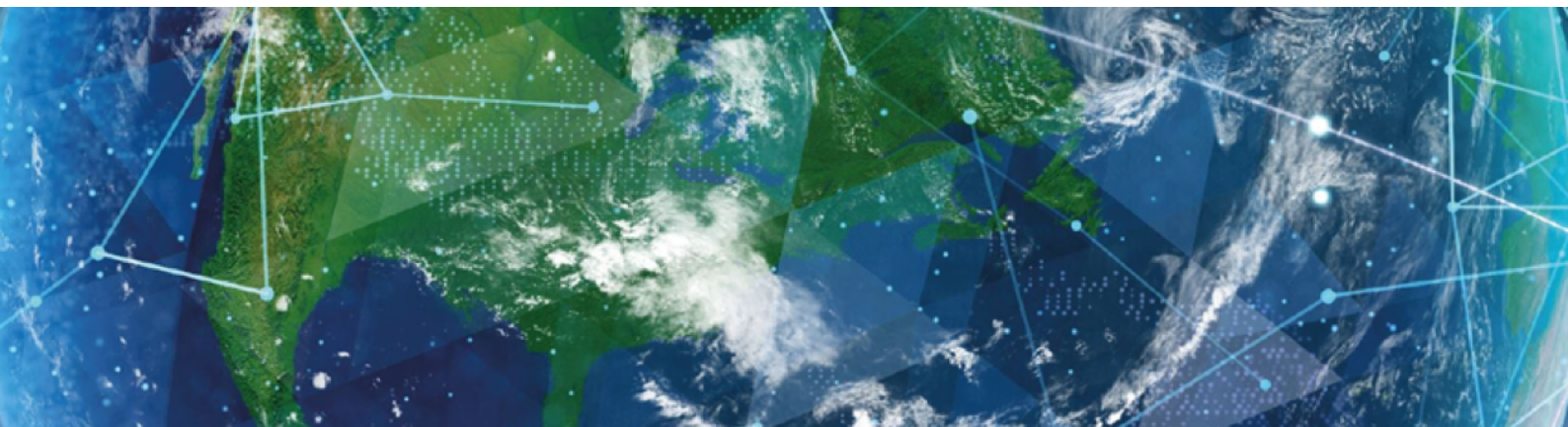


Country Travel Advice Report

Italy

Overall Risk Rating: **Low | 2.00**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

Country Overall Risk Rating				Low 2.00	
Security	Environmental	Infrastructural	Political	Medical	
Low 2.00	Low 2.00	Low - Moderate 2.50	Low 2.25	Moderate 3.25	

Country Overview

Low | 2.00

The Italian Republic is located in Southern Europe. It includes the two largest islands of the Mediterranean Sea, Sicily and Sardinia. Italy is a stable democracy and is generally safe for work and travel, although demonstrations are frequently held in response to social frustrations and can occasionally escalate into localized violence. Labor strikes often take place and are usually well publicized ahead of time. The Italian economy is the fourth largest in Europe and considered to be strong, although the country suffers from rising public debt and unemployment. Additionally, southern Italy remains economically weaker than the prosperous north. Islamist terrorism is a concern, and authorities have broken up several recruitment cells. Violent crime is not very common, but petty crime, such as pickpocketing or bag-snatching is frequently reported, especially in cities. Businesses should note that organized criminal networks have a huge presence in the economy, especially in the southern regions such as Sicily, although their activities are unlikely to impact tourists and travelers.

Security

Low | 2.00

Overview

The biggest threat to foreign travelers is from petty and opportunistic theft, particularly in major cities such as Naples and Rome. Scams are commonplace, and foreigners or tourists are often specifically targeted. There is growing concern over the threat from the Islamic State (IS), and counterterrorism efforts have resulted in the arrest of numerous individuals and the foiling of various plots. Unrest occurs periodically over various socioeconomic and political issues. Protests are typically of a low level and peaceful but have the potential to escalate into violence.

