

# Tuscany & the Italian Riviera

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

**Time Zone:** Italy is 6 hours ahead of the US Eastern Time Zone and 7 hours ahead of the US Central Time Zone.

**Weather:** Average High/Low

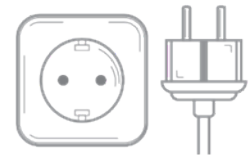
City	May	Sept.	Oct.
Tuscany	73°F/54°F	81°F/59°F	72°F/52°F
Italian Riviera	64°F/50°F	67°F/52°F	57°F/47°F

**Currency:** The unit of currency in the European Union is the Euro.

Currency exchange rates fluctuate on a daily basis. A helpful website for referencing current rates is [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com).

**Electrical Current:** The electric current in Italy is 220 volts, 50 cycles, and electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required for use in an electrical socket.

A voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.



**International Guide:** Holiday Vacations has arranged for an international guide to provide cultural insight for the regions you will be visiting. Your international guide will also discuss currency exchange, customs, language, and history.

**International Driver & Guide:** Your Driver and Guide will be with you for the majority of your tour. Please note, some tours have a Driver who is also your guide. Should they meet your expectations, it is suggested you tip them to show your appreciation. The suggested gratuity for your Driver is \$7 EUR per person per day. The suggested gratuity for your Italian Guide is \$7 EUR per person per day. Any tipping is on a voluntary basis and is given directly to the individual at the end of the tour.

**Meal Expenses:** For the meals not included with the tour you can expect to spend the equivalent of \$15 – \$30 USD per person, per day.

**Packing – Carry-On Bags:** Bags with wheels are not suitable as a carry-on bag in Europe where the motorcoaches have very limited space. Regulations imposed by the European Union do not allow carry-ons on the motorcoach that do not fit in the overhead bins. Some airlines are now charging fees for carry-on bags.

**Packing Note:** Washcloths are not standard in European hotels. Feel free to bring them with you.

**Public Facilities:** Some public restrooms are pay toilets or may have attendants collecting at the door. You may wish to have local coins available for these situations. All tap water is safe to drink. The hot and cold water faucets may be the opposite of North America and hot water can be extremely hot.

**Value Added Tax (VAT):** There is a Value Added Tax in Italy. This tax is levied on most goods with the exception of food and many services. In certain cases the Value Added Tax on goods which are exported to the United States can be reimbursed to you upon completion and submission of a special form. There may be a service charge for the forms deducted from your reimbursement.