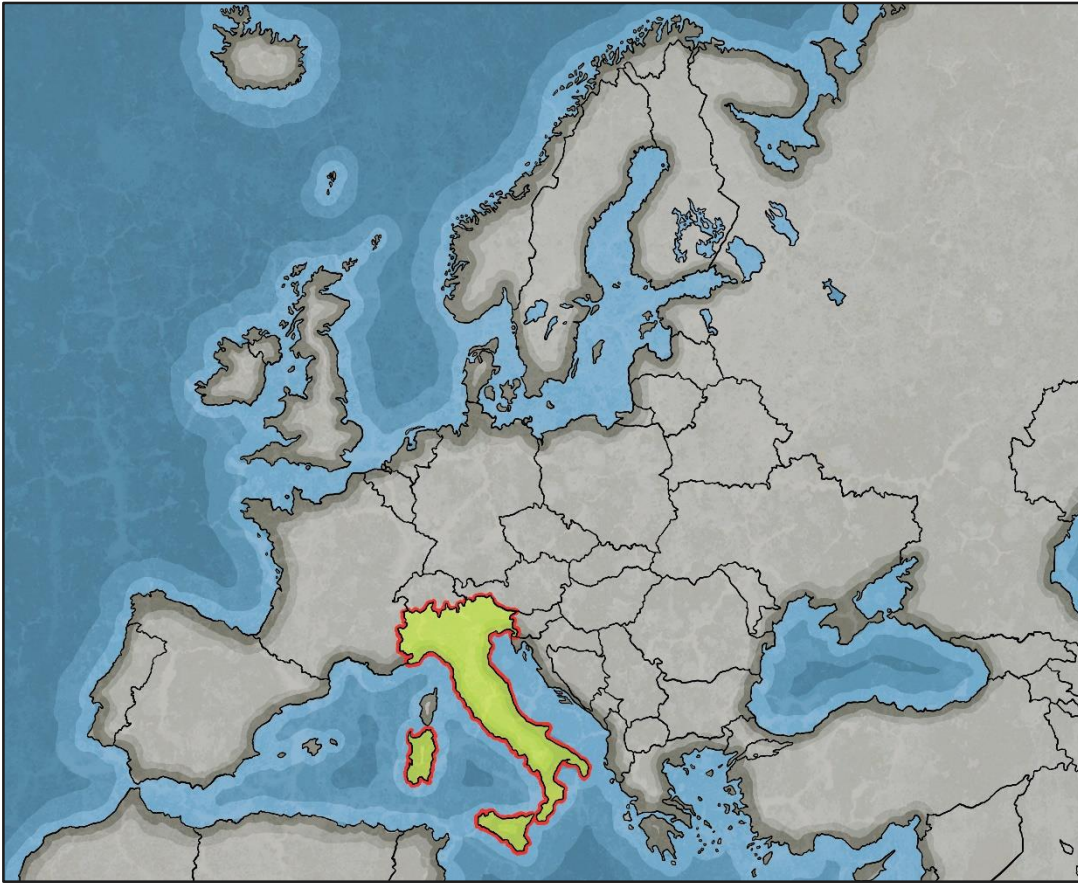


# Italy



# Italy's Location



Italy is located to the south of Europe and is at the north of the Mediterranean Sea. It has land borders with France, Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia.

San Marino and Vatican City are 'enclaves' of Italy (surrounded by Italian lands).

