

Facts About Italy

Where Is Italy?

Italy lies in the south-east of Europe and is known as 'bel paese' in Italian meaning 'beautiful country'. It has borders with four other countries: France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia which are separated in the north by the Alps.

With its distinctive boot shape, Italy is easy to spot on a world map. The peninsula sits in the Mediterranean Sea and as a result, it has a very long coastline (4722 miles). Italy has over 450 islands, the largest three of which are Sicily, Sardinia and Elba. These are popular holiday destinations due to the Mediterranean climate and stunning landscape.



In the south, Italy has three volcanoes: Vesuvius, near Naples; Etna on the island of Sicily and Stromboli off the coast of Italy. Vesuvius is the only European volcano to have erupted in the last 100 years and is considered to be one of the world's most dangerous.



Did You Know...?

The Italian flag (il Tricolore) has three equally-sized vertical stripes which each represent a different virtue:

- the green stripe represents hope,
- the white stripe represents faith,
- and the red stripe represents charity.

Weather in Italy

Italy has a typically Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild winters in the majority of the country. More than 52 million tourists flock to Italy each year and it is a popular summer holiday destination. However, Italy also has popular ski resorts in the mountainous regions to the north which also attracts tourists and holiday makers. Mont Blanc is the highest peak in the north of Italy and measures 4807m high.

Capital City

Rome, also known as the 'Eternal City', is the capital city of Italy and has a population of 2.9 million residents. Founded by Romulus in 753 BC, it is one of Europe's oldest cities. It is also Italy's biggest city and is famous for its historical architecture including the Colosseum, the Spanish Steps and fifty monumental fountains; the Trevi Fountain being one of the most famous. Rome attracts millions of tourists each year and ranked 12th place on the 2017 Top 100 City Destinations survey.

Vatican City



Vatican City is an independent city-state within Rome and is the world's smallest country. The Pope, who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church, lives here for some of the year. It is an important place for most Italians because 90% of the population is Roman Catholic.

Questions

1. What is the Italian for 'beautiful country'? Tick **one**.
 - bel piece
 - bal paese
 - bel paese
 - bol pease
2. Which of the following countries does NOT share a border with Italy? Tick **one**.
 - Switzerland
 - Austria
 - Slovenia
 - Germany
3. What are Sicily, Sardinia and Elba?

4. Why do people like to visit Italian **islands**? Give at least **two** reasons.

5. Explain in your own words what the word **virtue** means. Explain your answer fully.

6. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **interesting buildings**.

7. Say if the following statements are **true** or **false**. Write T for true and F for false.
 - The south of Italy is colder than the north.
 - Mont Blanc is the highest peak in Europe.
 - Rome was founded in 753 BC.
 - 'Eternal City' is another name for Rome.
 - The Pope lives in the Colosseum.
8. What is the main religion of Italy? Tick **one**.
 - Roman Catholic
 - Judaism
 - Islam
 - Hinduism

Answers

1. What is the Italian for 'beautiful country'? Tick **one**.
 - bel piece
 - bal paese
 - bel paese**
 - bol pease
2. Which of the following countries does NOT share a border with Italy? Tick **one**.
 - Switzerland
 - Austria
 - Slovenia
 - Germany**
3. What are Sicily, Sardinia and Elba?
Sicily, Sardinia and Elba are islands.
4. Why do people like to visit Italian **islands**? Give at least **two** reasons.
Because of the Mediterranean climate and the stunning landscape.
5. Explain in your own words what the word **virtue** means. Explain your answer fully.
Pupil's own response, such as: I think that the word virtue means good qualities that people should have. For example, hope, faith and charity are all good things that make someone a better, happier person.
6. **Find** and **copy** a word that means **interesting buildings**.
architecture
7. Say if the following statements are **true** or **false**. Write T for true and F for false.
 - F** The south of Italy is colder than the north.
 - F** Mont Blanc is the highest peak in Europe.
 - T** Rome was founded in 753 BC.
 - T** 'Eternal City' is another name for Rome.
 - F** The Pope lives in the Colosseum.
8. What is the main religion of Italy? Tick **one**.
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