Researching for Italy

Italy is located in southern Europe and comprises the short, sandal-shaped Italian Peninsula, the land between the peninsula and the Alps, and a number of islands including Sicily and Sardinia. Corsica is often mistaken to be an Italian island but in fact has been a part of France since 1769. Its total area is 301,230 square kilometres (116,310 sq mi), of which 294,020 km^2 (113,520 sq mi) is land and 7,210 km^2 is water (2,784 sq mi).

Italy borders with Switzerland (740 km/460 mi), France (488 km/303 mi), Austria (430 km/270 mi) and Slovenia (232 km/144 mi). San Marino (39 km/24 mi) and Vatican city (0.44 km/0.27 mi) are both entirely surrounded by Italy.

Including islands, Italy has a coastline of 7,600 kilometres (4,700 mi) on the Adriatic, Ionian, Tyrrhenian and Ligurian Sea.

Highest peak in Italy is Mont Blanc, at 4,810 metres (15,780 ft) above sea level.

Italy is a mountainous country, with the Alps as the northern boundary and the Apennine Mountains forming the backbone of the peninsula, but in between the two lies a large plain in the valley of the Po, the largest river in Italy, which flows 652 km (405 mi) eastward from the Cottian Alps to the Adriatic. Worldwide-known mountains in Italy are Matterhorn (Cervino), Monte Rosa, Gran Paradiso in the West Alps, and Bernina, Stelvio and Dolomites along the eastern side of the Alps.

Most of Italy's rivers drain either into the Adriatic Sea (like Po, Piave, Adige, Reno) or into the Thyrrenian (like Arno, Tiber and Volturno), though the waters from some border municipalities (Livigno in Lombardy, Innichen and Sexten in Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol) drain into the Black Sea through the basin of the Drava, a tributary of the Danube, and the waters from the Lago di Lei in Lombardy drain into the North Sea through the basin of the Rhine.

In the north of the country are a number of subalpine lakes, the largest of which is Garda (370 km^2/143 sq mi). Other well known of these subalpine lakes are Lake Maggiore (212.5 km^2/82 sq mi), whose most northerly section is part of Switzerland, and Lake Como (146 km^2/56 sq mi).

Several islands form part of Italy. The largest are Sicily 25,708 km^2 (9,926 sq mi) and Sardinia 24,090 km^2 (9,301 sq mi). The third island is Elba, the largest island of the Tuscan Archipelago (224 km^2/86 sq mi).

There are also a few active volcanoes in Italy: Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe; Vulcano; Stromboli; and Vesuvius, the only active volcano on the mainland of Europe.

Natural resources
　　Mercury, potash, marble, sulfur, dwindling natural gas and crude oil reserves, fish, coal, arable land
Land use

- Arable land: 31%
- Permanent crops: 8%
- Permanent pastures: 25%
- Forests and woodland: 15%
- Other: 21% (1993 est.)

Irrigated land
　　27,100 square kilometres (10,500 sq mi) (1993 est.)
Natural hazards
　　Regional risks include landslides, mudflows, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding; land subsidence in Venice
Maritime claims

- Contiguous zone: 24 nmi (44.4 km; 27.6 mi)
- Continental shelf: 200-metre depth (660 ft) or to the depth of exploitation
- Territorial sea: 12 nmi (22.2 km; 13.8 mi)

Environment—current issues
　　Air pollution from industrial emissions such as sulphur dioxide; coastal and inland rivers polluted from industrial and agricultural effluents; acid rain damaging lakes; inadequate industrial waste treatment and disposal facilities
Environment—international agreements

- Party to: Air Pollution, Air Pollution-Nitrogen Oxides, Air Pollution-Organic Compounds, Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling, Air Pollution-Persistent Organic Pollutants, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol

Geography—note

Strategic location dominating central Mediterranean as well as southern sea and air approaches to Western Europe.

Milan

"Milano" redirects here. For other uses, see Milano (disambiguation).

For other uses, see Milan (disambiguation).

