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Train travel in Italy is relatively easy, but may pose some challenges if you have never been to the country or if you are not used to this mode of transportation. This is why we have created this ultimate guide to traveling by train in Italy, which you can also print out and carry with you during your trip as a reference. Lets look at the main points to
consider. What is the Best Way to Get Around Italy? The train is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to travel around Italy, however this does not mean you have to do it all by train. Whether you use the train for all or part of your Italian trip depends on the itinerary that you are planning. If you do the classic Rome-Florence-Venice tour, then
you can do it all easily by train, and it is the recommended option because the train stations in these cities are conveniently located in the city centers and you do not need a car to tour them. If you plan to visit the countryside or the mountains, you should consider renting a car as it gives you more freedom and flexibility. You can also combine
different modes of transport: train between major art cities, a rental car for an on the road and to reach smaller towns and hilltop towns that may not be as well connected, plane if you need to go from the north to the south of Italy or vice versa. Most train stations in Italy are located in or very close to the city center (hence why many have centrale in
their name), so theyre very easy to reach, sometimes even on foot from your centrally located hotel. Where Italian trains are better avoided: Amalfi Coast, Sicily, Sardinia, remote countryside Where a car is a good option, but you can also get by with
trains and buses: Tuscany, Umbria, the Dolomites Buying an Italian Train Ticket You have two options to buy train tickets for your Italian trip: Buy your ticket online in advance via the train station in
Italy, either at the ticketing window or using the self-serve ticket machines (instructions are available in English and the machines accept credit cards). We recommend buying your tickets in advance whenever possible so that you do not have to wait in line, deal with a machine if youre in a hurry, you have more seat options, plus having your trip
mapped out beforehand can save you precious time while in Italy. As a general rule of thumb, the sooner you book, the cheaper the fare. Seniors and children (or family packages) generally have reduced fares on Trenitalias Frecce and Italo. *For more information about buying train tickets in Italy, see our dedicated feature. Arriving at the Train
Station in Italy First of all, always arrive early (at least 20 minutes before your trains departure time). Train stations in Italian). The first thing you want to do when you get to the train station in Italy is to find the
electronic board with the trains departure information. There are several throughout the stations, with the bigger one in the main hall and ticketing area, and smaller ones on each platform, in underground passages and waiting areas. The board has the following information: Type of train and train number (treno) Trains final destination
(destinazione) Departure time (orario) Delay (ritardo) - expect a 5-10 minute delay as standard in Italy Information (informazioni) - this usually displays the intermediate stops of the train with arrival times and where the different classes are located scrolling by Platform number (binario) To identify your train, look for the train number on your ticket
as the destination shown on the board is the final one, but your destination may be an intermediate stop (which you will see in the part of the display that scrolls by). If your train does not have a specific train number, date and time printed on it, you must validate it before boarding. Look for a green, white or yellow electronic box and insert your
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right one by looking at one of the several boards positioned overhead along the track, it specifies train number and destination. Also, make sure to board the correct carriage; the number is visible on the side of the train, on an electronic sign on the door, and before boarding, on a screen overhead. This way you will avoid creating more confusion and
blocking aisles as you walk through carriages to reach your seat. Safety at the Train Station Generally speaking, traveling by train in Italy is safe, but be vigilant of pickpockets and other petty criminals that may target disoriented travelers intent on finding their way through the station. Always carry your bag in the front, and consider investing in a
money belt to place your passport, credit card, money and important documents. If your luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage area at the front or end of the carriage), take a look at it when the train stops at intermediate stations. Do not accept help from strangers who may offer to carry your
luggage or help you get a ticket at the ticketing machine. They may insist on getting a tip from you once their service is done and not leave until you do. Just send them away as soon as they approach you. Types of Italian Trains Two company in Italy.
and to this day it has the widest network and routes. Italo began operating in 2012, and offers high-speed service between major Italian cities. When traveling on Trenitalias most modern, comfortable and fastest trains, which
also means they cost more. They require advance reservation, have seat assignment, and provide most of the high-speed service on the main lines between Turin, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Bari. There are three types of Frecce: Frecciarossa: the fastest and most expensive trains, traveling up to 300 km/h. They connect Italys
biggest cities (Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, and Naples), but not Venice and southern regions like Apulia
and Calabria. Frecciabianca: the slowest among the Frecce, they run on traditional lines and connect large and medium-sized cities in 14 of the 20 Italian regions (Valle dAosta, Trentino Alto Adige, Umbria, Basilicata, Sicily and Sardinia are not covered). Intercity - these trains are less expensive than the Frecce; they operate outside of the high speed
line, therefore your trip will take longer. They connect medium to large cities across Italy, making few intermediate stops. It is not always possible to reserve your seat in advance. These trains are usually quite old and dont have amenities like wi-fi and restaurant service, available on the Frecce. Regional trains - the cheapest option, these trains are
used by locals to get to and from work and school, connecting minor towns and villages. You cannot reserve a seat in advance, therefore if you need to take a regional train, try to avoid rush hours. Coaches are mostly second class, with only one or two reserved for first (which in this case you may want to get). These are the trains you would take for
example if you were going to the Cinque Terre or to Assisi. General tip: use the Frecce to reach the biggest cities, then use regionali to move around the region to smaller centers (when possible - sometimes you will need to take a bus instead; sometimes renting a car will be the easiest option). Should I Book a First Class Ticket or a Second Class
Ticket? All trains generally offer first class and second class, or, in the most modern trains, standard, premium, business, executive (the most expensive, the less seats available and the less people around you). What corresponds to second class (or standard) on the Frecce and Italo is absolutely decent, but obviously more crowded, so if you wish for
tranquility and silence, go for an upper class of service. You may want to step up to first class on the Intercity and regional trains. What To Do If Your Train is Canceled or Delayed When you travel by train in Italy, you should be aware that things dont always go as smoothly as you may expect in countries such as, say, Switzerland or Germany. Try to
remain patient as your train may be canceled or delayed because of a strike, an accident or repairs on the line. As reported on the Trenitalia website: - if your Freccia train is delayed by 30 to 59 minutes, Trenitalia website: - if your Freccia train is over an hour late when
you get to your destination, you are entitled to a compensation equal to:25% of the ticket price for a delay ranging from 60 to 119 minutes. The compensation may be issued in the form of a bonus for a new ticket to be purchased within 12 months; cash if the ticket was paid cash or refund on
