



DESTINATION REPORT

ITALY

(INCL. VATICAN CITY)

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Italy is a peninsula in southern Europe, which was formed officially in 1861 and became a republic in 1946. The country is home to a number of islands-the largest being Sicily and Sardinia-along its coastline of 7,600 kilometers (4,700 miles). The Vatican City, and its governing body known as the Holy See, exists as a separate sovereign state within its boundaries. Over 60 million people reside in Italy and approximately 800 in Vatican City. Approximately 5 million of the country's inhabitants are foreign residents, with most having emigrated from Romania, Morocco, and Albania.

Home to the largest number of UNESCO World Heritage sites in the world, Italy is a thriving tourism hub that attracts millions of international travelers each year. The official and most widely spoken language is Italian, of which dialects vary greatly by region. Other languages spoken in minority communities include German, French, and Slovene. English is spoken in some cities and tourist areas. Approximately 90 percent of the population identify as Catholic. The climate in Italy is predominantly Mediterranean, with cool winters and hot summers, though may vary by region. Southern Italy has a dry and hot climate, while the Alpine terrain in the north has harsh, cold winters. Earthquakes, avalanches, landslides, flooding and volcanic activity can pose risks for some travelers. Mount Etna, a volcano in the south, has exhibited increased activity since 2000.

SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Security Risk Rating

Low

Security Risk Overview

Italy is generally a secure and stable country. There is an elevated risk of terrorism as terrorist groups have specifically targeted the country in their rhetoric. In addition, domestic extremist groups have conducted small-scale attacks in the past. In large cities, rates of petty crimes are high. Meanwhile, protests and strikes occur and are typically peaceful. Other safety and travel risks are the seismic and volcanic activities in the country.

Terrorism

Italy has a robust counter-terrorism mechanism and security forces are actively engaged in security operations that include the monitoring of suspected individuals. Although there have been no terrorist attacks within the past five years, there remains an elevated threat of terrorism in the country and the Vatican City, as foreign terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda, al-Shabaab, and the Islamic State (IS) have specifically condemned Italy in their rhetoric.

Currently, there is a threat from IS attacks as it targets Italy for its role in the global campaign against them. Furthermore, there are also reports that indicate that a number of domestically recruited locals who have joined the IS. There are also concerns about the potential for radicalization among the Muslim population in Sicily and parts of southern Italy, which is home to large numbers of Muslim immigrants. Police attitudes toward these and other "hostile elements" are intolerant and often result in the use of force.

Other terrorist threats include domestic extremist groups such as the leftist, anarchist, neo-fascists and other radical movements within the Italian territory. These groups are known to have detonated small bombs and other incendiary devices, or made bomb threats against government agencies and foreign diplomatic facilities.

Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations are known to occur in Italy. These gatherings require a permit and will often have a police presence. Although most gatherings remain peaceful, Italy has seen several notable incidences of violent protests in the past. However some protests have escalated to violence, which are at time initiated by the anarchist group Black Bloc.

Public sector strikes and related protests are common in Italy, particularly in Rome. Although most strikes remain peaceful, they often impact transportation, including air and rail travel, as well as services such as banking. These strikes tend to last between 24 and 72 hours.

Protests are mostly held in the following locations, government installations and offices in Rome; Piazza del Popolo, Piazza Casetello, Via Turati, Piazza Republico, Duomo, Largo Cairoli, and the US Embassy in Milan; and the Piazza del Plebliscito and the US Consulate in Naples. Anti-US protests on the other hand are usually held at US military bases and diplomatic missions, and during presidential/state visits.

There are also cases of violence in clashes between police and football/soccer hooligans, which may

occur before or after matches and may spill over from to locations other than the sporting venues.

Personal Security

The crime rate in Italy has been increasing. The highest rates of petty crimes occur in and around major tourist attractions, outdoor cafes and centers of transportation (buses, trains, and major railway stations). Common crimes include pickpocketing, purse snatching, and other forms of theft. In Naples, the Centro Storico, Piazza Garibaldi, Quartieri Spagnoli, Secondigliano/Capodichino, ANM (bus company) Naples city center route, and other tourist areas are known for petty crime. In Rome, the Termini, St. Mary Major, Coliseum, Colle Oppio, Campe de Fiori, Trastevere, Parti, Trionfale, Via Emo, Piazza Cavour, St. Basilica, ATAC bus route 64 from Termini and St. Peters, and other tourist locations are known for petty crime. In Milan, Malpensa Airport (MXP) carries a notable risk of theft. Car thieves often operate around less secure areas with a scarcer police presence, including the Giovanni and Appia areas in Rome. The theft of US passports has also been reported in recent years, particularly in Naples and Palermo.

Theft is common around train stations, especially the Termini in Rome. Criminals will often volunteer to assist travelers with their bags and run off with them, or will ask for directions while an accomplice grabs an unsuspecting individual's luggage.

