

Italy

Where is Italy?

Italy lies in Southern Europe, a flight to Rome take roughly 2.5 hours from London/England, 8 hours from New York/USA. Italy is easy to recognize on any world map, as the country is shaped like a high-heeled boot, as you can see on the map above. It looks like the boot is kicking a ball, which is the island of Sicily, don't you think?



Animals in Italy

Sheep are held mainly in Southern Italy and the donkeys still help farmers in remote villages to carry heavy loads over steep terrain. Some years ago there was a big scare in Italy about brown bear, which attacked farm animals in Northern Italy. Brown bears are protected in Italy, as there are only few bears left in the wild now. In the Alps you will very likely see the marmots, which make a very high pitched calling sound. And if you are very lucky you might even spot a lynx.



A wild lynx found in Italy in 2018.

Italian Food

The Italian main dishes contain: pork and beef, seafood as well as potatoes, rice and pasta (wheat and egg noodles) products and of course, tomatoes. Italians love their food and many dishes are based on fresh vegetables and seafood too. There are delicious sweet cakes in Italy, like the Panettone (a yeast cake with raisins), Panforte (a hard and flat fruit cake) and almond pastries like amaretti. Here is some typical Italian food:



- **Pizza:** probably the most famous Italian dish, it was invented in Napoli/Naples around 1860
- **Calzone:** folded up pizza bread filled with tomatoes, ham, cheese and all kinds of filling
- **Pesto:** thick green sauce with olives, herbs and olive oil, pine kernels and parmiggiano cheese. Healthy and mmmh!
- **Gelato:** ice-cream is an Italian invention
- **Lasagna:** layered pasta dish with tomato, mozzarella cheese and mince meat filling.
- **Mozzarella:** Italian cheese balls, originally made from buffalo milk