

Italy

My first trip outside Holland is Italy. Until now, I think Italy is the more recommended country to travel in Europe. I have been to four cities in Italy: Vatican, Rome, Florence, and Venice.

Vatican

Vatican is the smallest country in the world. There's no physical barriers or walls around the Vatican city.

Rome

It is recommended to buy a Rome pass when travelling in Rome. Here are some spots that I like the most:

Colosseum

Where they used combat animals in ancient Rome. It is an awesome place. Bring some snacks and take an hour to sit or lie in this Colosseum and enjoy the fantastic architecture.



Santa Maria della Concezione dei Cappuccini

This is a skeleton church. Inside, you can see decorations which are made by human skeleton. If you are not afraid of skeletons and ghosts, it is actually an awesome place to visit because you can never see this kind of things in Taiwan.



Florence

It is also a small city where you can walk to visit all the places. In Italy, you will see thousands of statues but you must not miss most famous David statue.



Venice

This is the best city I like the most in Italy. It's very romantic. In this city, the only transportation is boats and by walking. Cars are not allowed here. One thing you need to be careful of is that it is very easy to get lost in this city because the streets are very small. Although I like this city a lot, one day is enough for visiting.



Eating in Italy

You can see pizza shops everywhere. It's quite cheap and convenient to eat a piece of pizza when you are hungry. The ice cream is also very famous here, so don't miss it!



Some useful information travelling in Italy:

Weather

Italy's climate is one of the most hospitable in the world with a general pattern of warm, dry summers and mild winters. There are, however, marked regional variations ranging from the more temperate northern part of the country to the typically Mediterranean climate of the south. Summers are hot and dry along the coastal areas, especially as you move south, and cool in the major mountain areas – the Alps and Apennines. Winters are mild in the south of the country, Rome and below, but in the north they can be at least as cold as anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere, especially across the foggy plains of Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna and in river cities like Florence and Verona where the damp cold penetrates and the central heating systems aren't always as efficient as those in North America. The nicest time to visit Italy in terms of the weather and lack of crowds is April to mid-June, or September and October.

Electricity

The current in Italy is 220V, 50Hz so you'll need to bring or purchase a transformer for standard 110V North American appliances. Plugs have two round pins instead of the prongs usual in the US; plastic adaptors can be purchased from an electrical supply store (elettricista).



Shopping

Although normally shops are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30/4 p.m. to 7:30/ 8 p.m., in large cities and tourist areas there is a tendency to stay open from 9.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. with possible variations from town to town. Department stores such as La Rinascente, Coin are found in many Italian cities and towns and are open from 9.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Sources:

<http://selectitaly.com/tips>, <http://www.italiantourism.com/misc.html>