Car theft and carjacking are common concerns in Italy, most notably in Catania, Sicily. Criminals commonly target valuables being kept in the trunk of the car. Smash-and-grab robberies most often occur when cars are waiting at traffic lights or service stations. Another type of car burglary occurs when criminals convince a driver to pull off of the road, on the pretense of some problem with the car, and proceed to rob the vehicle. Sometimes criminals place sharp objects in the road in order to puncture tires, so they can pretend to assist the driver, while actually carrying out theft.

Crimes of a sexual nature-including harassment and assault-as well as violence against women are common. However, law enforcement authorities are generally effective at investigating and prosecuting these crimes.

Travelers in Rome, Florence, and Naples have reported being assaulted after unknowingly accepting spiked drinks or foods from strangers. In Rome, these incidents are common in areas near the Coliseum, Termini Station, Campo di Fiori, and Piazza Navona. These incidents are common in bars and restaurants in the central districts of Florence and Naples. A high rate of these spiked drink/food incidents occur in the ruins in the Pompei, Ercolano, and Vesuvio areas. Some victims have been hospitalized due to the violent nature of the attacks or the potent nature of the substance used to spike the food/drink, and a small number of fatalities have been reported.

There have been several instances of racially-motivated violence. These attacks typically target the Roma community and individuals of African descent. There are also increasing levels of anti-immigrant and anti-Roma sentiment throughout the country.

It is illegal to photograph military or government installations in Italy. Doing so may result in a fine or arrest.

Organized crime groups, including Camorra, Ndrangheta, Cosa Nostra, and Sacra Corona Unita, hold significant economic influence throughout southern Italy. However, travelers are unlikely to be affected.

Italy is vulnerable to seismic activity as it is located at the meeting point of the Eurasian and African tectonic plates. The country has experienced fatal earthquakes in the past. Mount Etna, located on the east coast of Sicily, is in a near-constant state of activity and has erupted several times in recent

years. Operations at Catania-Fontanarossa Airport (CTA) are often disrupted as a result of the volcano's eruptions. Another active volcano is situated on Stromboli Island, off the north coast of Sicily. Meanwhile, variable weather conditions can cause fatal avalanches in the mountainous regions of Italy.

Law Enforcement

The Polizia di Stato (state police) and Carabinieri (military police) are well equipped and well trained. Police response is timely and effective, and investigations are well conducted. However, it has been reported that police officials may expect, request, or demand illegitimate payments from travelers for real or imaginary violations of local law. Exercise caution when dealing with such officials.

There have been some reports on the excessive use of force on individuals in police custody. However, these instances are rare and travelers who cooperate with the police will find them to be helpful.

Although most prison conditions are acceptable, many Italian prisons are overcrowded and some are very poorly maintained. Use of excessive force by prison staff is common. Pretrial detention is lengthy.

Transportation

Air: Italy has been rated Category 1 by the International Aviation Safety Assessment Program (IASA), indicating that the country's civil aviation authority has been assessed by IASA inspectors and found to license and oversee air carriers in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety standards.

Bus: Bus travel is considered secure and reliable, though vehicles are commonly overcrowded. Most cities and towns have city and intercity buses, which can take travelers to smaller villages. Criminals operate on several popular tourist routes, such as Bus Route 64 from the Termini Station in Rome to St. Peter's Square. Bag slashing and pickpocketing are common on these routes. Public transportation strikes can occur with little or no notice, and these protests typically last between 24 and 72 hours.

Car: There is a high rate of motor vehicle accidents in Italy due mainly to speeding and aggressive driving. Traffic laws, especially with regard to traffic lights, are not followed by local drivers. Scooter and motorcycle accidents are one of the leading causes of death for travelers.

A permit is required to drive into historic areas of Rome and other cities. These areas are designated by a "ZTL" sign, and traveling without one may result in a fine. In Milan, drivers will be required to pay EUR 5 per day for traveling into the city center on weekdays. On-the-spot fines are common, especially for international drivers. Drivers should be in possession of enough cash to pay these fines, which typically range between EUR 150 and EUR 250. Headlights are required to be on at all times. Emergency road services are available for toll-roads, though they may be nonexistent on secondary roads.

Taxi: It is illegal for taxis to stop when hailed in the street. Taxis can be found at registered taxi stands, marked with an orange Taxi sign, or booked through hotels and restaurants. Licensed taxis in Rome will be painted white and have lights on their roof, the driver's license information on the door, and a meter inside. Few drivers speak English. Beware of unlicensed taxis, which can be commonly found, particularly in tourist locations, airports, and major railway stations; they will charge excessive fares and may be dangerous.

Train: Trains provide a typically fast, inexpensive, and comfortable mode of transportation. Milan,

Naples, Rome, and Turin have underground train systems. However, criminals are known to operate on some trains. When traveling on overnight trains, always lock the door of the compartment, even when sleeping in it.

Scams, Fraud, Corruption, and Extortion

Criminals may approach victims asking for help breaking a large bill, and will either snatch their money or return a fake bill. Criminals have been known to impersonate police officers in order to commit robbery.

Another common scam involves criminals asking for directions. When the victim is offering help, an accomplice will snatch their luggage or other belongings. Thieves may also intentionally spill mustard, yoghurt, or soda on the victim, apologize excessively, and then offer to help clean up while another criminal seizes the victim's valuables. There have been reports of individuals offering assistance to travelers struggling with luggage or strollers, who after picking one of the victim's items will disappear into the crowd. Exercise extra caution when in or around major transport hubs.

