

## Italy by Regions

**Italy** is geographically divided into 20 regions (regioni). A kaleidoscopic reality with an innate vocation as a cultural melting pot, ready to be discovered ...



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# Piedmont



**Territory:** The Region stretches on the buttress of a great Alpine arc: Maritime, Cotian, Graian, Pennine Alps and a little part of the Lepontine Alps. It includes two large hilly areas, the Langhe and the Monferrato. The Po river has its source in Piedmont. The region is crossed by several Alpine streams flowing into the Po. Many Alpine lakes, with those of the morainic area of the Canavese, dot the region. In the eastern part, we find two bigger lakes: Lago Maggiore and Lago d'Orta.



**Cities:** The regional capital is Turin. Other important cities are: Asti, Alessandria, Cuneo, Novara, Vercelli, Biella and Verbania.

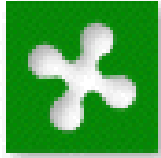
**Art:** In Turin and in Susa interesting traces of the Roman Age can be found. The religious Romanesque-Gothic architecture is remarkable: splendid examples are the Abbey of Vezzolano, the Sacra di San Michele, the Abbey of Staffarda, St. Antonio di Ranverso, St. Andrea in Vercelli and other churches in Saluzzo, Chieri and Ciriè. The Baroque style has greatly influenced the appearance of most Piedmontese cities, especially in Turin, capital of

Dukedom of Savoy: Palazzo Carignano, Palazzo Madama, the majestic Castle of Stupinigi, the basilica of Superga, which rises on a hill near Turin are outstanding examples.

**Museums:** In Turin the visitors should not miss a visit to the Royal Armory, one of the richest in Europe; the Egyptian Museum, the second most important in the world after the one in Cairo, with the precious remains of the ancient civilization, which built the Pyramids. The Sabauda Gallery houses pictorial works of the Piedmontese, Dutch and Flemish schools, as well as some valuable works of the great Tuscans, such as the Beato Angelico and the Pollaiolo. In Vercelli the Borgogna Museum, which houses the works of the local Renaissance painters; in Alessandria the Civic Museum and the Pinacoteca deserve a visit. Asti's art-gallery houses both fifteenth-century and eighteenth-nineteenth century paintings. Cuneo's Civic Museum is especially reserved to the local history and artistic tradition. In Novara an interesting Epigraphic Museum can be seen in the fifteenth-century cloister of the Cathedral.



**To be visited:** The great ski centers of Sestrières, Bardonecchia, Sansicario; the district of the Langhe and the Lakes Orta and Maggiore.



# Lombardy



**Territory:** The region occupies the main part of the Po Valley. Its northern borders are formed by the Lepontine, Rhaetian and Orobic Alps. It includes a hilly district with the major Italian lakes, from the Easter slope of Lago Maggiore to the Lakes of Varese, Iseo, Como and to the northern part of Lake Garda. This region is rich in water, thanks to the Po and its affluents.

**Cities:** The regional capital is Milan. Other important cities are: Bergamo, Brescia, Como, Varese, Sondrio, Pavia, Cremona, Mantua.

**Art:** Lombardy is the cradle of the Romanesque architecture and has beautiful examples in each major city. The most striking monument of the Gothic period is the Cathedral of Milan. The Renaissance period has left splendid palaces and sumptuous churches. The Lombard painting reached its greatest splendor during the fifteenth century.

**Museums:** Milan, in the Sforza Castle there are the Art Museums which comprise several sections for painting, sculpture and applied arts; the Brera Gallery, which houses some of the all-time masterpieces of painting; in the Poldi Pezzoli Museum, a very rich private collection of paintings of great masters, fittings, art objects and ancient jewelry can be admired; other masterpieces of painting can be seen in the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana. The National Museum of Science and Technique is devoted to railway and air transports. In Brescia the Roman Museum has an interesting section devoted to the Christian Age. In Como, the Civic Museums have large rooms for local history and art. In Cremona, the Civic Museum houses mosaics and relics of the Romanesque period, while the Stradivariano Museum displays the history of the famous ancient violin makers. Bergamo has the important Carrara Academy Gallery. Mantua is known for the Ducal Palace with Gonzaga's Palace and the Museo del Risorgimento. In Pavia there are the Civic Museums for archeology and painting.



**To be visited:** The peninsula of Sirmione on Lake Garda and the "Gardesana" coast; the Lomellina and the Valtellina districts

# Aosta Valley



**Territory:** It is the most mountainous region of Italy, entirely surrounded by the best known, splendid peaks of the Alps: the Monte Bianco, the Matterhorn, the Monte Rosa and the Gran Paradiso. The latter is at the center of a magnificent National Park, populated by beautiful specimens of ibex, chamois and eagle. Numerous glaciers feed a rich web of streams, which at the bottom of the respective valleys flow in the basin of the Dora Baltea. The distinctly Alpine character of this region can be seen in the pine forests, up to rather high altitudes, where they give place to large pasturelands. The small Alpine lakes, little jewels set in majestic mountain landscapes, are numerous. Thanks to the Monte Bianco's and the Gran San Bernardo's tunnels, the great historic passes are today important lines of communication.



**Cities:** Aosta is the capital of the region, which is ruled by a special statute, where the Italian and the French languages are officially recognized.

