



COUNTRY INTELLIGENCE

International Health, Safety & Travel Intelligence Report

ITALY

OVERALL RISK: MODERATE

Prepared for Wonder of the Seas (Royal Caribbean International) · CDC Sanitation
98/100 (sample)

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CruiseAware.com™

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overall Travel Risk Rating: Moderate

Italy is a mature, high-volume travel destination with strong tourism infrastructure, modern medical care in major cities, and extensive air, rail, and cruise connectivity. Main traveler risks are petty theft, scams, transport disruption, heat exposure, seasonal flooding, and earthquake/volcanic hazards in specific regions rather than generalized violent crime. Cruise passengers benefit from well-developed ports and shore excursion options but should plan carefully for crowding, strikes, and local transport reliability.

CruiseAware Traveler Confidence Score™: 85/100

Health Environment

88/100



High-quality care is available in major cities and cruise hubs, though quality and English support can vary by region.

Security Environment

80/100



Violent crime risk for tourists is generally moderate to low, but pickpocketing and scams are persistent in tourist centers and transit hubs.

Infrastructure

90/100



Italy has strong airport, rail, road, hotel, and port infrastructure, though peak-season congestion is common.

Emergency Response

84/100



National emergency systems are capable, but response times and local capacity can vary in rural or island areas.

Transportation Reliability

81/100



Transport networks are extensive, but strikes, delays, crowding, and road complexity can affect itineraries.

Traveler confidence is high overall because Italy is a heavily visited European destination with robust infrastructure and medical capacity. Confidence is moderated by routine petty crime, regional disaster exposure, seasonal heat, and transport disruption risk.

Key Opportunities

- World-class cultural, culinary, and historical experiences across multiple cruise-accessible cities
- Strong port infrastructure supporting independent touring and organized shore excursions
- Reliable access to pharmacies, hospitals, and public transport in major destinations
- High-value multi-city itineraries for families, seniors, and first-time Mediterranean cruisers
- Excellent onward rail connections from major ports to Rome, Florence, Venice, Milan, and Naples

Key Risks

- Pickpocketing and bag theft in crowded tourist areas, metro systems, and train stations
- Summer heat, dehydration, and sun exposure, especially for shore excursions
- Transport strikes and delays affecting flights, ferries, rail, and local transit
- Earthquake and volcanic risk in parts of southern Italy and around Naples/Sicily
- Road safety concerns from aggressive driving, scooters, and narrow historic streets

Top Traveler Actions

- Carry anti-theft bags and keep passports, wallets, and phones secured in crowded areas
- Pre-book major excursions and allow extra time for trains, taxis, and port transfers
- Stay hydrated, use sun protection, and pace walking during hot-weather port days
- Maintain comprehensive travel insurance including medical evacuation and trip interruption
- Monitor official local transport notices and embassy advisories before each port call

YOUR SHIP — CDC VESSEL SANITATION SNAPSHOT

98

out of 100

Wonder of the Seas

Cruise Line: Royal Caribbean International

CDC Rating: Excellent

CDC's Vessel Sanitation Program scores ships 0–100 on sanitation and public-health practices; a score of 86 or higher is a passing grade. The figure above is CruiseAware representative sample data, not a live CDC reading. For the most current official inspection result for your ship, consult CDC's Inspection Query Tool at <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/InspectionQueryTool/InspectionSearch.aspx>.

WHAT'S CHANGED IN THE LAST 30 DAYS™

Event	Traveler Impact	Risk
Peak summer heat and UV exposure are typical in July across much of Italy	Cruise passengers on walking tours may face dehydration, heat exhaustion, and itinerary fatigue, especially in Rome, Florence/Pisa transfer routes, Naples, and Sicily.	Moderate
Seasonal crowding commonly intensifies at ports, rail hubs, and iconic attractions	Longer queues, reduced personal space, and greater pickpocketing opportunity are typical during summer cruise and vacation peaks.	Moderate
Transport labor actions and operational disruptions occur periodically in Italy	Independent travelers may experience rail, airport, ferry, or local transit delays and should maintain schedule buffers.	Moderate
Wildfire conditions can seasonally affect parts of southern Italy and islands during hotter months	Localized smoke, road closures, and excursion changes are possible in rural or coastal areas during dry periods.	Low to Moderate
Acqua alta and localized flooding remain structural issues in Venice and some coastal areas during certain weather conditions	Mobility disruptions and altered walking routes can occur, though this is more common in autumn and during severe weather patterns.	Low