Common scams against foreigners, irrespective of destination, include dating and marriage scams, false employment opportunities, and virtual kidnapping for ransom. Avoid giving out personal information at all costs, especially bank or credit card numbers.

Credit card fraud and the use of ATM skimming machines are on the increase. Criminals may monitor an individual and rob them once they have withdrawn money. ATM machines in accepted hotels, banks, or businesses are the securest options for withdrawing money.

Official corruption is widespread. It has been reported that government officials, as well as police or security forces, may expect, request, or demand illegitimate payments from foreigners for real or imaginary violations of local law, or to provide routine services. Exercise caution when dealing with such officials.

Security Advice

Be prepared. Make an effort to understand your destination environment before you travel: identify the possible threats and prevailing situation, understand your own vulnerabilities and take action to mitigate the risks.

Maintain a low profile and good situational awareness. Ensure you travel with reliable communications equipment, test your mobile (cellular) telephone upon arrival at your destination and keep it fully charged. Make note of emergency telephone numbers, including the police, fire department, ambulance, and embassy or consulate.

Avoid all protests and demonstrations to minimize the risk of exposure to incidental violence. Travelers should walk away or wait inside a shop or restaurant if it is not possible to leave the area. Plan alternate routes to circumvent potential protest locations. Seek the assistance of a local host, or travel with a local driver, where possible.

To minimize the risk of becoming a victim of petty theft, travelers should maintain caution and exercise situational awareness at all times. Avoid overt displays of wealth. If confronted by a criminal, do nothing to antagonize the situation. Carry a "dummy" wallet if possible, and carry a passport photocopy at all times.

Carry handbags on the opposite side from passing traffic to reduce the risk of thieves on motorcycles trying to snatch them.

Avoid walking unless you are confident of the security situation. Do not walk by yourself at night in secluded or troublesome areas of the city. Do not take shortcuts away from main roads.

National holidays and public festivals tend to attract large crowds in some countries. Such public gatherings, despite a typically enhanced security presence, create a potential venue for disorder or violence. In addition, large crowds may well impede local transportation systems.

Do not buy counterfeit or any goods in violation of copyright laws. Doing so may be a violation of local laws and can carry hefty fines or even prison time.

Reduce risk of injury from car crashes by always wearing a seatbelt. Some countries have heavy fines for not wearing a seatbelt. Avoid drinking and driving. Be sure to travel with all appropriate documentation, including passport and visa photocopies. Individuals who intend on driving should be in possession of their International Driving Permit (IDP), vehicle registration, and proof of insurance at all times.

Travelers are subject to the laws of Italy, even if they are not a citizen of Italy. Travelers can also be prosecuted for violating their home country's laws while in a foreign country. Travelers should be aware of the laws and customs of the country they are traveling to in order to avoid prosecution.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Health Risk Rating

Moderate

Travel Health Advice

Routine vaccines for preventable diseases, such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, chickenpox (or varicella), poliovirus vaccine, etc. are recommended for all travelers.

Protect against insect bites and insect-borne diseases, such as tick-borne encephalitis or malaria, by using insect repellent and wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, boots, and hats if possible. See more detailed insect precautions below.

Prevent foodborne illnesses by avoiding undercooked foods and unpasteurized dairy products and washing hands, especially before eating. See more detailed food and beverage precautions below.

A comprehensive pre-travel health consultation with a travel health care provider is recommended for all travelers in order to optimize their health while traveling and to individualize their disease prevention strategies to best mitigate the health risks of any destination.

There are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in this country, and/or authorities have undertaken restrictive prevention measures. The situation is fluid. Numbers of cases, governmental restrictions, and travel services are subject to rapid change. To obtain Global Rescue's latest worldwide COVID-19 update, please contact a sales representative at (+1) 617-459-4200 or memberservices@globalrescue.com.

Immunizations - Required for Entry

The following vaccines are required for travelers entering the country. Some vaccines may only be required for travelers arriving from specific destinations, or those who have previously traveled to specific destinations within a given time period. Travelers are advised to consult with their travel healthcare provider for traveler-specific requirements.

Immunization	Notes
None	There are no immunizations required for entry into Italy.

Immunizations - General

The following immunizations are recommended for travel to all destinations.

Immunization	Notes
Routine	Routine vaccines for preventable diseases, such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, chickenpox (or varicella), poliovirus vaccine, etc. are recommended for all travelers.