Milan (Italian: *Milano*, ◆ Italian pronunciation: **[mi'la(:)no]**; Western Lombard: *Milan*, ◆listen (help·info)) is a city in Italy and the capital of the region of Lombardy and of the province of Milan. The city proper has a population of about 1,310,000, while the urban area is the first in Italy and the fifth largest in the European Union with a population of 4,345,000 over an area of 2,370 km² (915 sq mi).[2] The Milan metropolitan area, by far the largest in Italy, is estimated by the OECD to have a population of 7,400,000.[3]

The city was founded under the name of *Medhlan*,[4] by the Insubres, Celtic people. It was later captured by the Romans in 222 BC, and the city became very successful under the Roman Empire. Later Milan was ruled by the Visconti, the Sforza, the Spanish in the 16th century and the Austrians in the 18th century. In 1796, Milan was conquered by Napoleon I and he made it the capital of his Kingdom of Italy in 1805.[5][6] During the Romantic period, Milan was a major cultural centre in Europe, attracting several artists, composers and important literary figures. Later, during World War II, the city was badly affected by Allied bombings, and after German occupation in 1943, Milan became the main hub of the Italian resistance.[5] Despite this, Milan saw a post–war economic growth, attracting thousands of immigrants from Southern Italy and abroad.[5]

An international and cosmopolitan city, 13.9% of Milan's population is from abroad.[7] The city remains one of Europe's main transportation[8] and industrial hubs, and Milan is the EU's 10th most important centre for business and finance (2009)[9] with its economy (see economy of Milan) being the world's 26th richest by purchasing power,.[10] The Milan metropolitan area has Europe's 7th GDP in 2008.[11] The province of Milan (which increasingly is becoming a single administrative urban unit to supersede the limited commune) had a GDP pp per capita of around €40,000 in 2007 (161% of the EU 27 average) which was the highest of any Italian province [12] (Il Sole 24 Ore Quality of life survey 2008) and the city's workers have the highest average

income rates in Italy,[12] and 26th in the world.[13] In addition, Milan is the world's 11th most expensive city for expatriate employees,[14] and according to a 2010 study by the Economist Intelligence Unit, the city is the world's 12th most expensive to live in.[15] Its economic environment has made it, according to several studies, the world's 20th and Europe's 10th top business and financial centre,[16][17] having been highly successful in terms of city branding.[18]

Milan is recognised as a world fashion and design capital, with a major global influence in commerce, industry, music, sport, literature, art and media, making it one of GaWC's major Alpha world cities.[19] The Lombard metropolis is especially famous for its fashion houses and shops (such as along Via Monte Napoleone) and the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in the Piazza Duomo (reputed to be the world's oldest shopping mall). The city has a rich cultural heritage and legacy, a vibrant nightlife,[20][21] and has a unique cuisine; it is home to numerous famous dishes, such as the *Panettone* Christmas cake and the *risotto alla Milanese*. The city has a particularly famous musical, particularly operatic, tradition, being the home of several important composers (such as Giuseppe Verdi) and theatres (such as the Teatro alla Scala). Milan is also well-known for containing several important museums, universities, academies, palaces, churches and libraries (such as the Academy of Brera and the Castello Sforzesco) and two renowned football teams: A.C. Milan and F.C. Internazionale Milano. This makes Milan the 52th Europe's tourist destination, with over 1.914 million foreign arrivals to the city in 2008.[22] The city hosted the 1906 World Exposition and will host the 2015 Universal Exposition.[23]

Inhabitants of Milan are referred to as "Milanese" (Italian: *Milanesi* or informally *Meneghini* or *Ambrosiani*). The city is nicknamed by Milan's

Topography

The district of Milan is located in the Padan Plain in the west-central area, inclusive among the rivers Ticino and Adda, among the river Po and the first reliefs of the Alps. It has a surface area of 181 km^2 and is 122 metres above sea level.

[edit] Climate

According to the Köppen classification, Milan has a temperate climate typical of the middle latitudes (Cfa). This is typical of Northern Italy's inland plains, where hot, humid summers and wet, damp winters prevail.[45] This is in contrast with the Mediterranean climate characteristic of the rest of Italy.[46]

Average temperatures in city center are −3 to 4 °C (39 °F) in January and 19 to 30 °C (86 °F) in July. Snowfalls are relatively common during winter, even if in the last 15–20 years they have decreased in frequency. The historic average of Milan's area is between 35 and 45 cm (16"/18"); single snowfalls over 30–50 cm in 1–3 days happen periodically, with a record of 80–100 cm during the famous snowfall of January 1985. Humidity is quite high during the whole year and annual precipitation averages about 1000 mm (40 in).[46] In the stereotypical image, the city is often shrouded in the heavy fog characteristic of cold seasons in the Po Basin, although the removal of rice paddies from the southern neighbourhoods, the urban heat island effect and the reduction of pollution from factories have reduced this phenomenon in recent years, at least in the city centre. Wind is generally absent. In spring, though, gale−force windstorms can happen, generated either by Tramontana blowing from the Alps or by Bora−like winds from northeast. Such windstorms often cause damages and injuries.