the card that you used for payment. You can request your bonus after 24 hours from the date of travel and up to 12 months, at the ticket, or by calling the Call Center. Use this page for reference. How to Pack for Train Travel in Italy Pack light! You
dont want to have to carry around a huge suitcase that is hard to lift and lower when you get on and off the train. Remember, there are a few steep steps up (and down) the train, there may be stairs to the platforms, especially in the older stations where you wont find the automatic ones, and you may have to walk the distance in large train stations
like Rome Termini or Bologna Centrale. Go for a light carry-on or even a backpack, this will be helpful in general tips on how to pack for travel to Italy by Sarah Murdoch, a Rick Steves tour guide and Italy expert. Train TravelTimes for the
Most Common Italian Routes Rome Florence 1 hour 31 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 3 hours 45 minutes (Italo) Rome Venice 3 hours 45 
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Trenitalia) 4 hours 31 minutes (Italo) The Most Important Train Stations in Italy Rome: Roma Termini Florence: Firenze Santa Maria Novella Venice: Venezia Santa Lucia Milan: Milano Centrale Napoli Centrale Turin: Torino Porta Nuova Bologna: Bologna Centrale Now that you know everything you need to know about train travel in Italy,
enjoy the ride as you watch Italys beautiful scenery roll by! For more Italian train travel, check our dedicated section, Italy by Train. Train travel in Italy is relatively easy, but may pose some challenges if you have never been to the country or if you are not used to this mode of transportation. This is why we have created this ultimate guide to traveling
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(Trenitalia and Italo), an intermediary like Italian train travel specialists ItaliaRail, or through your tickets in advance whenever
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Trenitalias Frecce and Italo. *For more information about buying train tickets in Italy, see our dedicated feature. Arriving at the Train Stations in major cities like Rome, Milan and Bologna are very big and you may have to walk five to ten
minutes to reach your track (binario in Italian). The first thing you want to do when you get to the train stations, with the bigger one in the main hall and ticketing area, and smaller ones on each platform, in underground passages and
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train or Italo train (see below for specifics). When at the platform, double-check that the train you are about to board is the right one by looking at one of the several boards positioned overhead along the track, it specifies train number and destination. Also, make sure to board the correct carriage; the number is visible on the side of the train, on an
electronic sign on the door, and before boarding, on a screen overhead. This way you will avoid creating more confusion and blocking aisles as you walk through carriages to reach your seat. Safety at the Train Station Generally speaking, traveling by train in Italy is safe, but be vigilant of pickpockets and other petty criminals that may target
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carriage), take a look at it when the train stops at intermediate stations. Do not accept help from strangers who may offer to carry your luggage or help you get a ticket at the ticketing machine. They may insist on getting a tip from you once their service is done and not leave until you do. Just send them away as soon as they approach you. Types of
Italian Trains Two companies run trains in Italy: Trenitalia and Italo. For a long time, Trenitalia and Italo. For a long time, Trenitalia and Italo began operating in 2012, and offers high-speed service between major Italian cities. When traveling on Trenitalia, you have three different types of train
to choose from which differ based on speed and price. Le Frecce - they are Trenitalias most modern, comfortable and fastest trains, which also means they cost more. They require advance reservation, have seat assignment, and provide most of the high-speed service on the main lines between Turin, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples,
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to main cities such as Florence, Bologna, Rome, and Naples, but not to Milan or Turin. They go to Venice and southern regions like Apulia and Calabria. Frecciabianca: the slowest among the Frecce, they run on traditional lines and connect large and medium-sized cities in 14 of the 20 Italian regions (Valle dAosta, Trentino Alto Adige, Umbria,
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quite old and dont have amenities like wi-fi and restaurant service, available on the Frecce. Regional trains - the cheapest option, these trains are used by locals to get to and from work and school, connecting minor towns and villages. You cannot reserve a seat in advance, therefore if you need to take a regional train, try to avoid rush hours. Coaches
are mostly second class, with only one or two reserved for first (which in this case you may want to get). These are the trains you would take for example if you were going to the Cinque Terre or to Assisi. General tip: use the Frecce to reach the biggest cities, then use regionali to move around the region to smaller centers (when possible - sometimes
you will need to take a bus instead; sometimes renting a car will be the easiest option). Should I Book a First Class Ticket? All trains generally offer first class and second class, or, in the most modern trains, standard, premium, business, executive (the most expensive, the less seats available and the less people around you).
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Italy, you should be aware that things dont always go as smoothly as you may expect in countries such as, say, Switzerland or Germany. Try to remain patient as your train may be canceled or delayed by 30 to 59 minutes,
Trenitalia will issue abonus equal to 25% of the ticket price for a delay ranging from 60 to 119 minutes; 50% of the ticket price for a delay of more than 120 minutes. The
compensation may be issued in the form of a bonus for a new ticket to be purchased within 12 months; cash if the ticket was paid cash or refund on the card that you used for payment. You can request your bonus after 24 hours from the date of travel and up to 12 months, at the ticket office of any train station, online on the Trenitalia website, at the
 platforms, especially in the older stations where you wont find the automatic ones, and you may have to walk the distance in large train stations like Rome Termini or Bologna Centrale. Go for a light carry-on or even a backpack, this will be helpful in general as you may decide to also walk between your hotel and the train station. We have a great
 feature with general tips on how to pack for travel to Italy by Sarah Murdoch, a Rick Steves tour guide and Italy expert. Train TravelTimes for the Most Common Italian Routes (Frecciargento Trenitalia) 3 hours 45 minutes (Italo)
which has a top cruising speed of 300km/h (186mph). For those not in a hurry, one of Italys finest pleasures is chugging along a sun-dappled Mediterranean coastline on a medium-paced treno regionale (regional train) watching terraced hillsides, umbrella-lined beaches and pastel-colored towns float by. Does Italy have good trains? If you thought
Ferraris were fast, youve clearly never traveled on a Frecciarossa 1000, Italys arrow-headed high-velocity trains that reach a top cruising speed of 300km/h (186 mph). These streamlined rockets-on-wheels are not only faster than Italian sports cars, theyre also invitingly comfortable with leather seats, a complimentary glass of prosecco (in business
and executive classes) and a pleasant on-board cafe where the view changes every few seconds. Most Italian trains are operated by state-run subsidiary, Trenitalia, founded in its modern form in 2000. Trenitalia controls the lions share of the countrys rolling stock, presiding over a complex spiderweb of lines (over 16,000km/9940-miles worth) that
penetrates all 20 of the countrys regions. Supplementing Trenitalia are a handful of shorter, privately-run railways used mostly for tourist purposes. Under the Trenitalia umbrella, there are three main train categories: Regionale: The slowest and cheapest trains that generally stop at all or most stations. Supplementing Trenitalia umbrella, there are three main train categories: Regionale: The slowest and cheapest trains that generally stop at all or most stations.