<p>Hepatitis B</p>	<p>Hepatitis B is spread through contact with infected blood, sexual relations, and contact with contaminated needles.</p> <p>There are several pre-exposure vaccination options available: PEDIARIX (pediatric formulation containing DTaP, HepA/B, and polio vaccines), TWINRIX (3 dose HepA/HepB combination series), ENGERIX-B, RECOMBIVAX HB (3 doses); Heplisav-B (2 doses). The full course of injections is recommended prior to travel. Unvaccinated travelers who have been exposed to HBV should seek medical attention immediately. They should receive a dose of Hep B vaccine within 24 hours of the exposure, and may benefit from treatment with Hep B immunoglobulin as well.</p>
<p>Influenza (Flu)</p>	<p>All types of Influenza are spread between humans by respiratory droplets through sneezing, coughing, and touching objects contaminated with the virus.</p> <p>There are 2 types of pre-exposure vaccinations available: Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV), and Live Intranasal Influenza Vaccine (LAIV). IIV is injected into the upper arm or thigh, and LAIV is administered as a nasal spray. Components of the vaccine change yearly, depending on anticipated circulating strains of the virus, which vary by hemisphere. Vaccination is recommended annually for all persons at least 6 months of age, prior to transmission season.</p>

Immunizations - Recommended for this Country

The following are vaccine preventable diseases present in this country. Some travelers may be at an increased risk of exposure to specific diseases. Travelers are advised to consult with their travel healthcare provider for traveler- and itinerary- specific recommendations.

<p>Immunization</p>	<p>Notes</p>
<p>Hepatitis A</p>	<p>The Hepatitis A virus is primarily transmitted through contaminated water and food such as shellfish and uncooked vegetables or fruit prepared by infected food handlers. It is also transmitted through person-to-person contact via fecal-oral exposure, or spread through sexual relations, blood transfusions, and needles.</p> <p>Several pre-exposure vaccination options are available: HAVRIX, VAQTA, TWINRIX (3-dose HepA/HepB combination series), and AVAXIM. The vaccine requires 2 doses, separated by a minimum of 6 months. Ideally, the traveler should complete both doses at least 2 weeks prior to travel. However, if there is insufficient lead time to travel, the first injection should be administered before departure and a booster after 6 months. Once both doses are completed, immunity is considered lifelong.</p>

<p>Hepatitis B</p>	<p>Hepatitis B is spread through contact with infected blood, sexual relations, and contact with contaminated needles.</p> <p>There are several pre-exposure vaccination options available: PEDIARIX (pediatric formulation containing DTaP, HepA/B, and polio vaccines), TWINRIX (3 dose HepA/HepB combination series), ENGERIX-B, RECOMBIVAX HB (3 doses); Heplisav-B (2 doses). The full course of injections is recommended prior to travel. Unvaccinated travelers who have been exposed to HBV should seek medical attention immediately. They should receive a dose of Hep B vaccine within 24 hours of the exposure, and may benefit from treatment with Hep B immunoglobulin as well. Vaccination is routine in the US and many other countries. Previously unvaccinated travelers should consider vaccination for travel to areas with high risk of HBV infection, or if they anticipate needing medical/dental care abroad, being exposed to needles, or engaging in sexual activity.</p>
<p>Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE)</p>	<p>The TBE virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected tick. In rare cases, it can be acquired by eating unpasteurized dairy products from infected animals.</p> <p>TBE vaccines are not available in the US or Canada, but can be obtained in many other countries. Vaccination is recommended for travelers to endemic areas with exposure to forested areas or urban/peri-urban parks (i.e. outdoor activities), and those who consume unpasteurized dairy products.</p>
<p>Rabies</p>	<p>Rabies is spread through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. All mammals are susceptible, but dogs and other wildlife (particularly bats) are the most common vectors. In this country, rabies is found only in bats.</p> <p>A 3-dose pre-exposure rabies vaccine is recommended for travelers involved in adventure or outdoor activities in remote areas who could be exposed to bats. Children are at higher risk and have a lower threshold for pre-exposure vaccination. The first dose of the vaccine should be administered at least 21 days before travel.</p>
<p>Influenza (Flu)</p>	<p>Classic, or seasonal, influenza, is a highly contagious respiratory infection, caused by 2 types of virus: A and B. All types of Influenza are spread between humans by respiratory droplets through sneezing, coughing, and touching objects contaminated with the virus.</p> <p>There are 2 types of pre-exposure vaccinations available: Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV), and Live Intranasal Influenza Vaccine (LAIV). IIV is injected into the upper arm or thigh, and LAIV is administered as a nasal spray. Components of the vaccine change yearly, depending on anticipated circulating strains of the virus, which vary by hemisphere. Vaccination is recommended annually for all persons at least 6 months of age, prior to transmission season.</p>
<p>Meningococcal Disease</p>	<p>Meningococcal disease is spread through contact with the respiratory secretions of an infected person, as well as sharing food and drinks.</p> <p>Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) can be given to all persons at least 2 months of age. Dosing will vary depending on the product and the age of the traveler.</p>

Health Risks

The following are health risks present in the country. Some of these health risks are widespread, while others may only affect travelers in specific areas or those engaging in specific activities. Travelers are advised to consult with their travel healthcare provider for traveler- and itinerary-specific recommendations.