[hide]Climate data for Milano (Linate Airport, 1961-1990)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	4.6 (40.3)	8.2 (46.8)	13.2 (55.8)	17.5 (63.5)	21.9 (71.4)	26.1 (79)	28.9 (84)	27.7 (81.9)	24.3 (75.7)	18.8 (65.8)	10.2 (50.4)	5.4 (41.7)	17.2 (63)
Daily mean °C (°F)	1.4 (34.5)	4.2 (39.6)	8.3 (46.9)	12.3 (54.1)	16.6 (61.9)	20.6 (69.1)	23.1 (73.6)	22.2 (72)	18.9 (66)	13.6 (56.5)	6.9 (44.4)	2.3 (36.1)	12.5 (54.5)
Average low °C (°F)	-1.9 (28.6)	0.1 (32.2)	3.3 (37.9)	7.0 (44.6)	11.2 (52.2)	15.0 (59)	17.3 (63.1)	16.7 (62.1)	13.5 (56.3)	8.4 (47.1)	3.6 (38.5)	-0.9 (30.4)	7.8 (46)
Precipitation mm (inches)	64.3 (2.531)	62.6 (2.465)	81.6 (3.213)	82.2 (3.236)	96.5 (3.799)	65.4 (2.575)	68.0 (2.677)	93.0 (3.661)	68.5 (2.697)	99.7 (3.925)	101.0 (3.976)	60.4 (2.378)	943.2 (37.134)
% Humidity	86	78	71	75	72	71	71	72	74	81	85	86	76.8
Avg. precipitation days	7.2	6.7	7.9	8.3	8.1	7.6	5.8	7.1	5.2	6.8	8.5	6.3	85.5
Sunshine hours	58.9	96.1	151.9	177.0	210.8	243.0	285.2	251.1	186.0	130.2	66.0	58.9	1,915.1

Source: MeteoAM [47]

Architecture and main sights

A view of the Piazza del Duomo, the city's main and most central square, flocked by several palaces and important buildings, such as Milan Cathedral, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele Ⅱ and the Royal Palace of Milan.

[edit] Architecture

See also: List of buildings in Milan and Villas and palaces in Milan

Milan Cathedral: altar of the *Madonna dell'Albero*.

The Via Dante leading down to the medieval Castello Sforzesco.

There are few remains of the ancient Roman colony that later became a capital of the Western Roman Empire. During the second half of the 4th century CE, Saint Ambrose, as bishop of Milan, had a strong influence on the layout of the city, redesigning the centre (although the cathedral and baptistery built at this time are now lost) and building the great basilicas at the city gates: Sant'Ambrogio, San Nazaro in Brolos, San Simpliciano and Sant'Eustorgio, which still stand, refurbished over the centuries, as some of the finest and most important churches in Milan. The largest and most important example of Gothic architecture in Italy, the Milan Cathedral, is the fourth largest cathedral in the world[48] after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, the Cathedral of Seville and a new cathedral in the Ivory Coast.[48] Built between 1386 and 1577, it hosts the world's largest collection of marble statues with the widely visible golden Madonna statue on top of the spire, nicknamed by the people of Milan as *Madunina* (the little Madonna), that became one of the symbols of the city.

During the rule of the Sforza family, between the 14th and 15th centuries, the old Visconti fortress was enlarged and embellished to became the Castello Sforzesco: the seat of an elegant Renaissance court surrounded by a walled hunting park stocked with game captured around the Seprio and Lake Como. Notable architects involved in the project included the Florentine Filarete, who was commissioned to build the high central entrance tower, and the military specialist Bartolomeo Gadio.[49]

The political alliance between Francesco Sforza and the Florence of Cosimo de' Medici bore architectural fruit, as Milanese building came under the influence of Brunelleschian models of Renaissance architecture. The first notable buildings to show this Tuscan influence were a palazzo built to house the Medici Bank (of which only the main entrance survives) and the centrally planned Portinari Chapel, attached to San Lorenzo and built for the first manager of the bank's Milan branch. Filarete, while in Milan, was responsible for the great public hospital known as the Ospedale Maggiore, and also for an influential *Treatise on Architecture*, which included a plan for a star-shaped ideal city called Sforzinda in honour of Francesco Sforza and passionately argued for the centrally planned form.

Santa Maria delle Grazie.

