

TRIP TO ITALY AND THE BALTIC STATES 24TH OF JUNE – 26TH OF JULY 2009

This summer we had planned a long trip to Italy. We planned to go by the cheapest round-trip by plane to Italy, where we would travel with train and bus. We also planned to book hotels nearest possible to the railway stations, such that we didn't have to walk so far to get to the hotels. We worked the whole winter on Internet, planning the route, find train and bus schedules and finding suitable hotels. All booking was done in advance via Internet.



Italy is a republic at the Mediterranean in southern Europe. It comprise of a boot shapet peninsula and two larger islands, Sardinia og Sicilia, in the Mediterranean.

Since prehistoric times, important cultures and kingdoms have existed in what today is Italy. The Italic tribes were present in the peninsula at the transition to historic time, about 500-1000 BC. The Etruscans created the first civilisation on Italian peninsula in the 8th century BC. In the 4th century BC, Rome emerged as a center in the middle of the peninsula, and the Romans conquered constantly bigger parts of Italy. In the so-called Punic Wars, in the 2nd century BC, they conquered Kartago, and the foundation was thereby made for the Roman Empire, that was to dominate the Western Europe and the whole area around the Mediterranean.

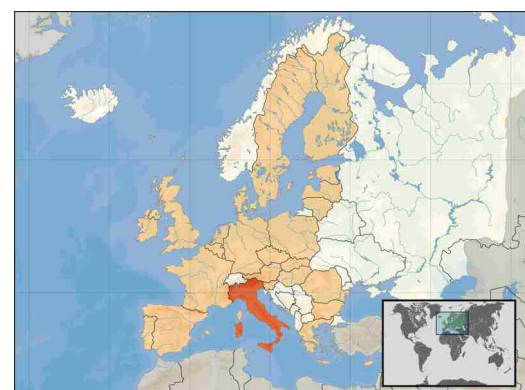
Internal quarrels lead in the 3rd century to the fall of the Roman Emire. It was divided into two parts, a western part with capitol in Rome, and a eastern part with capitol in Constantinople. In the 5th century the Italian peninsula was invaded, the southern part by the east Ostrogoths, and the northern by the Lombards, and in the 7th century the northern parts were conquered by the Franks and came later to the German-Roman emperor.

The church became in this times a power to reckon with. Up to the 13th century many towns grew up, among others Venice, Pisa, Amalfi, Milano, Napoli, Genova, Siena and Florence. In the 14th century Florence is considered to be the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, which was followed by a unique cultural flourishing. In the 15th century there was a depression, and large parts of the country were controlled by France, Spain and Austria until the 17th century. In the late 1850s, Giuseppe Garibaldi lead an armed revolt, which lead to a union of all Italy in 1861.

The Italian language is rich in dialects. Dialects from the large cities as Venice, Naples and Florence are almost as separate languages.

Italy's population density is the fifth highest in the European Union. In the same way as in Germany and Poland there is no dominating city as Paris is for France. The largest population densities are in Lombardy (around Milan) and Campania (around Naples).

The television has traditionally been more important than newspapers for engaging the masses in Italy, and in comparison with Norway, the Italians therefore don't read newspapers much.



Italy's position in Europe



Italy's flag



Italy's coat of arms



This is our route in Italy.

We were in the places, which are marked with small letters and we stayed in the cities, which are marked with BALD letters.

We stayed at 11 different hotels and we stayed there for 27 days.



After being in Italy we went home via Riga, Vilnius and Tallin.

