



HAMILTONS  
2010/11

An essential guide to relocating in

# Italy



Our guide provides additional information on obtaining visas and work permits, setting up a business, choosing schools, health care and more. Please note this information is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. Please contact our European removals department to check any details prior to your departure.

We offer three main types of removal services to Italy - a dedicated service, which means that you have sole use of a vehicle, a special service, which allows you to specify collection and delivery dates and a part load/groupage service. Part load/groupage means that several loads are grouped together and share the same vehicle. Please note delivery times for this service vary depending on how quickly consignments are consolidated.

For years the country now known as Italy (the Italian Republic) has been the cause of many foreign invasions and civil wars.

According to legend, Rome was founded in 753 B.C. and was ruled by seven Kings of Rome until 510 B.C. Rome started to gain territories defeating its neighbours one by one. By the Middle Ages central to southern Italy, once the heart of the Roman Empire, was far poorer than the north. The Papacy had also relocated to Avignon in France.

The Italian Renaissance began in Tuscany spreading mainly north it was at its height in the late 15th century. In 1478 the papacy returned to Rome but this remained poor and in ruins through the first years of the Renaissance.

The Italian unification (the unification of different states of the Italian peninsula into the single nation of Italy) was forged in 1861 and Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy was crowned King of Italy in 1861. At first it was the Kingdom of Italy but it went on to go through a difficult period with World War I, followed by Fascism under the then Prime Minister Benito Mussolini (1922 - 1943) which ultimately led to his death during World War II. Public opinion forced a referendum between retaining the monarchy or becoming a republic and in 1946 54% of the votes favoured declaring Italy a Republic Constitution. At the time that it ended in 1946 the House of Savoy was the longest surviving royal house in the world.



## Visa and Work Permits

There are no restrictions imposed on English / EU nationals who wish to work in Italy, and no work permit or visa is required for them to do so. However like France, there is a high unemployment rate, which means that finding a job here can be difficult.

English migrants do have a number of things to their advantage when applying for jobs, such as their fluency in the English language. Also many Italians study well into their late twenties so English applicants often have more job-based experience which can help them succeed at interview.

The main areas open to foreigners include media and communications, tourism, finance and international business. Italian employers expect their employees to be very well qualified and hold at least one degree in a subject relevant to the job. They also expect fluency in Italian, so it is worth studying this before you move.

Nationals moving to Italy from a non-EU country such as America will need to apply for a work permit in order to work here legally. Applications must be sponsored by an Italian company, and take around two months to be processed.

## Starting a Business in Italy

Italy is known as the land of small companies, and the Italian culture and economy supports and encourages the creation of small businesses. It can however be hard at the outset to get the company set up, due to Italian bureaucracy and obstructive civil servants. It is particularly hard for non-nationals and the ability to understand Italian well is a must to deal with the many forms you will have to fill in.

You will need to register your business with the tax registrar's office, registrar of enterprises, the registrar of companies at the local chamber of commerce and the local tax office. It is advisable to employ an agency or notary to assist you with this. It is also important to obtain legal advice before establishing your company, to ensure that you are operating within the law. Professionals may need to take a routine exam before they are permitted to be listed on the relevant professional register with the chamber of commerce.

The most common types of businesses started in Italy by EU nationals are within the leisure, property and catering industries. Many doctors and dentists also set up practises to serve the expatriate community.

## Schools

There is a good choice of schooling options available in Italy, including public schools, private schools and English language schools. Free schooling is available to all, even at nursery age and schooling is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 16.



Nursery school (scuola materna) is available for children aged 3 to 5. It is non-compulsory and free to all children except in private schools. Following this, children attend primary school (scuola elementare) between the ages of 6 and 10. Here classes have between 10 and 25 students in them and the curriculum includes Italian, English, Geography, History, Maths, Science, Technology, Music, Art, Physical Education, Information Technology and Religion.

After primary school, students go on to attend secondary school level one (scuola media) between the ages of 11-14 and secondary school level two (scuola superiore, liceo) from 14 onwards. The curriculum during these phases remains much the same with the addition of an extra international language.

Private schools are run mostly by religious orders and cater for children who have disciplinary problems or find it hard to concentrate. There are one or two that are different to this, in that they cater to highly gifted children and charge very high fees for attendance.

English language schools are the most popular choice of schooling for the children of expatriates and many Italian families also attend them. There are international schools in all of Italy's major cities, some with a better reputation than others. Go to [www.intoitaly.it](http://www.intoitaly.it) for a complete listing.

## Healthcare

The national health system of Italy provides healthcare to all EU nationals and is relatively inexpensive. It covers the majority of treatment including visits to the doctor, tests, medication, surgery and stays in hospital. To get set up, go to the nearest local health authorities (Azienda SanitaLocale) and register with a doctor. You will then receive a health card and number.

There is a wide difference between the standard of facilities provided by public and private hospitals in Italy. Italy's private hospitals offer an equivalent level of care to those in the UK, and are extremely pleasant and comfortable. Italy's public hospitals can be grim, particularly in the South and provide a much lower level of comfort than most Northern Europeans expect. It is for this reason that most expatriates living in Italy take out health care insurance to pay for private treatment when needed. This also helps avoid lengthy waiting times.

## Driving In Italy

- You must carry a high visibility jacket and a warning triangle at all times. If you do breakdown, the high visibility jacket must be worn if you leave the vehicle on the carriageway of a motorway or highway at any time of the day or night. The warning triangle must be positioned in front of the car to alert passing traffic of your presence.
- Lights: dipped headlights must be used in poor daytime visibility, and in all tunnels at all times. They must also be used when on motorways, dual carriageways, and on all out of town roads. Headlamp converters are compulsory.
- You are advised to carry a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher and replacement bulbs for your car when driving in Italy.
- All UK vehicles must display a GB sticker.
- The alcohol limit in Italy is 0.5 milligrams of alcohol per millilitre of blood.
- Mobile phones may not be used while driving.
- You must carry your driving license, vehicle registration document (V5) and insurance documents with you at all times when driving in Italy.

- Your UK insurance may only cover you for third party, fire and theft whilst driving in Italy. It is therefore important to check with your insurance company prior to departure to check your level of cover. Similarly your UK breakdown cover may not cover your journey, unless a supplement is paid.

## Speed limit

In cities and towns, the limit is 50 km. (31.25 m.p.h.)  
On other roads, maximum speeds are:

- 90 km. (56.25 m.p.h.) for all cars and motor vehicles on main roads and local roads
- 110 km. (68.75 m.p.h.) for all cars and motor vehicles up to 1099 cc. on superhighways
- 130 km. (81.25 m.p.h.) for all cars and motor vehicles over 1100 on superhighways



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