**Art:** Important traces of the Roman Age can be found in Aosta: the city walls, the theater, Augustus's Arch, the Pretorian Gate. Visitors can admire the Romanesque Cathedral, which dates back to the eleventh century. The Sant'Orso Church is a good example of medieval architecture. Many are the fortified castles in the Aosta Valley; most of them are in perfect conditions and open to visitors; many have become museums of local history. The most famous are the castles of Fénis, of Aymavilles, of Issogne and Verrés.

**To be visited:** The Matterhorn, the Monte Rosa, the Monte Bianco, which can be reached by the loftiest cableway in Europe; the beautiful National Park of Gran Paradiso; in winter, the numerous ski resorts. There are the typical villages with the quaint local houses (rascards). St. Vincent and its Casino offer a wide range of entertainment.



Trentino

# Trentino-Alto Adige



**Territory:** It is a mainly mountainous province, rich in rivers, torrents and numerous lakes, clusters and chains of mountains of singular beauty, divided in two by the valley of the river Adige. To the west one finds the glaciers of the group Adamello-Presanella-Care Alto and the group of Brenta. To the east the groups of Lagorai, Latemar, the Dolomites of Fassa, and the Pale di S. Martino. Many alpine valleys break away from the valley of Adige: the Valsugana, the Vallarsa, the Val di Non, the Val di Sole, the Val di Cembra, Fiemme and Fassa; inside instead the valley Giudicarie and Rendena. The principle lakes are those of Garda, Caldonazzo, Tovel and Ledro; thermal waters gush forth from springs rich in therapeutic properties. Extensive coniferous forests cover the dolomitic slopes and wide table-lands like those of Folgaria, Lavarone and Pine. Three natural parks, Adamello-Brenta, Paneveggio-Pale of S. Martino and Stelvio conserve the typical species of animals and vegetation of the alpine environment including even the bear.

**Cities:** The independent province of Trento is endowed with a special statute which gives it particular legislative authority. Trento is the administrative headquarters of the province and of the region Trentino-AltoAdige. Rovereto is the second centre of the province, a city of culture and industrial site.



**Art:** Land on the frontier between the German world and the northern Italian civilization, Trento presents a different and mutable figurative panorama in which the contributions of diverse cultures have joined and produced an art with authentic original characteristics. The oldest artistic testimonies come from the late medieval period and are conserved in the churches of S. Pietro in Bosco in Ala, of Tenno and of S. Romedio; together with many finds from the Roman and Paleochristian ages. The main monuments from the Roman age are the Cathedral of S. Virgilio in Trento and the Basilica of S. Lorenzo. The Renaissance style marks many buildings and churches in Trento, such as the Castle of Buonconsiglio, the Palace of Albere, the church of S. Maria Maggiore. Typical Gothic architectures are those of the church of Civezzano, S. Apollinare, S. Zeno, Finera di Primiero and Vigo di Fassa. A small jewel of European Gothic painting is represented by the "Ciclo del Mesin" in the

Torre Aquila of Trento. An intense pictorial activity took place in the first half of the sixteenth century, together with a flourishing activity in the minor arts. Several testimonies of the paintings are conserved in churches and buildings.

**To be visited:** Earthen pyramids at Segonzano in the Val di Cembra; Val di Genova, a picturesque alpine valley; the Alto Gard Trentino, the Dolomites, the great arena of alpinism, traversed by a stitched network of excursionist lanes and ways; numerous antique castles which dominate the principle valleys: Castel, Beseno, Sabbionata, Drena, Stenico, Caldes, Thun, Pergine and Ivano. At Trento: The castle of Buonconsiglio and the palace of Albere, residence of provincial art museums; the churches which hosted the famous "Council of Trent", the romantic Cathedral and the church of S. Marina Maggiore. Naturalistic and archaeologic collections are lodged in the natural science museum of Trento. The diocesan museum of Trento conserves precious testimonies of the sacred art, wooden artifacts and flemish tapestries. At S. Michele in Adige there is the museum on the practices and customs of the Trento people. At Rovereto the castel holds one of the greatest museums on the Great War.



# Trentino-Alto Adige



Alto-Adige



**Territory:** Alto Adige (South Tirol), the most northern region of Italy, in the heart of the alpine circle, has a surface area of



7,400 sq. km. With valleys and mountains following each other, its landscape presents a varied aspect, from the mountainous zone of Ortles (Solda, Trafori, Val Martello) to the polling peaks of the Dolomites and to the porphyry walls of Bassa Atesina. A dominant and majestic scene of the Altoatesine Alps is constituted by the Dolomites that owe their name to the particular calcareous rock of which they are compounded. Their origin stems from the Triassic period, one hundred and fifty million years ago. These mountains, born from an ancient sea and thanks also to their particular colouring, have always fascinated naturalists and poets. A third of the Altoatesino territory is protected under a landscape and environmental profile, which in guaranty and a promise of interesting walks across the following itineraries: the Natural park of Sciliar, the Natural park of Puez-Odle, the Natural park of Monte Corno, the Natural park of the Dolomites of Sesto, the park of the Vedrette di Rics, the Sarentine Alps park and the National park of Stelvio.

**Cities:** The independent province of Bolzano is endowed with a special statute. Bolzano is the main town of the province and seat of the local government. Other centers are Merano, capital of Tirol, Bressanone, Brunico and Vipiteno.

