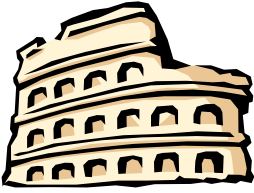


# ITALY FACT SHEET



**DOCUMENTS:** A visa is not required for U.S. citizens holding a valid U.S. passport for stays up to 90 days. Other nationalities should notify the group organizer immediately. It is the individual's responsibility to obtain any required visas or travel documents.

**CURRENCY:** The monetary currency of Italy and member European Union countries is the Euro (€). See separate sheet with pictures of bills and coins. U.S. currency can be exchanged at any bank, hotel, or exchange office (L'Ufficio de Cambio). However, you will receive better rates at banks. ATMs are available throughout Italy, and operate just like in the U.S.; local currency is dispensed. This is probably the safest and most convenient means, as you will not need to carry a lot of currency or travelers checks on your person and ATMs operate 24/7. Travelers checks are **NOT** recommended due to their high risk of counterfeiting. Check the Internet, Wall St. Journal or the business section of your local newspaper for current exchange rates.

Banks in Italy are usually open Monday through Friday from 8:35 a.m. to 1:35 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.; in many tourist areas they are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed all day on Saturday and Sunday and on national holidays. The afternoon one hour opening may vary from city to city.

**WEATHER:** The average April monthly hi/lo temperatures are: Assisi 63°/43°, Catania 69°/48°, Bari 65°/47°, Florence 66°/47°, Milan 65°/46°, Palermo 67°/54°, Rome 67°/47°, Sorrento 66°/49°, and Venice 63°/47°.

**TIME:** GMT+1 hour CET (Central European Time) and GMT+2 hours CEST (Central European Summer Time)... six hours ahead of Eastern Standard/Daylight Time. Italy uses the 24-hour clock.

**ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES:** The electrical current in Italy is 220V, 50 Hz, AC.

To use U.S. electrical appliances in Italy you should bring both a converter and a plug adapter. Wall outlets have continental-type pugs with two round prongs. A travel converter kit including adapters can be purchased at most electronic and department stores.



**WHAT TO WEAR:** Generally speaking, the clothes worn in Connecticut can be worn in Italy in the same season. See temperatures above. To enter St. Peter's Basilica, other basilicas, cathedrals and most churches, shoulders and knees must be covered; no shorts are allowed. Remember to bring comfortable walking shoes, dress in layers, a light raincoat and/or umbrella is always a good idea.

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 telephone directory under Tintorie (cleaning and pressing) and Lavanderie (laundry).

**AMERICAN EMBASSY:** ROME - United States Embassy, Via Vittorio Veneto, 119/A - 00187 Rome; Tel: +39 06 46741; Fax: +39 06 46742217.

**TAXIS:** Taxi service is readily available throughout the country. Rates are comparable to those charged in U.S. cities. There is an extra night rate between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. as well as on Sundays and holidays between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Most taxis are metered; when using an unmetered taxi, it is advisable to establish the fare beforehand with the driver. Taxis are called "tassi".

**RESTAURANTS:** There are many excellent restaurants of international fame throughout Italy and an infinite number of "trattorie", "rosticcerie", "pizzerie" and "ristorante-selfservice" where excellent meals may be obtained at moderate prices. The main meals are served between noon and 3:00 p.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Service charges "coperto e servizi" are added to your bill, and vary from 12% to 18%. Unlike in the U.S. where you order all your courses at once, in Italy, you order course-by-course... first plate is usually pasta, second is usually meat followed by a salad to cleanse the palate and finally dessert "dolci"... so if you're full after your pasta your done. And remember, you won't be rushed out of the restaurant, you must ask for your check "Il conto, per favore."

**SHOPPING:** Although, shops are normally open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or 8 p.m., in large cities and tourist areas there is a tendency to stay open from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. with possible variations from town to town. Department stores such as Coin, and Upim are found in many Italian cities and are open from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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. Be sure to ask our tour director or local guide what the local specialties are.

**HEALTH SERVICE:** Italy has no medical program covering U.S. citizens. Therefore, U.S. 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, railway stations and in all hospitals. Medicines can be obtained only from the pharmacy (farmacia) whether they are prescription or over the counter.

**VACCINATIONS:** No vaccinations are required to enter Italy or to reenter the U.S. It is always a good idea, however, to consult your physician regarding your personal health needs whenever traveling internationally.

**ITALIAN CUSTOMS REGULATIONS:** See the Italian Government Tourist Board - North America Travel Tips and Regulations at [www.italiantourism.com/regulat.html](http://www.italiantourism.com/regulat.html).

**U.S. CUSTOMS REGULATIONS:** See the Know Before You Go Brochure at:

[www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go](http://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go).

In general, U.S. residents who have been out of the country for at least 48 hours may bring home, for personal use, \$800 worth of foreign goods duty-free and 1 liter of alcoholic beverages.