Health Risks	Notes
Air Pollution	<p>Air pollution refers to the potentially hazardous mix of particulate matter, chemicals, and other materials that infiltrates the air and causes acute symptoms and chronic conditions. Acute symptoms include itching of the eyes, nose, and throat, as well as wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, nausea, and upper respiratory infections (bronchitis and pneumonia). Air pollution is increasing in low- and middle- income countries and has become a major concern for travelers.</p> <p>Travelers with chronic lung conditions such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease COPD should consult with their physicians prior to travel to areas with poor air quality, and these populations should reduce outdoor exertion. Elderly travelers and infants are also more at risk for respiratory consequences of exposure to air pollution. All travelers should comply with air pollution advisories. Levels of air pollution will vary by city and region; check current levels prior to travel to appropriately target preventive measures.</p>
Lyme Disease	<p>Lyme disease is caused by <i>Borrelia</i> bacteria that reside primarily in deer, birds, and rodents. Symptoms vary widely depending on the stage of the illness. Early disease manifests with fatigue, headache, neck stiffness, muscle and joint aches, fever, and a classic "bull's eye" rash.</p> <p>Lyme disease is spread to humans through the bite of an infected <i>Ixodes</i> tick. Travelers engaged in outdoor activities in forested or grassy areas are at risk, including hikers, campers, and hunters. Ticks are more active during warmer months, but in temperate areas can be found year-round.</p> <p>There is no vaccine against Lyme disease. Follow insect precautions when outdoors in areas of potential exposure (see below with attention to tick prevention). Perform complete body tick check after outdoor activities. Remove ticks immediately if found. Post-exposure prophylaxis with doxycycline is recommended within 72 hours after <i>Ixodes</i> tick attachment in certain situations. Seek medical advice for tick attachment in endemic areas. Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics; results are best with early treatment.</p>

West Nile Virus (WNV)	<p>WNV is an arboviral infection spread by mosquitos. About 80% of those infected do not feel sick. Those who do experience symptoms typically have fever, headache, tiredness, nausea, vomiting, swollen lymph glands, and a rash on the chest, stomach, or back. Rarely, severe disease occurs, stiff neck, weakness, confusion, and coma.</p> <p>Transmission of WNV results from bites from infected Culex mosquitos. These mosquitos are most active in the evening after dusk and at dawn but are considered "night biting." Those engaged in outdoor activities in the evening and nighttime are most at risk.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent WNV. Adhere to insect precaution recommendations (see below). Supportive care is the mainstay of treatment.</p>
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)	<p>STIs are a concern for travelers worldwide, and are likely underreported as a travel-related infection. STIs are caused by viruses, bacteria, and parasites, the same potential pathogens as are present in the traveler's home environment. However, certain infections like chancroid, LGV, and Granuloma inguinale are more common in less industrialized countries, and other areas of the world have higher incidence of HIV and Hepatitis B and C than others. Symptoms vary widely depending on the specific infection, and can include both local and systemic symptoms.</p> <p>STIs are spread between humans by unprotected sexual contact (oral, anal, or vaginal), and skin-to-skin genital contact. Some STIs can also be transmitted through exposure to blood and other bodily fluids. Travelers are at higher risk if engaging in sex with sex workers, traveling for sex tourism, or certain higher risk behaviors. Healthcare workers are at higher risk for certain blood-borne infections.</p> <p>Preventive measures focus on decreasing exposure to STI pathogens. Adhere strictly to safe sex practices: use a condom correctly and consistently, or abstain from intercourse, and use an external condom or dental dam for oral exposures. Travelers should pack external and/or internal condoms, as the quality of condoms available in some areas is not reliable. Avoid behavior that increases the risk of contracting an STI such as casual sex with a stranger or a sex worker. Drinking heavily or taking mind-altering drugs will impair judgement and inhibitions during a sexual encounter, increasing the risk of making unsafe choices. Seek medical attention promptly if an STI is suspected.</p>

<p>Travelers' Diarrhea</p>	<p>Travelers' diarrhea (TD) is the most common health problem for travelers, affecting up to 70% of travelers going to developing countries. TD is caused primarily by pathogenic bacteria and less commonly by protozoa or enteric viruses. Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. More severe forms of TD include dysentery and diarrhea with blood and mucus present.</p> <p>TD is transmitted to humans by the ingestion of contaminated food and water. Individuals at higher risk for TD or adverse consequences include adventurous eaters, immunocompromised persons, persons with inflammatory bowel disease or diabetes, and those taking medications that decrease gastric acidity.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent TD. Following food and beverage precautions may reduce the likelihood of illness (see below). Travelers should carry loperamide for self-treatment of diarrhea and azithromycin to add if diarrhea is severe.</p>
<p>Mediterranean Spotted Fever (MSF)</p>	<p>MSF is a tick-borne infection caused by a species of rickettsial bacteria. Symptoms include fever, headache, and rash. A black eschar occurs at the site of the tick bite.</p> <p>MSF is spread through the bite of an infected tick. Those engaging in outdoor activities in wooded or high vegetation areas are at increased risk of exposure to ticks.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent against MSF. To avoid bites, adhere to the insect precautions detailed below, with particular attention to tick avoidance. Infected individuals should seek medical attention, and they can be treated with antibiotics and supportive care.</p>
<p>Typhus, Murine</p>	<p>Murine Typhus is an infection with rickettsial bacteria transmitted by fleas. Symptoms include fever, headache, and muscle aches, followed by a rash. While most people have mild illness, more severe symptoms can ensue, including lung, liver, kidney, and brain involvement.</p> <p>Murine typhus is transmitted to humans through the bite of a flea carrying the infection. Exposure to animals that serve as hosts (rats, cats, mice) is a risk factor for infection. Murine typhus is occasionally identified in travelers.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent Murine typhus. Avoid contact with known animal reservoirs. Murine typhus is treated with antibiotics. Seek medical attention if infection is suspected.</p>