Political

Low | 2.25

Overview

The political situation in Italy is generally stable, although constitutional government turnovers are common. A degree of political instability persisted following an inconclusive election in March 2018; as of Feb. 8 2022, Prime Minister Mario Draghi leads a broad coalition government supported by the majority of major Italian political parties. Corruption can be a problem, especially in the south, although overall levels are generally low by international standards. The Italian police are well equipped, well trained, and generally very efficient.

Infrastructural

Low - Moderate | 2.50

Overview

There are no significant concerns in Italy over air travel.

Utilities are generally good.

Roads and highways are of good quality and well maintained with extensive lighting, except for in more remote areas. However, there have been significant concerns over some of the country's infrastructure since the Morandi bridge tragedy in August 2018, in which 43 people died. It was the fifth bridge collapse in five years in Italy. The WEF ranked Italy as 18th out of 141 countries for overall quality of infrastructure in 2019. Italians often drive aggressively and at high speeds.

There is growing concern over cyberattacks targeting government or business interests.

Environmental

Low | 2.00

Overview

Earthquakes occur occasionally, particularly in the central and southern regions. Major quakes can be deadly. Heavy rainfall and associated flooding and mudslides can occur from September to November, often disrupting travel and essential services. There are several volcanoes throughout the country, both active and dormant.

Medical

Moderate | 3.25

Overview

The most common travel-related ailment is travelers' diarrhea. Medical facilities are available throughout the country and are of good quality in major cities. Facilities may be limited outside urban areas. Pharmacies are generally well stocked. Tap water is safe to drink.

Fact Box

Government Type	Parliamentary Republic
Population	60,802,085 (2015)
Currency	EURO
Languages	Italian (official), Some parts of the Trentino-Alto Adige region are predominantly German speaking, There is a French-speaking minority in Valle d'Aosta region, There is a Slovene-speaking minority in Trieste-Gorizia area
Time Zone	UTC+1
Religions	Christian (predominantly Roman Catholic with very small groups of Jehovah's Witnesses and Protestants), atheist and agnostic 20%, Other, includes Muslim 1%.
Traffic	Drives on the right
Plug Types	Type C, Type F, Type L
Ethnicities	Italian, with small clusters of German-, French-, and Slovene-Italians in the north, and Albanian- and Greek-Italians in the south
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink
Additional Information	<p>Significant Dates (2020):</p> <p>January 1 - New Years Day January 6 - Epiphany April 12 - Easter Day April 13 - Easter Monday April 25 - Liberation Day May 1 - Labour Day June 2 - National Day August 15 - Assumption Day November 1 - All Saints' Day December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 25 - Christmas Day December 26 - Saint Stephen's Day</p>
International Country Code	+39

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travellers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine.

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers may require vaccines from:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Rabies

Pre-departure

- Travellers should provide friends and family a copy of travel itinerary, and make a copy of important travel and identification documents. Travellers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from country.

On Arrival

- There are no significant measures to undertake when arriving in country.

In Transit

- Public transport is generally safe, and self-driving may be conducted.

At Your Hotel

- There are no extraneous measures that should be undertaken at the hotel.

In the Street

- Crime rates represent the primary concern and travellers may be targeted by opportunistic theft. Travellers should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to environment. Do not display money, jewellery or valuables and keep a low profile.
- Travellers should settle small bills with cash, and have a spare credit card available. Travellers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on your person. Reduce the contents of your wallet or bag contents, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts.
- Travellers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travellers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and of walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travellers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations and tourist locations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. Travellers should also be aware of people loitering, and also that attackers may first pass their victim to attack from behind.
- Travellers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by, do not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers.
- Travellers should note that illegal traders operate on the streets of all major Italian cities, particularly tourist cities like Florence, Venice and Rome. Those buying from such traders may be stopped by the local police and fined.
- Homosexuality is legal and accepted in major cities. However, many Italians are more conservative. Overt displays of affection by LGBT+ couples can attract a negative response, especially in smaller towns.