major hubs while the Intercity Notte provides overnight services between the north and the south of the country, heading as far south as Syracusein Sicily and Lecce in Puglia. Intercity Notte (overnight) trains offer one-, two- and three-berth sleepers or four-berth couchettes. Alta Velocit (AV): Namely the Frecciarossa, Frecciargento, Frecciabianca
models that connect major cities reaching speeds of 300km/h, 250km/h and 200km/h (186/155/124 mph) respectively. Providing a bit of healthy competition is privately-run Italo operated by NTV (Nuovo Trasporto Viaggitori). There are two types of Italo trains, AGVs and EVOs, roughly akin to Trenitalias Frecciarossa and Frecciargento models in
terms of speed and service. Competition between Frecce (AV) and Italo trains has kept standards high and prices low. Frecciarossas have on-board cafes and four different classes, while Italo trains have a slightly more deluxe decor. And all are faster than driving, especially when you factor in traffic and parking. Frecciarossas trains are the ideal choice
for a speedy journey, but the scenery will go by in a flash. Vincenzo Lombardo/Stone/Getty Images Can I get everywhere in Italy by train? There are few sizable towns in Italy that you cant reach by train. High-speed Italo trains run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. There are additional connections run between the major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples and Salerno. The major hubs of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Rome,
to Brescia, Verona and Venice in the north. Frecce (AV) trains cover a similar network but stretch further south to Reggio Calabria. Another east-coast line serves Ancora, Pescara, Bari and Lecce. High-speed trains have reduced the journey time between Rome and Naples to just over an hour and Rome and Milan to just under three with trains
departing every 30 minutes. Intercity and regional trains cover the rest of the country, including Sicily and Sardinia. All trains, from AVs down to regionales, are kept in a good state of repair with new rolling stock including double-decker carriages introduced every few years. For convenience, cost and sustainability, Italian trains nearly always trump
cars and serve some of Italys most remote regions. Notable areas without train coverage arethe Amalfi Coast, parts of rural Calabria and Basilicata, and much of Sardinia where youll need to switch to buses. At city stations there will be somewhere to have a coffee and stock up on snacks before you board. Resul Muslu/Shutterstock Are trains in Italy
often late?Popular legend suggests Mussolini made Italys trains run on time. But, while Il Duce may have modernized the nations, he never really snuffed out railway tardiness. Nowadays, while Italian trains are rarely inordinately late, 10- to 20-minute delays are not uncommon (especially on regional
trains), which can cause problems if you have a tight connection. Its always best to book a direct train to your destination, if possible. Another bane of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the random one-day scioperi (strikes), part of Italian rail travelers lives is the rail travelers lives lives is the rail travelers lives li
sometimes work, its generally not worth the risk. Tickets for AV and Intercity trains dont require validation, as they can only be used on the specific service, time of travel and how far in advance you book. The fancier and pricier
Frecciarossa trains have four classes: standard, premium, business, and executive with prices increasing on an upward scale: 25% for premium, 60% for business, and 100% for executive. Italo has three classes: smart, prima and club, with a first-
class ticket typically costing from a third to half more than second-class. Tickets on Frecce/Italo trains, they rarely sell out. Reserve online at Trenitalia and Italo or in person at a station. Youll be assigned a specific seat when
booking.Regionale trains, which stop at nearly every station, dont require reservations. Just pay for your ticket before departure, jump on the train and grab a seat wherever you like. Multilingual ticket machines (called biglietto veloce) exist at all Italian train stations and are easy to use. They accept both cash and credit cards. Large stations also have
ticket clerks during office hours. It pays to book ahead on AV trains with savings of up to 50% available on some routes if youre sure about your travel plans there are plenty of them and youll rarely have a problem finding a space. Large stations
have ticket offices, and multilingual ticket machines can be found at all stations. EQRoy/Shutterstock Should I get an InterRail or Eurail pass for Italy?Trenitalia offers various discount passes, including the Carta Verde (40, for 12- to 26-year-olds) and Carta d'Argento (30, for over-60s), but these are mainly useful for residents or long-term visitors, as
they only pay for themselves with regular use over an extended period. More interesting for short-term visitors are the Eurail and InterRail passes. InterRail passes, available online and at most major stations, are for people who have been a resident in Europe for more than six months. A Global Pass encompassing 33 countries including Italy comes in
10 versions, ranging from three days' travel within a one-month period to three months unlimited travel. There are four price categories: youth (12 to 27), adult (28 to 59), senior (60+) and child (4 to 11), with different prices for first- and second-class. Neither InterRail or Eurail passes are valid on Italo trains. A separate InterRail one-country Italy
Pass can be used for three to eight days in one month. The Italy Pass doesn't cover reservations, which are required on all Italian trains except for slow regionales. Note: Trenitalia sells a similar pass valid only for AV and Intercity trains (not regionales). You select a given number of journeys within a specific timeframe. The pass comes in youth, adult
and senior versions. Eurail and InterRail passes dont necessarily save you money in Italy, because you must still pay a reservation fee of 13 for high-speed trains, and tickets for regular trains aren't expensive. Its often cheaper to purchase separate tickets for each journey. Trenitalia passes are cheaper than pay-on-the-day tickets, but are usually less
economical than buying tickets several weeks in advance. If budget is more of a concern than speed, or you want to get to smaller towns and villages, youll probably find yourself traveling onregionaletrains, which are surprisingly cheap and stop at all stations. Theregionales carriages arent as opulent as AVs, but theyre perfectly comfortable and
handy for those ona tight vacation budget. Can I arrive in Italy by train? Some of Italys finest train journeys cross its international borders with its neighbors to the north. The Brenner Pass route that links Munich with Venice over the Alps is sometimes touted as the finest train ride in Europe, while the Europight overnight train between Rome and
Vienna with two-bed sleepers (from 100) is a fun option if youre experiencing a sleeper train for the first time. If youve got over 3000 to blow and want to imagine youre living in a Graham Greene novel or an Agatha Christie whodunit, take the Venice Simplon Orient-Express from London (or Paris) to La Serenissima. This luxury art deco hotel on
wheels runs roughly once a week between March and November and was seemingly invented with romance in mind. Since 2021, Frecciarossa and with some forward booking for the best prices, its possible to travel between Milan and
London in one day for a cost of around 85 (or Paris for as little as 30) and you get to see magnificent alpine scenery in the bargain. Can I take my luggage on the train in Italy? There is no big issue with luggage and no luggage cars. Bring whatever you can carry and store it on board. Assembled bikes can be taken on regionale and
Intercity trains for a 3.50 supplement. Disassembled bikes can be carried on AV trains free of charge. Carriages are usually open-plan with plenty of legroom and ample luggage racks. Tables - either pull-down or shared are available with most seats. In executive class on Frecciarossa trains, you can expect revolving leather seats, cold meal trays, a