<p>Leishmaniasis</p>	<p>Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease caused by several species of Leishmania protozoa. Three clinical syndromes result, depending on causative species: cutaneous, mucosal, and visceral (the most severe). Travelers most often are affected by the cutaneous form, usually with ulcerating skin lesions and swollen glands, and experience self-limited disease.</p> <p>Leishmaniasis is spread through the bite of an infected sandfly. Risk of acquiring the disease is higher among adventure travelers, eco-tourists, missionaries, military personnel, construction workers, and those working outdoors at night or sleeping outdoors.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent Leishmaniasis. Follow insect precautions (see below), and avoid nighttime outdoor activities if possible. Most sandflies bite from dusk to dawn, but in the Western hemisphere, sandflies bite both day and night. Be aware that the mesh on any protective netting must be of a finer weave than the norm for prevention of mosquito bites. For netting to be effective against sandflies, it must have at least 18 holes per linear inch (2.54 cm). Impregnated nets and screens are most effective. Treatment decisions are multifactorial and can include local wound care and medications.</p>
<p>Cutaneous Larva Migrans (CLM)</p>	<p>CLM is one of many soil-transmitted helminthic (parasitic worm) infections that can affect humans worldwide. It is caused by hookworm larvae that penetrate and migrate through the skin. Symptoms include intense itching, with red linear or serpiginous lesions anywhere on the body that has had contact with soil. This rash can last from several weeks to a year.</p> <p>CLM results from skin penetration by infective larvae of the hookworm. The hookworm eggs are deposited in the soil or sand from the feces of infected dogs and cats, and hatch into larvae. Any direct contact between skin and soil can lead to infection, and the larvae can penetrate swimwear and towels. Travelers are at risk walking barefoot or lying on moist sand or soil in endemic areas.</p> <p>There is no vaccine to prevent against cutaneous larva migrans. Travelers are advised to avoid walking barefoot on beaches or other soil, wash feet after contact with sand, and to always sit on a protective surface to avoid contact between skin and sand or soil. CLM can be treated with anti-helminthic medication and symptomatic care. Seek medical attention if CLM is suspected.</p>
<p>Marine Hazards</p>	<p>Marine hazards are varied and include exposures to challenging tides and currents, hazards of watersports and boating, as well as contact with plants and animals that can injure humans. Most commonly seen in travelers are envenomation or stings from jellyfish, sea urchins, certain corals, stonefish, sting rays, and sea urchins.</p> <p>Travelers should seek out and heed posted warnings and refrain from bathing or other aquatic activities at unmarked, unpatrolled beaches.</p>

Legionnaire's Disease

Legionnaire's disease is a potentially severe form of pneumonia caused by the inhalation of bacteria that are naturally found in the environment. These bacteria thrive in warm water and damp places, such as hot springs and lakes. Symptoms are those of pneumonia, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, and fatigue.

Most human infections are acquired through inhalation of aerosols created in artificial water sources that are infected. Sources include water-heating and storage tanks, tap water, air conditioning, whirlpool baths, fountains, etc. Travelers between the ages of 40 and 70 are more susceptible, as are those with chronic disease or immunosuppression.

There is no vaccine to prevent against Legionnaire's disease. Most cases of legionnaire's disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics. Travelers should be aware of risk factors and avoid whirlpool-type spas.

Medical Facilities and Services.

Hospitals in Italy meet international standards. Medical facilities may be limited outside urban areas, and hospital personnel may have limited English-speaking abilities. Public hospitals may administer emergency services for little to no cost, though other services may be subject to a small fee. Private hospitals will often require payment before services are administered. Decompression chambers can be found near all diving resorts and in major hospitals across the country,

Individuals with pre-existing medical conditions required to carry personal medication while travelling are advised to carry a letter from their doctor with an Italian translation in case of emergency.

Food and Water Safety

Avoid eating raw or undercooked meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs. Avoid eating unwashed or unpeeled fruits/vegetables, fruits/vegetables that have been washed with contaminated water, unpasteurized dairy products, and bush or game meat. Avoid eating food that is not properly refrigerated or cooled, or that has been left standing and uncovered. Avoid eating leafy or uncooked vegetables and salads.

Tap water in Italy is potable. Nevertheless, it is advised to drink bottled water, as local strains of bacteria in tap water may cause gastroenteritis. Only drink water that has been filtered or boiled, or has come in a sealed bottle. Avoid drinking any well water unless you can verify its quality. Do not drink beverages that contain ice unless you can confirm that the ice is from purified water. Dairy is widely pasteurized. Do not drink unpasteurized milk or juice, or anything mixed with contaminated water. Hot coffee or tea is usually safe to drink.