Leonardo da Vinci, who was in Milan from around 1482 until the fall of the city to the French in 1499, was commissioned in 1487 to design a *tiburio*, or crossing tower for the cathedral, although he was not chosen to build it.[50][51] However the enthusiasm he shared with Filarete for the centrally planned building gave rise in this period to numerous architectural drawings [pictured] which were influential in the work of Donato Bramante and others. Bramante's work in the city, which included Santa Maria presso San Satiro (a reconstruction of a small 9th-century church), the beautiful luminous tribune of Santa Maria delle Grazie and three cloisters for Sant'Ambrogio, drew also on his studies of the Early Christian architecture of Milan such as the Basilica of San Lorenzo.[52]

The [Teatro alla Scala](#) theatre and opera house by night.

The [Counter-Reformation](#) was also the period of [Spanish domination](#) and was marked by two powerful figures: [Saint Charles Borromeo](#) and his cousin, [Cardinal Federico Borromeo](#). Not only did they impose themselves as moral guides to the people of Milan, but they also gave a great impulse to culture, with the creation of the [Biblioteca Ambrosiana](#), in a building designed by [Francesco Maria Ricchino](#), and the nearby [Pinacoteca Ambrosiana](#). Many beautiful churches and Baroque mansions were built in the city during this period by the architects, [Pellegrino Tibaldi](#), [Galeazzo Alessi](#) and Ricchino himself.[53]

Empress [Maria Theresa of Austria](#) was responsible for the significant renovations carried out in Milan during the 18th century. She instigated profound social and civil reforms, as well as the construction of many of the buildings that still today constitute the pride of the city, like the [Teatro alla Scala](#), inaugurated on 3 August 1778 and today one of the world's most famous [opera houses](#). The annexed [Museo Teatrale alla Scala](#) contains a collection of paintings, drafts, statues, costumes, and other documents regarding opera and La Scala's history. La Scala also hosts the [Ballet School of the Teatro alla Scala](#). The Austrian sovereign also promoted culture in Milan through projects such as converting the ancient [Jesuit](#) College, in the district of Brera, into a scientific and cultural centre with a Library, an astronomic observatory and the [botanical gardens](#), in which the [Art Gallery](#) and the [Academy of Fine Arts](#) are today placed side by side. Milan was also widely affected by the [Neoclassical](#) movement in the late-18th and early-19th centuries, transforming its architectural style.

The neoclassical Palazzo Belgioioso, considered a fine example of late 18th (1772–1781) century Italian architecture.

[Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II](#) triumphal arch.

[Napoleon Bonaparte](#)'s rule of the city in the early 19th century produced several fine Neoclassical edifices and palaces, including the Villa Reale, or often called the Villa del Belgiojoso (not related to the Palazzo Begiojoso). It is situated on Via Palestro and near to the Giardini Pubblici and it was constructed by [Leopoldo Pollak](#) in 1790.[54] It housed the Bonaparte family, mainly [Josephine Bonaparte](#), but also several others, such as Count [Joseph Radetzky von Radetz](#) and [Eugène de Beauharnais](#).[54] It is often regarded as one of the best types of [Neoclassical architecture](#) in Milan and Lombardy and is surrounded by an [English landscape garden](#). Today, it hosts the Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea (English: *Gallery of Contemporary Art*) and it is lavishly decorated inside with ornate classical columns, vast halls, marble statues and crystal chandeliers.[54] The Palazzo Belgiojoso was also a grand Napoleonic residence and one of the finest examples of Milanese Neoclassical architecture. There are also several other important Neoclassical monuments in the city include the *Arco della Pace* or the Arch of Peace, sometimes called the *Arco Sempione* (Sempione Arch) and is situated in Piazza Sempione right at the end of the Parco Sempione. It is often compared to a miniature version of the [Arc de Triomphe](#) in Paris. The work on the arch began in 1806 under Napoleon I and it was designed by [Luigi Cagnola](#). Just like with the Arc de Triomphe, Napoleon's 1826 defeat at the [Battle of Waterloo](#), halted the construction of the monumental arch, but [Emperor Franz Josef (Francis Joseph) I of Austria](#) ordered it to be completed, also as an honour to the [Vienna Congress](#) and peace treaty of 1815. It was completed by [Francesco Peverelli](#) on 10 September 1838.[54] Another noted Neoclassic building in the city is the Palazzo del Governo, constructed in 1817 by [Piero Gilardoni](#).[54]

The Palazzo Castiglioni in Corso Venezia, built in the Liberty, or [Art Nouveau](#), style between 1900 and 1904.

The iconic Velasca Tower, built in 1958.