# Facts About Italy

**Continent:** Europe

**Main Cities:** Rome (Capital), Milan, Venice, Naples, Florence.

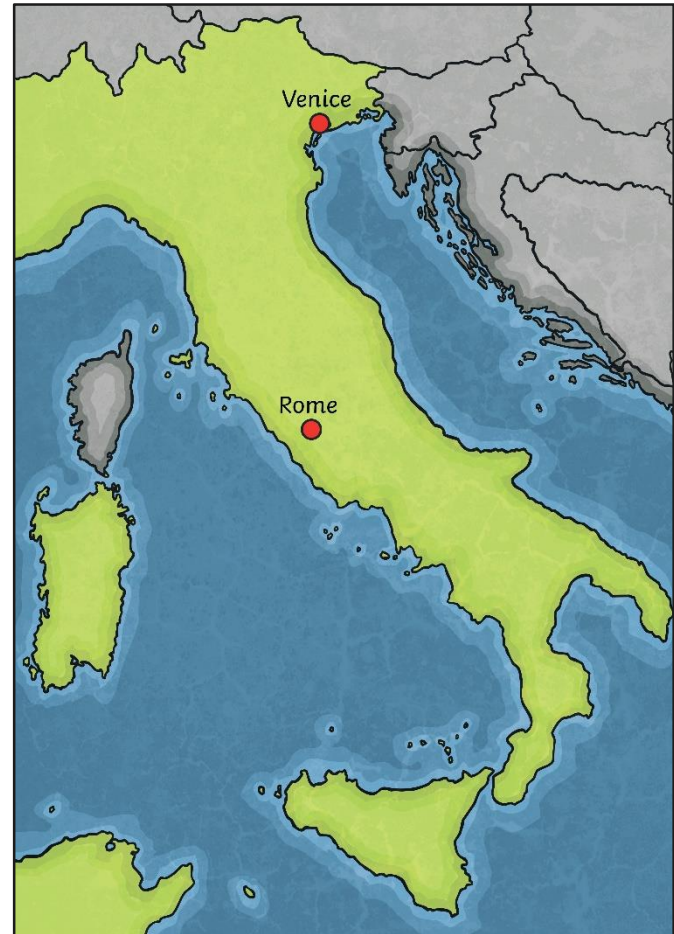
**Population:** 60.4 million

**Official Language:** Italian

**Major Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Currency:** Euro (€)

**Landmarks:** Colosseum, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Cinque Terre, Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain.

