

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO MOTORCYCLING IN ITALY

In association with:  
Italian National Tourist Board



## ▶▶ GETTING THERE

The quickest route into Italy from the French port of Calais is via the A26 motorway toll road (also known as Autoroute des Anglais, or Motorway of the English) down through France and crossing the border at the Mont Blanc Tunnel into Courmayeur. It's a ride of approximately 560 miles and the current toll charges for motorcycles works out at €66.

## ▶▶ FERRIES

If you want to visit the Italian islands of Sardinia and Sicily, then you will need to take a ferry. If time is an issue, you can ride the length of the country and return from Sicily to Genoa on the 24-hour ferry out of Palermo. It'll save you around 800 miles of riding.

To give you an idea of ferry costs (rider plus motorcycle), a return trip to Sardinia from Civitavecchia (near Rome) to Olbia in the north of the island and returning to Naples on the mainland from Cagliari, will cost in the region £100. Cabins cost extra.

A one-way ticket from Palermo, Sicily to Genoa is approximately £90. Four bed cabins cost in the region of £50.

Please note that the above prices are correct at the time of going to print but do vary on the season and availability.

## ▶▶ FACTS

**Area:** 116,338sq miles

**Population:** 60,600,000

**Capital:** Rome/Roma

**Currency:** Euro

**Website:** www.italia.it

### Speed Limits:

Motorway - 130km/ph (80mph)

Dual Carrageway - 110km/ph (68mph)

Single Carrigeway - 90km/ph (55mph)

Urban - 50km/ph (31mph)

## ▶▶ DRIVING REGULATIONS

A national vehicle identification plate is always required when taking a vehicle abroad.

Italy requires visitors to carry a valid passport, vehicle registration document, letter of authority if you are riding a loan bike, full driving licence and insurance documentation. It is compulsory for all riders and pillion to wear crash helmets and to carry a reflective vest to be used in the case of a breakdown. It's also worth checking up on the French legal requirements regarding the minimum amount of reflective gear you may need to wear when travelling down through the country.

## ▶▶ RIDING TIPS

When riding in Italy you can expect the following:

1. After overtaking, Italian drivers tend to pull in in front of you a lot sharper than UK drivers.
2. Motorway slip roads tend to be a lot shorter than in the UK, so you'll need to build up your speed quicker to join the fast paced lanes.
3. Many petrol stations are unmanned and for the UK rider can be very confusing to operate - it's not uncommon to pay for fuel at a different pump to the one your parked at.
4. On many occasions we've found that on-screen speed limits on SatNavs bear no resemblance to those on the ground.

## ▶▶ THE BIKES

When in Italy... ride a Ducati.

We'd like to offer a big thanks to Ducati for supplying the two bikes used on our Grand Tour of Italy. We chose the Multistrada 1260 along with the more off-road orientated Multistrada Enduro Pro.

Both of these bikes proved to be excellent, reliable and comfortable companions on our trip from the high off-road passes in the Alps, to the twisty hairpins of Tuscany and the remote interior roads of Sicily.

As the saying goes... We couldn't have done it without them.



# LEARN THE ROAD

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