

# Lesson Four: Zoom in on Italy

## Factsheet on Milan

**Name in Italian:** Milano

**Region located in:** Lombardy (Lombardia, in Italian)

**Population:** 1,330,000

### Historical background

Milan has a very long history, being founded by the Gauls in 600 BC. It has been invaded by many groups of people including the Romans in 200 BC. Many of the Roman artefacts were destroyed during raids and attacks, including the bombings during World War Two. Following the war it was decided to develop the city as a city of industry, and not to develop its agricultural aspects.

### Most famous tourist sights

Milan is a huge city and is being developed currently in preparation for the Expo in 2015. This will bring thousands of people into the city. When tourists arrive they will want to visit the Duomo (Cathedral) in the city centre, the famous Galleria for shopping, the Golden Square – 4 streets with the world's most famous shops, the Scala Opera House, the Castle Sforzesco, Sant'Ambrogio church and the famous canal area named Navigli.

Tourists have many special things to see in Milan and there are many historical and modern museums. Tourists can also visit the Last Supper painting by Leonardo Da Vinci. For football fans there is the famous San Siro stadium – the third biggest stadium in the world.

### City economics

Milan's economy is increased by the tourists who visit the city. However, Milan is also a city of fashion. There are fashion weeks throughout the year that bring designers and models from all over the world. As well as this, most of Italy's banks have their main offices in Milan. This brings an important economy to the city. Chemical industries are also common in Milan, and contribute to the economic growth of the city. Milan is famous for being the capital of the North, and there are some people who argue it should become the capital of the country because of its powerful economy and the way it operates well as a city.

### Other information

Milan has an underground train system with five lines. These will take you to many of the sights in Milan and its surrounding towns and villages.