meeting room, and a bottle of prosecco delivered to your table. The upshot: train travel in Italy is way (way!) more comfortable than flying and around 80% more sustainable. Many stations are not far from the city center, like Venice's Santa Lucia, which is on the Grand Canal. Richard I'Anson/Lonely Planet Images/Getty Images Are train stations easy
to get to?Italys train stations inhabit a sliding scale that starts with Romes massive Stazione Termini, a mini-city with bookshops, bars and restaurants, and filters down to the kind of single-platform middle-of-nowhere station with a
bar where you can grab at least a caff (coffee) and a panino, along with slightly iffy toilets (some of which have attendants keeping things in order, but they also charge you 1). Stations in large cities like Naples, Milan and Florence are seldom more than a kilometer from the city center. Venices Santa Lucia station abuts the Grand Canal. Many Italian
airports are sited directly on train lines including Rome Fiumicino and Milan Malpensa. The airports that do not have a train station. Turin and Genoa have two; Rome has four, the most central being Termini (the others are Tiburtina,
Ostiense and Trastevere). Can I buy food on the train? Restaurant cars have been phased out on Italian trains and even food trolleys are becoming rare. Freccian Bistr. In Executive and business class youll get a food box delivered to your seat. Italo trains and Trenitalia regionale
and Intercity trains only have vending machines. Are there phone charging points and toilets? Almost all Italian trains, including regionales have charging points for phones and laptops (although they dont always work). Freecia and Italian trains have at least two well-maintained toilets that are a lot more spacious
than airplane bathrooms. Bring toilet roll and hand sanitizer, just in case they're not provided. Trains between La Spezia and Genoa give flashes of the beaches and villages of the beaches and villages of the Cinque Terre. Julia Lav/Shutterstock What are the most scenic train routes in Italy? The speed of Frecce trains means that the scenery is often rendered a blur. For Italys
most spectacular rail journeys, youll have to seek out small private lines or Trenitalias regional routes and abandon any stringent time constraints. Here are five of the best journeys: The epic Vigezzina line (or Centovalli, as its called in Switzerland) starts in Domodossola in Piedmont and travels across 83 bridges in two hours of condensed alpine
splendor to terminate in Locarno in Switzerland. Sardinias intentionally slow Trenino Verde, upgraded in the 1990s, runs four summer-only tourist trains along narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves. The narrow-gauge track through some of the islands most remote enclaves.
locomotive that looks more like a trolleybus than a train. En route it crosses lemon groves and lava flows, stopping at remote stations every five minutes. Jump on any Trenitalia regionale train along the Levante Riviera between La Spezia and Genoa and enjoy flashes of sun-lounging hedonists, cliffside villages and the turquoise Mediterranean as you
dash in and out of the short tunnels that burrow through the coastal escarpment. Part of the Neapolitan metro railway, the heavily used Circumvesuviana between Naples and Sorrento ferries tourists to the archaeological sites of Herculaneum and Pompeii, unveiling views of Mt Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples along the way. Are trains in Italy good for
travelers with additional needs? All AV trains have clearly marked carriages with two designated wheelchair seats, plus space for a companion. The carriages are also equipped with large accessible toilets. There is extensive braille signage in Italian stations offering
free help to everyone from wheelchair users, to the visually impaired, to pregnant women. Sala Blu equipped stations include Milan, Venice, Turin, Rome and Naples. Italy is a joy to travel by trainthe views of the countryside are amazing, therail systemis efficient, andbooking tickets is easier than ever. Furthermore, Italy has a highly-developed high
speed rail network that quickly connects all major cities and slower local trains connect most of the small towns. Its simply the best way to travel around Italy. In this guide, Ill cover everything you need to know about Italy trainsfrom buying Italian
train tickets is generally easyin most cases, you can purchase tickets online and have them sent electronically to your phone is super helpful. Here are a few articles Ive written to
help you get cheap mobile data in Italy:Guide To Mobile Data Plans and Smartphone Phones in Europe, and Guide To Buying SIM Card and Mobile Data Plans in Italy:Buying Italian train tickets online is fairly simple and straightforward these daysbut there can sometimes be a few quirks.
Note: Trenitalia is the official Italian Railways website. The site is known to have weird translation issues and some people have problems with getting their payments processed. Personally, Id avoid using this if youre not Italians. Omio is a search engine that lets you compare and book are much more user-friendly for non-Italians.
trains (and buses and flights) anywhere in Europe. It lets you easily book tickets with your credit card at essentially the same prices as the Trenitalia website. Additionally, Omio searches routes for multiple countries). TrainLine is a
website that searches multiple rail services across Europe so its great for international trips (since it can easily combine rail journeys of multiple countries). Its also good for single-country travel. Plus, its designed for English-speaking travelers so its super user-friendly. ItaliaRail is a worldwide distributor of Italian train tickets so their site is also
simple to use for English speakers. You can use a credit card topay in most currencies so anyone in the world use to able to buy tickets through the site. As an added bonus, the tickets are electronic so they can be sent straight to your phone (or can be printed at home if you prefer). Italotreno is a private rail company that runs modern high-speed
trains between most major cities these trains only run between major cities. Be sure to check them out as there are some deals to be found. Luckily, when you search with Omio youll also get Italotreno trains in the results so I prefer searching there since you can buy any Italian train ticket from any
train stationeither from a ticket window or an automated machine. You can purchase tickets in advance from train stations as well. Tickets purchased online can be collected in a few different ways. Sometimes youre given multiple methods and sometimes youre only given one option: Electronic Tickets: Tickets are sent to your phone or sometimes and
App. Simply show your phone to the conductor on the trainwhen he checks the tickets. You can often simply save the PDF to your phone/tablet and the conductor can scan it from there. Pick Up At the Station: Use your credit card or a booking
number to print your tickets at the train station. Reference Number (PNR): Youre sent a booking reference number (PNR): Youre sent a booking ahead online will get you the cheapest tickets and prices will continue to rise as the departure date
approaches. For example, I just did a search for a day-of ticket for Rome-Milan and it was 95 but tickets bought two months in advance are 32thats a prettybig difference. High-Speed Trains: Frecciargento (160 mph), Italo (180 mph), InterCity (125mph). Note: Trains between major cities will almost
always be high-speed trains (Rome-Milan, Rome-Venice, Rome-Florence, Venice-Milan, etc). Also, most train tickets are available for purchase between three to six months in advance. Regional Trains: Price-wise, there is no need to book early. Simply show up at
the station and buy your tickets at the window or automated kiosk. Of course, you can still buy regional trains: InterRegionale (IR), Regionale (IR), Regional
(obviously) and nicer/more comfortable than InterCity/Regional trains. Theyre also more expensive but we usually think the time savings are worth the cost. But if youre on a budget then InterCity/Regional trains. Theyre also more expensive but we usually think the time savings are worth the cost. But if youre on a budget then InterCity/Regional trains. Theyre also more expensive but we usually think the time savings are worth the cost. But if youre on a budget then InterCity/Regional trains. Theyre also more expensive but we usually think the time savings are worth the cost. But if youre on a budget then InterCity/Regional trains.