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Field	Detail
Capital	Rome
Population	About 59 million
Official Language	Italian
Currency	Euro (EUR)

Field	Detail
Government	Parliamentary republic
Time Zone	Central European Time / Central European Summer Time
Major Airports	Rome Fiumicino (FCO), Milan Malpensa (MXP), Milan Linate (LIN), Venice Marco Polo (VCE), Naples (NAP), Catania (CTA)
Major Cruise Ports	Civitavecchia (Rome), Naples, Venice/Marghera, Genoa, Livorno, La Spezia, Palermo, Messina, Bari, Trieste, Cagliari
Emergency Numbers	112 (general emergency), 118 (medical in some areas), 113 police legacy service in some areas
Electricity Standards	230V, 50Hz, plug types C, F, and L
U.S. Embassy Address	U.S. Embassy Rome, Via Vittorio Veneto 121, 00187 Rome, Italy
U.S. Embassy Phone	+39 06 46741

CURRENT TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Country	Advisory Level	Main Concerns
United States	Exercise normal precautions	Petty theft, demonstrations, and transport disruption; monitor local conditions.
Canada	Take normal security precautions	Pickpocketing, scams, and transportation delays or strikes.
United Kingdom	Check travel advice and stay aware	Petty crime, demonstrations, and seasonal disruption including extreme heat and transport issues.
Australia	Exercise normal safety precautions	Theft, local transport disruptions, and natural hazards in some regions.

SECURITY & SAFETY INTELLIGENCE

Threat	Risk Level	Trend
Theft	Moderate	Persistent in tourist zones, train stations, airports, metro lines, and crowded port areas
Violent Crime	Low to Moderate	Generally localized and not primarily directed at tourists
Tourist Scams	Moderate	Common around landmarks, taxi stands, restaurants, and transport hubs

Threat	Risk Level	Trend
Terrorism	Moderate	European capitals and iconic sites remain potential targets despite no routine impact on most travelers
Civil Unrest	Low to Moderate	Demonstrations occur periodically in major cities and can disrupt movement
Transportation Crime	Moderate	Bag theft and distraction theft are common on trains, buses, and station concourses
Maritime Risks	Low	Port environments are generally well managed; main concerns are crowding, slips, petty theft, and excursion timing

Facts

Italy is generally safe for visitors, with crime against tourists most often involving pickpocketing, bag snatching, vehicle break-ins, and scams rather than serious assault. Higher-risk environments include Rome, Milan, Florence, Venice, Naples, Pisa transfer points, and busy rail terminals. Common scams involve fake petitions, distraction techniques, unofficial taxis, overcharging, bracelet or gift scams, and ATM skimming.

Analysis

For cruise and leisure travelers, the principal security problem is opportunity crime driven by dense crowds and high tourist volumes. Independent shore excursions increase exposure when travelers carry passports, cash, and phones while navigating unfamiliar transit systems. Violent crime risk is lower than theft risk, but late-night nightlife zones, isolated streets, and some transport areas merit caution. Demonstrations may occur with limited warning and can affect road access or public transit without targeting tourists directly.

Recommendations

Use anti-theft bags, carry only needed cash, separate cards from passports, and avoid placing phones or wallets in back pockets. Use licensed taxis or reputable ride services where available, validate transport tickets correctly, and stay alert at ticket machines and baggage racks. Avoid displaying jewelry or luxury items in crowded areas. If attending major attractions, secure belongings before entering queues. Keep photocopies of identity documents and know the nearest police and medical points near the port.