**To be visited:** Alto Adige is a land of castles. To visit and to live in: as some of them have been transformed into hotel castles, it is possible to enjoy a hospitality that has, in itself, an ancient taste. The following is a list of the names of the oldest castles to visit: Castel d'Appiano, Appiano; Castel Ganda, Appiano; Castel Roncolo, Bolzano; the episcopal castle of Bressanone; the Tures castle of Campo Tures; Castelbello of Castelbello; Casteldarne of Casteldarne; Castel Monteleone of Cermes; the convent of Sabiona of Chiusa; Castel Presule of Fié; the abbey of Monte Marina, Malles; the princely castle of Merano; Castel Forte of Ponte Gardena; Castel Rodengo of Rodengo; Castel Badia of St. Lorenzo; Castel Scena of Scena; Castel Coira of Sluderno; Castel Font ana of Bolzano; the abbey of Novacella of Varna / Novacella; Castel Velturmo of Velturmo and Castel Tasso of Vipiteno.



# Veneto



**Territory:** The region includes the eastern part of the Po Valley and, to the north, a part of the Dolomites. The extensive plain, with the Po delta, is rich in waters. It is a region which combines two different and unique aspects of the Italian nature: the lagoon zone (Venice) and the majestic peaks of the Dolomites of Cadore.



**Cities:** The regional capital is Venice. Other important cities are: Verona, Padua, Vicenza, Treviso, Rovigo, Belluno.

**Art:** In the region numerous and important Roman traces can be found: the best known example is the Arena of Verona. In the area around Venice, Byzantine influences are visible (St. Mark and the Cathedral of Torcello); in the hinterland, away from the sea there are many outstanding examples of Romanesque and Gothic art. The Renaissance palaces are numerous

and of great value.

**Museums:** In Venice: the Academy Galleries house the major collections of Venetian painting from 1300 to 1700; the G. Franchetti Gallery houses important paintings, while Guggenheim collection exhibits international works of contemporary art. In the Palazzo Grassi, exhibitions of international interest are organized every year. In this beautiful city there are also: the Museum of the eighteenth century life in Venice with tapestries, attire, furniture and paintings; the National Gallery of Modern Art, the Oriental Museum and the Correr Museum, which is reserved to Renaissance masterpieces. In Verona the Civic Museum of Art, which is devoted to the great Verona painting, the Archaeologic Museum and the Museum of Frescoes can be visited. Vicenza offers: the Civic Museum (ethnology and archaeology) and the Pinacoteca. In Padua the famous Scrovegni Chapel, with Giotto's frescoes, can be admired; the Civic Museum and the botanic garden, the oldest in Europe, can be admired. In Treviso there is the Museum of the Casa Trevigiana with modern furniture and sculptures. Rovigo has the Gallery of the Concordi (Venetian school from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century) and the Civic Museum of the Polesine Civilization.



**To be visited:** The Venetian islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello; Chioggia; the canals of the Brenta and the Veneto villas. Visitors can admire the enchanting and unique lagoon and the majestic reddish spires of the Dolomites.





# Friuli-Venezia Giulia



**Territory:** The region consists of a flat region, extending from a morainic amphitheater, to the Tagliamento river and to the Adriatic coastline, with its plain and lagoons; of a pre-Alpine part with the Carnic Pre-Alps and of an Alpine Part, which includes the Carnic and Julian Alps. The Carso area shows interesting geological formations called "Doline" and countless grottoes.

**Cities:** The regional capital is Trieste, ruled by a special statute; the other important cities are Udine, Gorizia, Pordenone.



**Art:** The ancient Romans left many remarkable traces, mainly at Aquileia, which is a rich and famous archaeological center. In Grado and Cividale, there are important paleochristian architectonic examples of Byzantine style. The Basilica of Aquileia, which is in the Romanesque Gothic style, houses splendid mosaics.

**Museums:** In Trieste there are: the Revoltella Civic Museum, which holds an important collection of sculptural and pictorial works, from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; the Civic Museum of the Sea, which shows the history of navigation from its origins to the end of last century, with models, instruments and projects. The Civic Museum of Risorgimento is an interesting review of Trieste's struggle for freedom; the Civic Museum of Art History holds a remarkable collection of archaeological relics, from the Paleolithic to the Roman Age, with a very rich epigraphic section. In Gorizia, the fortified castle includes the Museum of History and Art, which houses interesting collections of objects and customs of the civic history: the Provincial Museum offers a review of local artists between the eighteenth and the twentieth centuries; moreover, there is the Museum devoted to World War I. In Udine, the Civic Museum and the Galleries of History and Art hold remarkable collections of archaeology, sculpture, painting, ceramics, coins and jewelry. In the Civic Museum of Pordenone precious wooden sculptures of the Friuli school can be admired.



**To be visited:** In the Carso area there is the Gian Grotto, near Trieste; on the sea there are Duino and the Sistiana bay; the Miramare Castle, built during the nineteenth century by Maximilian of Austria, looms over the Adriatic Sea.





# Liguria



**Territory:** Liguria, facing the Tyrrhenian Sea, forms an imposing arc, with the Gulf of Genoa in its center. It is a mountainous and hilly region, which includes part of the Maritime Alps and the Ligurian Apennines, whose the spurs plunge almost everywhere into the sea, leaving scant space to the plains, which form a narrow coastline. Here landscapes of great beauty can be admired. The region is divided in two sections: the Riviera di Ponente (to the west), from Ventimiglia to Genoa, and the Riviera di Levante (to the east), from Genoa to La Spezia. The terminal strip of the Riviera di Levante is known as "Le Cinque Terre" (the Five Lands) and still today represents a beautiful example of intact landscape.



