Gondola rides in Venice, medieval towers of Lucca, Pinocchio's home town in Tuscany, picnics on the Italian lakes, the Bocca della Verita' in Rome, the many themed parks scattered throughout the country, the Tarot Garden near Capalbio and so much more!. Children love Italy because they can explore the dark and eerie catacombs of the Capuchin Crypt, snap a photo with a gladiator at the Colisseum, eat tons of colorful and creamy gelato or just giggle when trying to pronounce foreign words. Italy is all that to enjoy and so much more...
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VAL D’AOSTA

- **Gran Paradiso National Park**, for the nature curious kid, this park boasts numerous amounts of trees such as chestnuts, oaks, white fir, and locust-trees. It is also filled with an innumerable amount of wildlife such as royal owls, woodpeckers, martens, partridges and the alpine finch. It occupies the Valleys of Cogne, Valsavarenche and Rhemes. [www.parks.it/parco.nazionale.gran.paradiso/Eindex.html](http://www.parks.it/parco.nazionale.gran.paradiso/Eindex.html)

PIEMONTE

- **Safari Parks** in Murazzano, in the Langhe region, with a variety of 300 animals to observe or in Pobia with various endangered species. [www.latorbiera.it](http://www.latorbiera.it)
- In Torino, a stop at the **Virtual Reality & Multimedia Park** an informative and educative park where children can comprehend technology with hands-on experience. [www.vrmmp.it](http://www.vrmmp.it)
- **Camping in the Sauze d’Oulx**, the Alps, for kids. In English or Italian. [www.alcecamps.it](http://www.alcecamps.it)
  To see what’s going on for children in Torino, consult [www.torinobimbi.it](http://www.torinobimbi.it) (in Italian only)

LOMBARDIA

- **Leonardo da Vinci Museum of Science and Technology** in Milan gives children an opportunity to view many of this great artists’ invention. [www.museoscienza.org](http://www.museoscienza.org)
- On a less serious tone the **Toy Museum** in Canneto sull’Oglio near Mantua or Fantasy World where kids can interact in a miniature version of Italy. [www.mantova.org/comunecanneto](http://www.mantova.org/comunecanneto)
- The top of the **Duomo Cathedral**, the world's largest Gothic cathedral. Take the elevator, or climb and wander around amidst these amazing spires.
TRENTINO AND ALTO ADIGE

- **Kids Fun Park** in the Alta Badia offers all types of activities in the snow including a play area for toddlers and a solarium for adults. [www.altabadia.org](http://www.altabadia.org)
- A visit to the castles perched on steep cliffs. In Sluderno is the **Churburg Castle** with a great collection of medieval iron armor. [www.charburg.com](http://www.charburg.com)
- **Castle Tyrol** in Merano, Schloss Runkelstein in Bolzano, and the Castle Kastelbell west of Merano. [www.schlosstirol.it](http://www.schlosstirol.it)
- The **Archeology Museum of the Upper Adige** in Bolzano specializes in local artifacts from the Stone, Copper, Bronze ages up to the Middle Ages, also home of the 200 year old mummified Ice Man, kept in a special refrigerated glass case. [www.iceman.it](http://www.iceman.it)
- Also the **Camping Maroadi** on the Lake Garda. [www.campingmaroadi.it](http://www.campingmaroadi.it)

FRIULI VENEZIA-GIULIA

- **Aquasplash** in Lignano Sabbiadoro, this water park is cool fun for both thrill-lovers and families with children. The park features pools, slides, wave pools, and even water attractions resembling various animals such as the dinosaur. [www.acquasplash.it](http://www.acquasplash.it) (in Italian only).
- An excursion to the **Punta Verde Wildlife Park** in Lignano Sabbiadoro, in the North-Western part of Lignano, this wildlife "zoo" features a large variety of animals, plant life, water and small lakes. It hosts about 1500 animals belonging to 200 different species. [www.parcozoopuntaverde.it](http://www.parcozoopuntaverde.it)
VENETO

- **Gardaland** in Castelnuovo del Garda is the largest amusement park in Italy with tons of rides and entertainment. [www.gardaland.it](http://www.gardaland.it)
- **Caneva World** in Lazise on the Garda Lake is another theme park with movie studios, water rides, and theme restaurants. [www.canevaworld.it](http://www.canevaworld.it)
- **Telecom Italia Future Centre**, A 1,000-year-old convent has been transformed into a hands-on technology museum where you and your kids can explore interactive exhibits, check your e-mail, and browse the Web for free. [www.telecomfuturecentre.it](http://www.telecomfuturecentre.it)