HEALTH INTELLIGENCE

Recommended Vaccines

- Routine vaccines
- COVID-19
- Influenza
- MMR
- Tdap
- Polio
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B depending on activities and duration

Disease Risks

Disease	Risk
Seasonal influenza and other respiratory infections	Moderate in crowded transit and cruise environments
COVID-19 and other onboard/ community respiratory spread	Moderate where crowding is high
Foodborne illness including norovirus-like gastroenteritis	Low to Moderate
Mosquito-borne nuisance exposure	Low, but bites are possible in warmer months
Heat-related illness	Moderate to High in summer for exposed walkers and older travelers

Food Safety

Food standards are generally good, especially in established restaurants and cruise-linked tourist districts. Risk increases with improperly stored takeaway foods, undercooked seafood, unrefrigerated items, and crowded seasonal venues.

Water Safety

Municipal tap water is generally safe in most urban areas. Travelers sensitive to taste or plumbing conditions may prefer bottled water in some buildings or rural settings.

Medical Infrastructure

Italy has capable hospitals, emergency services, and pharmacies, especially in Rome, Milan, Venice, Florence, Naples, Genoa, and other major cities. English-speaking care is more available in tourist centers and private facilities. Rural areas and smaller islands may have more limited specialist access and slower transfer times.

Traveler Health Recommendations

- Carry routine medications in original packaging with extra supply for delays
- Use high-SPF sunscreen, hats, electrolyte support, and hydration strategies for summer port days
- Wash or sanitize hands frequently, especially before meals and after transit
- Seek reputable clinics or hospital emergency departments in major cities if serious symptoms develop
- For cruise travel, note that Wonder of the Seas has a CruiseAware representative sample CDC Vessel Sanitation Program score of 98/100, indicating excellent onboard sanitation readiness in sample data, though this is not a live CDC reading

NATURAL DISASTER & CLIMATE INTELLIGENCE

Hazard	Risk
Earthquakes	Moderate; Italy has notable seismic risk, especially in central and southern regions
Flooding	Moderate; flash flooding and urban flooding can occur after heavy rain, with Venice and some river/coastal areas more exposed
Volcanoes	Moderate; relevant near Naples and Sicily including Vesuvius, Etna, and Stromboli areas
Tsunami	Low; possible but uncommon in Mediterranean settings
Severe Weather	Moderate; heatwaves, storms, and rough seas can affect travel seasonally

Hazard	Risk
Wildfires	Low to Moderate; greater in summer in southern regions, Sardinia, and Sicily

TRANSPORTATION INTELLIGENCE

Italy offers extensive air, rail, road, ferry, and cruise infrastructure, making independent travel feasible for most visitors. High-speed rail is useful between major cities, but local train delays, strikes, crowded stations, and platform changes are common friction points. Driving can be stressful in historic centers due to narrow streets, scooters, limited parking, toll roads, and restricted traffic zones.

Recommendations

- Build buffer time around trains, ferries, and airport transfers, especially on embarkation and disembarkation days
- Confirm whether a strike is scheduled before independent inland travel
- Use licensed taxis, official taxi queues, or pre-arranged transfers from ports
- Watch baggage closely on trains and in station waiting areas
- If driving, understand ZTL restricted traffic zones and avoid entering historic centers without authorization

CRUISEAWARE™ CRUISE PASSENGER RISK INDEX

Port Security 82/100



Major cruise ports are generally well managed, but adjacent tourist districts and transit nodes have theft exposure.

Medical Access 88/100



Strong access in principal port cities; lower depth in smaller island or rural excursion areas.

Health Readiness 86/100



Good pharmacy and care access, plus strong onboard sanitation readiness in CruiseAware sample data for Wonder of the Seas.

Transportation 79/100



Excellent network but vulnerable to delays, strikes, and peak-season congestion.

Excursion Safety 80/100



Generally favorable, with main issues being heat, timing, uneven surfaces, road traffic, and petty theft.