**Cities:** The regional capital is Genoa. Other important cities are: Imperia, Savona and La Spezia.

**Art:** Ruins of the Roman civilization can be seen in Ventimiglia and in the Lunigiana district. In the region the examples of Romanesque architecture are numerous, such as St. Paragorio in Noli. Important medieval traces, such as towers, walls and castles, dating back to the Maritime Republics, can be found in the Riviera di Ponente. A lot of fine examples of Baroque architecture can be also admired.

**Museums:** In Genoa the tourist should visit the Gallery of Palazzo Bianco, which houses an important collection of Ligurian painters, from 1400 to 1700; the Gallery of Palazzo Rosso, which holds a very rich collection of furniture, Ligurian ceramics and Chinese pottery; the National Gallery of Palazzo Spinola, with its important paintings; the Museum of Oriental Art has treasures collected over the centuries by the Genovese navigators. In Nervi you can visit the Naval Museum. Ventimiglia has the Archaeologic Museum with Paleolithic relics. Sixteenth-century paintings can be admired in the Civic Pinacoteca in Savona. The statue-stelae of the Lunigiana are very interesting: they can be seen in La Spezia.

**To be visited:** The inland, with Dolceacqua, Balardo, Portofino, one of the most fascinating resorts in Liguria, San Fruttuoso, Punta Chiappa, the Natural Park of Capo Noli.





# Emilia-Romagna



**Territory:** Half of Emilia Romagna territory is formed by the Apennines; the other half is a large plain, which reaches to the Adriatic Sea. The coastline is flat and sandy, with a typical lagoon and marshy area (the Valli of Comacchio).



**Cities:** The regional capital is Bologna. Other important cities are Parma, Ferrara, Modena, Piacenza, Ravenna, Forlì, Reggio Emilia.

**Art:** Important Roman traces can be found in Rimini and in Ravenna, capital of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., with its magnificent monuments of the Christian-Byzantine period (the exquisite mosaics). Examples of the Romanesque Longobard style can be found in the Cathedrals of Modena, Piacenza e Ferrara; the Baptistery of Parma offers the visitors some important sculptural works. Piacenza and Bologna have valuable examples of Gothic style, but also of the Renaissance and Baroque styles.

**Museums:** In Bologna: the Pinacoteca Nazionale, with three sections devoted to painting, from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century; the Museum of Industrial Art, which exhibits furniture, objects and sacred relics, from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century; the Civic Archaeologic Museum, which houses very interesting prehistoric and Etruscan relics. Ferrara has the Cathedral's Museum, which holds sacred relics, paintings and sculptures; the Civic Museum, which displays bronze, ceramics and frescoes; the National Archaeologic Museum, that houses precious ceramics (Attic vases with red figures); the Pinacoteca Nazionale with pictorial works from the fourteenth century to the present day. Ravenna, ancient link between the Roman and the Byzantine worlds, has the National Museum with many relics of the Roman and Early Christian Age; the Archiepiscopal Museum with an interesting collection of works from the Ancient Cathedral. In Modena there are the famous Estense Gallery, where marvelous paintings can be admired; the Estense Museum, the Museum of Risorgimento and the Estense Epigraphic Museum.



**To be visited:** In Ravenna: the splendid Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, erected in the fifth century A.D. and the tomb of the great poet Dante; the Mausoleum of Theodoric and the magnificent basilica of Sant'Apollinare in Classe.





# Tuscany



**Territory:** The region stretches over the slopes of the Apennines, in front of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The Tuscan landscape is mainly mountainous and hilly, with a flat area beside the sea (the Maremma). The coastline presents different aspects, offering both long sandy expanses and headlands. In front of the coast there are the small enchanting islands of the Tuscan archipelago.

**Cities:** Florence is the capital of Tuscany. Other important cities are Siena, Pisa, Arezzo, Pistoia, Lucca, Livorno, Grosseto, Massa Carrara.

**Art:** Tuscany is unrivaled as a cradle of all-time art. One can find examples of every age and style: from the Etruscan civilization (Fiesole, Chiusi, Volterra, Populonia) to Roman monuments and ruins; from the Romanesque architecture to the impressive Gothic cathedrals, to the exceptional artistic explosion of the Renaissance.



**Museums:** Florence has preserved its masterpieces and great works of architecture over the centuries. The most important collection of paintings in the world is offered by the Uffizi Gallery; visitors can enter the very interesting Designs and Print Room; the collection of self-portraits. Great paintings can be seen in the Gallery of Palazzo Pitti, with Tiziano's and Raffaello's masterpieces. Florence also has the Museum of the Costume and the Museum of the Carriages; the beautiful Italian gardens can be admired in the Giardino di Boboli. In the Museum of the Opera del Duomo the famous "Pietà" by Michelangelo can be admired. Then, there are the Museum of the Bargello, St. Mark's Museum, the Academy Gallery and the Ethnologic Museum Stibbert. Pisa, an ancient Roman naval base and maritime republic, has the Museum of the Sinopie, which holds the preparatory drawings for the frescoes, and the National Museum of St. Matteo. Siena is a well-preserved medieval city; here there are the Civic Museum, which houses the Histories of Alexander III, the Museum of the Opera Metropolitana and the Pinacoteca Nazionale, with Senese painting. Tradition and art are strong everywhere: in Arezzo the Gallery and the Medieval and Modern Museum can be visited.



