

Language groups

In Südtirol most of the population speak German, that's in detail a particular dialect of that zone. Then, another smaller group speak italian and finally a few people speak Ladin, an official language spoken only in the south-east part of the province.



Südtirol has a little bit more than 500.000 inhabitants. Most of them live in little villages in small valleys or on the mountains. The main cities of the region are:

German name	Italian name	Pop.
Bozen	Bozano	100.000
Meran	Merano	39.000
Brixen	Bressanone	25.000
Leifers	Laiaves	16.000

Demographic geography

Autonomy

Together with Autonome Province of Trento, South Tyrol is an autonome italian province: this means that the Provincial Council can take more decisions than the other provinces in Italy, and a higher part of taxes of the population remains there, instead going to the country. This autonomy was given from Italy because of the recent past of this zone (the last that became part of Italy) and the official trilinguism, which is a peculiarity of South Tyrol.



Physical geography

Südtirol is completely mountainous: the highest mountain is the Ortles, almost 4000 meters. There are 4 main valleys:

- Adige Valley, with the two main cities: Bolzano and Merano, where live more than 1/5 of the total population (oriented North-south);
- Eisack Valley (oriented N-S);
- Puster Valley (oriented west-east);
- Vinschgau Valley (oriented W-E);

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South Tyrol

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The autonome Province of Bolzano is the northeast province of Italy; it's also called 'Südtirol', because it's the meridional part of Tyrol, that's politically in Austria: they've in common cultural and language elements.



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