Overall Cruise Preparedness Score: 83/100

Italy is a favorable cruise destination with strong infrastructure, medical access, and mature tourism services. The score is reduced from very high by persistent petty crime, transport disruption risk, seasonal heat, and localized natural hazards around certain ports and excursion regions.

MAJOR CRUISE PORTS

Civitavecchia (Rome)

Top Risks: Pickpocketing during Rome transfers, train confusion, heat exposure, and missed all-aboard risk from independent travel

Recommended Precautions: Use reputable transfer options, keep documents secure, and leave generous return time from Rome

Transportation: Rail links to Rome are widely used but can be crowded and confusing for first-time visitors

Walking Safety: Port and city walking is generally manageable, but heavy traffic and crowds require attention

Medical Access: Good access in Civitavecchia and excellent access in Rome

Naples

Top Risks: Petty theft, traffic disorder, scooter hazards, heat, and excursion delays to Pompeii, Amalfi, or Capri

Recommended Precautions: Stay alert in stations and waterfront areas, use organized transport when possible, and watch road crossings carefully

Transportation: Dense traffic and ferry variability can affect schedules; private or ship tours reduce timing risk

Walking Safety: Variable by district; pavement quality and traffic patterns can challenge seniors and families

Medical Access: Strong access in Naples with major hospitals available

Venice/Marghera

Top Risks: Crowding, bag theft, slips on bridges or wet surfaces, and occasional flooding-related mobility disruption

Recommended Precautions: Travel light, wear stable shoes, and monitor waterbus routing and weather conditions

Transportation: Transfers can involve waterbus, shuttle, and substantial walking over bridges

Walking Safety: Generally safe but physically demanding due to steps, bridges, and crowds

Medical Access: Good hospital access in Venice and nearby mainland areas

Livorno

Top Risks: Long excursion transfers to Florence or Pisa, heat, train timing issues, and tourist theft
Recommended Precautions: Avoid tight self-planned schedules and secure belongings on trains and at monuments

Transportation: Useful gateway port, but independent day trips require strict time management

Walking Safety: Livorno itself is manageable; excursion cities involve long walks and dense crowds

Medical Access: Good local care; stronger specialist depth in larger nearby cities

Genoa

Top Risks: Bag theft, steep terrain in some areas, traffic, and station-area crime of opportunity

Recommended Precautions: Use established walking routes and maintain awareness in the old port and transit areas

Transportation: Good rail and road links, though urban navigation can be complex

Walking Safety: Historic areas can have uneven surfaces and steep segments

Medical Access: Strong medical infrastructure

Palermo

Top Risks: Traffic, petty theft, heat, and occasional disruption from local demonstrations or road congestion

Recommended Precautions: Use official taxis, protect valuables, and avoid isolated streets late at night

Transportation: Road congestion can slow excursions significantly

Walking Safety: Central tourist zones are walkable but require care with traffic and pavement conditions

Medical Access: Good urban medical access

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

Rome

Why Visit: Iconic ancient sites, Vatican landmarks, museums, and signature Italian cuisine

Key Safety Note: Expect heavy crowds and high pickpocket risk around major attractions and transit

Florence

Why Visit: Renaissance art, architecture, walkable historic center, and strong culinary appeal

Key Safety Note: Secure valuables in crowded squares, markets, and train areas

Venice

Why Visit: Unique canal cityscape, historic palaces, and memorable cultural atmosphere

Key Safety Note: Use sturdy footwear and allow extra time for water transport and bridge crossings

Naples and Pompeii

Why Visit: Outstanding archaeology, vibrant food culture, and access to Bay of Naples highlights

Key Safety Note: Traffic and petty theft risks are higher than in many other tourist cities

Sicily

Why Visit: Layered history, coastline, regional cuisine, Greek and Roman ruins, and volcanic landscapes

Key Safety Note: Monitor heat and any local volcanic or wildfire conditions during summer

