

LOCATION

Country: Italy

Town: Naples

Base: NATO Allied Joint Force Command Naples (JFC)

Other info to consider:

- Family (non-dependents) can visit and stay 90 days **without a visa** (Schengen Area)

POPULATION

Size: City of Naples metropolitan area 2.1 million. The Municipality is about 3.1 million. The population of the region of Campania is 5.8 million and growing.

Ethnicity: Mostly Italian nationals. 10% of the population are foreigners (Romania, Pakistan, Morocco and Albania).

Religion: 80% Christian.

LANGUAGE(S)

Official language: Italian

Prevalence of French or English: English or French as a second language sometimes.

- Very little English is spoken in Naples, particularly in the suburbs where most families live.

COST OF LIVING

Exchange rate to consider: Euro

- Vehicle insurance is astronomical compared to Canada.
- Petrol is expensive, but taxes are refunded at some locations with a special card offered to all family members. (Forax card)

QUALITY OF LIFE

Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:

- While Naples has a lovely Mediterranean climate, the air quality and waste management systems are less than ideal.
- Naples is home to many volcanoes, the best known and most likely to erupt being Vesuvius.
- Roads can flood in heavy storms making driving quite treacherous.
- Italy is located in an active seismic zone.

Laws and culture:

- You may drive for up to one year with a valid Canadian driver's licence and an international driving permit, or an official translation of the Canadian licence by a recognized translator.
- Penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs are severe. The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.05%. Convicted offenders can expect heavy fines, their driver's licence may be confiscated immediately and they could face imprisonment.
- Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe. Convicted offenders can expect jail sentences or heavy fines.
- Buying counterfeit merchandise, such as sunglasses or purses, is illegal. Local authorities may impose heavy fines on tourists caught buying counterfeit merchandise.
- It is illegal to photograph government buildings and military installations without permission from local authorities.
- Authorities may require you to present identification at any time.
- Italians are very family oriented and love children. Canadians may find it difficult to adapt to the Italian rhythm. Home repairs, appointments and deliveries are often postponed to "domani" which can be tomorrow...or in two weeks. Those who thrive in highly organized and structured environments will find Naples challenging.

Safety and security:

- Theft and petty crime are common in Naples, especially in the metropolitan area.
- Keep in mind that Naples is one of the poorest cities in the EU.
- Train passengers have been robbed while distracted or sleeping.

- The threat of terrorism is a reality in Europe. Terrorists have carried out attacks in several European cities and further attacks are likely. Italy's terror level at the moment is lower than in other European countries but radicalization is on the rise.

Level of isolation:

- Language challenges can cause a high level of isolation, particularly among spouses.
- The inability to easily converse with neighbours and community members can contribute to feelings of isolation. Routine errands can become very arduous.
- Public transportation, unless living closer to the city centre, is less available and there is a lack of bus services in more remote areas outside the Naples metropolitan area.
- It can be difficult for teenagers to find friends of the same age with the same interests in the community.
- The small number of children in the community hinders MFS(E)'s ability to provide a full range of services and programs to various age groups.
- There are 40 Canadian families in this location.

HOUSING

- All families in Naples obtain more than adequate housing.
- Although the houses may look spectacular with marble flooring and large in-ground swimming pools, families need to keep an eye out for things like mould or inadequate power supply.

EMPLOYMENT

Are there employment opportunities for spouses? Due to tax and legal implications, spousal employment in Italy is not a realistic option.

- There are very limited employment opportunities available through CFMWS, so families should plan to be a single-income family for the duration of the posting.

Op tempo: The op tempo will vary greatly depending on the position. Most positions in Naples are deployable and TD is frequent.

HEALTH CARE

Access: Italy's healthcare system is routinely ranked among the best in the world

- Private on the economy.
- The Canadian community has access to the US Support Site for healthcare.
- The US hospital is approximately 30 minutes by car from JFC. Canadians do not qualify for Tri-Care and have to pay for services.
- Individuals with serious medical issues should not be considered for this posting, as accessing regular medical care may be extremely limited.
- Difficulty receiving medications/vaccinations.
- While some doctors speak English, many of their office staff do not, therefore, it is advisable to go to the office in person to make your first appointment.
- The language barrier and bedside manner are not what Canadians are accustomed to.
- The Canadian Medical Clinic in Geilenkirchen is responsible for the healthcare of all Canadian military members in Europe and can be accessed.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP.

Special needs:

- Resources and services are limited and language barriers could pose serious challenges.
- If a family member has special medical needs, it is highly advised that they consult with MFS(E), and/or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting to Naples.