- Travellers should be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by authorities. Travellers should ask permission before taking pictures of locals, especially women.
- Demonstrations and protests occur periodically. Travellers should avoid demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may attract security forces and law enforcement officers and present a dynamic and volatile environment. Travellers should also be advised that such incidents disrupt local transport networks.

COVID-19 Information

Total Cases (ECDC) (Updated on Monday): 16,096,413

Weekly percentage increase in cases:2.45%

Travel Restrictions: Internal Restrictions Authorities in Italy have eased domestic measures imposed to combat the spread of COVID-19 as of April 1. The COVID-19-related state of emergency has been lifted and the green pass requirements have been eased.

From April 1-30, a Super Green Pass certifying the holder has been vaccinated against or recovered from COVID-19 is required to access fewer facilities. Super Green Passes remain mandatory for access to health and social care facilities, cinemas and theaters, indoor fitness facilities, indoor dining, and nightclubs. A Basic Green Pass, which can also be obtained by individuals who have recently tested negative for COVID-19, is mandatory for flights, ferries, interregional trains and coaches, and outdoor events. No form of Green Pass is required for use of local public transport services or outdoor dining. Facemasks remain mandatory for indoor public spaces and on public transport.

Authorities in Italy are mandating COVID-19 vaccination for all citizens and residents ages 50 and older as of Jan. 6. Additionally, starting Feb. 15, all employees over the age of 50 will need to be vaccinated to access their workplace; taking a COVID-19 test will no longer be an option. Persons over the age of 50 who are not vaccinated may be fined EUR 100 (USD 110) starting Feb. 1, while those over 50 who arrive at work without a reinforced Green Pass will be subject to a fine of between EUR 600 and EUR 1,500 (USD 680-1700) from Feb. 15. The measures will be in place until at least June 15. Furthermore, starting Jan. 10, a reinforced Green Pass will be required to participate in additional activities and to access certain services and modes of transport, including local and regional public transport. A reinforced Green Pass indicates the holder has been vaccinated against or has recovered from COVID-19.

Authorities have extended the country's COVID-19-related state of emergency and associated measures until March 31. A reinforced Green Pass is needed to access indoor catering, nightclubs, and mass events. To view additional details regarding the Green Pass, [click here](#).

Officials classify domestic regions according to a color-coded COVID-19 tracking system. The tracking system consists of four color-coded levels - red, orange, yellow, and white - in order of decreasing infection risk. Officials designate each region at one of the four levels based on the local infection rate, hospitalizations, and intensive care unit occupancy, with local restrictions imposed accordingly. Individuals must observe social distancing. Wearing a facemask is necessary in indoor public spaces, including in stores and shopping centers; individuals may remove their facemask once seated in a catering establishment. The reinforced Green Pass is required to access additional facilities in regions classified as yellow or orange. To view a list of regions by color classification and applicable restrictive measures, [click here](#).

International Travel Restrictions As of March 2, eased COVID-19-related entry requirements are in effect in Italy. Entry is permitted from all countries and quarantine requirements have been lifted for unvaccinated travelers provided they can show a negative COVID-19 test. All travelers arriving in Italy must possess either a certificate of vaccination, a certificate of recovery dating from within six months prior to arrival, or a negative result from either a PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before departure or a rapid antigen test taken no more than 48 hours before departure for the country. Travelers not meeting these requirements must self-isolate for five days upon entry, inform the regional health authority, and take another test at the end of the isolation period.

Except for those entering from San Marino and Vatican City, all permitted incoming travelers must fill out a digital passenger locator form before arrival; to access the form, [click here](#). Additionally, transport and health workers in transit through Italy and those staying in Italy for less than 120 hours for work reasons are exempt from testing and isolation requirements.

Additional Information: <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=5412&area=nuovoCoronavirus&menu=vuoto>

Threat Scale Reference

Threat Rating	Implication
1 - Negligible	The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel.
2 – Low	The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations.
3 – Moderate	The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations.
4 – High	The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning.
5 – Extreme	The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures.

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