Always exercise your right to ask for receipts** upon payment, and pay attention to charges. Look for official government signs on the receipt (vendors might attempt to pass off unofficial pieces of printed paper as receipts, to avoid paying taxes).
6. **Seek out information points** that offer maps, advice and other help in any city you visit.



7. **Know opening hours** and terms of entry in the museums, galleries, churches and archaeological sites you want to see (many monuments and institutions are closed on certain holidays, while many allow free entry to European citizens under 18 or over 65).

8. **Do not purchase tickets** of entry to museums or archaeological sites from unauthorized sellers or persons without official tour guide accreditation, and do not trust promises to advance your place in line. Remember that access to public spaces is always free.

9. **Don't flash valuables** on the street, and get away as quickly as possible from groups or individuals trying to distract you by asking for information or money.

10. **Keep all personal effects in a safe place** (documents, telephones, computers and other devices), and do not entrust them to strangers.

11. **In restaurants, pizzerias, fast food and take-away establishments**, always look at the menu with prices, remembering that table service usually costs more than counter service or take-away. Restaurateurs are obligated to exhibit all costs for both service and menu items.

12. **Except in some cases, bathroom use is free** in bars and restaurants. Some establishments may ask for a purchase. Railway and bus stations often require coins for payment.

13. **The water in public fountains is drinkable**, unless otherwise indicated, and a glass of tap water at the bar is always free.

14. **Anytime you have a bad sense about your surroundings**, are confronted with danger, or your rights as a person are not respected, advise local authorities immediately.

Follow these simple suggestions and your stay can be much more enjoyable!



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