Discovering
The Italian Lakes

Italy is a country renowned for its rich history, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture. From the ancient ruins of Rome to the romantic canals of Venice, every corner of Italy is steeped in history and beauty.

The country is famous for its art, architecture, and world-class museums, with Florence serving as the birthplace of the Renaissance. Italy's diverse regions each offer their own unique charm, from the rolling hills and vineyards of Tuscany to the glamorous coastline of the Amalfi Coast.

Italian cuisine is beloved worldwide, with each region offering distinct flavours, from pasta and pizza to fresh seafood and decadent desserts like gelato and tiramisu. The culture emphasizes family, tradition, and passion for life, seen in everything from the vibrant festivals to the lively street markets. Whether exploring bustling cities, charming villages, or scenic lakes, Italy promises an unforgettable travel experience that captivates all who visit.



Please note: the distance between the Italian Lakes ranges from 100 to 250 km, which means transfer times can vary from 1 to 3 hours depending on your route.

Visa Process

You can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, which includes Italy, for up to 90 days for tourism.

Credit Cards

Most businesses in Italy are required to accept credit cards, including smaller shops, hotels, taxis, and cafes

Currency

Italy uses the Euro (€). Credit and debit cards are widely accepted, but it's advisable to carry some cash for small purchases and in more remote areas. Overall, it is simpler and recommended to pay by card.

Dining

Italian food is renowned for its rich flavours, fresh ingredients, and regional diversity. From pasta and pizza to gelato and espresso, each dish reflects the country's cultural heritage.

Simple yet delicious, Italian cuisine emphasizes quality produce, olive oil, and local specialties, making it a culinary experience like no other. Drinking tap water is generally considered safe but bottled water is available if you'd prefer.

Avoid drinking the water from fountains in cities as this tends to be recycled.

Check in Process

Have your passport or a valid form of identification ready for check-in. Check-in is usually from 3pm local time.

Pharmacies

Are open from Monday to Saturday from 9 AM to 7 PM. They may be closed on Sundays, so if you need specific medications, we recommend planning ahead on Saturday or Friday

Cultural Norms

Italy is a country rich in tradition, where family, food, and relationships are central to daily life. Italians greet with a kiss on each cheek, starting with the left (il bacetto), and commonly say Buongiorno or Buonasera. Known for their warmth and expressiveness, Italians engage in lively conversations with gestures.

Transport

Public Transportation: Italy offers an extensive and efficient public transport system, including buses, trams, and metros, especially in major cities. It's often a more affordable and reliable option than taxis.

Lake Travel: For exploring the stunning Lake Como, Lake Garda, and Lake Maggiore, ferries and boats provide a scenic and convenient way to hop between towns, adding a unique touch to your journey.

Uber: Uber is available only in select cities, and only Uber Black can be used—this means higher prices, nicer vehicles, and longer wait times.

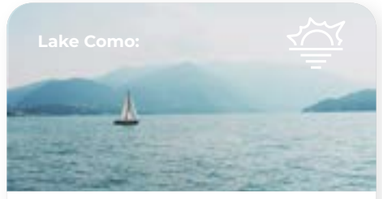
During the summer months of July and August, daytime temperatures typically range from 30°C to 35°C on average. However, higher peaks, around 37°C are not uncommon during heatwaves. Nights tend to be cooler, with temperatures usually around 18°C to 20°C.



Summer Average **25-29°C** Winter Average **15-20°C**



Summer Average **22-28°C** Winter Average **5-10°C**



Summer Average **23-27°C** Winter Average **4-8°C**

Plug Sockets

For Italy there are three associated plug types, types C, F and L. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins, plug type F is the plug which has two earth clips on the side and plug type L is the plug type which has three round pins.

Language

Italian is the official language but English is commonly spoken in tourist areas.

Gratuities

It is customary to tip your tour manager or guides and drivers €12 per person per day for the service they provide throughout your tour. Tipping in restaurants or cafes is not mandatory but suggested as a gesture of appreciation for good service.





Lake Como

Lake Como, known for its dramatic scenery, is surrounded by mountains and charming villages. It's a popular retreat for celebrities and offers luxurious villas and gardens.

Emergency

Dial 112 for police, fire, or medical assistance. Emergency services are efficient and easily accessible if needed. For emergencies, ambulance services are always free, while emergency room care depends on your insurance coverage. Keep a copy of your passport and important documents in a safe place and have the contact details of the nearest British embassy or consulate.



Lake Maggiore

Located just south of the Alps, this is the second-largest lake in Italy and extends into Switzerland. It's characterised by its colourful fishing villages, the tiny Borromean Islands off its south-western shore and the delicious cuisine found in the villages around it. Blessed with a mild climate all year round, the surrounding landscapes burst with a mesmerising array of Mediterranean vegetation and exotic plants.

Bernina Express

The Bernina Red Train does not request a dress code on board. For the winter and early spring, we would recommend warm clothing as the weather can often be very cold and snowy.



Lake Garda

Lake Garda, the largest lake in Italy, is located between the regions of Lombardy, Veneto, and Trentino-Alto Adige. Known for its diverse landscape.



What to pack

Essentials:

Passport & Visa: Ensure you have your passport, visa, and any necessary travel documents.
Travel Insurance: Always a good idea for unexpected situations.
Money: Cash (especially small denominations) and credit/debit cards.
Health Kit: Any prescription medications, over-the-counter medicines (Ensure that you travel with these in your hand luggage)

Clothing:

In Italy, air conditioning is typically used sparingly and set to moderate temperatures. Heating is usually only available during the designated winter months, so it may not be operational in October and April/May.
For a cosy stay during these cooler periods, we recommend packing warm pyjamas or extra layers. Be sure to also bring lightweight clothing, a hat, and comfortable walking shoes for exploring

Italy in style and comfort.

Personal Items:

Toiletries: Basic items like toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and any specific personal items you use.
Sunscreen & Sunglasses.
Insect Repellent: Especially important in rural or tropical areas.

Electronics:

Phone & Charger: With a local SIM card, you can have better connectivity and avoid high roaming charges.
Camera: To capture your travels (with extra memory cards and batteries).

Other Useful Items:

Small Backpack/Daypack: For day trips and carrying essentials.
Hand Sanitiser: For cleanliness on the go.

