



Italy by Motorcycle: FAQ

by Tamela Rich

Concerned about Rome traffic?

Plan to leave Rome when traffic is light, for instance a Sunday morning. Italian motorists respect motorcyclists and give them preference. [See this blog post I wrote on the subject.](#) You can do this!

Do I need travel insurance?

Check with your tour operator. If you tour with me and *Hear the Road Motorcycle Tours of Italy* your tour includes travel insurance while you're in Italy. I purchased a supplemental policy for \$130 to ride on top of my actual tour insurance and it was worth the peace of mind. [This article](#) will help you understand some of the coverages.

If you're touring on your own, talk to your travel agent about buying coverage to cover your flights and other risks.

What about luggage?

If you're traveling with me and *Hear the Road Motorcycle Tours of Italy* you can have the option of leaving extra luggage at the Rome hotel to collect when the tour returns to the same Rome hotel. [Check your tour itinerary.](#) Some of the tours operated by *Hear the Road Motorcycle Tours of Italy* include a support vehicle.

If you are touring on your own, simply ask your hotel about leaving luggage. Many will accommodate you.

What about motorcycle choice?

Italians love motorcycles! You'll find a wide selection in Rome, but my advice is to choose one of the light European models. They will be easier to maneuver on the roads and to squeeze into small parking spaces than a big American cruiser.

Hear the Road Motorcycle

Tours of Italy offers

[Harley-Davidson in addition to BMW, Moto Guzzi, Triumph and Ducati.](#)

Do I need to learn Italian?

Although you don't need to learn Italian, make an effort to learn a phrase or two. Italians will appreciate if you make an effort to say **anything** in Italian. I downloaded a [Pimsleur course from Audible](#) and that sufficed.



Bring your smartphone and install the [Google Translate app](#) (available on Android and iPhone). I successfully negotiated with a shopkeeper exclusively with Google Translate and hand gestures. [Here's my story.](#)

Do I need an International Drivers License?

It is recommended that you have an IDP – International Driver's Permit. You can get one in about half an hour from AAA for less than \$50. Rarely do you need it

to ride/rent your bike, but if there is an incident, your IDP will get the insurance to cover your expenses better than a driver's license.

How safe is Italy?

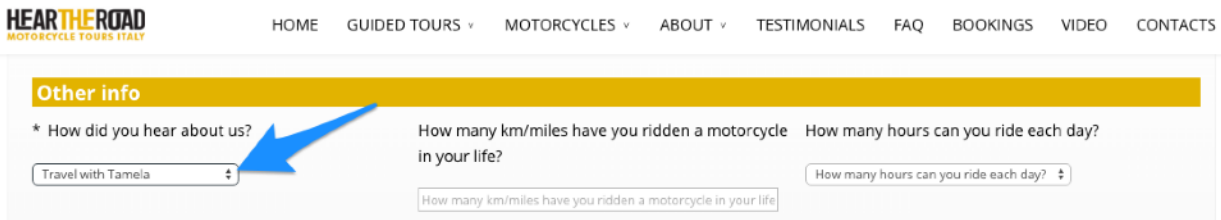
You might be shocked to learn that Italy is generally safer than the United States. [Here's a chart with indicators.](#)

- Crime in general is FIFTEEN percent higher in the US
- Violent crime is SEVEN times more prevalent in the US
- The murder rate in America is TWENTY-FIVE times higher than the Italian

All that said, be sure to lock your panniers and helmet, and follow basic precautions against pickpockets.

Want to travel with me?

When you [click through to register](#) be sure to indicate "Travel with Tamela" as illustrated below.



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Other info

* How did you hear about us?

How many km/miles have you ridden a motorcycle in your life?

How many hours can you ride each day?

Meet Enrico, owner and guide

Rome-born-and-bred Enrico Grassi, who owns [Hear the Road Motorcycle Tours of Italy](#) and leads his own tours.

[Here's my series on touring with him.](#)

