

Italy's Amazing Culture



My life will forever be changed because of Italy. From the small towns to the big cities, history surrounds you at every turn. It is so fascinating to live and travel in a place that has been thriving for over twenty-five centuries. My challenge to you is to engulf yourself in the culture, speak with the people, and travel the unbeaten path. You will have the time of your life in Italy, my recommendation is to see as much of the beautiful country as possible.

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Things I wish I would
have known
before I left for **ITALY**

The REALLY Important Stuff



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PRE Departure Essentials



Inflatable Travel Pillow

These are a life saver on trains, planes and buses. Plus they don't weight a thing and fit anywhere!

Money Belt

Buy it, Wear it. Not Kidding. It takes some getting used to but once you get money stolen you will feel silly for not wearing it. Also, Italy is a cash society so you will always have money on you.

Unlock Your Cell Phone

Many wireless providers in Italy allow you to buy a sim card and put money on it as needed.

Copy your Documents

Passport, credit cards, visas, driver's license, insurance card...make a copy just in case.

LIVING the LIFE

Trains are the way to travel

Trenitalia.com is the train website. Although normally late, trains are the best way to travel within the country. Always VALIDATE your ticket before you board the train!

Eating is an Event

Coursed meals with no pressure to scarf your food make eating an event. If you do need to go you have to ask for the check or you will be there until the next meal.

Il Conto Per Favore. (eel-con-toe)
"The Check Please"

Bathrooms aren't Free

Restrooms are for customers only, so buy a delicious pastry then you can use their facilities.

Fresh food Markets

Don't just go to the supermarkets for food; stock up on the freshest fruits, vegetables, meats and cheese at the open air markets, typically twice a week.

Skype is cheap and easy

Unlimited calls to your friends and families cell phones for \$6 a month. Free if they are on skype too!

Must See's Before you RETURN

Northern Italy

Venice – My Italian history teacher referred to it as "Disneyland". I would have to agree, magical.

Cinque Terre – Five coastal cities liked by a winding path along the cliffs edge.

Central Italy

Small Towns – all of Tuscany and Umbria is filled with quant towns that will steal your heart. Here is where I plug Orvieto – a hill town that overlooks the Umbrian landscape. (picture above)

Rome – where it all began.

Southern Italy

Isle of Capri – Island surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea with some of the most magnificent hiking trails and expansive views.

All of Italy

While studying abroad I only traveled outside of Italy twice. I would strongly recommend getting a holistic experience of the entire country. There is such a diverse culture, from the north to the south it can feel as if you are no longer in the same country.