

KidsEurope

Italy Discovery Journal

Preview

Adventures for Kids 6-16

Engages all the senses.
Discover Italian popular culture.
Explore art and history.

by P. L. Byrne

Parents



Dear Traveling Family:

This book is for kids traveling in Italy and their parents. It does not replace guide books. We recommend you use several. We always bring three or four. There are fabulous books on how to get to Italy, what to pack, where to go and stay, but they are for adults. You might get a kid to read a page or two. The [Italy Discovery Journal](#) is all for the kids.

The places and activities we suggest complement the basic sightseeing you will want to do. For example, we don't mention the coliseum, but to make the walk to it more interesting, we make a game of looking for the most awful souvenirs. Sights we do mention are based on our own good experience. We think you should try some of the classic sites, some we mention, and also discover your own Italy. So print out the Italy Discovery Journal, cut in half, and give it to your kids to organize (see suggestions pages at the end) then make sure it travels with them. If they make notes as suggested, they will be building a travel journal, a life-long keepsake. At some time you should flip through this journal, so you can remind your kids about activities that may be appropriate for a certain time or place. Or order a copy for yourself.

I instituted rewards of a gelato (ice cream) or a post card per "quest" to draw my kids into the adventure. If you want to devise some such system, there are boxes at the bottom of each page for date and signoff. There are yellow notes for parents at the bottom of some pages.

There is a mix of suggestions for small and large kids, boys and girls, and kids into specific things like cars or rocks or fashion. Some quests take more thought or research than others, so I have marked them with three light bulbs, whereas the easy ones are one light bulb, and everything in between has two.

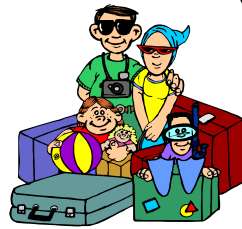
Our best advice is to let your vacation unfold as you discover *your* Italy, not ours, not the guide book's, but an experience that contains things you love, adventures you have, and wonderful, warm experiences for your souvenirs.

Even if you use just a few of these ideas to help your family appreciate Italy, enjoy and get full value out of your vacation, this book has done its job.

Buon Viaggio!

P. L. Byrne

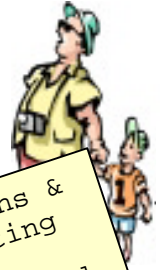
Kids: Have fun in Italy



- Do you find museums, monuments and churches boring? If regular guide books don't seem to be written for you, then this is your solution.
- Is sightseeing low on your list of favorite activities?
- Well, this interactive journal will help you discover aspects of Italy and Italians that are really interesting to you.
- Each page asks a question or suggests a quest which will make your travels more fun.
- Select only the quests that might appeal to you.
- Write your answers or notes on each page. You can write, draw, attach post cards, photos, receipts and tickets to the pages. You can also write or draw any other observations in these pages.
- If you put the journal together yourself, you can add pockets and pages for writing with gel pens.
- You can put the date you completed each quest in a box on the bottom of each page. And if you have a sign-off system for rewards, there is also a box for that.
- Look through the book in advance so when you discover an answer, you'll remember that there is a place in this book to note it.
- *Don't take things too seriously. Use your imagination.*
- Have a wonderful trip.

Kids

Kids: How to Get Answers



- Look around
- Ask your parents
- Ask tour guides
- Look at a guidebook
- Read signs and plaques
- Use your imagination – make it up!

See instructions & ideas for putting together your journal at the end.

Guide to Pages

Stepercize

Challenge Level: 1, 2 or 3

Description of the Adventure

Fill in blanks, or check off, or use your imagination.

Space for writing, drawing, listing, making notes or doodles.

Where found or who should read

Action suggested, I.e. see, say, list, eat, think.

Reward Signoff and Date Boxes

Tips for Parents

| Location | # Steps | Year built |
|------------------------|---------|------------|
| Spanish Steps in Rome | | |
| St Peter's Cathedral | | |
| Capitoline Hill - Rome | | |