In the second half of the 19th century, Milan assumed the status of main industrial city of the peninsula and drew inspiration to the urbanization from other European capitals, center of those technological innovations that constituted the symbol of the second industrial revolution and, consequently, of the great social change that had been put in motion. The great Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, a covered passage that connects Piazza del Duomo, Milan to the square opposite of La Scala, was built by Giuseppe Mengoni between 1865 and 1877 to celebrate Vittorio Emanuele II, the first king of united Italy. The passage is covered over by an arching glass and cast iron roof, a popular design for 19th-century arcades, such as the Burlington Arcade, London, which was the prototype for larger glazed shopping arcades, beginning with the Saint-Hubert Gallery in Brussels and the Passazh in St Petersburg. Another late-19th century eclectic monument in the city is the Cimitero Monumentale (literally, "*Monumental Cemetery* or *graveyard*"), which is found in the Stazione district of the city and was built in a Neo-Romanesque style by several architects from 1863 to 1866.

The tumultuous period of the 20th century also brought several innovations in architecture. A form of Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Fascist style is seen for the monumental city's Central Station (Stazione Centrale). The post-World War II period of reconstruction saw rapid economic growth that was accompanied by an increase in the population and the founding of new districts, but also for the strong drive for architectural renewal, has produced some of the milestones in the city's architectural history including Gio Ponti's Pirelli Tower (1956–60), the Velasca Tower (1956–58), the creation of new residential districts and, in recent years, the construction of the new exhibition centre in Rho and the urban renewal of once industrial areas, that have been transformed into modern residential districts and services, like the City Life business and residential center.

Parks and Gardens

Sempione Park, the city's downtown main.

The Villa Reale in the Giardini Comunali, near the Giardini di Porta Venezia (Public Gardens of Porta Venezia), amongst the city's oldest parks, founded in the late-1700s.

Despite the fact that Milan has a very small amount of green space in comparison to cities of its size,[55] the city does boast a wide variety of parks and gardens. The first public parks were established 1857 and 1862, and were designed by Giuseppe Balzaretto. They were situated in a "green park district", found in the areas of Piazzale Oberdan (Porta Venezia), Corso Venezia, Via Palestro and Via Manin.[56] Most of them were landscaped in a Neo-classical style and represented traditional English gardens, often full of botanic richness.[56] Since 1990 Milan is surrounded by the regional Parco Agricolo Sud Milano which forms a half-circle around the south of the city connecting the Ticino Park in the west and Adda Park in the east. The Park was instituted to safeguard and enhance agricultural landscape and activities, woodlands and punctual natural areas, historical heritage in the suburbs, towns and countryside of Milan, with an overall size of 47,000 hectars.

Park of Quarries entrance ("Parco delle Cave"), west Milan.

The most important parks in Milan are: the set of adjacent parks in the west area of the city which belong to the Parco Agricolo Sud Milano (the Park of Quarries, 131 hectars; the "Wood-in-the-city" Boscoincittà, 110 hectars; and the Trenno Park, 59 hectars, whose overall size amount to about 300 hectars), the Sempione Park (near to the Castello Sforzesco), Parco Forlani, Giardini Pubblici, Giardino della Villa Comunale, Giardini della Guastalla and Parco Lambro. Sempione Park is a large public park, situated between the Castello Sforzesco and the Arch of Peace (Arco della Pace), near Piazza Sempione. It was constructed by Emilio Alemagna, and contains a Napoleonic Arena, the Civico Acquario di Milano (Civic Aquarium of Milan), a tower, an art exhibition centre, some ponds and a library.[56] Then there is Parco Forlani, which, with a size of 235 hectares is the largest park in Milan,[56] and contains a hill and a pond. Giardini Pubblici is among Milan's oldest remaining public parks, founded on 29 November 1783, and completed around 1790.[57] It is landscaped in an English garden Neo-classical style, and contains a pond, the Natural History Museum of Milan and the Villa Reale. Giardini della Guastalla is also one of the oldest gardens in Milan, and consists mainly of a decorated fish pond.

Milan also hosts three important botanical gardens: the Milan University Experimental Botanical Garden (a small botanical garden operated by the Istituto di Scienze Botaniche), the Brera Botanical Garden (another botanical garden, founded in 1774 by Fulgenzio Witman, an abbot under the orders of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, and restored in 1998 after several years of abandonment) and the Cascina Rosa Botanical Garden. On January 23, 2003 a Garden of the Righteous was established in Monte Stella to commemorate those who opposed genocides and crimes against humankind. It hosts trees dedicated to Moshe Bejski, Andrei Sakharov, the founders of the Gardens of the Righteous in Yerevan and Sarajevo Svetlana Broz and Pietro Kuciukian, and others. The decision to commemorate a "Righteous" person in this Garden is made every year by a commission of high-profile characters.

