

## Tips for Travellers – Electrical Appliances

Italy uses 220 volts, and 240-volt appliances from Australia work normally. However, the plugs are different and you will need to purchase a plug converter. It is probably best to buy a plug converter in Australia before you leave as they are not readily available in Italy outside the major cities. If you will be using multiple Australian appliances, remember that it is cheaper to bring a double-adapter with you than to purchase another plug converter.

Batteries are expensive in Italy and if you have appliances that are particularly heavy on batteries then you should either bring some from home with you or buy rechargeable ones and take a charger with you.

Tea and coffee-making facilities are usually not available in Italian hotels, so if you intend staying in them for any period of time, you may wish to consider taking a small immersion heater (mini-boiler) with you.

If you intend to use your laptop in the plane, then check to see if the plane you are flying in has that capacity and if so, what type of plug configuration it will use. Many planes now have electrical outlets in economy as well as other classes. If they do not, and you need to charge an appliance, usually the flight attendants will allow you to do this in the galley. The website: <http://www.seatguru.com/> will give you details about electrical outlets in planes – and also advice on which are the best and worst seats in the plane. Remember that if you are having a stopover in Hong Kong, Dubai, Singapore or wherever and you may be wishing to charge your laptop in the airport, make sure that you will have the relevant plug converter for that country.