



Y4 Geography - Italy

Quick Facts

Italy is country in southern Europe. It has borders with a number of countries including France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, the Vatican City and San Marino. It has a large coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. Italy covers an area of 301,340 sq.km 62 million people live there. It is easy to recognise Italy on any map as it looks like a high-heeled boot kicking a ball. The ball is the island of Sicily.



Physical Geography

The northern region of Italy is the most mountainous. Its Dolomites region is a part of the Alps, and is popular for alpine skiing. The highest peak is Monte Bianco (Mount Blanc), which is 4,807m high. The Apennines is another mountain range, which separates east Italy from west Italy. The north of the country contains large lakes, for example Lakes Garda and Como. The longest river in Italy is the Po River, which is about 405 miles long. Aside from the mainland, Italy contains two large islands: Sicily and Sardinia, and many smaller islands. There are three active volcanoes – Vesuvius near Naples, Etna on Sicily and Stromboli, on an island near the southern tip of Italy. Etna is the most active volcano in Europe.



Population

The population of Italy is around 62 million people. This makes it the fifth most populous country in Europe. The population density is 207 people per square kilometre. This is the 11th highest population density in Europe.



Settlements

The most populous cities in Italy are Rome, Milan and Naples. Other large settlements include Turin, Palermo and Verona. Many people visit Rome each year to see its Roman history, including the famous Colosseum.



Economic Activity

Italy is a part of the European Union and its currency is the Euro. Italy has a strong tourism trade – cities like Venice and Rome are amongst the most-visited in the world, and it also has a number of holiday locations.



Resources and Trade

Cars and machinery dominate Italian trade. It is also a strong world power in manufacturing. Italian wine, grains, and olive oil are exported across the world.

Human Geography

European Expedition



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Comparing Italy with the U.K.



Both countries are in Europe: the UK is in northern Europe & Italy in southern Europe.

Due to its more southerly position (closer to the Equator) Italy is warmer than the UK. On average, Rome is 7°C hotter than London.

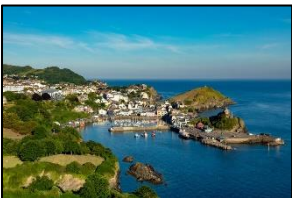
Italy is slightly larger than the UK – 301,340sq km compared to 243,610sq km.

Slightly more people live in the UK – 66 million compared to 62 million.

London has a much larger population than Rome. 8.4 million compared to 2.9 million.

Italy has higher mountains than the UK. Mt. Blanc is 4,807m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at 1,345m.

The UK has no active volcanoes, whereas Italy has three (Vesuvius, Etna, Stromboli).



Vocabulary	
Population	The number of people living in a country.
Settlements	Places in a country where people live, towns, cities etc.
Economic Activity	Products that are made and sold by a country.
Trade	The selling and buying of goods between countries.
Resources	Things that are found or made in a country.
Region	A defined area of a country based on its location.
Equator	The imaginary line that travels horizontally across the centre of the Earth