[edit] Demographics

One of the post-war public apartment blocks in the outskirts of Milan. Due to a sustained growth of population and rapid arrival of immigrants from all over Italy, several of these public housing estates were constructed during the 1950s–1960s.

Main article: [Demographics of Italy](#)

Historical populations		
Year	**Pop.**	**%±**
1861	267,618	—
1871	290,514	8.6%
1881	354,041	21.9%
1901	538,478	52.1%
1911	701,401	30.3%
1921	818,148	16.6%
1931	960,660	17.4%
1936	1,115,768	16.1%
1951	1,274,154	14.2%
1961	1,582,421	24.2%
1971	1,732,000	9.5%
1981	1,604,773	−7.3%

1991	1,369,231	−14.7%
2001	1,256,211	−8.3%
2009 Est.	1,306,800	4.0%

Source: ISTAT 2001

The city proper has a population of 1,301,394 inhabitants as of April 2009. Since the population peak of 1971, the city proper has lost almost one third of its population, mostly due to suburban sprawl subsequent to the deindustrialization process of the last three decades. The urban area of Milan, largely coinciding with its administrative province, is the fifth largest in the E.U. with an estimated population of 4.3 million. The growth of many suburbs and satellite settlements around the city proper since the great economic boom of the 1950–60s have defined the extent and pattern of the metropolitan area, and commuting flows suggest that socioeconomic linkages have expanded well beyond the boundaries of the city and its province, creating a metropolitan area of 7.4 million population expanded all over the central section of Lombardy region.[58][59] It has been suggested that the Milan metropolitan area is part of the so-called *Blue Banana*, the area of Europe with the highest population and industrial density.[60]

[edit] Immigration

Since the end of World War II, Milan has been host to two waves of mass immigration, the first from within Italy, the second from outside the peninsula. These two immigrations have corresponded with two different economic phases. The first immigration coincided with the economic miracle of 1950s and 1960s, a period of extraordinary growth based on classic industry and public works. The second immigration has taken place against the background of a vastly different economy, centered around services, small industry and post-industrial scenarios. The first concerned Italians, from the countryside, the mountains and the cities of the South, the East or the other provinces of Lombardy. The second concerns non-Italians, from a myriad of countries but above all from North Africa, Sub-saharan Africa, North America, Central America, Caribbean, South America, Asia, Oceania, and Eastern Europe. By the end of the 1990s Milan had a 10 per cent foreign immigrant population, the vast majority of whom worked in the low-level service sector (restaurant workers, cleaners, maids, domestic workers) or in factories.[61] As of January 2009, the Italian

national institute of statistics [ISTAT](#) estimated that 181,393 foreign-born immigrants lived in Milan, representing 14% of the total population.[7]

Milan is particularly well-known[*citation needed*], also, for its Chinese community near via Paolo Sarpi, often called the "[Milan Chinatown](#)", which was established in the 1930s[*citation needed*], and is the oldest, most significant and biggest Chinese area in Italy[*citation needed*].

Tourism

Main article: [Tourism in Milan](#)

⊡

The bohemian and artistic Brera quarter, which contains several antique, fashion and art shops.

Milan is one of EU's most important tourist destinations, also being the 7th best city in Europe in terms of touristic reputation, attractions and branding;[18] with 1.902 million arrivals in 2007 and 1.914 million in 2008, it places itself 42nd and 52nd respectively, most visited city in the world.[22] According to a particular source, 56% of international visitors to Milan are from Europe, whilst 44% of the city's tourists are Italian, and 56% are from abroad.[55] The most important European Union markets are the [United Kingdom](#) (16%), [Germany](#) (9%) and [France](#) (6%).[55] According to the same study, most of the visitors who come from the [USA](#) to the city go on business matters, whilst [Chinese](#) and [Japanese](#) tourists mainly take up the [leisure](#) segment.[55] The city boasts several popular tourist attractions, such as the city's [Duomo](#) and [Piazza](#), the [Convent of Sta. Maria delle Grazie](#) with [Leonardo da Vinci](#)'s [The Last Supper](#), the [San Siro Stadium](#), the [Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II](#), the [Castello Sforzesco](#), the [Pinacoteca di Brera](#) and the [Via Monte Napoleone](#). Most tourists visit sights such as [Milan Cathedral](#), the [Castello Sforzesco](#) and the [Teatro alla Scala](#), however, other main sights such as the [Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio](#), the [Navigli](#) and the [Brera Academy and district](#) are less visited and prove to be less popular.[55] The city also has numerous hotels, including the ultra-luxurious [Town House Galleria](#), which is the world's first [seven-star](#) hotel, ranked officially by the [Société Générale de Surveillance](#), and one of [The Leading Hotels of the World](#).[65] Milan also contains several *boutique* or *fashion* hotels, including the new Armani World, which is planned to open in 2010. It is a huge

