

ITALY RISK ASSESSMENT



City & Country

Italy, various

Prepared by

Sussex Abroad Office

Before you go –

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides travel advice by country. It covers safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements, health and natural disasters along with a host of other useful information. We strongly recommend that students read the section related to their destination prior to departure and before undertaking any trip to another part of the county/region.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/>

VISA REGULATIONS

British nationals don't need a visa to enter Italy. If you have another nationality, please contact the Italian Embassy. Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. ***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

HEALTH

If you're visiting Italy you should get a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)before leaving the UK. The EHIC isn't a substitute for medical and travel insurance, but it entitles you to state provided medical treatment that may become necessary during your trip. Any treatment provided is on the same terms as Italian nationals. The EHIC won't cover medical repatriation, ongoing medical treatment or non-urgent treatment, so you should make sure you have adequate travel insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment and repatriation***Please note that due to Brexit, these regulations are subject to change. Keep up to date with the information provided on the FCO website***

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 118 and ask for an ambulance. If you are referred to a medical facility for treatment you should contact your insurance/medical assistance company immediately.

TERRORISM

Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Italy. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by foreigners.

There are isolated cases of domestic terrorism. Attacks carried out by the extreme left-wing and secessionist groups have generally been aimed at official Italian targets, mainly in the form of small bombs and incendiary devices. The Italian authorities have made a number of arrests of individuals with links to Daesh and other extremist groups.

There is a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

Find out more about the [global threat from terrorism](#), how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

Type	Nature of the Hazard	Procedures to Minimise Risk
CRIME	Crime levels are generally low but there are higher levels of petty crime (particularly bag snatching and pick-pocketing) in the big city centres, such as Rome. Be aware that thieves can use a variety of methods to distract you.	Take care on public transport and in crowded areas in city centres, particularly in and around Termini station in Rome, where incidents of street muggings have been reported, and at other main stations. Be particularly vigilant on trains to and from airports and cruise ports in Italy (especially Fiumicino airport), as well as the Circumvesuviana train between Naples and Sorrento, and when

		unloading your baggage from trains and coaches.
	Those in cars can sometimes be targeted by thieves. Robberies from cars have been reported particularly in and around Rome, Milan and Pisa, as well as at motorway service stations.	Always lock your vehicle, never leave valuables in cars and avoid leaving luggage in cars for any length of time. Be aware that thieves may use a variety of methods to distract you or encourage you to stop your car. These may include asking for help or directions, or pointing out a fictional fault with your car.
NATURAL DISASTERS	Many parts of Italy lie on a major seismic fault line. Minor tremors and earthquakes are a regular occurrence.	To learn more about what to do before, during, and after an earthquake visit the Protezione Civile website .
	Due to Mount Etna's recent volcanic eruption, a series of earthquakes and earth tremors are affecting the Catania area and the eastern part of the island of Sicily. For more details, see the National Centre for Earthquakes' website (in Italian) . This seismic activity is expected to continue until the volcanic activity subsides.	Local authorities are monitoring the situation and providing updates via their website (in Italian) . If you intend to travel to affected areas, you should follow their advice. You should also check the Catania Airport website for flight updates before travel.

OTHER	Illegal traders operate on the streets of all major Italian cities, particularly tourist cities like Florence, Venice and Rome.	Don't buy from illegal street traders. You could be stopped by the local police and fined.
	Demonstrations may occur with little or no warning in cities.	You should avoid any protests, political gatherings, or marches.
DRUGS	Possession of even small quantities or soft drugs can lead to heavy fines and/or imprisonment. Using or importing khat/qat is prohibited in Iceland.	Don't become involved with drugs of any kind.

Please also note and be sensitive to the following:

- By law you must be able to show some form of identification at all times. In most cases a photocopy of the data page of your passport should suffice, but you may be asked to accompany the police to collect the original document, or to produce it within 12 hours.
- In the cities of Venice and Florence, you should observe public notices about conduct. You may be fined if you drop litter.
- Tickets on public transport must be endorsed in a ticket machine before you start a journey. The machines are usually positioned at the entrance to platforms in railway stations, in the entrance hall to metro stations and on board some buses and trams. Officials patrol public transport and will issue an on the spot fine of Euros 100 to 500 (reduced to Euros 50 if paid immediately) if you don't hold an endorsed ticket. Tickets can be purchased from shops displaying the 'T' sign, and are usually bars or tobacconists.