

Getting There

To help you arrange your trip, we have made a few notes on how we travel from the UK to our corner of Italy.

Airlines

We tend to use the low-cost airline EasyJet although we will take other airlines if the price is right.

Flights are available to Genoa airport from several cities around the UK and Europe, changing in Paris. Go to www.expedia.co.uk – see below.

A taxi from the airport to the apartment will cost around €65. If you don't have too much luggage there is a shuttle bus from the airport into Genoa (to the railway station Genova – Piazza Principe). From there you need a city bus or a taxi (about €20) to the other main station, Genova - Brignole, from where you can get a comfortable coach to Recco dropping you very close to the apartment. This will cost you €3,00 for the first two buses (tickets from the vending machine outside the airport terminal doors) and €1,60 for the last one (tickets from the bus office or the newspaper stand in the railway station).

Easyjet has flights to Milan Linate and to Pisa from Gatwick and flights to Milan Malpensa from several cities around the UK and Europe. Anyone coming from outside Europe will most likely arrive at Milan Linate or Pisa.

From Milan Linate there is a bus to Milano Centrale railway station (tickets from a machine just inside the airport building), although we would recommend a taxi for around €12 because there always seems to be a queue (more like a free-for-all!) for the bus (whenever it shows up). From Milano Centrale you can get the train (see below) to Brignole and then the coach from Brignole to Recco. There are occasional trains that go direct to Camogli (which is the next station to Recco) and you can take a taxi from there.

From Malpensa there is a train into the centre of Milan that will take you to Piazza Cadorna. From here you will need a taxi for the short ride to Milano Centrale. Malpensa is further from the centre of Milan than Linate.

From Pisa airport there is a train to Pisa Centrale from where you can get a train to Recco (you may have to change at Rapallo) – all the airport trains go in the opposite direction to Rome.

RyanAir flies to Turin (Torino) from Stansted and EasyJet from Luton. There is a train from Turin airport into the city but you would need a taxi (or the Metro) to get to the correct station for Genoa (similar to the situation with Malpensa). We haven't tried this route, so we can't give you much advice on it.

We usually take a look at www.expedia.co.uk. This site seems to be able to put together flights to and from most places in Britain (and other countries in Europe) to most places in Italy (and elsewhere). The price for a return can vary between about £140 and £600 (and up!), depending quite a bit on how far in advance you book it. However, if you are thinking of going from Edinburgh to Gatwick and then Gatwick to Milan on EasyJet, Expedia may be a better choice as your baggage gets checked all the way through and it may not cost any more.

Another good site is www.lastminute.com

Trains

When carrying a lot of luggage, stairs can be a real nuisance.

There are lots of steps on the Italian train system. Almost every station seems to have an underground passageway with steps up and down from the platforms (many years ago, passengers just walked across the tracks, but this is frowned on these days!). Even Milano Centrale, which is a terminal and has a concourse, is built at a very high level and has monumental steps up from ground level (where the taxis are) – fortunately there are escalators (scala mobile) and a lift (ascensore). In addition, there are about four narrow steps to get into the trains because the platforms are so low. Not wonderful if you have a lot of heavy luggage.

The British train system has high platforms and you can walk straight on to the train without steps. This difference may be important to you in choosing your route. Also, in a London terminus, if you are going from one train or taxi to another taxi or train you will probably not encounter any steps in this process. Gatwick has porters (who are a godsend) and lifts and Stansted has a ramp down to the station platforms on which you can take the airport trolleys right to the train doors.

It is possible to go all the way by train, but we haven't really used this route. Once I came back by the overnight sleeper from Milan to Paris Bercy, which is OK. Going out by the sleeper gets you to Milan early in the morning, so I may never try that one! However "The Man in Seat 61" (<http://www.seat61.com>) recommends it, so it may be better than I think.

There are three direct TGVs from Paris (Lyon) to Turin, one leaving at 8:00 and the others at 14:14 and 15:50. You need Eurostar from London leaving around 10:00 to get the afternoon train. It will get you into Genoa quite late – probably close to 11:00 in the evening – too late for the coach so a taxi is the only option. Staying in Paris overnight and getting the morning train may be a more comfortable option.

Italian trains seem to be much less expensive than British trains – and First Class (prima classe) costs only about 10% more (with reserved seats) and we would definitely recommend it. Pre-booking (prenotata) will get you a reserved numbered seat and is required on many of the long-distance trains, especially in First Class

You can look up Italian trains at www.trenitalia.it, British trains at www.nationalrail.co.uk and French trains at www.voyages-sncf.fr.

By Road

From anywhere north you will be coming via Genoa, and the A12 autostrada has an exit at Recco. The apartment is about two kilometres from the exit (details after booking).

Tolls in Italy and France are expensive and in Switzerland they are exorbitant.

Taxis in Italy

Taxis are readily available at Milan Linate, at Milano Centrale and Genoa Airport.

In Recco there are only a handful of taxis. There is a telephone for taxis at Recco station, but since it only rings the similar phone at the taxi rank in the centre of town, it won't necessarily be answered! Following your booking, we will send you further details of our friendly taxi-drivers in Recco.