



## Travelling in Italy

### General Info:

Population: 60.6m

Area: 301,318 sq. km

Currency: Euro (100 cents) - EUR (€)

Top 10 popular attractions: Towers of San Gimignano  
Manarola (Cinque Terre)  
Leaning Tower of Pisa  
Lake Como (Italian Lake District)  
Positano (Amalfi Coast)  
Pompeii  
Piazza del Campo  
Santa Maria del Fiore  
Colosseum  
Canals of Venice

### Essentials

#### Driving licence:

Driving licences issued abroad can be used in Italy only by visitors who have reached the minimum ages required for holders of Italian licences for the same category of vehicle even if they are qualified to drive at a lower age in their country of residence.

Visitors may drive private or commercial vehicles registered abroad if they are in possession of the following:

- International Driving Permits (1926, 1949, 1968)

#### Important documents:

Vehicles from the UK may be imported into Italy for up to 6 months in any period of 12 months. When driving in Italy the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence\* (with paper counterpart)
- International Driving Permit (1926, 1949, 1968) (Available from <http://www.rac.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit>)
- Proof of insurance (third party or above)
- Proof of ID (Passport)
- Proof of ownership (V5C Certificate)

Visitors driving in Italy are required by law to carry the following items. Hefty on-the-spot fines can be issued for failing to carry specific items:

- Reflective jackets (must be worn if involved in a breakdown or an accident or alongside a road where stopping or parking is prohibited)
- Warning triangle (compulsory in every vehicle with 4 wheels or more)
- Headlamp beam deflectors (Depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually)
- Motorcyclists: It is compulsory for riders and passengers of mopeds and motorcycles to wear a crash helmet.

It is prohibited to carry a child under 4 years old on a moped or a motorcycle. It is possible to carry a

#### Are you covered?

Don't forget to buy your RAC European Breakdown cover on: 0800 015 6000.

#### Useful Numbers:

Emergency Services: 112 (SMS 114)

RAC Breakdown Europe: 00 33 472 43 52 44

#### Useful Links:

- <http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>
- <http://www.racshop.co.uk/driving-in-europe.html>

passenger on a moped on condition that the rider/driver is an adult (18 and over) and that the registration certificate states that the moped is designed to carry a passenger.

## Rules of the road & regulations

### Rules of the road:

- **Overtaking & passing**

The vehicle to be overtaken must keep as far to the right as possible and not accelerate.

On roads with three traffic lanes, overtaking is allowed only when a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction is not already in the middle lane.

It is prohibited to overtake a vehicle which is overtaking another vehicle or a vehicle which has slowed down or stopped near a pedestrian crossing to allow pedestrians to cross.

Overtaking is forbidden on the approach to and on level crossings. It is also prohibited in the following cases:

- At bends
- On the brow of a hill
- At intersections
- At all places where visibility is limited

- **Priority**

Priority must be given to vehicles coming from the right or travelling on rails, except where indicated by road signs. They must give way to pedestrian's already on crossings and to cyclists near cycle paths.

Drivers must give right of way to all police and emergency vehicles when they are using special audible or luminous warning signals.

- **Warning of approach**

Priority must be given to vehicles coming from the right or travelling on rails except where indicated by road signs. They must give way to pedestrian's already on crossings and to cyclists near cycle paths.

Drivers must give right of way to all police and emergency vehicles when they are using special audible or luminous warning signals.

### Seat belts:

Any person must wear a seat belt whenever one is fitted on the front and rear seats in all vehicles registered in Italy or abroad.

### Travelling with children:

Children travelling in foreign-registered cars must be secured according to the legislation in force in the country of origin.

### Speed limits:

The following national speed limits apply:

	Motorways	Outside built-up areas	In built-up areas
Normal traffic conditions	130 km/h	90 km/h	50 km/h

*Speed must be reduced at night according to visibility, near intersections, bends, schools or places frequented by children, on roads with a steep gradient or especially narrow roads and in built-up areas.*

*Speed limits in case of precipitation (rain, snow, etc.):*

roads outside built-up areas: 90km/h

motorways: 110km/h

*Radar detectors are prohibited. The Points Of Interest (POI) function of a car navigation system can be used to indicate the position of fixed speed cameras.*

## Penalties:

- **On-the-spot fines**

The police can impose a fine on the driver of a foreign-registered vehicle or a vehicle with EE plates and collect one quarter of the maximum fine on-the-spot. A receipt must be given.