In Rome some good

climb - collect

Venice

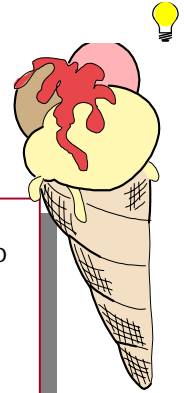
Kids

Contents

Organize Your Way

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Note to Parents | Hotels | Secrets for Churches |
| Kids: Have Fun | Playing Cards | Frescoes |
| How to Gat Answers | Comic Books | Mosaics |
| Italy | Scopa | Ninja Turtles |
| Gelato | Ancient Stuff | Marriage Banns |
| Beverages | Ruins | Traitor's Rock |
| Pasta Shapes | Weird Buildings | Wearing Black |
| Food Fun | Building Colors | Death Notices |
| Approved Dishes | Italian Scientists | Religion |
| Bread | Stepercize | Saints & Martyrs |
| Pasta Dishes | Architecture | Castles |
| Pizza | Architecture – Easy | Invaders |
| Sweets | Column Styles | Scenery |
| Grocery Stores | Where From? | Walled Towns |
| Open Air Markets | Spycraft | Time Travel |
| Mozzarella | The Evil Eye | Roman Collections |
| Italian Heritage | Gypsies | Holy Orders |
| Cool Cars | Italian Kids | Obelisk Odyssey |
| Traffic Signs | Italian Music | St. Peter's Square |
| Car Check List | Drama of Italy | Obelisk Tale |
| Wild Parking | Pulcinella PG Puppet | Getting In St. Peter's |
| Crazy Driving | Silly Souvenirs | Inside St. Peter's |
| License Plates | Shopping | Piazza Navona |
| 3 Countries in 1 | Souvenir Ideas | Pantheon |
| Country Decals | Creative Colors | Wolf of Rome |
| Stony Streets | Funky Fashion | Church of Bones |
| Moolah | Stroll – Passeggiata | Roman Catacombs |
| Passionate Politics | Italy Maze | Mail Test |
| Plenty of Police | Visit Hell | Wars |
| Assault Bicyclists | Strange Parks | Roman Armies |
| Strike - Sciopero | Button Stores | Roman Roots |
| Speak to Italians | Jewelry | Mysterious Etruscans |
| Parlo Italiano | Lunch Hours | Venice |
| Hand Signs | Time | Venetian History |
| Che Bella! | Animals | Venice: St. Mark's |
| Italian = English | Critters | Venetians |
| Word Search | Flowers & Plants | Is Venice Sinking? |
| Italian Alphabet | Trees | Venice Factories |
| Pronouncing Italian | Marvelous Marble | Contradas of Siena |
| Reporter, Writer | Rocks | Palio of Siena |
| Dozens of Dialects | Black Beach of Slag | Siena Art & Buildings |
| Roman Numerals | Fountains of Rome | Pisa |
| Looney Lines | Water | San Gimignano |
| Funky Fashion | Bath Time | Medici Pawnbrokers |
| Shhh! Sounds | Mystery of Mirrors | Florence |
| Savory & Stinky | Renaissance | Statue Syllabus |
| Weather | Black Death | How to Make Ideas |
| Transportation | Sick of Paintings? | Travel Hints |
| Sports | | Shopping List |

Gelato



- Gelato is delicious Italian ice cream. There are hundreds of wonderful flavors for you to try.
- Make a list of all the flavors you try on this page. Mark everybody's favorites.
- Learn how to say your favorite flavor and order it yourself.
- Gelato costs less when you go inside the café or bar to order it to take away.

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My all-time favorite:

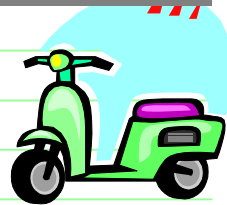
taste - list - say

Everywhere

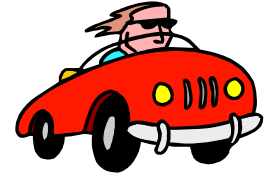
Cool Cars & More



- Italy makes some very fancy and interesting cars. List down different makes and models of vehicles. Draw them or their symbol, if you like.
- What kinds of two and three-wheeled vehicles do you see?
- What proportion of vehicles are four, three and two wheeled?
- You will see a lot of two-wheeled vehicles. Notice the people driving them. Are they just young people?
- Listen to the Vespa cycles. Vespa means wasp. Can you tell why they got that name.
- Little three-wheeled, delivery trucks are called Ape, meaning bees. Where do you think they got that name?
- Look at what cars the police are driving. The highway police often have very fast cars!



Crazy Driving



- Italian drivers are infamous for their daring. City driving is an unofficial sport. They have little respect for pedestrians, cross walks, even traffic lights. Accidents do happen but they are rare considering what goes on.
- Watch for and describe some amazing Italian driving.
- Listen to all the honking. Try to figure out what the drivers are trying to communicate with their horns.
- Watch some drivers and imitate them.

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look - list - listen

Everywhere

watch-listen-imitate

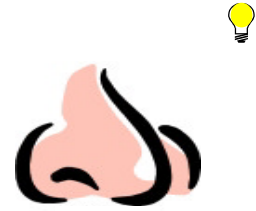
Rome
Everywhere

Shhh! Sounds



- Notice the sounds you hear. It is helpful to close your eyes. Try listening when you are lying in bed.
- What is making them? Make some notes or tell someone.