Wash hands with soap or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer prior to eating. Do not use tap water to brush teeth unless you can verify the quality of the water. Avoid sharing beverages or utensils with others.

Insect Precautions

Use insect repellent: DEET 20 - 30% or Picaridin 20% on exposed skin. Re-apply per manufacturer's directions.

Avoid scented soaps, hair products, deodorants, perfumes, and shaving products.

Wear long sleeves and pants tucked into socks. Wear neutral colors (beige, light gray). Always wear shoes, both indoors and outdoors.

Treat outer clothing with permethrin.

Remove any containers holding water, both inside and outside any building.

Avoid insect exposure using additional various methods depending on the insect:

- For nighttime flying insects, sleep under bed nets, preferably insecticide impregnated.
- For ticks, hike in the middle of the trail and avoid tall grasses and shrubs, use a tarp when sitting on grass, perform regular tick checks on your body and clothing.
- For other insect vectors, avoid direct contact with animals, and avoid overcrowded, unsanitary conditions to reduce risk of exposure to body lice, mites, fleas, and rodents.

DESTINATION DETAILS

Time Zones

From 29 March 2020 to 25 October 2020, Central European Summer Time (CEST): GMT +2 hours
From 25 October 2020 to 28 March 2021, Central European Time (CET): GMT +1 hour
From 28 March 2021 to 31 October 2021, Central European Summer Time (CEST): GMT +2 hours

Currency

Euro (EUR)

Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard credit cards are widely accepted in larger cities. Cash is usually preferred for smaller purchases. Various establishments may incur an additional service charge for credit card use. Travelers should always notify their bank of their travel plans to avoid having their account frozen.

ATMs

ATMs, locally known as Bancomat, are easily accessible throughout Italy, and usually accept foreign cards and dispense EURs. Travelers should check with their bank before their trip regarding any fees associated with ATM use.

Banking Hours

From Monday to Friday 08:30-13:30 and 15:00-16:00.
Hours may vary with bank and location.

Major Holidays

Services and transportation may be affected on/around the following holidays:

Date	Holiday
01 January 2020	New Year's Day
06 January 2020	Epiphany
13 April 2020	Easter Monday
25 April 2020	Liberation Day
01 May 2020	Labor Day
02 June 2020	Republic Day
15 August 2020	Assumption of Mary
01 November 2020	All Saints' Day
08 December 2020	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
25 December 2020	Christmas Day
26 December 2020	Saint Stephen's Day

NOTE: No national elections are scheduled to take place in 2020.

Voltage Information

230V, 50Hz - Plug Type C, F, L

International Airports

Airport Name	Airport Code	Airport Location
Alghero-Fertilia Airport	AHO	Alghero
Ancona Falconara Airport	AOI	Ancona
Bari Karol Wojty?a' Airport	BRI	Bari
Bologna Guglielmo Marconi Airport	BLQ	Bologna
Brindisi-Salento Airport	BDS	Brindisi
Catania-Fontanarossa Airport (Vincenzo Bellini Airport)	CTA	Catania
Comiso Airport	CIY	Comiso
Cagliari International Airport	CAG	Elmas
Fiumicio- Leonardo da Vinci International Airport	FCO	Fiumicino, serving Rome
Florence Airport (Amerigo Vespucci Airport)	FLR	Florence
Genoa Cristoforo Colombo Airport	GOA	Genoa
Lamezia Terme International Airport Airport	SUF	Lamezia Terme
Milan-Linate Airport	LIN	Milan
Milan-Malpensa Airport	MLP	Milan
Naples International Airport	NAP	Naples
Olbia-Costa Smeralda Airport	OLB	Olbia
Il Caravaggio International Airport (Bergamo Orio al Serio Airport)	BGY	Orio al Serio, serving Bergamo and Milan
Parma Airport	PMF	Parma
Perugia San Francesco d'Assisi-Umbria Airport	PEG	Perugia
Abruzzo Airport	PSR	Pescara
Pisa International Airport	PSA	Pisa
Falcone-Borsellino Airport	PMO	Punta Raisi, serving Palermo
Federico Fellini International Airport	RMI	Rimini
Ciampino-G.B. Pastine International Airport	CIA	Rome
Cuneo International Airport (Cuneo Levaldigi Airport)	CUF	Savigliano, serving Cuneo and Turin
Vincenzo Florio Airport Trapani-Birgi	TPS	Trapani
Treviso-Sant'Angelo Airport	TSF	Treviso, serving Treviso and Venice

Trieste-Friuli Venezia Giulia Airport	TRS	Trieste
Turin-Caselle Airport	TRN	Turin
Venice Marco Polo Airport	VCE	Venice
Verona Villafranca Airport	VRN	Verona

ENTRY & EXIT REQUIREMENTS

The following information is for citizens of the United States. If you are a citizen of a country other than the United States, contact an embassy or consulate for up-to-date requirements. For additional questions regarding entry/exit requirements, contact Global Rescue at (+1) (617) 459-4200.

