What would it be like to live in Milan?





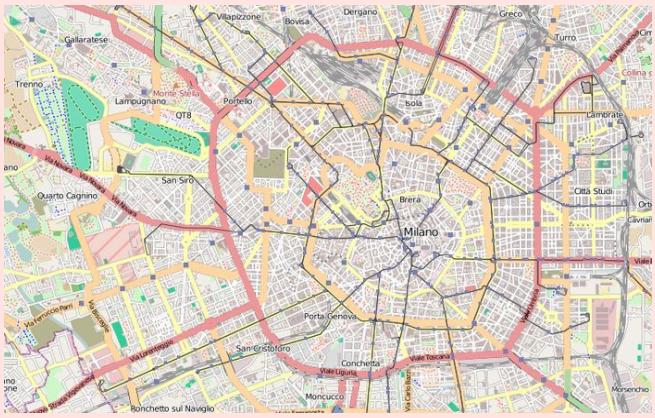






LO: To plan a guide to explain what it would be like to live in Milan.





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Look at Milan

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1. Where is Milan located?
2. In which two months is rainfall usually highest?
3. When was Milan's Cathedral built?
4. Name one of Milan's parks and say what it has there.
5. Which art gallery has Michelangelo's last sculpture?
6. What type of music is Milan famous for?
7. Which important event does Milan host twice a year?

Milan

Milan is a city in northern Italy and is the second biggest city in Italy (after Rome). Milan is the fashion capital of the world and its important influence on design, economics, opera, and the media make it amongst the world's top 18 Global cities. Additionally, it is home to two of the best football teams (A.C. Milan & Inter Milan) in the world.

Geography

Milan is located in the North-Western section of the Po Valley, approximately halfway between the river Po to the South and the foothills of the Alps with the great lakes to the North, the Ticino River to the West and the Adda River to the East.

Climate

Milan has a humid subtropical climate, which is similar to much of Northern Italy's inland plains, with warm, sultry summers and cold, foggy winters. However, the mean number of days with precipitation per year is one of the lowest in Europe. The Alps and Apennine Mountains form a natural barrier that protects the city from the major circulations coming from northern Europe and the sea.

During winter, daily average temperatures can fall below freezing (0 °C [32 °F]) and accumulations of snow can occur.

In summer, humidity levels are high and peak temperatures can reach above 35 °C. Usually this season enjoys clearer skies with an average of more than 13 hours of daylight. However, when precipitations occur, there is a higher likelihood of there being thunderstorms and hailstorms. Springs and autumns are generally pleasant, with temperatures ranging between 10 and 20 °C. These seasons are characterized by higher rainfall, especially in April and May. In the spring, gale-force windstorms may happen.

Architecture

Milan's Cathedral, built between 1386 and 1577, is the fifth-largest cathedral in the world and the most important example of Gothic architecture in Italy. The gilt bronze statue of the Virgin Mary, placed in 1774 on the highest pinnacle of the cathedral, soon became one of the most enduring symbols of Milan. The massive Arch of Peace, situated at the bottom of Corso Sempione, is often compared to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Parks and gardens

The largest parks in the central area of Milan are Sempione Park, at the North-Western edge, and Montanelli Gardens, situated Northeast of the city. The Sempione Park, built in 1890, contains a Napoleonic Arena, the Milan City Aquarium, an art exhibition centre, a Japanese garden and a public library. The Montanelli gardens, created in the 18th century, hosts the Natural History Museum of Milan and a planetarium.

Even though Milan is located in one of the most urbanised regions of Italy, it's surrounded by green areas and features numerous gardens even in its very centre. Since 1990, the farmlands and woodlands have been protected as regional parks.

Museums and art galleries

Milan is home to many museums and art galleries, that account for about a tenth of the national total of visitors. The Pinacoteca di Brera is one of Milan's most important art galleries. It contains masterpieces such as the Brera Madonna by Piero della Francesca. The Castello Sforzesco hosts numerous art collections and exhibitions, including Michelangelo's last sculpture, the Rondanini Pietà and Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Trivulzianus manuscript. Milan's figurative art flourished in the Middle Ages. Leonardo worked in Milan from 1482 until 1499. He was commissioned to paint the Virgin of the Rocks for the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception and The Last Supper for the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie.
Today, Milan remains a major international hub of modern and contemporary art, with numerous modern art galleries. The Modern Art Gallery, situated in the Royal Villa, hosts collections of Italian and European painting from the 18th to the early 20th centuries.

Music

Milan is a major national and international centre of the performing arts, most notably opera. The city hosts La Scala Operahouse, considered one of the world's most prestigious, having throughout history witnessed the premieres of numerous operas. The city is also has a renowned symphony orchestra and musical conservatory, and has been, throughout history, a major centre for musical composition. It has numerous famous composers and musicians such as Gioseppe Caimo and Verdi.

Fashion and design

Milan is widely regarded as a global capital in industrial design, fashion and architecture. In the 1950s and 60s, as the main industrial centre of Italy and one of Europe's most dynamic cities, Milan became a world capital of design and architecture. There was such a revolutionary change that Milan's fashion exports accounted for US$726 million in 1952, and by 1955 that number grew to US$72.5 billion. Today, Milan is still particularly well known for its high-quality furniture and interior design industry.

Milan is also regarded as one of the fashion capitals of the world, along with New York City, Paris, and London. Many of the most famous Italian fashion brands, such as Valentino, Gucci, Versace, Prada, Armani and Dolce & Gabbana, are headquartered in the city. Furthermore, the city hosts the Milan Fashion Week twice a year, one of the most important events in the international fashion system.

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I do

If you want to relax in Milan, then visit one of its delightful, idyllic parks. The Sempione Park, built in 1890, offers activities and sights for all ages. You can marvel at the Napoleonic Arena, admire the art in the art gallery or take a peaceful stroll through the Japanese garden.



If you are interested in art, you should visit The Pinacoteca di Bera which is one of the most important art galleries in Milan. Famous paintings are kept in these iconic buildings where Leonardo Divinci and Michael Angelo, who are now dead, display their beautiful creations.

We do

Write some sentences for the travel guide about the Italian art galleries.

You do

Plan your own travel guide about Milan. You will need to include:
The weather/climate
Places to visit
Food
Anything else of interest.