Savory & Stinky



- Close your eyes and notice some smells from time to time. There are yummy smells, stinky smells and everything in between.
- Are there different smells at different times of day?
- What is making them?
- Write down your observations.

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listen

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| Everywhere |
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smell - think - write

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|------------|
| Everywhere |
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Playing Cards



- Buy a deck of Italian cards and make up a game or learn how to play. See the rules below for Camicia, a war-type game.
- You will find cards at a Tobacco shop. Look for a sign with a big **T**.
- The shops were originally set up to sell taxable, luxury items: tobacco, salt, gambling supplies. What else do they sell that may have once been specially taxed?

Rules for Camicia

Camicia is a game of pure luck for two players.

The cards: An Italian deck of 40 cards is used (you can use also a 52 cards deck). Suits are ignored. There are two types of cards: aces, two and threes are **attack** cards, the other are **normal** (cannon-fodder) cards.

The play: All the cards are dealt to the two players, face down, so that they end up with a packet of 20 cards each.

The players then alternate to turn the top card of their packet face up and put it in a pile on the table. If the card is 'normal', no action is taken and the play passes to the other player.

When an 'attack' card is played by one of the players, the other player has to play a number of cards corresponding to the face value of the attack card, that is one card for an ace, two cards for a two, and three cards for a three.

If all the cards played in response to an attack are normal, the attacking player takes the pile of played cards and puts them face down to the bottom of their packet.

If one of the cards played in response to an attack is an attack card itself, the former attack is null, and the new attack is processed.

When a player runs out of cards, that player loses the game.

Note: This game becomes a war of attrition, since as you win cards, your attack cards become more diluted in your packet, and you become more vulnerable to attacks. Moreover, the attack cards that give you the highest gain (the threes) are also the most vulnerable to counterattacks, while the aces, which can capture only a card a time, are more secure.

Thanks to www.pagat.com that has a fabulous collection of card games rules and descriptions from around the world. This description is under Pagat copyright and may not be reproduced without specific permission.

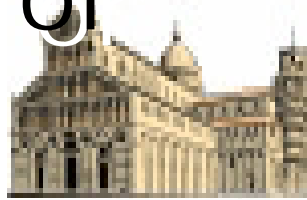
Stepercize



- Okay, silly word. The idea is that staircases and steps in Italy provide a neat experience:
 - Great views from the top
 - Staircases of all architectures
 - Get your exercise
 - Victory photos at the summit
 - Gelato reward
- Here are some suggestions for great staircases. Be sure to add your own and send me the details: feedback@KidsEurope.com.

| Location | # Steps | Year built |
|--|---------|------------|
| Spanish Steps in Rome | | |
| St. Peter's Cathedral | | |
| Capoline Hill - Rome | | |
| Victor Emmanuel "Wedding Cake" Monument - Rome | | |
| Cathedral in Florence | | |
| Bell Tower in Venice | | |
| St. Mark's Cathedral - Venice | | |
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Secrets for Churches



- Visit a church. Don't groan. Here are the secrets to making them interesting for yourself.
- Find frescoes to interpret your own (imaginative) way.
- Collect saint and martyr names.
- You may not be familiar with a holy water font. It's a bowl of water that has been blessed, placed inside the entrance to a church. Catholics dip the tips of their right fingers in it and make the sign of the cross by touching their forehead "father," chest "son," left shoulder "holy ghost," and right shoulder "Amen."
- Find the altar of the patron saint of the church. Clues:
 - The name of the church.
 - Special decoration.
 - Is there a relic from the saint enshrined in the altar? It might actually be a piece of the Saint's body. What is it?
 - Sometimes you will see silver (or gold) votive offerings that people placed on the wall all around a saint's altar when their prayers to the him/her seemed to make something good happen. They are often plaques of hearts because the saint has a reputation of healing sick or broken hearts. Other figures and body parts are less common.
- You may find a bank of small candles near several altars. People make a donation to light a candle. They say a silent prayer while they light it, then leave it burning to symbolically carry the prayer to heaven.
- You can find and collect small saint cards called "santini" by giving a donation. They usually have a picture on the front and a prayer and/or information about the saint's life. My son thinks of them like sports trading cards.
- Find graves in the floor. Why do you think people wanted to be buried in the floor?
- Sniff for the really neat smell of incense. Burning incense is an ancient practice used even before Christianity that now, with the rising of the sweet-smelling smoke, symbolizes offering something that is pleasing to God. It may have also served as an ancient air freshener. Frankincense (same thing) was one of the gifts of the Magi to the baby Jesus.
- Churches *are* religious places and deserve your respect. Speak and behave quietly (even if others don't).

