

# PERILLOTOURS

## General Travel Information to Italy

### Know Before You Go

*Even though nearly all of the planning is taken care of for you, there are a few things we would like to bring to your attention to ensure your comfort and wellbeing. Please review the following information before your departure to make sure that any surprises along the way will only be pleasant ones.*

#### PASSPORTS and VISA

U.S. citizens must have valid passports, with an expiration date of at least six months after the scheduled return date. Travelers are responsible for ensuring that they have the proper travel documents and **MUST CHECK** with the respective consulate(s) or visa agency to determine whether any visas are required. Any information provided pertains to US citizens only. Non-US citizens should check with the respective consulate of the country(s) to be visited for current entry requirements. Please make copies of your Passport, airline ticket, itinerary, travel insurance policy, emergency phone & credit card numbers as a backup in case you lose the originals. Leave one set with family/or friends at home. And have another set with you separately from the originals. Your passport, cash and credit cards are most secure when locked in a hotel safe.

#### MONEY – CURRENCY

Call your debit- and credit-card companies to let them know the countries you'll be visiting, to ask about fees, and more. This will prevent them from canceling your card. Get your bank's emergency phone number in the US (but not its 800 number) to call collect if you have a problem. If you don't know your credit card's PIN code, ask your bank to mail it to you.

Major credit cards are widely accepted but some shops and restaurants require a minimum purchase amount when using them (so they are not appropriate for incidentals such as ice creams, snacks etc). We suggest you have some euros when you arrive into Italy for such incidentals about \$100.

You might consider bringing more than one card, as some outlets may not accept all types. *(Due to increasing credit card fraud worldwide, be prepared to show identification (ie. your passport) when making a transaction with your credit card. When your card is being processed, do not let it out of your sight.)*

It's best to take a mixture of money – credit card, debit card and cash. For the best available exchange rate, you will find ATM (automatic teller machine) cards indispensable. The Plus and Cirrus logos are now displayed at many ATM locations worldwide. The usual care should be exercised when using ATMs; avoid making withdrawals at night or in unlit areas, conceal your PIN code, and be wary of assistance from seemingly helpful strangers, however polite or well dressed. In order to safeguard your card details and your transactions, wherever possible use the special security rooms provided by banks for this purpose. A lost or blocked card should be reported to your bank via its 24-hour emergency number for immediate cancellation/replacement. Check also that cards are valid for at least 30 days beyond completion of your vacation.

#### PHONE - ELECTRONICS

If you plan to use your US mobile phone or smart phone outside USA, contact your provider to enable international calling or to "unlock" your phone. Consider signing up for an international calling, text, and/or data plan, and be sure to confirm voice- and data-roaming fees. Bring a charger adapter. Countries have different size plugs and voltage. Check the voltage of your electronics.

To make a call **from Italy to USA**: dialing a number from one country to another: your country's 001 + area code + Phone Number. To call **Italy from the USA** dial 011+39 (country code) + area code + phone number. **To call US cell phone number FROM Italy**, you would dial as if you were making an international call to the United States: 001 - area code-xxx-xxxx (00 being the European code for an international call, 1- the country code for the United States and then the USA number)

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## **PHONE - ELECTRONICS**

To call a US cell number (that's located in Italy) FROM the U.S., you simply dial the US number. (Area code and phone number). You DO NOT need to dial 011. People from home can call you AS IF YOU WERE in USA. We also suggest you download WhatsApp that is a free calling service to some destinations to and from the US Italy.

## **Local Emergency Phone Numbers in Italy:**

Ambulance/Medical: 118

Fire: 115

Police: 112

**Electricity:** The U.S. uses 120 volts and you can purchase a converter and transformer at most hardware stores for your 120V appliances. Italy - The voltage used is 220 volts.

## **HEALTH & TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Contact your health-insurance company to see if you are covered outside United States. Take care of any medical needs before your trip. If you use prescription drugs, stock up before your trip. Pack along the prescription, plus one for contact lens or glasses if you wear them.