LIGURIA

- **Genova Aquarium**, the biggest in Europe, Porto Antico in Genova displaying over 50 tanks with sea life from many different habitats, like sandbar sharks, seals and dolphins or a visit to the Le Caravelle Water Park, in Ceriale. [www.acquario.ge.it](http://www.acquario.ge.it)

EMILIA ROMAGNA

- **Mirabilandia** an amusement park in Savio outfitted with 36 rides, 14 waterfalls, flowers, gardens, and an enormous park. There is even a small town within called “Bimbopoli” for the youngest kid that allows them to play freely. Mirabilandia also has attractions such as ice-skaters, fire works, acrobatic parrots, and stuntmen. [www.mirabilandia.com](http://www.mirabilandia.com)
- **Italy in Miniature**, a theme park is the most famous miniature park in Italy. Its location is Rimini, and the park features rides, games, monuments, great food and a lot of green, grassy park area. Some main attractions include a Miniature Europe, Miniature Italy, and a Miniature Venice, amongst many others. [www.italiainminiatura.com](http://www.italiainminiatura.com)

**Italian Government Tourist Board – North America**
TOSCANA

- Pinocchio, the wooden boy whose know would grow every time he told a lie is the creation of Carlo Collodi whom along with his most famous character created many more, which can be visited at his very own park, Parco Collodi near Pistoia www.pinocchio.it.
- In February one of the most picturesque and colorful Viareggio Carnival parades, with floats and paper mache puppets is in Viareggio, www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com.
- Near Siena is the Museum for Kids, to introduce children to the world of visual arts through labs, excursions, visits and arts and crafts. www.comune.siena.it
- Also Cavallino Matto near Livorno, this park is immersed in the pine forest along the Tyrrhenian coast, besides the old fashion rides for the kids il Cavallino offers a wide range of entertainment for adults as well. www.cavallinomatto.it
- The Tarot Garden in Cortona offers a multitude of funky colorful statues! Some actually move! www.nikidesaintphalle.com

UMBRIA

- Citta’ della Domenica in Perugia, a natural park and zoo filled with hundreds of wildlife and exotic animals, even a reptile house, that can be explored on the “little train” that takes the visitor around the zoo. The park also includes a large ‘play area’ for kids as well, including games, slides, horse-back riding, go carts, and more! www.cittadelladomenica.com
MARCHE

- **Gran Sasso & Monti della Laga National Park**, in Casa del Parco di Arquata del Tronto www.parconazionalegransasso.it
- Make for the plunging **Frasassi Gorge** for a "journey to the centre of the Earth" through the Grotte di Frasassi, one of Italy's largest and most famous complexes of caves. An ideal jaunt for a rainy day. www.frasassi.com

ABRUZZO

- **The National Park of Abruzzo**, The National Park of Gran Sasso-Laga, the Regional Parks of Sirente-Velino and Maiella-Morrone, numerous State Reserves are nature’s sanctuaries where stunning landscapes house recognizable and rare animals, extraordinary flowers and plants that will be a rewarding journey also for the children. www.parks.it
- **The World Wildlife Fund Oasis**. www.wwf.it/abruzzo

LAZIO

- **Pulcinella Puppet Theatre**, on the Gianicolo Hill in Rome has daily shows and is free of cost, though a donation is appreciated. www.casadipulcinella.it
- **Bioparco**, the Rome zoo is in the heart of Rome with a vast array of animals in a natural setting. For older kids head to the Capuchin Crypt where one can visit the vault filled with monks’ skulls! www.bioparco.it
- Outside of Rome, head to the **Giardini di Bomarzo**, a garden located near Viterbo featuring statues of monsters of mythology in a surreal setting. www.bomarzo.net
CAMPANIA

- **Vesuvio National Park**, in San Sebastiano al Vesuvio (Naples) offers trails designed to educate and serve as a “hands-on” sensory trail where kids can discover, touch, smell and observe the diverse colors and scents of the local plant life. [www.vesuviopark.it](http://www.vesuviopark.it)
- **Edenlandia**, Naples kids will enjoy a theme park with a host of rides, live music and dance shows, 3-D theatre, games and more. [www.edenlandia.it](http://www.edenlandia.it) (only in Italian).
- For an educative excursion head over to the [Citta della Scienza](http://www.cittadellascienza.it), Naples, a science center and planetarium with hands-on workshops and displays for children to create, discover and explore nature, science and their surroundings. [www.cittadellascienza.it](http://www.cittadellascienza.it)
- A visit at the [Villa Comunale Aquarium](http://urania.cib.na.cnr.it/remuna/) in Naples which opened in 1873 and is said to be one of the oldest in Europe. [http://urania.cib.na.cnr.it/remuna/](http://urania.cib.na.cnr.it/remuna/) (in Italian only)

MOLISE

- The [Association of Folklore and Culture](http://www.regionemolise.com) in Vinchiaturo gives kids 5 years and older a hands on experience of the local traditions with local dances and songs.
- The [Bareback Rodeo](http://www.regionemolise.com) in Montenero Valcocchiara the last Sunday of August.
- Scapoli is internationally famous for the art of making bagpipes, still crafted with traditional methods in the [Museo della Zampogna](http://www.turismomatese.com).