look at a few: Not Every Countrys National Rail Service System Plays Nice With Eachother: Sometimes one countrys national rail site doesnt know what another countrys rail system is doing so it wont allow you to book an international ticket. Third-party booking sites like Omio and TrainLine cover multiple countries so theyll let you book these more
complicated international journeys without a hassle. Otherwise, you can book two separate journeys (one for Country B) but thats kind of a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country Site: Always purchase your ticket from the country in which your train departs. This is because you can often only pick up your ticket from the country B) but thats kind of a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Buy Ticket From Departure Country B) but that a hassle. Bu
a station in the country where the trip originates. For example, for a journey from Nice, France to Milan, Italy youll want to buy your ticket from an Italian site. NOTE: This isnt an issue when you book through a third-party booking website. On most
high-speed trains in Italy, your ticket is only good for the time on the ticket. Youl also be given an assigned seat. You dont need a validate your ticket will show the car and seat number so make sure youre in the right car (the trains are clearly marked). On regional trains,
you might have a physical ticket. Make sure to validate (i.e. stamp) your ticket in the validation boxes on the platform before you get on the train. Theyre sometimes hard to see so watch what the locals are doing. If you forget to validate, seek out the conductor immediately and have him stamp it if you wait until he comes around you might be given a
fine. Regional trains wont have seat reservations so just sit anywhere. Once youre on the train the conductor will eventually walk through the aisles to check tickets. Most high-speed trains require you to make a reservation when using a Eurail pass the reservation costs around 10/seat. You must make the reservation before you get on the train. There
are a few ways to make reservations: Online: ItaliaRail.com lets you book your reservation online through their platform. Simply go to the train station and book your reservation from the customer service desk or self-service
kiosks. You can book it weeks in advance or you can do it the day you depart. We suggest using thekiosks because the ticket window can take forever. Check The Departures Board: Youll find your train platform via the departure board at the train station. Dont worry if you dont see your train because they often only display trains departing within the
next 10-20 minutes. Cheap Tickets Are Non-Refundable: One downside to cheap tickets is that theyre non-refundable and they cant be changed. Pack A Picnic: Youre allowed to bring your own food and alcohol on trains. Its great for those long train rides. Luggage: There arent any weight limits on luggage and you can bring as much as you want (well
as much as you can carry). Simply bring it on and store it above your head, behind your seat, or in the luggage racks in each car. Get To The Train Stations. There isnt any security that you have to go through but it doesnt hurt to arrive
about 20 minutes early. Know Train Station Names: Most large cities have multiple train stations so this often creates confusion. Double-check to make sure you have the right station especially when booking your ticket. Learn Italian City Names: Italian cities will often be called by their Italian name for example, Roma (Rome), Firenze
(Florence), Napoli (Naples), Milano (Milan), etc. First Class vs Second Class Tickets: First Class seats are a bit bigger. There isnt much more of a difference. Use A Credit Card With Chip: Automated ticket kiosks require a card with a chip so make sure
you know your PIN code. Get High-Speed Mobile Data: Train tickets are electronic so youll want data on your phone. Check out my guide to the best prepaid eSIM plans for Italy to get a cheap data plan. Here are a few articles Ive written about traveling around Italy: The Savvy Backpacker is reader-supported. That means when you buy
products/services through links on the site, I may earn an affiliate commissionit doesnt cost you anything extra and it helps support Us. Not for most people think carefully before buying a rail pass, especially if your trip doesn't extend
beyond Italy. Most train travelers in Italy spend each rail-travel day taking relatively short rides on the MilanVeniceFlorenceRome circuit. For these trips (most of which cost more than $50 per day). Furthermore, a rail pass doesn't
provide much hop-on convenience in Italy, since many trains require paid seat reservations (see below for more Italy-specific reservation advice). All that said, keep in mind that per-day costs are lower for longer-term rail passes so if you'll be doing a lot of Italian travel, a pass may indeed pencil out (especially if you're venturing beyond Italy on
a larger European trip). How do I see whether a rail pass makes sense for my trip in particular? Map shows approximate costs, in $US, for one-way, second-class tickets. For first-class fares, add 50 percent. Use this map to add up approximate pay-as-you-go fares for your itinerary, and compare that cost to the price of a rail pass for the number of
days you expect to spend on the train. Fares shown on the map include reservations when required, but they cost extra when using a rail pass. (Dashed lines show ferry routes.) Also, follow the links below for: More tips for getting the most
out of a rail pass General advice on deciding between first and second class Fare-estimate maps outside Italy Answers to frequently asked rail-pass questions What are my options for rail passes that cover Italy? Buy > Italy Eurail Pass see "extra tip" below Buy > Eurail Global Pass (33 countries) read more about this pass Rail Europe shopping cart:
Have an order underway? Review and complete it here. Extra tip: Anyone who lives outside Italy can also opt for a Trenitalia Pass, which costs roughly the same as the Italy Eurail Pass (but price tiers are based on the number of journeys covered, not calendar days). While the Trenitalia Pass includes the cost of seat reservations, it doesn't cover as
many classes of trains as the Eurail option, and its coverage restrictions are confusing. Few travelers are likely to find the pass to be worth the money, and even fewer will find it worth the time it takes to be absolutely sure. Do I need to make seat reservations on Italian trains? For most trains between most major destinations, yes, you do. You don't
necessarily need to make the reservations that far in advance (and in Italy there's no deadline to make them), but if you're traveling with a rail pass, you still need to pay a little extra to ride the fastest trains on the main routes connecting Italy's bigger
cities. Le Frecce trains: These trains: These trains provide most of the high-speed service on the main lines between Turin, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Bari. Reservations are required, and cost about $10 if you have a
rail pass. Regional trains: Most trains that aren't on the main lines, such as connections to Assisi, as well as most FlorencePisaCinque Terre service, don't require (or even offer) reservations. What do rail passes cover all travel on trains
run by the Italian State Railway (Ferrovie dello Stato Italiano). Rail passes do not, however, cover most of Italy's privately run trains, such as these biggies: Italo: These high-speed trains, which are covered by rail passes (though they do require a paid seat