**To be visited:** In addition to art, Tuscany offers outstanding nature sceneries, such as the National Park of the Argentario and the Isola of Elba. In Siena there is the beautiful Piazza del Campo. In Florence there are the fifteenth-century shops on the Ponte Vecchio. Pisa has the Campo dei Miracoli, with the famous Leaning Tower.



# Umbria



**Territory:** The region is mostly mountainous and hilly and presents a landscape rich in woods and water resources. It is crossed by the Apennines, which form numerous valleys. This region has a comparatively large lake: the Trasimeno.

**Cities:** Perugia is the regional capital. Other important cities are Assisi, Gubbio, Orvieto, Todi, Spoleto, Terni.

**Art:** In Umbria the traces of the Etruscan civilization are remarkable, as visitors can see in Todi, Bettona, Orvieto and Perugia. Spoleto has important Roman remains; Spello is a city, where the Romans left some impressive remains. Other important Roman works can be found in Assisi and Gubbio. The Romanesque architecture thrived in this region at the beginning of the twelfth century: some beautiful examples are the Cathedrals of Spoleto and Assisi, St. Silvestro and St. Michele in Bevagna. The Gothic style reached very high levels, and imposing examples are present in almost every city. The Renaissance can be seen in magnificent monuments in Perugia, Gubbio, Todi, but it enjoyed a smaller development than other styles.



**Museums:** In Perugia there is the National Gallery of Umbria, which is one of the most important exhibition of the Gothic painting, with masterpieces by Duccio di Boninsegna, Beato Angelico, Piero della Francesca. The National Archaeologic Museum of Umbria houses a splendid and very rich Etruscan collection. Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis, one of the greatest figures of Christianity, has the superb Basilica of San Francesco with the world famous Giotto's frescoes, showing in 28 splendid paintings the life of the Saint; the Pinacoteca Civica and the Cathedral's Museum. Spoleto has the Gallery of Contemporary Art. In Gubbio there is the Civic Museum, which holds the famous "Eugubine tables": seven bronze plates, from the second century B.C. Foligno can offer the tourists the Archaeologic Museum and the Pinacoteca Civica.



**To be visited:** Rich in history and in nature, Umbria offers the Falls of the Marmore, which are the highest in Italy; the sources of the Clitunno and Mount Subasio. The Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli and the Rocca Maggiore. The ancient city of Spoleto offers the Roman Theater and Druso's Arch. Near Perugia, people can visit the Ipogeo del Volumni, which is an Etruscan tomb.



# Marches



**Territory:** It is an essentially mountainous and hilly region, facing the Adriatic Sea. The mountain area is rugged, with narrow valleys, deep gorges and numerous rushing, sometimes inaccessible, streams (Gorge of Furlo). The coastline presents a succession of gently rolling hills and flat plains crossed by rivers.

**Cities:** The regional capital is Ancona. Other important cities are Ascoli Piceno, Pesaro, Urbino and Macerata.



**Art:** Numerous and remarkable remains of the Roman Age can be found in Ascoli, Fano, Ancona, Fermo, Urbisaglia and near Macerata. Outstanding examples of Romanesque architecture, with Byzantine elements, can be seen in the areas around Ancona and Ascoli. The Gothic style is present in Ascoli and Tolentino. The region reached its highest artistic splendor during the Renaissance, thanks to the presence of very important local artists, such as Raphael and Bramante.

**Museums:** In Ancona the National Museum of the Marche, with an interesting local archaeological collection; the Diocesan Museum of the Cathedral, which houses interesting medieval relics; important pictorial works (Tiziano, Lotto) in the Pinacoteca Civica. A rich pictorial exhibition can be admired in the Pinacoteca Comunale of Ascoli. In Pesaro, the Civic

Museums display paintings, ceramics of the famous Renaissance "botteghe" (art workshops) and archaeological relics. In Urbino, the National Gallery of the Marche holds the most important collection of the Marchigiana art (Raphael, Tiziano, Piero della Francesca); in the Museo del Duomo "Albani", fourteenth-century frescoes, paintings, ceramics and sacred relics can be admired; the native house of Raphael is interesting and deserves a visit. The Biblioteca Comunale of Macerata houses very ancient incunabula; in the Museum of the Carriages very rare specimens of ancient vehicles can be seen.

**To be visited:** On the seaside Fano, the coastline and the panoramic area of Mount Conero. Then, there are the Gorge of Furlo, Pesaro, and Urbino with its beautiful view and environs.





# Latium



**Territory:** The region, with undulated hills, stretches from the western buttresses of the Apennines to the Tyrrhenian Sea. The landscape is varied and presents flatlands, on the coastline and in the hinterland, ridges and calcareous highlands. Latium has four very ancient volcanic districts, where the craters of extinct volcanoes form the lakes of Bolsena, Vico, Bracciano, Albano and Nemi.

**Cities:** Rome, capital of Italy, as well of the region. Other important cities are Frosinone, Latina, Viterbo and Rieti.

**Art:** Latium is the cradle of Roman civilization and it is incredibly rich in outstanding relics of the different periods. The traces of the Etruscan civilization are remarkable and can be found at Veio, Vulci, Tarquinia and Cerveteri. The region has always been the center of an intensive artistic life, which, from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century, has had as cardinal point the presence of the Church (the Vatican City, seat of the papacy, is in the heart of Rome).