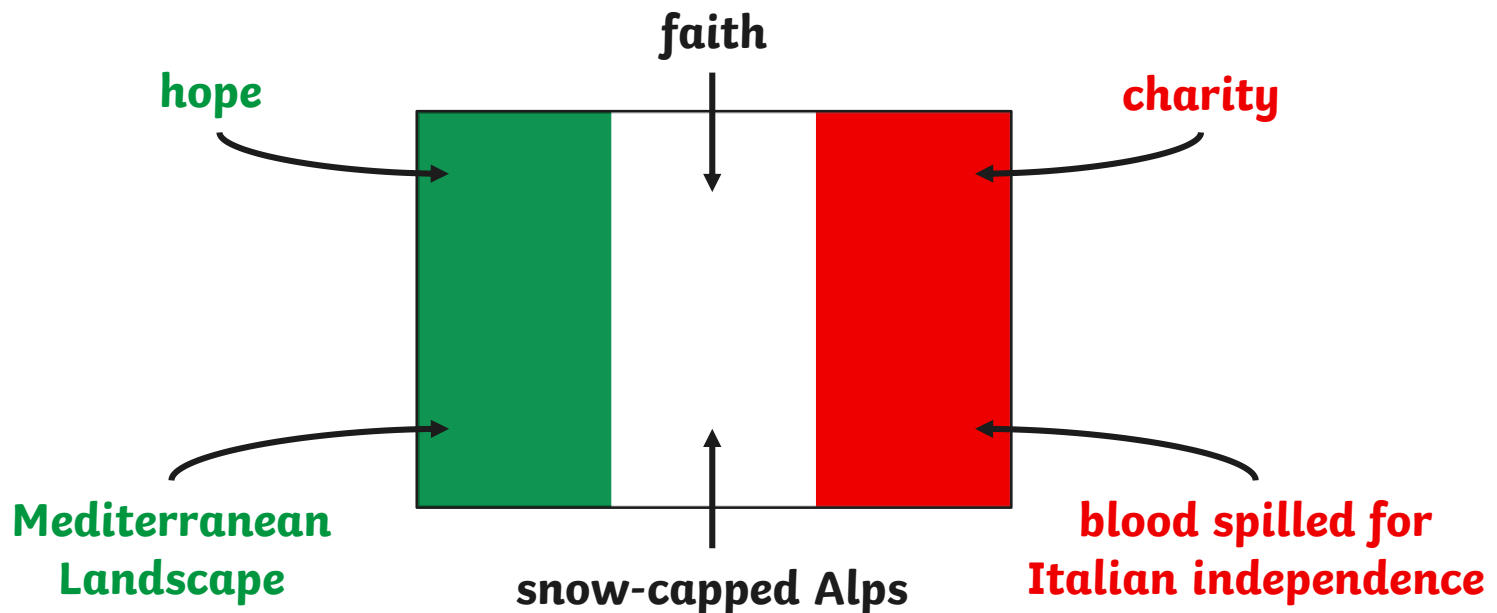


# Flag

The national flag of Italy is called 'il Tricolore'.

It is made up of a three vertical lines of colour; green, white and red.

Each colour represents a different aspect of Italy, though there are two different interpretations:



# Geography

Italy is a **peninsula** which is said to have a shape that represents a boot. It is connected to mainland Europe to the north and sticks out into the Adriatic Sea and Mediterranean Sea, among other waters.

At the north of Italy are the Alps, a mountain range which crosses over many other countries, including Austria, Switzerland and France. The largest mountain in the Italian area of the Alps is the Matterhorn, which straddles the border with Switzerland and is 4,478 metres high.



**Peninsula** – A piece of land almost surrounded by water or sticking out into a body of water.

# Animals

Italy is home to a wide range of creatures.

There are over 100 mammal species, including the Eurasian lynx, alpine marmot, Sardinian long-eared bat and the Corsican hare.

Alongside these, Italy has hundreds of birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.



# The Colosseum

**Location:** Rome

**Date built:** 71 - 80 AD

## **Information:**

The Colosseum was a large arena built during the time of ancient Rome. It was the largest amphitheatre built, measuring 188 metres long, 156 metres wide and 57 metres high.

The Colosseum was used for large spectacles, such as gladiator fights, exotic animals and the execution of prisoners. It remained in use for over 500 years and later was used as a storehouse, church, cemetery and even a castle for nobility before falling into disrepair. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.



[back](#)

# Trevi Fountain

**Location:** Rome

**Date built:** 1762 AD (final completion)

**Information:**

The name 'Trevi' comes from 'tre vie', which means 'three ways', as the fountain stands at a meeting point between three streets.



The fountain had a number of older versions in the same location before the current one was completed by Nicola Salvi and Giuseppe Pannini. Many people throw coins into the fountain to make wishes and, each year, the money is collected and donated to charities.

[back](#)



# Leaning Tower of Pisa

**Location:** Pisa

**Date built:** 1174 AD (construction began)  
1350 AD (completion)

## **Information:**

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the campanile tower of the Pisa cathedral and baptistery at the Piazza dei Miracoli. It stands around 56 metres tall.



It was originally intended to stand up straight; however as the tower was built, the south side began to sink. Builders tried to compensate for this by making the columns on the south slightly taller than the ones on the north side. Despite this, the tower was still leaning.

Today, the top of the tower is about 17 feet away from where it is at the base.

[back](#)

# Ruins of Pompeii

**Location:** Pompeii, near Naples.

**Date built:** 6 - 7<sup>th</sup> century (founded)  
79 AD (destroyed)

## **Information:**

Pompeii was a thriving city in ancient Roman times, home to around 11,000 people. It was destroyed after the nearby Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, burying the city in between 4 and 6 metres of volcanic ash.

Today, the ruins of Pompeii are an archaeological site and have given a unique insight into ancient Roman life as many elements of the city were well preserved, including some of the people caught in the eruption.



[back](#)

# Food and Drink

Italy is famous around the world for its cuisine which has developed over centuries. Different areas are known for their regional specialities, especially in the north and south of the country.

Italian food is generally known for its simplicity, with dishes commonly only being comprised of a few ingredients.

Foods include pasta dishes, risotto, pizza, a variety of meats, cheeses (such as mozzarella), olives and seafood.



# Famous Italians



**Enzo Ferrari**

1898 - 1988

Race car driver and founder of Ferrari.

# Famous Italians



**Maria Montessori**  
1870 - 1952  
Physician and educator.

