

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Italy: A Land of Mountains, Rivers, and Volcanoes

Italy is a beautiful country in southern Europe, known for its unique boot-shaped peninsula. It is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, with miles of coastline and breathtaking landscapes. Italy's geography is diverse, featuring towering mountains, flowing rivers, and even active volcanoes!

### The Mighty Mountains

Italy is home to two major mountain ranges: the Alps and the Apennines. The Alps stretch across northern Italy and form a natural border with France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia.

These mountains are covered in snowy peaks and are famous for skiing and winter sports. The highest mountain in Italy, Mont Blanc, stands at over 15,000 feet (4,800 meters) tall and is shared with France.

The Apennine Mountains, often called the "spine of Italy", run down the center of the country. These mountains are lower than the Alps but still have steep hills, forests, and small villages. Many of Italy's cities and towns, including Rome and Florence, are built near the foothills of the Apennines.

### Italy's Major Rivers

Italy has several important rivers that provide freshwater, transportation, and fertile land for farming. The Po River is the longest river in Italy, stretching over 400 miles (640 kilometers) across the northern part of the country. It flows through major cities like Turin and Milan, helping farmers grow crops like rice, wheat, and grapes.

Another important river is the Tiber River, which runs through Rome, Italy's capital. The ancient Romans used this river for trade and travel, and it is still a major waterway today. People can walk along its banks and see famous landmarks, such as St. Peter's Basilica and Castel Sant' Angelo.

### Volcanoes of Italy

Italy is one of the most volcanically active countries in Europe! It has several active volcanoes, including Mount Vesuvius and Mount Etna.

Mount Vesuvius, near the city of Naples, is one of the most famous volcanoes in the world. In 79 AD, it erupted and buried the ancient city of Pompeii under ash and rock. Today, visitors can explore the ruins of Pompeii and learn about this historic event.

Mount Etna, located on the island of Sicily, is the largest active volcano in Europe. It often erupts, sending lava and smoke into the sky. Despite its eruptions, many people live nearby because the volcanic soil is rich and great for farming.

### A Land of Natural Wonders

Italy's geography makes it a fascinating and diverse country. From the majestic Alps to the rolling Apennines, from the flowing rivers to the powerful volcanoes, Italy's landscape is full of wonders waiting to be explored!

