

Chapter 12 – Units & Conversions

UNITS AND CONVERSIONS

At first, it may be hard to understand the Italian units and conversion system especially if you are coming from the US or UK. After almost nine years in the United States, I still find it difficult to convert Fahrenheit degrees into Celsius, or grams into ounces... Fortunately if you are in Italy for a vacation you probably won't really need or use these details. However it is nice to have at least a minimal understanding of how the Italian metric and conversion system works so that you can feel more comfortable and at ease when you encounter it:

DISTANCE

1. Kilometers (*chilometri*) ~ Miles (*miglia*):

Speed (*velocita'*) is measured in kilometers/hour instead of miles/hour. See the following chart with the conversion from kilometers to miles to get a better idea:

Did you know?

Google provides a handy way to calculate conversions. Just type strings like '100 Km in miles', or '4 pounds in kilograms' in the search box.

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KILOMETERS	MILES
1	0.62
10	6.21
20	12.43
30	18.64
40	24.85
50	31.07
60	37.28
70	43.50
80	49.71
90	55.92
100	62.14

The easiest way to get an approximate conversion from kilometers to miles is by multiply the kilometers by 1.5 (1 kilometer= 0.6 miles).

WEIGHT

2. Kilos (*chili*) ~ Pounds (*libbre*):

Italians use kilos instead of pounds. Fortunately also this conversion is pretty easy to make because to convert kilos into pounds you have to multiply by 2.2 (Example: 1 kilo = 2 ¼ pounds).

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KILOS	POUNDS
1	2.2
2	4.4
3	6.6
10	22
20	44
30	66
50	110
100	220
150	330
200	440

Italians also use grams (*grammi*) instead of ounces (*once*). 100 grams = 3 ½ ounces.

TEMPERATURE

3. Celsius ~ Fahrenheit:

So far our conversions haven't been too hard. But converting degrees (*gradi*) from one unit to the other can be a little trickier. The best way to remember these is to memorize some basic conversions such as:

CELSIUS	FAHRENHEIT
-5	23
0	32
5	41
10	50
15	59
20	68
25	77
30	86
35	95
40	104

VOLUME

4. Liter (*litri*) ~ US Gallons (*galloni*):

In Italy, the liter is the measurement unit for liquids. The conversion is fairly easy as 1 gallon equals about 4 liters.

LITER	GALLON
1	0.2
2	0.5
3	0.7
10	2.6
20	5.2
30	7.9
50	13
100	26
150	39

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Francesca Tosolini
A native Italian reveals the secrets of traveling in Italy



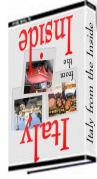
(SAMPLE CHAPTER)

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About the full eBook

Living in US has made me realize how many people are in love with Italy and how many would like to know more about my country. This is what inspired me to write this unique eBook, filled with useful, practical information and tips that most of the time you won't find in a typical travel guide.

After working for a vacation rental agency and owning my own Italy travel business, I decided to stay home with my two kids.

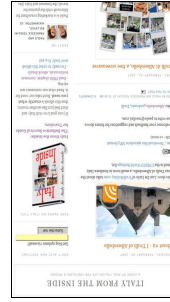
I was born in Trieste, Italy, where I spent most of my life until 1996 when I moved to Seattle, WA.

About Francesca Tosolini



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Our blog and podcast

I invite you to visit our blog <http://www.ItalyFromTheInside.com> for the latest tips, videos, screen savers and photos about this fascinating country and its culture.



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For a more detailed view of the conversion system, visit the following website:
<http://www.metric-conversions.org/conversion-calculators.htm>

OTHER CONVERSION RESOURCES



The voltage used in Italy is 220V. If you plan to take along any electronic device, it is advisable to also take your own voltage converter (*trasformatore di corrente*) and plug adapter (*adattatore per la presa di corrente*), which you can purchase in Italian hardware store (*ferramenta*). In Italy they use both two- and three-prong units that often require adapters themselves.

5. Electricity (*elettricità*):

POWER