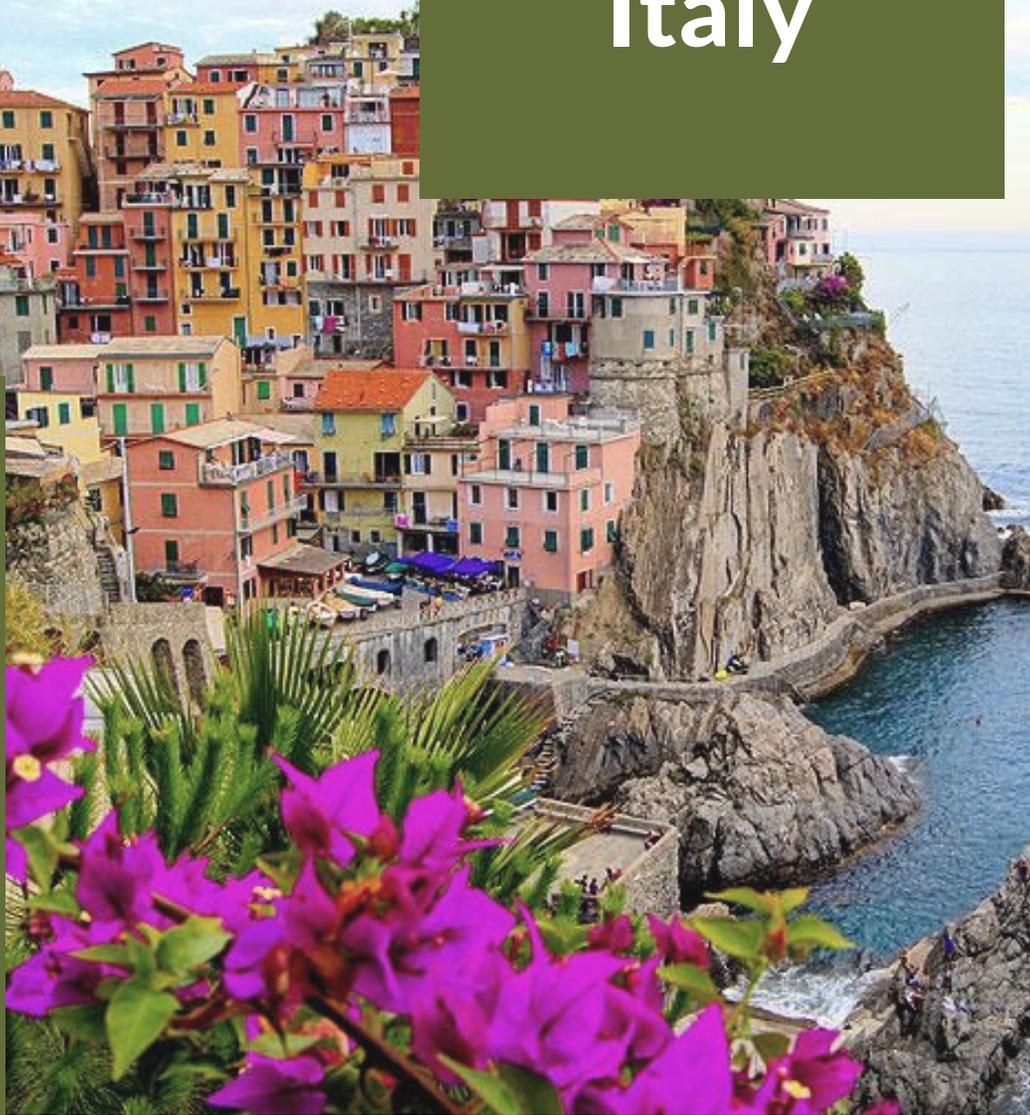


The Boot of Europe

# Italy

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## Basic info

**EU member state since: From**

**1st January 1958**

**Capital: Rome**

**Geographical size: 301 230 km<sup>2</sup>**

**Population: 60 626 442**

**Currency: Euro**

Italy lies on the territory of Southern Europe on the Apennine peninsula. Its islands include Sicily, Sardinia, Elba, Capri, Tremiti and Ischia. Geographical location: Southern Europe, 43 ° 58'S, 11 ° 14'W, Apennine Peninsula.

Italy, country of south-central Europe, occupying a peninsula that juts deepens into the Mediterranean Sea. Italy comprises some of the most varied and scenic landscapes on Earth and is often described as a country shaped like a boot. At its broad top stand the Alps, which are among the world's most rugged mountains. The southern Apennines are also tectonically unstable, with several active volcanoes, including Vesuvius.



# ITALY

Country of churches, art, good food and great wine



## ▼ Italian famous people

Mario Puzo was an Italian-American author and screenwriter who introduced and acquired fame for his mastery in the crime fiction.

Luigi Pirandello was an Italian writer and dramatist who won the 1934 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Salvatore Quasimodo was an Italian poet, author, critic and translator.

Kings/Politicians:

Julius Caesar Regarded as 'the greatest man of all ages' by many, he is one of the most eternally fascinating figures in history, He was a politician and a diplomat.

Marcus Cicero was a Roman philosopher, politician, lawyer, orator, political theorist, consul and constitutionalist (he was following a specific law system).



## ▼ Economy of Italy

The GDP of Italy is the 4th in the EU and the 8th in the world. Italy has a GDP per capita of 32,811 euros. In 2002 Italy changed its currency to euro. The main industries are iron and steel, motor vehicles, shipbuilding, food and beverages processing, textiles, clothing, fashion, home appliances, tourism.

## ▼ The history of Italy

The history of Italy begins with the arrival of the first hominins 850,000 years ago at Monte Poggiolo. Italy shows evidence of habitation by modern humans beginning about 43,000 years ago. Among the Italic people, the Latins, originally situated in the Latium region, and their Latin language would come to dominate the peninsula with the Roman conquest of Italy in the 3rd century BC. The Roman Republic and later the Roman Empire dominated Italy for many centuries, and furthermore established the culture and civilization of Western Europe in general, including the adoption of Christianity as state religion at the end of the 4th century. By the end of the 5th century a Lombard Kingdom of Italy was established, although some parts remained under Byzantine rule and influence until the 11th century. With the rise of nationalism in the 19th century the peninsula was unified. The new Kingdom of Italy, established in 1861, quickly modernized and built a large colonial empire. A new republic was proclaimed on 2 June 1946. In the 1950s and 1960s, Italy saw a period of rapid economic growth, called Italian economic miracle. The country joined the European Economic Community. Italy plays a prominent role in regional and global military, cultural and diplomatic affairs.



## ▼ Sport, music, nice places and people ...

The number one sport in Italy is football. Secondly, there are motor sports. Most popular music festival in Italy is Sanremo.

The 10 most interesting places in Italy: Colosseum (Rome), Duomo di Milano (Milan), Pantheon (Rome), St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican City), Sassi di Matera (Matera), Piazzale Michelangelo (Florence), Piazza del Duomo (Florence), Museo Cappella Sansevero (Naples), Basilica Papale San Francesco D'Assisi (Assisi), Duomo - Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore (Florence).

Italians are noisy, lively, cheerful and jolly people.