TRAVEL PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

- Passport valid for the full trip and any required Schengen entry compliance
- Travel Insurance with trip interruption and overseas medical coverage
- Medical Evacuation Coverage
- STEP Enrollment for U.S. travelers or equivalent embassy registration
- Emergency Contacts saved on paper and phone
- Prescription Medications in original containers plus extra supply
- Backup Payment Method separate from primary cards
- Offline Maps for port cities and train routes
- Power Bank and charging adapters for type C/F/L outlets
- Mosquito Protection for summer evenings and coastal areas
- Anti-theft day bag or money belt
- High-SPF sunscreen, hat, refillable water bottle, and electrolyte packets
- Comfortable footwear for cobblestones, stairs, and long walking days
- Printed or offline copies of cruise itinerary, port timings, and excursion confirmations
- Awareness of transport strike notices and port return deadlines

INSURANCE RISK ANALYSIS™

Risk	Probability	Impact
Trip delay or missed port return due to rail, ferry, or road disruption	Moderate	Moderate to High
Medical treatment for heat illness, fall injury, or gastrointestinal illness	Moderate	Moderate
Theft of passport, phone, wallet, or luggage	Moderate	Moderate
Cancellation or interruption from severe weather, wildfire smoke, or natural hazard	Low to Moderate	Moderate to High
Emergency evacuation or complex medical repatriation	Low	High

Recommended Coverage

Strongly recommended: comprehensive travel medical, emergency evacuation, trip cancellation/interruption, missed connection, baggage and personal effects, and theft/loss of travel documents. Cruise travelers should verify shore-excursion injury coverage, cabin confinement/illness benefits if offered, and coverage for independent transport arrangements.

CRUISEAWARE™ OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Top 5 Risks

- Pickpocketing and theft in tourist and transit hotspots
- Heat-related illness during summer excursions
- Transport delays or strikes affecting independent travel
- Localized earthquake or volcanic hazards in specific regions
- Road and pedestrian safety challenges in congested urban areas

Top 5 Opportunities

- Exceptional concentration of globally recognized cultural attractions
- Strong cruise and tourism infrastructure across major ports
- Good medical access in principal cities and embarkation hubs
- Flexible pre- and post-cruise touring via rail and air links
- High-quality food, hospitality, and family-friendly shore experiences

Executive Conclusion

Italy remains a highly attractive and manageable destination for cruise and leisure travelers. Risk is best characterized as moderate: everyday travel is usually smooth, but travelers should proactively manage theft, heat, timing, and regional hazard awareness. For Wonder of the Seas passengers, the combination of strong port infrastructure and excellent representative onboard sanitation readiness supports a favorable travel outlook when paired with disciplined shore planning.

SOURCES & REFERENCES

Category	Organization	Title	URL
Travel Health	CDC Travelers' Health	CDC Travelers' Health	https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel
Travel Advisory	U.S. Department of State	Travel.State.Gov	https://travel.state.gov
Embassy	U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Italy	U.S. Embassy in Italy	https://it.usembassy.gov
Travel Advice	Government of Canada	Travel Advice and Advisories	https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories
Travel Advice	UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	Foreign Travel Advice	https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
Travel Advice	Australian Government Smartraveller	Smartraveller	https://www.smartraveller.gov.au
Public Health	World Health Organization	WHO	https://www.who.int
Public Health	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	ECDC	https://www.ecdc.europa.eu
Security	OSAC	OSAC Country Security Resources	https://www.osac.gov
Transport	IATA	IATA Travel Centre	https://www.iatatravelcentre.com

Category	Organization	Title	URL
Cruise Health	CDC Vessel Sanitation Program	Vessel Sanitation Program	https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/vsp
Country Reference	CIA World Factbook	The World Factbook	https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this report is compiled from publicly available government, health, intelligence, tourism, and news sources believed reliable as of the publication date. Conditions may change rapidly. This report is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical, legal, security, travel, or insurance advice. Travelers should verify current information with official sources before departure.

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