

# Traveling to the Dolomites in 2026/2027: What You Can Expect

[Updated January 29, 2026 – Advice below is current as of this date.]

## ENTERING ITALY:

- Italy ended its Covid-19 national emergency over a year ago on March 31, 2022.
- As of June 1, 2022, proof of COVID-19 vaccination is NOT required to enter Italy; you may enter Italy whether you are vaccinated or not. Testing is NOT required for entry (so you do not need to be Covid negative in order to enter Italy). There are no quarantine/isolation rules in place upon entering Italy.
- If you have a Covid-19 vaccination certificate you may wish to carry it with you even though it's highly unlikely you'll be asked to show it at any point during your travels in Europe.

## TRAVELING IN ITALY:

- **Covid-related restrictions are no longer in force in Italy.** As of May 1, 2022, you may access public transportation, hotels, bars, restaurants, shops, museums, theaters, cinemas, stadiums, gyms, spas and other commercial facilities whether you are vaccinated or not. **Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is not required. Testing is NOT required to access businesses and services within Italy.**
- Masking is NOT required in indoor, outdoor, or crowded settings (including public transport). Per the Italian Ministry of Health masking is required in health care facilities that house vulnerable or immunosuppressed patients until the end of June 2024. This rule may be extended beyond June 2024.

## RETURNING TO THE USA:

- If you are a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national or a lawful permanent resident, you do not need to be vaccinated or have a negative Covid test result in order to board a plane to return to the USA. Masking on board US and European air carriers NOT required.

## IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, PLEASE NOTE THAT:

- 1) We abide by the rules, regulations and laws put in place by the host country (whether related to COVID or otherwise). We **do not** create, impose, or enforce Covid-related rules, restrictions and protocols where none have been put in place by the host country. We do not treat “recommendations” as mandatory requirements, and where recommendations exist, it's up to individuals to respond as a matter of personal choice.
- 2) **Testing is NOT required while traveling in Italy.** We do not carry, or provide Covid tests, and we do not recommend or require you to test while on the trip. Testing is also not required in order to return to the USA.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TOUR OPERATIONS?

- Since Covid restrictions and mitigations are no longer in force in Italy (particularly those related to vaccination, testing, and masking), we are again operating in pre-pandemic mode (i.e. as in 2019 and years prior).
- We will continue to respond to illnesses and injuries as we have pre-pandemic (2019 and prior years).

**If any of the above conditions are of concern to you, please do not book travel with us at this time.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Given the current prevalence of flight delays and cancellations, we strongly recommend arriving in the Dolomites at least two days prior to the scheduled start of the trip. This provides you with a cushion in the event your flight(s) are delayed or cancelled. It also gives your luggage time to catch up with you in case it goes astray en route. Give yourself plenty of time to make flight connections. Embrace the long layover. Personally, we now allow a 4-5 hour connection time when booking flights abroad.**

**To make your journey to the trip meeting town of Bressanone (Brixen) as straightforward as possible we recommend flying into Venice's Marco Polo Airport (airport code VCE).** United, Delta and American Airlines all offer non-stop service to Venice. United flies non-stop to Venice from Newark; Delta flies non-stop to Venice from New York (JFK) and Atlanta. American flies non-stop to Venice from Philadelphia. **We strongly advise that you purchase a fully refundable airfare** to provide you with maximum flexibility in the event that unanticipated changes to travel rules or restrictions impact your ability to fly on your planned travel dates. To get from Venice to Bressanone, we recommend reserving a seat on one of the following two trains; both these trains proceed directly to Bressanone with no train changes en route: 1) the EuroCity Railjet (#84) departing Venice Mestre at 11:47 AM and arriving in Bressanone at 3:02 PM; 2) the EuroCity (#80) departing Venice Mestre at 3:47 PM and arriving in Bressanone at 7:02 PM. Tickets for this train can be purchased on the Austrian Federal Railways website (<https://www.oebb.at/en/>) or the Trenitalia app for iOS and Android. Travel time from Venice Mestre station to Bressanone is 3 hours and 15 minutes. For your comfort, we further recommend that you **book train travel in first class** as second class coaches have been routinely packed during the past two years. Venice Airport is connected to both Venice city (Piazzale Roma) and the Venice Mestre rail station by ATVO buses. Tickets for these buses can be purchased at the ATVO ticket counter in the arrivals hall of Venice Airport.

In lieu of trains, **it's also possible to book a private car transfer** to Bressanone from Munich, Venice, or Milan airports. These private transfers are convenient and comfortable, but they are quite expensive when compared to train travel. We suggest <https://mydaytrip.com/>. Current rates are about €700 from Venice; €550 from Munich, and €800 from Milan.

**Insurance for delays in returning to the USA.** We suggest you consider purchasing insurance that will cover all or part of your expenses in the event that rules/restrictions for departing Italy to return to the USA unexpectedly change prior to your return to the USA. We can provide a quotation for travel insurance from Allianz for you, if you desire.

**You should know that as of May 23, 2025, the US State Department has issued a “Exercise Increased Caution” (Level 2) advisory for US citizens planning travel to Italy.** Note that this advisory level is not related to Covid-19. (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/italy-travel-advisory.html>). **The US CDC has removed its specific Covid-19 advisory for Italy. There is a “Travel Health Notice” relating to measles currently in effect for Italy, including Holy See and Vatican City** (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/italy>). **In the United States, the Covid-19 public health emergency ended on May 11, 2023.** Note that these are just advisories issued by the US government to US citizens; however, you are free to travel to Italy, if you desire.

**Remember that contracting a respiratory illness while traveling**—whether it be influenza or the common cold (which can be caused by rhinoviruses, enteroviruses, and other human coronaviruses)—was a risk before the Covid-19 pandemic and will be a risk after the pandemic. Please come prepared for this possibility and bring along your favorite cold/flu remedies.

**EES & ETIAS:** The European Union's new Entry/Exit System (EES) will start operations on 12 October 2025. European countries using the EES (including Italy, Germany and Austria) will introduce the system gradually at their external borders. This means that data collection will be gradually introduced at border crossing points with full implementation by 10 April 2026. Please see <https://travel-europe.europa.eu/en/ees###> for more information about how this will affect your entry into Europe. Also, the new European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is scheduled for implementation sometime in 2026. Once implemented, US citizens will need to apply for and obtain an electronic travel authorization prior to entering Europe. More information about this is available at <https://etias.com/what-is-etias>.

**I have read the information on the above 2 pages and understand and accept these conditions for traveling to and in Italy.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_