

## OVERVIEW

- Italy is a country a country in southern Europe.
- It borders a number of countries, including France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, the Vatican City and San Marino.
- It also has a large coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
- Italy covers an area of 301,340 sq.km
- 62 million people live in Italy.
- 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.



## ITALY

### KNOWLEDGE

### ORGANISER

Rome is the capital city of Italy. It has its roots back in Ancient Roman times, according to legend, it was founded in 753 BCE by Romulus and Remus.

Other main settlements are Milan, Naples, Venice, Turin, Palermo and Verona.

## 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. The **Tiber River** runs through Rome.
- 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



## HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Italy has a long and rich history, and a culture steeped in the arts, family, architecture, music and food. Its natural beauty and warm climate also make it a popular holiday destination for people from across the world who come for the seas, mountains and unique architecture. The population of Italy is around 60 million people.

**Tourism** focuses on the history, architecture and landscape of Italy. **Rome** is visited for the Ancient Roman ruins such as the **Colosseum**, **Venice** for its canals and architecture, **Turin** for the car trade and the Islands and coasts for the beautiful Mediterranean seas, and landscapes. Italy is part of the **European Union** and uses the **Euro** currency.

**Italy** is famous for its food and wine. Grapes, olives, pasta, pizza, cheeses and olive oil area all major exports. It is also very well known for fashion and cars.