**Museums:** In Rome, the National Museum houses the most important archaeological collections in the world, while the Capitoline Museum holds the oldest classic sculptures. In the Museum of the Palazzo dei Conservatori, Greek and Roman sculptures. Etruscan vases, paleochristian sarcophagi can be admired. The Pinacoteca Capitolina houses remarkable pictorial works. In the Museum of Rome there are civic documents, from the Middle Ages to the present day. Tourists should not omit a visit to the Barracco Museum, with Assyrian, Babylonian, Egyptian and Etruscan relics and to the National Museum of Castel Sant'Angelo. The Doria Pamphili Gallery houses a highly valuable private pictorial collection. Moreover, there are: the National Gallery of Ancient Art; the Borghese Museum and Gallery; the National Museum of Villa Giulia. The imposing complex of the Vatican Museums contains numberless outstanding masterpieces.



**To be visited:** In the center of Rome, we can admire the Roman Forum, the imposing and universally known Colosseum and the Cathedral of St. Peter. Visitors can admire the archaeological excavations, visit the quaint quarter of Trastevere, go to Tivoli to see Villa Adriana.



# Abruzzo



**Territory:** The region is essentially hilly and mountainous and stretches from the Apennines to the Adriatic Sea. It embraces the highest and hugest massifs of Central Italy, with landscapes of rugged and intact beauty, and peaks which often are higher than 2,000 meters. In this part of the Adriatic, the long sandy expanses are replaced by steep and rocky coasts. There are wide amphitheatres near L'Aquila and Sulmona and in the dried hydrographic basin of the Fucino. Geological karst formations with grottoes and "Doline" are present. The National Park of Abruzzo, in the western part of the region, harbors numerous animal species, such as the Marsican Bear and the Gray Wolf.



**Cities:** L'Aquila is the regional capital. Pescara, Chieti and Teramo are other important cities.

**Art:** The region is rich in remains of the Roman civilization, which can be found at Minturnum near L'Aquila, Alba Fucens, Iuvanum and Montenerodomo. Art saw its most creative period during the Middle Ages. Noteworthy cathedrals and abbeys, with a patent local imprint, were erected between the eleventh and the nineteenth century. The most important example is Santa Maria di Collemaggio, in L'Aquila. Sculpture attained a special development. An important and typical goldsmith's craft, which produced splendid objects, dates back to the sixteenth century. Precious Renaissance examples can be found in Sulmona and L'Aquila.



**Museums:** In L'Aquila, one can visit the National Museum of Abruzzi, with sections for paleontology, archaeology and medieval art (painting, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, lace, sacred ornaments, glass windows). Pescara has the Museum of the Folk Traditions of Abruzzo, which holds a didactic archaeological exhibition. The Pinacoteca Civica in Teramo displays beautiful majolicas. Chieti's National Museum of Antiquities houses important relics of the ancient Italics, Greeks and Romans, including some remarkable pieces such as the Warrior of Capestrano, of the fourth century B.C.

**To be visited:** Sulmona, Roccaraso and Scanno: the Highland of the Five Miles and the National Park.

# Molise



**Territory:** A region of hills and mountains, facing the Adriatic Sea, north of the Gargano promontory. It is a continuation of Abruzzo's landscape, and in fact Abruzzo and Molise constituted a single administrative district until 1963. Among the southern regions, it is one of the richest in waterways, which cross the land from the Apennine watershed to the Adriatic Sea. Other rivers, affluents of Volturno, flow into the Tyrrhenian Sea, after crossing the region of Campania.



**Cities:** The capital of Molise is Campobasso. Isernia is the capital of the respective province.



**Art:** Molise stands out in the history of the Italian art, thanks to the cycle of ninth-century frescoes of the crypt of San Lorenzo in San Vincenzo al Volturno. This cycle represents, for style and age, a unique event of noteworthy value. The monuments in Romanesque style show traces of the influence of the adjoining Apulia region. The examples of medieval architecture are very interesting. The Baroque style, with Roman and Neapolitan influences, can be seen in the civic palaces.

**To be visited:** In Campobasso, visitors can admire the historic center and the majestic battlemented castle of the Longobard period; the Romanesque churches of San Bartolomeo and San Giorgino. The church of Sant Antonino Abate houses the collection of carvings and wooden sculptures of sixteenth-century masters of Molise. About fifteen kilometers from the city, rises the Romanesque Santa Maria della Strada, with the fifteenth-century Gothic sepulchre. In Isernia, the Civic Museum holds Samnitic epigraphs and sculptures; the fourteenth-century Fontana della Fraternal is also very interesting. In Pastena, tourists can admire the monumental Sanctuary of the Addolorata of Castelpetroso, surrounded by a thick forest.



# Campania



**Territory:** The region faces the Tyrrhenian Sea and includes one of the finest coastlines in Italy. The hinterland is essentially mountainous, with irregular massifs broken here and there by valleys and plains. In front of the Gulfs of Naples and Salerno, we can admire marvelous and enchanting islands: Capri, Ischia, Procida.