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visit - find - search

Ninja Turtles



- You remember the Ninja Turtles!
- You probably already know that their names all came from wonderful Italian Renaissance artists. You are now in the land of those artists and can see art by all of them. Try to identify works of art by each of them.

| Artist | Work of Art | Location |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564) | | |
| Donatello (1386-1466) | | |
| Raphael (Raffaello Sanzio) (1483-1520) | | |
| Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) | | |

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find

Rome
Florence

St Peter's Square



- How many games of leapfrog can you do across St Peter's square? (Watch where you are going, don't disturb other people.)
- What was there before the Vatican today was built? Who built it?
- What is underneath St. Peter's church?
- Who was St. Peter, anyway?
- The name Peter comes from the latin word for "rock". Do you know why he was called the rock?
- The piazza is described the arms of St Peter. Why?
- How many steps to the top of St. Peter's?
- Act out the story of the raising of the obelisk in St. Peter's square (see following.) Or, draw it.

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The Hair Raising Tale of the Obelisk



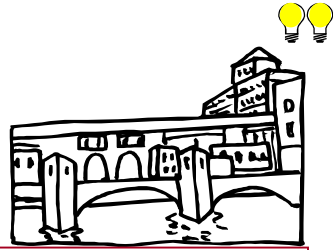
The obelisk in St Peter's square was made in Egypt about 100bc, then brought to Rome by the insane emperor Caligula in 37ad. In 1585 it was moved from the ruins of Nero's circus to to the front of the basilica. Pope Sixtus V ordered that if anyone made a sound during the delicate operation of raising the obelisk, they would be condemned to death. Ropes were tied around the obelisk and attached to teams of men and horses who strained to pull the giant stone upright.

Crowds of onlookers watched as the process went on far too long. The ropes stretched and overheated so the obelisk sagged. A sailor from Genoa, visiting town while his ship was in port, was familiar with how ropes worked. He saw they had lost their elasticity and would soon break. So he raised his voice and shouted "Water on the ropes! Water on the ropes." While guards dragged him away, workers threw water on the ropes that then began to cool and shrink, pulling the obelisk to its upright position.

The Pope pardoned the man who dared to break the silence. To this day, his descendents have jobs in the Vatican.

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Florence



- Write down the names of as many bridges as you can that cross the Arno.
- Challenge: write down when they were built.
- There have been some really big floods in Florence. There are high water marks on the buildings. Spy high water marks on buildings, you can see little plaques with marks and dates.
- Find out the dates of the big floods.
- How many steps to the top of the Cathedral? To the top of the Bell Tower?

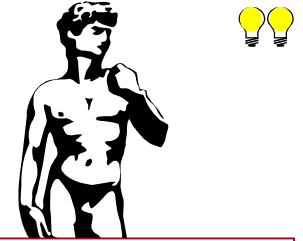
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Florence is a wonderful, beautiful city, BUT, at Easter time and during the summer it is impossibly crowded with tourists. That means lines are long and tempers are short. So, if your kids aren't going to enjoy the art anyway...

look - count

Florence

Statue Syllabus



- Florence has a great collection of statues for you to find and maybe even imitate; be sure to take a picture!
- If all you do is find statues, you'll have seen some of the best parts of Florence. Here are some, but not all, of the neat ones.

| ✓ | Statue |
|---|---|
| | The David is in two places (original inside, copy outside). What is he about to do? In the Accademia with the original are the Bound Slave statues. What do you think of them? |
| | Perseus in the Piazza Signoria – What is in his hand? What did he just do? And isn't the statue beautiful? Check out the other statues in the piazza for more posing opportunities! |
| | Neptune – Piazza Signoria, called the white giant. When the light of the full moon hits him, he walks the piazza and visits his statue friends. |
| | Fat, naked dwarf riding a turtle in Boboli Gardens. Be sure to pose in front of this one! |
| | Pietà by Michelangelo - Cathedral Museum. The man is a self-portrait. "Mike" didn't like it so he tried to destroy it. See if you can find the places where the repairs were made. |
| | St Mary Magdalene by Donatello. Doesn't she look haggard? Why do you think she looks this way? This was a new idea for art: portraying people who didn't look beautiful. |
| | Bronze boar near the straw market is a copy of a Greek statue. Pet his nose for good luck. Look around his platform; what do you see? |

look

Florence

Making the Discovery Journal



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3 Step Process to Make Journal

1. Check supplies:
 - decent paper (24lb or 32lb)
 - ink/toner in your color printer (on my printer, this whole book uses less than 1/8th of a color cartridge)
2. Print on your color printer. Each purchase gives you permission to print one copy.
3. Go to copy store
 - Ask them to cut pages in half (about \$1 to slice them all at once)
 - Ask them to bind the book. I prefer a binding that allows the book to fold all the way back on itself. (<\$5)

For additional ideas see following pages.

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