hotel situated in the Via Manzoni (in the [Via Monte Napoleone fashion district](#)), and is found in a 1930s building. It is planned to contain 95 rooms, and everything will be in an Armani-based theme.[66] Other notable hotels in the city include the historic Grand Hotel et de Milan (where Giuseppe Verdi died), the Hotel Four Seasons, the Park Hyatt Hotel, or the station Grand Hotel Gallia in the Piazza Duca d'Aosta, to name but a few.

The average stay for a tourist in the city is of 3.43 nights, whilst foreigners stay for longer periods of time, 77% of which stay for a 2–5 night average.[55] Of the 75% of visitors which stay in hotels, 4-star ones are the most popular (47%), whilst 5-stars, or less than 3-stars represent 11% and 15% of the charts respectively.

[edit] Culture

Main article: [Culture of Milan](#)

The Palazzo Saporiti in the Corso Venezia, an example of neoclassical-era Milan.

The Madonnina, a symbol of the city.

Milan's culture has evolved during the past centuries, and includes traces of [Italian](#), [French](#), [Austrian](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#) [cultures](#), due to the presence of several civilisations in the city. Today, Milan hosts some of the finest cultural, educational and artistic institutions in the country, including the [Brera art gallery and fine arts academy](#), the Teatro alla Scala,[67] the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, and the Bocconi university and business school, and is known for its influence abroad in fields such as economics, design and fashion. Milan has a local dialect, called [Milanese](#), and there are several songs and literary works composed in this language, including the famous piece *["O mia bela Madonina"](#)* (Italian: O mia bella Madonnina; English: Oh my beautiful Madonnina [little Madonna]), which refers to the golden statue of Mary at the highest pinnacle of the city's Duomo. Today, Milan is seen as being a modern city, with most of its buildings destroyed during the Second World War; nevertheless, it still maintains a large number of historical sights, and an ancient cultural heritage.[67]

   Cultural institutions, art galleries and museums

The city of Milan contains several cultural institutions, museums and galleries, some of which are highly important at an international level.[110]

The [Poldi Pezzoli Museum](#).

The [Bagatti Valsecchi Museum](#) is a not-for-profit [historic house museum](#) in the [Monte Napoleone](#) district[111] of the city's centre. The Italian Renaissance art and decorative arts collections of the barons Bagatti Valsecchi are displayed in their home, as they wished them to be. Hence, visitors may view not only particular pieces of art, but also the house's authentic ambiances, expressive of late 19th century aristocratic Milanese taste. It contains paintings such as the *Christ in Majesty, Virgin, Christ Child and Saints*, [Giovanni Pietro Rizzoli, aka Giampietrino](#), 1540s (painter inspired by [Leonardo da Vinci](#)).

The [Pinacoteca di Brera](#) is one of Milan's most important art galleries. It contains one of the foremost collections of Italian paintings, an outgrowth of the cultural program of the Brera Academy, which shares the site in the [Brera Academy](#). It contains masterpieces such as the *[Brera Madonna](#)* by [Piero della Francesca](#).

The [Milan's Civic Museum of Natural History](#).

The [Castello Sforzesco](#) is Milan's castle, and now hosts numerous art collections and exhibitions. The best known of the current civic museums is the Pinacoteca del Castello Sforzesco, with an art collection which includes [Michelangelo](#)'s last sculpture, the *[Rondanini Pietà](#)*, [Andrea Mantegna](#)'s *Trivulzio Madonna* and [Leonardo da Vinci](#)'s *Codex Trivulzianus* manuscript. The Castello complex also includes The Museum of Ancient Art, The Furniture Museum, The Museum of Musical Instruments and the Applied Arts Collection, The Egyptian and Prehistoric sections of the Archaeological Museum and the Achille Bertarelli Print Collection.

The [Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano](#) (Natural History Museum of Milan) was founded in 1838 when [Giuseppe de Cristoforis](#) (1803–1837) donated his collections to the city. Its first director was [Giorgio Jan](#) (1791–1866).