If you wear glasses, pack an extra pair. Bring them and any medicines you need in your carry-on luggage. To avoid problems when passing through customs, keep medicines in their original, labeled containers. Bring copies of your prescriptions and the generic names for the drugs. If a medication is unusual or contains narcotics, carry a letter from your doctor attesting to your need to take the drug. You may also want to bring a small first-aid kit with band aids, antibiotic cream, pain killers, bug bite cream, digestive aids like anti-diarrhea or anti-bloat medications, antacids, and cold medicine. This is in addition to any prescription medications that should be adequate for the entire trip. Traveling to your destination and changing time zone will cause tiredness and general restlessness. We recommend when you board the plane adjust your sleeping and eating activities to the new schedule, avoiding caffeine or alcoholic beverages, and by drinking plenty of water during the flight. Try to sleep on overnight flights and then, upon arrival, avoid napping until nighttime.

## **BAGGAGE & PACKING**

Because airline carry-on restrictions are always changing, visit the Transportation Security Administration's website for an up-to-date list of what you can bring on the plane with you...and what you must check: [www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items](http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items).

Each airline has its own set of guidelines as to how many bags can be checked or carried on for free. Make sure to look up what your airline's rules are to avoid any incremental fees.

**Put your name, address and telephone numbers inside and outside of each piece of luggage.** Use covered luggage tags to avoid casual observation of your identity or nationality. If possible, lock your luggage.

Airlines have strict regulations concerning luggage weight allowance. You may be asked to pay an additional fee at the airport if your luggage weight exceeds 70 pounds (50 pounds on some airlines). In addition, your checked bag cannot exceed 62 linear inches (length + width + depth). Please check with your airline to verify weight and size.

**Weather:** Italy - Spring and Fall: 55-75°F; Summer: 70-85°F; Winter: 40-55°F. Bring comfortable walking shoes, a sweater, clothes you can layer and an all-weather jacket.

## **PLEASE REMEMBER TO PACK ANY MEDICATION IN YOUR CARRY-ON.**

Pack an extra set of clothes in your carry-on bag in case your luggage delayed or lost.

Bring the minimum number of valuables.

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## **What To Pack**

- Start by writing a packing list, be sure to check the weather forecast of the destination you are visiting and take into consideration the activities and outings you will be going on.
- When packing an item think about how many times you are going to wear it. If you are not going to wear it more than three times, don't pack it!
- Choose clothes that pack well and color co-ordinate. For example, choose a base color for trousers, skirts & shorts like beige or khaki and then match with a couple of highlight colors.
- Be aware of local traditions and dress codes. Some religious sites may require modest dress to enter (no shorts, short skirts, or sleeveless tops).
- Accessories, accessories! Ladies scarves or wraps can give your limited wardrobe extra color. They can easily be used to dress up an outfit. Also, when visiting places of worship you will need to cover your shoulders so a wrap is perfect for this situation.
- Pack sunscreen and insect repellent (if applicable)
- Take a few plastic zip lock bags for carrying wet items or keeping things dry (if visiting beach)
- Check the electrical outlets and adapters needed for the places you are visiting.

### **\*Most Important Comfortable Shoes**

Follow this simple rule - don't bring anything you would hate to lose. Leave at home:

- Valuable or expensive-looking jewelry
- Irreplaceable family objects
- Your identity card, library card, and similar items you may routinely carry in your wallet.

***Due to limited motor coach capacity, we ask that only one (1) suitcase per person is brought on the tour. Perillo Tours incurs no responsibility for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the passenger's belongings.***

**AIRPORT:** We recommend you arrive to the airport for your check-in at **least 3 hours prior** to your international flight departure time.

### **AIRLINE FREQUENT FLIER PROGRAMS (If Air flights are booked by Perillo)**

Passengers are responsible to contact their airline directly regarding mileage eligibility and accrual. Airline frequent flier programs determine whether to award miles in part or total based on their own rules that are updated frequently. Some discounted or promotional airfares are not eligible for mileage accrual. Airfare booked by Perillo is by our contracted rates and do not allow us to book flights by mileage nor do they allow us to upgrade all flights. Most upgrades must be done by the passenger once we have issued the group tickets, and for group flights tickets are issued 30 days prior to departure. Perillo Tours will record frequent flier numbers when provided by the passenger prior to travel documents being issued. However, the addition of frequent flier numbers to airline records does not guarantee mileage eligibility, which is at the sole discretion of each airline.

