



ITALY



www.JourneysClub.ca

ITALY

Whatever your muse—good wine, delectable cuisine, enchanting landscapes or inspirational art and architecture—you can find it in Italy. Visit Roman ruins, explore the canals of Venice or experience a renaissance of your own in Florence. Wherever you wander, you can be sure that a journey to this culturally rich Mediterranean country won't soon be forgotten.

HISTORY

Italian history dates back thousands of years, culminating in the formation of the Roman republic in 509 B.C. This budding democracy soon enveloped the known world and laid the foundation for our modern systems of law, city planning, engineering and centralized government. Following the fall of Rome and the dismal Dark Ages, the loose affiliation of city-states that would eventually become Italy became an important trade conduit for the rest of Europe.

The stars aligned in the fifteenth century, marking the return of the papacy to Rome and the flourishing of the Italian Renaissance. Centered in Florence, this period of renewed appreciation for art, literature, music, ingenuity and philosophy sparked a cultural revolution that inspired the world.

FAST

FACTS

Capital

Population

Language

Currency

Time Zone

Electricity

Rome

60 million

Italian

Euro (EUR)

EST plus 6 hours

230V, 50Hz



A BA CB EC FE G F I G J I K J L K M L M

D D

ITALY CONTINUED

HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>January-February</i> | <i>Venice Carnival</i> |
| <i>January 6</i> | <i>Epiphany</i> |
| <i>February</i> | <i>Almond Blossom Festival (Agrigento)</i> |
| <i>March</i> | <i>Rome Marathon</i> |
| <i>March 19</i> | <i>Festival of St. Joseph</i> |
| <i>March 21</i> | <i>Good Friday Processions</i> |
| <i>April-June</i> | <i>Florence Music Festival</i> |
| <i>April 25</i> | <i>Liberation Day</i> |
| <i>May</i> | <i>Sardinian Cavalcade (Sassari)</i> |
| <i>May 10-20</i> | <i>World Festival on the Beach (Palermo)</i> |
| <i>May 13-31</i> | <i>May Antique Fair (Rome)</i> |
| <i>May 17</i> | <i>Marriage to the Sea Festival (Venice)</i> |
| <i>May/June</i> | <i>Regatta of the Great Maritime Republics (Pisa)</i> |
| <i>June</i> | <i>Music & Drama Outdoors (Taormina)</i> |
| <i>June</i> | <i>Genzano Flower Festival</i> |
| <i>June</i> | <i>Battle of the Bridge (Pisa)</i> |
| <i>June 29-July 15</i> | <i>Spoletto Arts Festival</i> |
| <i>June-August</i> | <i>Cinema Island (Rome)</i> |
| <i>June-August</i> | <i>Verona Opera Festival</i> |
| <i>July</i> | <i>Neapolis Music Festival (Naples)</i> |
| <i>July-August</i> | <i>Siena Jazz Festival</i> |
| <i>August 29-September 8</i> | <i>International Film Festival</i> |
| <i>September</i> | <i>Pizzafest (Naples)</i> |
| <i>September 2</i> | <i>Historical Regatta (Venice)</i> |
| <i>September 19</i> | <i>Naples Festival of San Gennaro</i> |
| <i>November</i> | <i>Turin Film Festival</i> |
| <i>November 1</i> | <i>All Saints Day</i> |
| <i>December-January</i> | <i>Kals' Art Winter (Palermo)</i> |
| <i>December-January</i> | <i>Umbria Jazz Winter Festival (Orvieto)</i> |
| <i>December 8-January 6</i> | <i>Christmas Market in Piazza Navona (Rome)</i> |
| <i>December 8</i> | <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i> |
| <i>December 13</i> | <i>Feast Day of Santa Luca</i> |
| <i>December 24-25</i> | <i>Christmas Mass in St. Peter's Basilica (Rome)</i> |
| <i>December 26</i> | <i>St. Stephen's Day</i> |

WEATHER

Italy has hot summers and cold winters. The south experiences mild, wet winters and very hot summers. Rain generally falls in October, January and early spring. Pack lightweight clothing with a few warm layers in spring and early fall, plus rain gear. In winter, bring a jacket in the south and a warm overcoat in the north. Summers can be hot, so bring light summer clothes with a light jacket or sweater for evening.