If the driver wishes to contest the fine or for any reason refuses to pay, they must deposit a guarantee for half the maximum amount either in cash (foreign currency is accepted), or in the form of a surety. If they refuse to deposit the guarantee, the police may confiscate his vehicle until they pay the fine. For vehicles registered in the EU, the guarantee required is equivalent to a quarter of the maximum fine.

- **Confiscation of vehicles**

Vehicles can be confiscated by the police in many cases (e.g. when the driver has no licence, when the number plates are forged, when the EE- Escursionisti Esteri registration documents have expired, etc.).

Mopeds and motorcycles can be confiscated for 3 months in the following cases:

- failure to wear a safety helmet
- carrying a passenger unless allowed (specified in certificate)

## Parking:

- **Parking regulations**

In built-up areas, stopping and parking are only permitted on the right-hand side of the road in a street with two-way traffic. In a one-way street, parking and stopping are permitted on the right or left-hand side of the street provided at least 3m of clear space is left free in the middle of the road.

- **Paid parking**

Zones where payment is required have been created in major towns in areas near the centre. These zones are indicated by blue road signs. The zones can be free of charge for some hours of the day and on Sundays, as indicated locally by panels.

Areas where parking is limited to certain duration are indicated by blue stripes. Motorists must buy a ticket from a machine.

- **Enforcement of parking regulations**

Wheel clamps are used in particular cases instead of towing away, for example when the vehicle is parked on the pavement.

Vehicles are towed away when causing an obstruction to the circulation of traffic.

In both cases, a fine must be paid which includes the fine, the cost of removing the vehicle and of impounding it.

- **Disabled parking access**

Cars displaying the international sticker for the disabled can be parked on spaces specially marked by yellow lines and the yellow international symbol of the wheelchair. In areas where parking is prohibited these cars are exempt from the restrictions in the case of an emergency. In most areas it is necessary to pay if payment is required, however, disabled motorists may park without time limit where parking is free of charge but restricted by time. Although the Italian law does not specifically mention foreign badge holders, the Italian police should allow them the same concessions as Italian badge holders.

## Traffic lights:

- **Traffic lights**

The international 3-colour traffic light system is used.

Green, amber and red arrows are used at some intersections

A flashing red light is used near a level crossing, at the entrance to a mobile bridge or near a ferry boarding point to indicate to road users that they must stop.

A Flashing amber light indicates that traffic must slow down and proceed with caution, respecting the priority rules.

## Drink/drug driving

- **Legal limit**

The general legal limit of alcohol in the blood of drivers is 0.05%.

- **Alcohol**

The police can request a driver suspected of being under the influence of alcohol to take a breath test.

A driver involved in an accident can be tested by the medical services at the request of the police.

A driver suspected of being under the influence of narcotics can also be tested and receive a sanction.

## Roads & fuel

Tolls are levied on most Italian motorways.

Tolls can be paid in cash or with the following cards: Eurocard, Mastercard, and Visa. (Debit cards Maestro and Electron are not accepted)

## Service areas

There are many services stations on Italian motorways offering a wide range of facilities to motorists, e.g. fuel, restaurant, motel, shop.

## Availability of fuel

Only 25% of petrol stations on ordinary roads (inside and outside towns) are open from 0000 to 2400 hours on Sundays and public holidays. Petrol stations which open on Sundays remain closed on Mondays.

Night service (3% of petrol stations) begins at 2200 hours in winter and 2230 hours in summer and lasts until 0600 hours.

Opening hours are clearly displayed at petrol stations, as are the addresses of the nearest garages which are open. The above hours do not apply to petrol stations on motorways, on ring roads classified as motorways or in the immediate vicinity of frontier posts.

- **Price of fuel (April 2014)**

<b>Unleaded petrol (95 octane)</b>	1.808 EUR per litre
<b>Unleaded petrol (98 octane)</b>	1.858 EUR per litre
<b>Diesel</b>	1.723 EUR per litre
<b>LPG</b>	0.800 EUR per litre

- **Means of payment**

Credit cards are generally accepted at petrol stations.

## Emergencies

Special emergency telephones are situated every two kilometres on motorways. There are two types of telephone: one with which the motorist can speak to the emergency centre and one where you must press either a button bearing

a spanner to call for mechanical assistance or a button bearing a red cross to call for medical aid. A red light confirms that the message has been received at the central motorway alarm system.