### **AIRLINE SEAT ASSIGNMENT- (If Air flights are booked by Perillo)**

Group seating policy is different for each airline. **Perillo Tours is not in control of seat assignment.** Seats are subject to airline discretion and change without notice. Perillo Tours does everything possible to confirm seats whenever available. Some airlines and/or fare types do not allow for pre-seating and require this be done at airport check-in only. Even when seats are originally pre-assigned, they are not guaranteed and can be modified by the airline due to the equipment changes. Bulkhead and exit row seats cannot be requested and pre-assign ahead of time. Bulkhead seats are given to the passengers traveling with infants and for those with disability. Exit row seats are held for assignment at airport check in only, as passengers wishing to sit in these seats must be physically capable of carrying out the associated responsibilities. The airline agent must see a passenger's physical condition before assigning them an exit row seat. On most routes, these seats can be purchased for a fee on arrival at the airport. A portion of seats are also reserved for full fare passengers with high frequent flyer status.

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## **ARRIVING TO YOUR DESTINATIONS**

Upon arrival, please complete immigration and customs official procedure and collect your luggage. When exiting the arrival area, a local representative will meet you. He will be holding a sign with your group name on it. You will be escorted to your vehicle and transferred to your hotel.

## **HOTEL CHECK-IN & OUT**

For most hotels check-in time is about 2 to 4pm. (You will be advised of the time on your final day by day) Checkout time is 11a to 12-noon. In case you will be arriving early in the day or departing in the evening, hotels will allow you to store your luggage in their storage facility. We always request an early check-in, but it depends on hotel's availability.

## **SUGGESTED GRATUITIES:**

When people go out of their way to do their best, providing extra service with a smile, you like to reward them for a job well done. Since most people would like to say a special "thank you" may we suggest the following guidelines? These individuals are with you throughout the entire tour, so please use your own judgment and tip according to services rendered. This is a matter of personal discretion. You may use the following as a guideline:

**TIPS AND SERVICE CHARGES:** Tips in restaurants *not included* in the itinerary are not paid and are based upon service. Service charges are sometimes added to the bill, ranging from 1 to 3 Euros, or 10% - 15%. This charge must be indicated on the menu. Some may also add an extra charge for the diner ware and extras (tablecloth, silverware, plates, bread, etc.), this is normal. (Not included tips to Maids suggested tip 2 euros per day per room)

### ***Suggested Tipping for tours***

• ***Tour escort/manager: 5 euro per person per day***

• ***Driver: 2.50 euro per person per day***

• ***Local Guide: 2.50 euro per person per day (half-day tour); 5 euro per person for full day***

### **YOUR TOUR MANAGER**

Most of group tours include services of Tour Manager. All Perillo Tours Tour Managers are professional, experienced and knowledgeable staff. They are devoted to making this a relaxing and memorable tour. They supervise the handling of luggage, take care of check-in and departure from hotels, reconfirm included meals, and brief you on the daily events and timetables during the tour. They will assist with transportation logistics at the beginning and end of your tour. They are happy to assist in suggesting restaurants; ideas for free time, or simply look after reasonable special requests. He or she will do all that is possible to accommodate you.

## **INCIDENTAL CHARGES**

While staying at your lodging, costs you incur for phone calls, room service, cable TV movie charges, in-room bar, laundry, and other special services are your responsibility. Please take care of these charges as soon as possible, either the night before or on the morning of departure, being mindful that your tour's departure is not delayed.

## **REFUNDS & COMPLAINTS**

We work around-the-clock to insure your vacation goes smoothly and according to plan. But unexpected problems, often out of our control, can still arise. We urge you to work with us in correcting the problem on the spot instead of dealing with it after you return home. Our offices work with your tour leader to resolve concerns. Your travel documents will also have contact numbers for help in resolving problems. If a refund is warranted, it is under the express condition that you release us from all further liability and you thereby waive all additional rights and remedies under this contract or any applicable state, federal or foreign law.

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## **CORONAVIRUS POLICY & UPDATES**

### **Current Italy Travel Rules**

**Due to Italy's regulations (which are subject to change), you must be vaccinated to go on an tour with Perillo in 2022. Be prepared with your vaccination documents before you travel.**

**Travelers from the United States may enter Italy if they are asymptomatic AND present the following:**

- An Anti-COVID 19 vaccination certificate for a [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#)-recognized vaccine. At present, EMA recognizes the following vaccines: Pfizer-BioNtech, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, AstraZeneca and Novavax.
- While in Italy, masks will still be required in some museums and on buses.

Vaccines will not be required for anyone traveling in 2023. (Unless Italy changes its rules).

Please check the following website for updates on Covid 19 for travel for 2023

<https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information>

ENJOY YOUR TRIP!

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