BASILICATA

- Walk through the [Sassi of Matera](http://www.sassiweb.it), through the intricate alleyways or take a tour with the pollicino bus.
- [Lago di San Giuliano](http://www.basilicata.it) is surrounded by a thick reforested wood and has become the resting spot and breeding ground for many water birds and the ideal habitat for many kinds of fish.
- A visit to the many castles nestled in the region; [Valsinni](http://www.basilicata.it), [Melfi](http://www.basilicata.it), [Tricarico](http://www.basilicata.it) and more. The [Lagopesole Castle](http://www.basilicata.it) remains the most charming. Get a complete list on [www.basilicata.it](http://www.basilicata.it)

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PUGLIA

- **Zoosafari** the largest safari in Italy and **Fasanolandia**, an amusement park are both located in Fasano, Brindisi steps away from one another. [www.zoosafari.it](http://www.zoosafari.it)
- Another great way to visit the region while the kids play and interact with European kids is the all inclusive **Club Med**, two located in the Puglia Region; Otranto and Metaponto. [www.clubmed.com](http://www.clubmed.com)

CALABRIA

- **Natural Museum Libero Gatti** in Copanello is home to a botanical garden overlooking the reefs of the Ionic Sea with over 1,000 specimens of beautiful shells, from all over the world.
- **The Aquarium and Marine Park of Isola di Capo Rizzuto** and observe fish and marine life while learning about the protected marine zones of this Calabrian coastline. [www.riservamarinacaporizzuto.it](http://www.riservamarinacaporizzuto.it)
- Visit the water parks of **Zambrone Aquapark** - one of the largest water parks in the south filled with thrilling water slides and various pools make for a fun day in the sun. [www.aquapark.it](http://www.aquapark.it)
- **Odissea 2000** in Rossano. [www.odissea2000.it](http://www.odissea2000.it)
- Another great way to visit the region while the kids play and interact with European kids is the all inclusive **Club Med**, [www.clubmed.com](http://www.clubmed.com)
SICILIA

- The catacombs of **San Giovanni** beneath Siracusa date back almost 3000 years. [www.apt-siracusa.it/uk/pag1.html](http://www.apt-siracusa.it/uk/pag1.html)
- **Il Piccolo Teatro dei Pupi**, in Siracusa recreates the medieval art of Sicilian puppet shows during summer evenings. [www.pupari.com](http://www.pupari.com)
- In Bagheria, is the **Museo dei Giocattoli Pietro Piranio** with over 700 toys from the last four centuries.
- In Palermo discover the **Museo Internazionale delle Marionette**, dedicated to the Sicilian art of puppetry.
- Near Agrigento the **Parco Acquatico Conte**, a water world theme park in Sommatino. [www.parcoconte.it](http://www.parcoconte.it)
- The all inclusive Club Med is a great alternative. [www.clubmed.com](http://www.clubmed.com)

SARDEGNA

- **Aquarium Laguna** di Nora fish and flora of the Sardinian seas awaits visitors at this aquarium which houses also a look at marine mammal life too.
- Another water theme park is **Aquadream** in Baja Sardinia. [www.aquadream.it](http://www.aquadream.it)
- **Water Paradise** fun park in Sorso has pools with artificial waves and kiddie pools, water slides, whirlpools and more. [www.waterparadise.it](http://www.waterparadise.it)
- To better understand this extraordinary island, visit a model scale in Barumini, **Miniature Sardegna**. [www.sardegnainminiatura.it](http://www.sardegnainminiatura.it)
- The all inclusive Club Med in Otranto and Metaponto. [www.clubmed.com](http://www.clubmed.com)
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**Italian Government Tourist Board**

Director North America: *Riccardo Strano*  
630 Fifth Avenue - Suite 1565  
New York, New York 10111  
Tel: (212) 245-5618  
Fax: (212) 586-9249  
enitny@italiantourism.com  
www.italiantourism.com