The [Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia "Leonardo da Vinci"](#) is a national museum about science and technology in Milan, and is dedicated to Italian painter and scientist Leonardo Da Vinci.

The [Museo Poldi Pezzoli](#) is another of the city's most important and prestigious museums. The museum was originated in the 19th century as private collection of Gian Giacomo Poldi Pezzoli and his mother, Rosa Trivulzio, of the family of the condottiero [Gian Giacomo Trivulzio](#), and has a particularly broad collection of Northern Italian and (for Italy) Netherlandish/Flemish artists.

The [Pinacoteca di Brera](#).

The [Museo Teatrale alla Scala](#) is a theatrical museum and library attached to the [Teatro alla Scala](#) in Milan. Although it has a particular focus on the history of [opera](#) and of that [opera house](#), its scope extends to Italian theatrical history in general, and includes displays relating, for example, to the *Commedia dell'Arte* and to the famous stage actress [Eleonora Duse](#).

The [Museum of the Risorgimento](#) (*Museo del Risorgimento*) is a museum in Milan on the history of [Italian unification](#) from 1796 (Napoleon's first Italian campaign) and 1870 (Rome's annexation into the Kingdom of Italy) and on Milan's part in it (particularly the [Five Days of Milan](#)). It is housed in the 18th century Palazzo Moriggia. Its collections include [Baldassare Verazzi](#)'s *Episode from the Five Days* and [Francesco Hayez](#)'s 1840 *Portrait* of Emperor [Ferdinand I of Austria](#).

La [Triennale](#) di Milano is a design museum and events venue located inside the Palace of Art building, part of Parco Sempione, the park grounds adjacent to [Castello Sforzesco](#). It hosts exhibitions and events which highlight contemporary Italian design, urban planning, architecture, music, and media arts, emphasizing the relationship between art and industry.

[[edit](#)] Transportation

[Milano Centrale](#) train station main entrance.

After [Bologna](#), Milan is the second railway hub of Italy, and the five major stations of Milan, amongst which the [Milan Central station](#), are among Italy's busiest. The first railroad built in Milan, the [Milan and Monza Rail Road](#) was opened for service on August 17, 1840.

Since December 16, 2009 two [High speed train](#) lines link Milan to [Bologna](#), [Florence](#), [Rome](#), [Naples](#) and [Salerno](#) in one direction, and to [Turin](#) in another.

The [Azienda Trasporti Milanesi](#) (ATM) operates within the metropolitan area, managing a [public transport](#) network consisting of three metropolitan railway lines and tram, [trolley-bus](#) and [bus lines](#). The ATM tramway fleet includes several Peter Witt cars, originally built in 1928 and still working. Overall the network covers nearly 1,400 km reaching 86 municipalities. Besides public transport, ATM manages the interchange [parking lots](#) and the on-street parking spaces in the historical centre and in the commercial zones using the SostaMilano parking card system.

Milan has three [subway](#) lines in a system called [Milan Metro](#), with a network size of more than 80 km. It comprises three lines; the red line which runs northeast and west, the green line running northeast and southwest, and the yellow line running north and south.

Map of the [Milan Metro](#) Network. The blue line represent the *Passante* urban track of the

Suburban Railways.

The Suburban Railway Service Lines, composed of ten suburban lines connects the Milan agglomeration to the metropolitan area. More lines were scheduled for 2008, but as of January 2009, none have been completed. The Regional Railway Service, on the other hand, links Milan with the rest of Lombardy and the national railway system. The city tram network consists of approximately 160 kilometres (99 mi) of track and 19 lines.[112] Bus lines cover over 1,070 km.

Milan has a taxi service operated by private companies and licensed by the City of Milan (*Comune di Milano*). All taxis are the same color, white. Prices are based on a set fare at the beginning and an additional fare based on time elapsed and distance traveled. The number of licences is kept low by lobbying of present taxi drivers. Finding a taxi may be difficult in rush hours or rainy days, and almost impossible during public transportation strikes, which occur often.

The city of Milan is served by two international airports. The Malpensa International Airport, the second biggest airport in Italy, is about 50 km from central Milan and connected to downtown with the "*Malpensa Express*" railway service. It handled around 17.7 million passengers in 2009. The Linate Airport, which is near the city limits, is mainly used for domestic and short-haul international flights, with over 9 million passengers in 2007. The airport of Orio al Serio, near to the city of Bergamo, serves the low-cost traffic of Milan (almost 6 million passengers in 2007).