A passport valid for 180 days beyond the planned date of departure from the Schengen area, with at least two blank pages, is required to enter Italy. A visa is not needed for stays of fewer than 90 days within a 180-day period. As Italy and the Holy See are both part of the Schengen Agreement, time spent in other Schengen countries will be counted against the maximum time spent in Italy/Vatican City, and vice versa. Those intending to stay longer than 90 days must apply for a visa at an Italian embassy or consulate prior to travel. When arriving from another Schengen country, travelers must submit a declaration of presence to the local police station or police headquarters within eight working days of arrival in Italy. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the country. For those staying at hotels, the declaration of presence will be handled by reception staff upon check-in.

A visa is not required to enter the Vatican City after entering Italy. However, there are some differences in customs restrictions (see below).

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The following items are permitted (Italy): There is a free import when traveling to and from countries within the European Economic Area (EEA). However, customs may question travelers if they import more than the following amounts of goods:

- 800 cigarettes or 400 cigarillos (maximum three grams each) or 200 cigars or one kilogram smoking tobacco;
- 10 liters of spirits (more than 22% alcohol content) or 20 liters of alcoholic beverages (less than 22% alcohol content) or 90 liters of wine (no more than 60 liters of sparkling wine) or 110 liters of beer.

When traveling within the EU, individuals must be 17 years or older to carry any alcohol or tobacco. Meanwhile, when arriving from outside the EU by air or sea, travelers may import:

- 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of smoking tobacco;
- one liter of alcohol (no more than 22% alcohol content OR un-denatured ethyl alcohol of at least 80% volume) or two liters of alcoholic beverages (less than 22% alcohol content) or a proportional mix of these products or four liters of still wine or 16 liters of beer; medication of a personal nature; and
- other goods up to a value of EUR 430.

When arriving from outside the EU by land, travelers may import:

- 40 cigarettes or 20 cigarillos or 10 cigars or 50 grams of smoking tobacco (or a proportional combination);
- one liter of alcohol (no more than 22% alcohol content or un-denatured ethyl alcohol of at least 80% volume) or two liters of alcoholic beverages (less than 22% alcohol content) or four liters of still wine or 16 liters of beer;
- medication of a personal nature; and
- other goods up to a value of EUR 300.

The following restrictions apply (Italy):

- pets must be identifiable and with the corresponding health and rabies vaccination certificates.;
- powdered milk for babies;
- fish if disemboweled and under 20 kilograms; and
- clothing made from protected animals.

The following items are prohibited (Italy):

- Meat, milk, and dairy products from non-EU countries (with the exception of Andorra, the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, and Iceland);
- and protected species and products thereof.

The following items are permitted (Vatican City):

- 250 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco.

The following restrictions apply (Vatican City):

- plant products including straw hats, straw mats, and baskets must be declared, quarantined, and specially treated;
- pets will require proof of inoculations;
- any endangered species will require permission from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and
- medication.

The following items are prohibited (Vatican City):

- narcotics;
- pornography;
- counterfeit goods;
- cultural items and related artefacts thereof;
- explosives, weapons and ammunition;
- agricultural equipment;
- camping tools and used sports items;
- unprocessed nuts and seeds, fresh fruits and vegetables, live plants, and animal products.

EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

The following items are permitted (Italy): There is a free export when traveling to and from countries within the EEA. However, customs may question travelers if they export more than the following amounts of goods:

- 800 cigarettes or 400 cigarillos (maximum three grams each) or 200 cigars or one kilogram smoking tobacco;
- 10 liters of spirits (more than 22% alcohol content) or 20 liters of alcoholic beverages (less than 22% alcohol content) or 90 liters of wine (no more than 60 liters of sparkling wine) or 110 liters of beer.

The following restrictions apply (Vatican City):

- foreign currency must be within the amount declared upon arrival; and
- endangered species will require permission from CITES.

The following items are prohibited (Vatican City):

- pornography;
- important cultural items and related artefacts thereof;
- henna, palm tree and related goods;
- explosives;
- narcotics; and
- counterfeit goods.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

	Italy	Vatican City
Intl. Country Code	(+39)	(+379)
Fire	112 or 115	115
Police	112 or 113	112
Ambulance	112 or 118	113

Contact Information for Select Embassies

US Embassy in Rome

Via Vittorio Veneto 121
00187 Rome
Telephone: (+39) 06-46741

British Embassy in Rome

Via XX Settembre 80/a
00187 Rome
Telephone: (+39) 06-4220-0001

Australian Embassy in Rome

Via Antonio Bosio, 5
00161 Rome
Telephone: (+39) 06-852-721

US Embassy in Rome for Vatican City

Via Sallustiana, 49
00187 Rome
Telephone: (+39) 06-4674-1

British Embassy in Rome for Vatican City

NOTE: The Embassy does not provide consular or visa services.
Via XX Settembre 80/a
00187 Rome
Telephone: (+39) 06-4220-4000

Australian Embassy in Rome for Vatican City

NOTE: The Embassy does not provide consular or visa services.
Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 349
00186 Rome
Telephone: (+39) 06-686-261

For other embassies, contact Global Rescue at (+1) (617) 459-4200.