**Cities:** Naples is the regional capital. Other important cities are Caserta, Benevento, Salerno and Avellino.

**Art:** Campania is extraordinarily rich in remains of the classic antiquity, which can be found in Herculaneum, Pompeii, Paestum and Cuma. Amphitheaters, triumphal arches, villas, bridges and tombs of the Roman Imperial Age are numerous and remarkable. The Paleolithic art is present in Naples and Nocera, while architectural specimens of the Longobard Age can be found in Capua and Benevento. Cathedrals in the Byzantine and Arab-Norman styles are numerous and outstanding. The Royal Palace of Caserta is the most striking expression of Baroque.

**Museums:** In Naples: the National Museum, which houses one of the most important archaeological collections in the world (statues by the great Greek masters Policleto, Lisippo and Prassitele); mosaics and wall paintings from Pompeii; the collection of jewels, small bronzes, household goods and utensils. In the Museum and Galleries of Capodimonte, tourists can admire all-time pictorial masterpieces by Titian, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Caravaggio; sculptures, tapestries and ceramics. The National Museum of San Martino has historic, artistic and monumental sections. In Benevento, the Museum of the Sannio holds an important archaeological room with Samnitic, Italic, Italic relics and an interesting collection of coins, with very rare gold coins of the Longobard Princes. Precious works of art can be admired in the Cathedral Museum and the Provincial Museum in Salerno.



**To be visited:** The splendid Amalfi coast; the marvelous islands; the Imperial Villa in Capri; the Royal Palace of Caserta with its splendid Italian gardens; Herculaneum and Pompeii.





# Apulia



**Territory:** This region forms the easternmost part of the peninsula and has a long coastline, facing the Ionian and the Adriatic Seas. Apulia is essentially a flatland with wide arid expanses, terraces and table-lands poor in water. The Murgia highland and the coast present impressive karst formations (grottoes and "Doline" hollows). The coasts are essentially high and, in the Gargano district, plunge steep into the sea; in other areas, they are sandy or rocky, but usually flat.



**Cities:** Bari is the regional capital. Brindisi, Foggia, Lecce and Taranto are the capitals of the respective provinces.

**Art:** The megalithic monuments (Dolmens and Menhirs) are numerous and interesting. Canne della Battaglia and Ignazia are two great archaeological complexes. The Roman remains are noteworthy throughout the region. The Romanesque art produced magnificent architectural works, such as the cathedrals of Bari, Trani, Barletta, Molfetta, Bitonto, Ruvo di Puglia. Interesting and majestic castles in the thirteenth-century Byzantine-Arab style can be found in Bari, Gioia del Colle, Lucera and Castel del Monte. The Baroque attained great splendor and left some impressive examples, especially in Lecce.

**Museums:** In Bari, tourists can visit the Palace of the University, which includes the important Archaeologic Museum with relics of the Neolithic and Bronze Age, funeral urns, ceramics and bronze from the necropolis. Lecce has the Provincial Museum, with sculptures and Roman architectural remains, and the Museum of the Arts of the Folk Traditions of Salento. Collections of coins, vases and bronzes are preserved in the Provincial Archaeologic Museum of Brindisi. The National Museum of Taranto is the most important for the history of Magna Graecia. In Foggia: the Civic Museum, with the prehistoric section and an interesting paleochristian epigraph, and the Pinacoteca, which houses works of nineteenth and twentieth-century local masters.

**To be visited:** The Gargano area and the coastline from Brindisi to Santa Maria di Leuca; Alberobello with its typical "trulli" houses.





# Basilicata



**Territory:** The region is mountainous, arid, scarcely watered. It has two coastlines, one in the center of the Gulf of Taranto in the Ionian Sea, and a tiny one on the Tyrrhenian Sea, with the famous sea resort of Maratea. The bare mountain landscapes slope down to the Ionian Sea.



**Cities:** Potenza is the regional capital; Matera is the capital of the other province.

**Art:** The region is rich in archaeological relics, dating back to the most remote times. Remains of the Greek era can be found in Metaponto (the Palatine Tables), while ruins of the Roman Age can be seen in Venosa. Tourists can admire noteworthy examples of medieval art in Venosa and Cerenza (Romanesque style). The architecture presents Arab-Byzantine and French influences in Matera, Melfi and Lagopesole. In this region, the Baroque style shows an evident Neapolitan influence.

**Museums:** The Provincial Archaeologic Museum of Potenza houses an important prehistoric collection, an interesting ethnographic section and numerous Greek and Latin inscriptions. In Matera, the Ridola National Museum holds Paleolithic relics, and ceramics which date back to the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. The Pinacoteca d'Errico displays noteworthy paintings of the Neapolitan school of the seventeenth and eighteenth century. The Archaeologic National Museum of Melfi houses prehistoric, protohistoric and Roman relics.

**To be visited:** In Matera, visitors can see the "Sassi", the typical houses and churches dug into the "tufa" crag. In the Gulf of Policastro, tourists can enjoy the fascinating Maratea, an important resort of the Tyrrhenian Sea; on the Ionian Sea, the Antiquarium of Metaponto.





# Calabria



**Territory:** It is the extreme south-western region of Italy, washed by the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Ionian. It is an essentially mountainous region, with a high central Apennine ridge, which crosses it lengthwise. The mountain slopes are overgrown with thick woods. The coastlines present landscapes of wild beauty.

**Cities:** The regional capital is Catanzaro. Reggio Calabria is the seat of the Regional Council. Cosenza, Crotona and Vibo Valentia are the other important cities.



