



## CHAPTER 1

# ENTERING ITALY

### What is an entry visa?

An entry visa is the document that allows foreign citizens to legally access the Italian territory. EU citizens are not required to have a visa. A visa is not required also for citizens from San Marino, the Vatican City, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, as Italy has agreements with these Countries with regard to freedom of movement.

A visa is always necessary for stays lasting more than 90 days. Whereas, for stays lasting less than 90 days for reasons related to tourism, mission, business, invitation and sport competitions, it depends on the State of belonging if a visa is necessary or not.

If applications are submitted for work reasons, the visa is granted only within the entry quotas established in the annual decree programming migratory flows.

### Citizens of which Countries are required an entry visa for stays up to 90 days?

Foreign citizens holding an ordinary passport and belonging to the following Countries are required to apply for an entry visa: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Saudi Arabia, Armenia, Palestinian Authorities, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Belarus, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Ivory Coast, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, the Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Marshall, Mauritania, Micronesia, Myanmar, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Russia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent And The Grenadines, Solomon Island, Sao Tome And Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Syria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, West Timor, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuva-



lu, Ukraine, Uganda, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### **Citizens of which Countries are not required an entry visa for stays up to 90 days?**

Albania, Andorra, Antigua And Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, El Salvador, East Timor, Former Republic Yugoslav Of Macedonia (FYROM), Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Kiribati, Malaysia, Macao, Marshall, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Northern Mariana Islands, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts And Nevis, Samoa, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent And Grenadine, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Solomon Island, Taiwan, Tonga, Trinidad, Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United States, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

For Taiwanese citizens, the exemption of the visa requirements applies exclusively to holders of passports including identity card number. For citizens of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Former Republic Of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the exemption of the visa requirements applies exclusively to holders of biometric passport.

### **Which Countries belong to the Schengen area?**

The Countries belonging to the Schengen area are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland.

### **Are foreign citizens holding a residence permit in Italy required an entry visa?**

Foreign citizens regularly residing in Italy are not required a visa to enter or exit Italy. It is enough to hold a valid passport and a valid residence permit. If the residence permit is in phase of renewal, foreign citizens will have to show the border control officers the relevant receipt, together with the expired residence permit and a valid passport. However, in the event of an expired residence permit, foreign citizens are not allowed to stay or transit in Countries belonging to the Schengen area without a visa.



## What is a re-entry visa?

A re-entry visa is the document which foreign citizens are required to have if they have lost their residence permit, if it has been stolen, or if it has expired while staying abroad. In the latter case, the expired residence permit - expired by no more than 60 days – must be annexed to the visa application.

## What requirements must be met to be granted an entry visa?

In order to be granted an entry visa, it is necessary to indicate the reason of the stay, to hold a valid passport (or equivalent valid document) and to annex all necessary documentation which differs depending on the type of visa being requested. In fact, there are different types of visas, and each one of them is characterised by specific requirements and procedures in order to be issued.

In order to be granted an entry visa, except for visas for work reasons, foreign citizens must prove that their means of support are enough to stay in Italy and to return to the Country of provenance.

## What types of visas are there?

There are visas for the following reasons: adoption, business, medical treatments, diplomatic reasons, family reunification, sport competitions, invitation, autonomous work, subordinate work, mission, religious reasons, re-entry, elective residence, study, airport transit, transit, transport, tourism, working holiday.

## Where to apply for an entry visa?

Visa applications are to be submitted to the Italian Embassy or Consulate in the Country of origin or residence. Visa applications for stays lasting less than 90 days for reasons related to tourism, mission, business, invitation and sport competitions can be submitted also to Italian Embassies or Consulates in other EU Countries.

## Who is not allowed to enter Italy?

Any person who has been deported is not allowed to enter Italy, unless:

- the deportation order has been revoked or annulled;
- the term of the entry ban established in the deportation order has ended;
- the person involved has been granted by the Ministry of Interior a special authorisation to enter the Country.



Besides, any person blacklisted by a Member State in the Schengen Information System (S.I.S.), and therefore not allowed to enter the European Union, cannot enter Italy.

### **How to know if a person has been blacklisted in the Schengen Information System (S.I.S)?**

In order to know if a person has been blacklisted in the S.I.S., and therefore is not allowed to enter the territory, it is necessary to submit a specific request to the Ministry of Interior at the following address: Ministero dell'Interno, Dipartimento della pubblica sicurezza, Ufficio coordinamento e pianificazione delle forze di polizia, Divisione N.SIS, Via di Torre di Mezzavia 9/121, 00173 Roma.

### **What to do if a visa application is rejected?**

The rejection of a visa application is notified by the Italian Embassy or Consulate in the Country of provenance. With regard to rejections of visa applications for family reasons, it is possible to lodge an appeal with the ordinary Court of Rome.

Whereas, with regard to rejections of other types of visa applications, the appeal must be lodged with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the State Bar of Rome within 60 days from the relevant notification. Within the following 30 days, the appeal must be lodged with the Regional Administrative Court of Lazio, with premises in Rome.

The claimant's signature placed at the bottom of the letter conferring power of attorney to a lawyer for lodging the appeal can be attested at the Italian Embassy or Consulate in the Country of provenance.