Consideration for pregnancy/birthing:

- Private available.
- Birthing classes in English/French are hard to find

Dental:

- Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay upfront, and you can then claim your expenses
- It is easy to access, however; providers do not all speak English or French.

SCHOOLING

- Schooling is typically through Naples Elementary School for grades SK-6, Naples Middle High School for grades 7-12, British Forces School Naples for grades 7-12, École française de Naples Alexandre-Dumas for grades JK-9, and Institut Saint-Dominique (Rome) for grades 9-12.
- Families need to be aware that some schools will require significant commuting times and/or have limited bus services.
- The vast majority of private schools are denominational (Roman Catholic). Schools enrol students based on their denominational requirements and if there is space they will enrol students from other denominations or who have no denomination. Religious philosophy may be integrated across the curriculum in denominational schools, therefore, making it difficult to avoid.
- Access to DoDEA schools is allocated on a “space available” basis to CAF dependents. Currently, some grade levels at this location are near or at capacity. Some families apply to WG B for approval to attend the International School of Naples.
- The British curriculum school at this location accepts limited/no enrolment in some APS years.
- Access to the French national curriculum at the high school level requires boarding school in Rome; family resilience to withstand separation is a consideration with all boarding options.

Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- Curriculum varies depending on the choice of school.
- Canadian history or geography is not available.

Resources for special needs children:

- Resources for special needs children are extremely limited.
- Should it be determined that a child requires special needs due to developmental or mental health concerns while posted OUTCAN, this could pose a serious risk to the posting and the family may be considered for repatriation.

CHILDCARE

- Local childcare is available but very limited in English/French.
- In Naples, the US naval support site (MWR) has a child development centre, which is bilingual (Italian & English).

TRANSPORTATION

- Airports: Naples International (NAP)
- Driving in Italy can be challenging at first, as the style may be more aggressive than in Canada, and the road regulations may not always be respected.
- Imported vehicles might be expensive to maintain, and parts might be expensive or imported at high cost and delay.
- The train networks are extensive and easy to use.
- Public transportation in Naples is extensive, and you can get around the city by using buses, trams, and a rapid transit system, which uses both surface and metro railway lines.
- Suburban rail and frequent ferries from the harbour link Naples to the surrounding areas within the province.

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?

- Yes, MFS(E) Naples is located at the Villa Maple Leaf, five minutes from JFC.

Psychosocial/mental health resources:

- Not at the post, and the MFS(E) SW is for dependents only. The CAF SW/Mental Health Team for members and families is located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. The chaplain is located in Naples, Italy.

Communications (e.g. quality of Internet connection):

- The Internet is very good. Most places have access to fibre.

ACTIVITIES

Access to sports or other leisure activities:

- In the community but very limited in English or French.

Availability of playgrounds:

- Very little ‘green space’ available for outdoor recreation.
- Facilities exist at the US support site and JFC bases and a paid membership for access to Carney Park is an option.
- Most homes have small tiled outdoor spaces and are fenced between neighbours. The “parco” layout is usually unsafe for unsupervised play.

RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are common-law relationships recognized? Yes

Are same-sex couples recognized? Yes, and there are some anti-homophobia

laws to protect same-sex couples, although Italy is one of the worst Western countries when it comes to the status of LGBT rights.

Medications that are illegal in the country:

- Cannabis is illegal in Italy.
- For some medicines - like sleeping pills, medication for ADHD and strong painkillers - you need a medical certificate.
- Syringe kits, opiates and psychotropic medication also require a letter from your medical practitioner on official letterhead.

Other considerations:

- Medication that is sold over the counter in Canada (cold and flu medication, antihistamines, etc.) is available locally. A pharmacist can be the first resource to diagnose before doctors.
- Banned dog breeds: American Bulldog, Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog, Anatolian Shepherd Dog, Central Asian Shepherd Dog, Caucasian Shepherd Dog, Portuguese Sheepdog, Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Mastiff), Dogo Argentino, Perro da ganado majorero, Dogo Canario, Pitbull and all its variants, Portuguese Mastiff, Rottweiler, and Tosa Inu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- European Commission Country Reports (2022)
https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2022-european-semester-country-reports_en
- Canadian Travel Advisories
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- CIA World Factbooks (One pager from the US)
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/italy/>
- Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-italy>
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
<https://data.imf.org/?sk=4FFB52B2-3653-409A-B471-D47B46D904B5>

For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below:

- MFS(E) Social Worker: Andrea Liss at liss.andrea@cfmws.com
- CAF Social Worker: GKMedicalClinic@forces.gc.ca
- MFS(E) Naples: +39 081 509 6663, MFSE.Naples@cfmws.com
- MFS(E) Regional Office: +49 (0) 2451 717 173, MFS.Europe@cfmws.com