reservation: see above). Circumvesuviana: This service is your main train option to get from Naples and Sorrento only cost about $5. Campania Express: This tourist-oriented service runs four times a day between Naples and Pompei/Sorrento (MarchOct only). Malpensa
Express: The train between Milan's Malpensa Airport and the city's central exact on (Milano Centrale) costs about $15. Beside the popular-with-tourists trains (which operate in some areas of northern Italy, including between Milan Cardorna station
and the town of Como), Gargano Railways (from San Severo), and BariMatera trains ($5 tickets). Also worth knowing: Required reservations for direct ItalyFrance service (all TGV trains on the ParisLyonTorinoMilan line) tend to sell out very far in advance. See our tips for booking ItalyFrance trains. Rome's Fiumicino Airport Express train is part of
the national railway system, but since all its seating is considered first class, it accepts only first-class rail passes (otherwise, tickets cost about $15). Buses not operated by the national railway (that's most buses in Italy) aren't covered by rail passes. Any tips for buying point-to-point train tickets in Italy? If a rail pass doesn't pencil out for your trip,
you may be able to shave off the cost of your train tickets or at least some of the hassle with some of these tips: Avoid train-station ticket lines whenever possible by using the ticket machines found in station halls. If you do use the ticket windows, be sure to stand in the correct line. You can buy train tickets (and make seat reservations) at major travel
agencies in Italian city centers, reserving several key trains at one stop. The cost is only a little more, it can be smaller than at the station's ticket windows. Advance-purchase discounts are available online up to six
months ahead for reserved, medium-speed and faster trains (but not regional trains), and come in three price levels: "Super Economy," and "Base" (full, unrestricted) fare. Privately owned Italo trains have similar advance-purchase rates between major cities. Seniors (60 and older) can buy a Carta d'Argento (30; free
if 75 or older), which gives holders a 15 percent discount on most train tickets (which pales in comparison to most advance-purchase discounts). Youths (25 and younger) can buy a Carta Verde (40), which gives holders a 10 percent discount on most train tickets (only worthwhile for a long stay). Discounts for kids don't beat the "Super Economy"
advance-purchase rate described above, but if those sell out you have some options (which vary by type of train). When kids under 15 travel with adults on faster trains, deals like "Bimbi Gratis" and "FrecciaFamily" calculate a discount off the full base fare. Choices are well presented on Trenitalia's site, but double-check age limits before purchasing.
(Even without these deals, kids ages 3 and under travel free on Italian trains; ages 411 ride for half price on regional trains and the half-price deal extends up to and including age 14 on long-distance Italian trains; ages 411 ride for half price on regional trains in my full-length guidebooks for Italy: Rick Steves Rome, Rick Steves Rome, Rick Steves Venice, or
Rick Steves Florence & Tuscany. Check our general tips for buying point-to-point tickets. Train travel in Italy is relatively easy, but may pose some challenges if you have never been to the country or if you are not used to this mode of transportation. This is why we have created this ultimate guide to traveling by train in Italy, which you can also print
out and carry with you during your trip as a reference. Lets look at the main points to consider. What is the Best Way to Get Around Italy? The train is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to travel around Italy? The train is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to travel around Italy? The train is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to travel around Italy? The train is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to travel around Italy? The train is one of the easiest and most convenient ways to travel around Italy?
itinerary that you are planning. If you do the classic Rome-Florence-Venice tour, then you can do it all easily by train, and it is the recommended option because the train stations in these cities are conveniently located in the city centers and you do not need a car to tour them. If you plan to visit the countryside or the mountains, you should consider
renting a car as it gives you more freedom and flexibility. You can also combine different modes of transport: train between major art cities, a rental car for an on the road and to reach smaller towns and hilltop towns that may not be as well connected, plane if you need to go from the north to the south of Italy or vice versa. Most train stations in Italy
are located in or very close to the city center (hence why many have centrally located hotel. Where Italian trains are better avoided: Amalfi Coast, Sicily,
Sardinia, remote countryside Where a car is a good option, but you can also get by with trains and buses: Tuscany, Umbria, the Dolomites Buying an Italian Train Ticket You have two options to buy train tickets for your Italian train.
travel specialists ItaliaRail, or through your travel agent; Directly at the train station in Italy, either at the ticketing window or using the self-serve tickets in advance whenever possible so that you do not have to wait in line, deal
with a machine if youre in a hurry, you have more seat options, plus having your trip mapped out beforehand can save you precious time while in Italy. As a general rule of thumb, the sooner you book, the cheaper the fare. Seniors and children (or family packages) generally have reduced fares on Trenitalias Frecce and Italo. *For more information
about buying train tickets in Italy, see our dedicated feature. Arriving at the Train Station in Italy First of all, always arrive early (at least 20 minutes before your trains departure time). Train stations in major cities like Rome, Milan and Bologna are very big and you may have to walk five to ten minutes to reach your trains departure time). Train stations in Italy, see our dedicated feature.
thing you want to do when you get to the train station in Italy is to find the electronic board with the trains departure information. There are several throughout the stations, with the bigger one in the main hall and ticketing area, and smaller ones on each platform, in underground passages and waiting areas. The board has the following information:
Type of train and train number (treno) Trains final destination (destination (destination) - this usually displays the intermediate stops of the train with arrival times and where the different classes are located scrolling by Platform number (binario)
To identify your train, look for the train number on your ticket, as the destination shown on the board is the final one, but your destination may be an intermediate stop (which you will see in the printed on it, you must validate it before boarding. Look
for a green, white or yellow electronic box and insert your ticket into it to get it timestamped (ie validated) before getting on your train (the validation lasts for six hours). This mostly applies to regional trains. You do not need to validated before getting on your train (the validation lasts for six hours).