**Art:** The region has a rich heritage of remains from the local artistic civilization: archaeological excavations have brought to light ancient colonies in Sibari, Crotona, Catanzaro, Locri, Vibo Valentia. In Cosenza and Reggio Calabria, we can find remains of the Roman Age, such as baths, theaters and bridges. The religious buildings show Byzantine influences, dating back to the period when the region was part of the Empire of Byzantium. The Gothic style had a large diffusion during the thirteenth century. The Renaissance style is present in the paintings. The Baroque influence can be seen in several monuments.



**Museums:** Catanzaro's Provincial Museum houses outstanding relics, from the Neolithic period to the Greek-Roman Age, and a remarkable collection of coins. In Reggio Calabria, the National Museum holds one of the most important archaeological collection in Italy: Paleolithic, Byzantine and Arab art, relics of the Bronze and Iron Ages, tomb outfits, pictorial tables and the world famous *Bronzes of Riace*, the two great bronze statues of warriors of the fifth century B.B. In Cosenza, one can visit the Museo Interdiocesano, with the treasure of the Cathedral, and the Civic Museum with prehistoric bronzes, Paleolithic manufactured goods and instruments.

**To be visited:** Tourists can make excursions to the Sila district and its lakes. Moreover, there are Villa San Giovanni (on the straits of Messina), Sibari, Crotona and the isle of Capo Rizzuto.



# Sicily



**Territory:** It is the biggest island in the Mediterranean, separated from the Italian peninsula by the strait of Messina. It has important mountain groups: Peloritani, Nebrodi, Madonie, Iblei. The plains are scanty, with the exception of the area around Catania. The coasts offer a landscape of fascinating beauty almost everywhere; groups of marvelous smaller islands are scattered round the coast (the Eolie or Lipari, Ustica, the Egadi, the isle of Pantelleria and the Pelagie). The Etna, rising in the center of a volcanic area of Sicily, is the highest active volcano in Europe (3,323 meters). The isles of Stromboli and Vulcano are also active volcanoes.



**Cities:** Palermo is the regional capital of Sicily, which is ruled by a special statute. Other important cities are Messina, Catania, Agrigento, Syracuse, Trapani, Ragusa, Enna, Caltanissetta.

**Art:** Sicily was a Greek colony during the Classic Age, the Hellenic heritage is remarkable (Syracuse, Gela, Agrigento, Selinunte and Eraclea). Important Roman remnants can be seen at Taormina, Syracuse, Tindari, Solunto, Eoro and Patti. The next artistic development took place during the Norman period, which left churches and palaces of Arab-Byzantine influence. The Gothic style can be seen in the imperial castles of Catania and Syracuse; the Catalonian influences produced elaborated architectural forms during the fifteenth century. The Baroque style, of exceptional wealth, thrived in Palermo, Catania, Ragusa, Noto and Comiso.



**Museums:** In Palermo the Archaeologic Museum, which displays a noteworthy Etruscan collection, sculptures and metopes of the temples of Selinunte; the Regional Gallery of Sicily, with the most important artistic collection of the island. The Civic Museum of Catania houses archaeology, ancient and modern art, relics of local history. In Syracuse, tourists can visit the Regional Museum and the Regional Gallery, with very rich archaeological and pictorial collections. In Agrigento, there is the Regional Archaeologic Museum.

**To be visited:** Taormina, the Etna and the majestic monuments in the Valle dei Templi of Agrigento.

# Sardinia



**Territory:** Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean and is formed by a series of mountainous massifs, hills and narrow highlands. The coasts are jagged and rocky, interspersed with marvelous beaches of very fine sand and countless inlets. The seaside landscapes, especially on the Costa Smeralda, are among the most beautiful in the world. Numerous small, enchanting islets are scattered in front of the coasts.

**Cities:** Cagliari is the capital of Sardinia, ruled by a special statute. Other important cities are Sassari, Nuoro and Oristano.

**Art:** Very ancient and peculiar remains of the prehistoric and protohistoric eras are the megalithic "Tombs of the Giants"; the "domus dejanas" (houses of the witches), tombs dug into the rock; and the "nuraghi". The nuraghi, truncated cone towers in huge stone and fortified dwellings of the earliest inhabitants, number about 7,000 and can be found all over the island. Phoenician and Roman remains have come to light at Tharros and Nora; there are Roman relics at Porto Torres and Cagliari. The Gothic-Catalonian style thrived in the island under the rule of the Spanish House of Aragon.



**Museums:** The National Archaeologic Museum of Cagliari is the most important museum in the island: prehistoric tombs, megalithic temples and tombs, the famous small bronzes and a documentation of the Punic and Roman periods. In Sanna, we can visit the archaeological and ethnographic sections of the Sanna Museum and the Pinacoteca. In Nuoro, the Regional Museum of the Costume is interesting. The Antiquarium Alborense of Oristano Houses paintings of the sixteenth-century Sardinian masters and an archaeological section.

**To be visited:** The Costa Smeralda and the island of the Maddalena (Bocche di Bonifacio); the islands of San Pietro and Sant'Antioco, near Cagliari. Tourists should not omit a visit to the archaeological excavations of Tharros and to the cork-oak woods, at the foot of the Gennargentu.





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**The Italian Government Tourist Board**

Director North America: *Riccardo Strano*

630 Fifth Avenue - Suite 1565

New York, New York 10111

Tel: (212) 245-5618

Fax: (212) 586-9249

[enitny@italiantourism.com](mailto:enitny@italiantourism.com)

[www.italiantourism.com](http://www.italiantourism.com)