

ITALY

THE EUROPEAN PENINSULA

Geography



Italy is one of the most famous European peninsulas, its territory also includes two islands: Sicily and Sardinia. It is divided into 20 regions and extends over a territory of 324,000 square kilometres.

Four different seas surround the Italian Peninsula in the Mediterranean sea from three sides: the Adriatic Sea in the east, the Ionian Sea in the south, and the Ligurian Sea and the Tyrrhenian Sea in the west.

The 35% of the Italian territory is mountainous.

The Apennine Mountains form the peninsula's backbone, and the Alps form most of its northern boundary, where Italy's highest point is located on Mont Blanc. Other worldwide-known mountains in Italy include Monte Rosa and Gran Paradiso in the West Alps. Italy's longest river is the Po (652 kilometres).

HISTORY

Italy is internationally famous for its millenary history. In fact the territory has always been inhabited since prehistoric times where there are testimonies including the cave of Addaura, Gravina in Puglia and Altamura. The population continued to change during the Iron Age, up to the first Italic people: the Etruscans. Subsequently there was the Phoenician and Greek colonization with attacks by the Indo-European peoples, the Roman age (the most important and which brought the greatest heritage), the Middle Ages and finally the modern age. All this until 1861, the year of the unification of Italy which lasted until 1946. The Italian republic was founded on June 2, 1946 and still exists today.



ITALIAN HERITAGE



Italy is one of the most famous nations in the world for its cultural and artistic heritage. The most famous cities like Milan and Rome each year attract millions of tourists from all over the world for their monuments. Rome, the nation's capital, is a city full of art and monuments, the most important of all is "The Colosseum", a Flavian amphitheater built in the 1st century by Romans. The Colosseum today is now a major tourist attraction in Rome with thousands of tourists each year entering to view the interior arena. There is now a museum dedicated to Eros in the upper floor of the outer wall of the building. Another important and famous monument is the Milan Cathedral, the cathedral church of Milan. This monument is a Gothic cathedral built from 1386 to 1965 that nowadays attracts thousands of visitors. In the same square, Piazza Duomo, there is the Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery, a commercial gallery in Milan that connects Piazza Duomo to Piazza della Scala.

TYPICAL ITALIAN DISHES

Italy is one of the countries with the most diversified and good cuisine in the world. In fact there are several typical Italian dishes which are now famous all over the world. Tourists still go to Italy today to taste our Italian delights. The best typical dishes are in first of all the pizza, in particular the pizza Margherita, its name was given by Queen Margherita of Savoy and also with its green colors for the basil, red for the sauce and white for the mozzarella, represent the colors of Italy. This dish was born in Naples. Furthermore, some very famous typical dishes are: carbonara, born in Rome, lasagna, born in Bologna and Genoese pesto, obviously born in Genoa. These, however, are only a hint of Italian cuisine, in fact there are other different dishes ready to be tasted.