platform, double-check that the train you are about to board is the right one by looking at one of the several boards positioned overhead along the track, it specifies train number and destination. Also, make sure to board the correct carriage; the number is visible on the side of the train, on an electronic sign on the door, and before boarding, on a
screen overhead. This way you will avoid creating more confusion and blocking aisles as you walk through carriages to reach your seat. Safety at the Train Station Generally speaking, traveling by train in Italy is safe, but be vigilant of pickpockets and other petty criminals that may target disoriented travelers intent on finding their way through the
station. Always carry your bag in the front, and consider investing in a money belt to place your passport, credit card, money and important documents. If your luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big youre going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big your going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big your going to have to place it in the luggage on the train is not close to you (ie if its big your going to have going t
stations. Do not accept help from strangers who may offer to carry your luggage or help you get a ticket at the ticketing machine. They may insist on getting a tip from you once their service is done and not leave until you do. Just send them away as soon as they approach you. Types of Italian Trains Two companies run trains in Italy: Trenitalia and
Italo. For a long time, Trenitalia has been the only railway company in Italy and to this day it has the widest network and routes. Italo began operating in 2012, and offers high-speed service between major Italian cities. When traveling on Trenitalia, you have three different types of train to choose from which differ based on speed and price. Le Frecce
- they are Trenitalias most modern, comfortable and fastest trains, which also means they cost more. They require advance reservation, have seat assignment, and provide most of the high-speed service on the main lines between Turin, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, and Bari. There are three types of Frecce: Frecciarossa: the
fastest and most expensive trains, traveling up to 300 km/h. They connect Italys biggest cities (Turin, Milan, Bologna, Florence, Rome, and Naples), but not Venice. Frecciargento: these trains use both the high-speed and traditional lines; they are not as fast as the Frecciargento: these trains use both the high-speed and traditional lines; they are not as fast as the Frecciargento: these trains use both the high-speed and traditional lines; they are not as fast as the Frecciargento: these trains use both the high-speed and traditional lines; they are not as fast as the Frecciargento: these trains use both the high-speed and traditional lines; they are not as fast as the Frecciargento: these trains use both the high-speed and traditional lines; they are not as fast as the Frecciargento: these trains use both the high-speed and traditional lines; they are not as fast as the Frecciargento: the fast as the Frecciargento
but not to Milan or Turin. They go to Venice and southern regions like Apulia and Calabria. Frecciabianca: the slowest among the Frecce, they run on traditional lines and connect large and medium-sized cities in 14 of the 20 Italian regions (Valle dAosta, Trentino Alto Adige, Umbria, Basilicata, Sicily and Sardinia are not covered). Intercity - these
trains are less expensive than the Frecce; they operate outside of the high speed line, therefore your trip will take longer. They connect medium to large cities across Italy, making few intermediate stops. It is not always possible to reserve your seat in advance. These trains are usually guite old and dont have amenities like wi-fi and restaurant service,
available on the Frecce. Regional trains - the cheapest option, these trains are used by locals to get to and from work and school, connecting minor towns and villages. You cannot reserve a seat in advance, therefore if you need to take a regional train, try to avoid rush hours. Coaches are mostly second class, with only one or two reserved for first
(which in this case you may want to get). These are the trains you would take for example if you were going to the Cinque Terre or to Assisi. General tip: use the Frecce to reach the biggest cities, then use regionali to move around the region to smaller centers (when possible - sometimes you will need to take a bus instead; sometimes renting a car
will be the easiest option). Should I Book a First Class Ticket? All trains generally offer first class and second class, or, in the most expensive, the less seats available and the less people around you). What corresponds to second class (or standard) on the Frecce
and Italo is absolutely decent, but obviously more crowded, so if you wish for tranquility and silence, go for an upper class of service. You may want to step up to first class on the Intercity and regional trains. What To Do If Your Train is Canceled or Delayed When you travel by train in Italy, you should be aware that things dont always go as smoothly
as you may expect in countries such as, say, Switzerland or Germany. Try to remain patient as your train may be canceled or delayed because of a strike, an accident or repairs on the line. As reported on the Trenitalia website: - if your Freccia train is delayed by 30 to 59 minutes, Trenitalia will issue abonus equal to 25% of the ticket price that you can
use for future purchases. - If your Freccia train is over an hour late when you get to your destination, you are entitled to a compensation equal to:25% of the ticket price for a delay of more than 120 minutes. The compensation may be issued in the form of a bonus for a new ticket to be
purchased within 12 months; cash if the ticket was paid cash or refund on the card that you used for payment. You can request your bonus after 24 hours from the date of travel and up to 12 months, at the ticket office of any train station, online on the Trenitalia website, at the travel agency that issued the ticket, or by calling the Call Center. Use this
page for reference. How to Pack for Train Travel in Italy Pack light! You dont want to have to carry around a huge suitcase that is hard to lift and lower when you get on and off the train. Remember, there are a few steep steps up (and down) the train, there may be stairs to the platforms, especially in the older stations where you wont find the
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automatic ones, and you may have to walk the distance in large train stations like Rome Termini or Bologna Centrale. Go for a light carry-on or even a backpack, this will be helpful in general tips on how to pack for travel to Italy by Sarah Murdoch, a Rick Steves tour guide and Italy expert. Train TravelTimes for the Most Common Italian Routes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 1 hour 23 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 3 hours 45 minutes (Italo) Rome Milan 2 hours 55 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 1 hour 20 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 1 hour 50 minutes (Italo) Florence Wenice 2 hours 5 minutes (Italo) Florence Venice 2 hours 31 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 4 hours 31 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 8 hours 40 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 4 hours 31 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 8 hours 40 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 8 hours 40 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 9 hours 31 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 8 hours 31 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 9 hours 31 minutes (Fre

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General tip: use the Frecce to reach the biggest cities, then use regionali to move around the region to smaller centers (when possible - sometimes you will need to take a bus instead; sometimes renting a car will be the easiest option). Should I Book a First Class Ticket or a Second Class Ticket? All trains generally offer first class and second class, or, in the most modern trains, standard, premium, business, executive (the most expensive, the less seats available and the less people around you). What corresponds to second class (or standard) on the Frecce and Italo is absolutely decent, but obviously more crowded, so if you wish for tranquility and silence, go for an upper class of service. You may want to step up to first class on the Intercity and regional trains. What To Do If Your Train is Canceled or Delayed When you travel by train in Italy, you should be aware that things dont always go as smoothly as you may expect in countries such as, say, Switzerland or Germany. Try to remain patient as your train may be canceled or delayed because of a strike, an accident or repairs on the line. As reported on the Trenitalia website: - if your Freccia train is delayed by 30 to 59 minutes, Trenitalia will issue abonus equal to 25% of the ticket price that you can use for future purchases. - If your Freccia train is over an hour late when you get to your destination, you are entitled to a compensation equal to:25% of the ticket price for a delay of more than 120 minutes. The compensation may be issued in the form of a bonus for a new ticket to be purchased within 12 months; cash if the ticket was paid cash or refund on the card that you used for payment. You can request your bonus after 24 hours from the date of travel agency that issued the ticket, or by calling the Call Center. Use this page for reference. How to Pack for Train Travel in Italy Pack light! You dont want to have to carry around a huge suitcase that is hard to lift and lower when you get on and off the train. Remember, there are a few steep steps up (and down) the train, there may be stairs to the platforms, especially in the older stations where you wont find the automatic ones, and you may have to walk the distance in large train stations like Rome Termini or Bologna Centrale. Go for a light carry-on or even a backpack, this will be helpful in general as you may decide to also walk between your hotel and the train station. We have a great feature with general tips on how to pack for travel to Italy by Sarah Murdoch, a Rick Steves tour guide and Italy expert. Train TravelTimes for the Most Common Italian Routes (Italo) Rome Venice 3 hours 45 minutes (Italo) Rome Ve (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 3 hours 14 minutes (Italo) Rome Naples 1 hour 10 minutes (Italo) Florence Venice 2 hours 5 minutes (Italo) Florence 2 hours 5 minutes (Italo) Fl 35 minutes (Frecciabianca Trenitalia) Milan Naples 4 hours 40 minutes (Frecciarossa Trenitalia) 4 hours 31 minutes (Italo) The Most Important Train Stations in Italy Rome: Roma Termini Florence: Firenze Santa Muria Novella Venice: Venezia Santa Lucia Milan: Milano Centrale Naples: Napoli Centrale Turin: Torino Porta Nuova Bologna: Bologna Centrale Now that you know everything you need to know about train travel in Italy, enjoy the ride as you watch Italy by Train. Follow this Italy itinerary by train with the Eurail Italy Pass and be in for a real treat. Take a memorable gondola ride along Venice's Grand Canal, set out on a shopping extravaganza in Milan, and tour Rome's magnificent monuments and museums. Reserve a seat on Italy's Frecce high-speed trains for a fast and comfortable journey between the country's major cities. Or, hop on board Trenitalia regional trains and visit Italy's authentic towns and villages. The Eurail Italy Pass gives you the freedom to travel around Italy at your own pace and along the route that you choose. For this itinerary, we recommend: Eurail Pass: ItalyTravel days: 4 days within 1 month Most of the high-speed trains in Italy require reservations. These reservations are not included in your Eurail Pass. Make sure to book your seats in advance; there are limited seats available for Eurail Pass holders. It's also possible to avoid reservations altogether simply by taking regional trains. Let us help you get more out of your trip. Sign up to get discounts and insider tips for your destination, including top attractions, local food and drink experiences and more all delivered straight to your inbox. Just tell us when your trip starts. Milan is Italy's city of class and elegance, with some of Europe's best shopping. Head to Quadrilatero dOro for a retail experience to die for with all the major designers concentrated together, such as Prada, Giorgio Armani, and Dolce & Gabbana. By night, get tickets for an opera or ballet at La Scala (Teatro alla Scala) for a memorable night of entertainment from the country's most renowned performers. Leonardo da Vinci's 15th-century mural, The Last Supper, is housed within the Santa Maria della Grazie church and is a must-see on a visit to Milan. Another top attraction to include is the magnificent Milan Cathedral swoon at the Gothic architecture from the exterior and inside, marvel at intricate stained glass windows and a rich array of sculptures and paintings. Admire Milano Centrale station a monument in its own right. Reservation required Stazione di Venezia Mestre If you're searching for an affair of the heart, Venice will reel you in with its artistic setting and labyrinth of enchanting canals. The best way to taste the city's riches is on board the iconic gondola. As you're propelled along the Grand Canal Venice's most ancient water thoroughfare admire views of grand Renaissance palaces and intricate arch bridges. Located just off the Grand Canal is Piazza San Marco, drawing in large crowds as well as musicians and artists. The square's centrerpiece is San Marco's Basilica a fine example of Venetian-Byzantine architecture. The church is known as the "Church of Gold" thanks to its dressing of opulent gilt and intricate frescoes. Reservation required Michelangelo's Statue of David is by far one of the most recognized sculptures on the planet and an absolute must-see on a trip to the Renaissance city of Florence. The original is housed in the Galleria dell'Accademia with a replica standing in Piazza della Signoria. This Renaissance masterpiece represents the biblical hero, David, which is made of marble, and stands at an astounding 17 ft (5.17m). Another popular attraction is il Duomo (Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore) its impressive dome is the symbol of Florence. Climb the 463 steps up to the top for a panoramic vista across the city. The route also takes you to the dome's interior, where you can get up close to Giorgio Vasari's incredible frescoes of the Last Judgment. Whether youre an art lover, a history buff, or just a curious adventurer, Florence offers a celebration for the eye and palate. Reservation required Rome will be the highlight of your Italy itinerary. The Colosseum was the largest ever built in the Roman Empire and is regarded as one of the greatest examples of Roman architecture. Step into the core of the ancient amphitheatre to imagine the buzzing atmosphere of the chanting Roman crowds as barbarous fighting between gladiators took place. Within Rome sits the Vatican Museums, which were established and developed over the centuries by the reigning Popes. In the Sistine Chapel, you'll see Michelangelo's remarkable frescoes that adorn the walls and ceilingsNearby is StPeter's Basilica an impressive example of Renaissance architecture and the holiest Catholic site. Reservation required If you're looking for an insight into the real, gritty Italy of the south, Naples is your place. The city is Italy's third biggest and has some of the world's best opera houses and theatres. Head to the Bay of Naples for glorious views of Mount Vesuvius one of Italy's three active volcanoes. Just a short boat ride away is the stunning Capri Island, where wealthy Italians spend their summer vacations. It makes for the perfect day trip from the hustle and bustle of Naples. Take a clifftop walk to admire views across the sun-kissed Tyrrhenian Sea, and be sure to enjoy a refreshing drink of fresh orange and lemon juice made with fruit hand-picked from the island's groves. The boat ride to Capri is not included in your Eurail Pass.

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