



OUTCAN Info Sheet 2020

Rome, Italy

LOCATION

Country: Italy

Town: Rome (capital city)

Entry/Exit requirements: Visa for 1 year in Green. Residency permit offered to accompany the blue/green passport.

Other info to Consider:

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

POPULATION

Size: 2.9 million included in Italy's total population of about 60.5 million.

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

Religion: 80% Christian, Vatican City is located in the heart of Rome, Italy.

LANGUAGE(S)

Official language: Italian

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

- Most restaurants and shops will have some staff that speaks English or French.

COST OF LIVING

Exchange rate to consider: Euro

- Rome still prefers to deal with cash, rather than plastic.
- Vehicle insurance is astronomical compared to Canada.
- Petrol is expensive, but taxes are refunded at some locations with special card offered to all family members. (Forax card)

QUALITY OF LIFE

Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:

- Rome has a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cold, humid winters. Rome has natural weather hazards in the form of forest fires, floods, earthquakes and volcanoes. Mount Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli lie in the proximity of Rome.
- 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 by a recognized translator of the Canadian licence.
- 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, your driver's licence may be confiscated immediately and you 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 Rome challenging.
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Safety and Security:

- Petty crime such as pickpocketing and purse snatching occur. Foreigners are targeted.
- Train passengers have been robbed while distracted or sleeping, and there have been thefts on the train connecting Fiumicino Airport to central Rome.
- The threat of terrorism is a reality in all 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:

- The language challenges can cause a high level of isolation, particularly among spouses.
- The inability to easily converse with neighbors and community members can contribute to feelings of isolation. Routine errands can become very arduous.
- Families may be farther apart from each other and may reside outside of the city, which can contribute to feelings of isolation.
- Canadians posted to Rome vary greatly from one year to the next.

HOUSING

- Houses in Italy are not built to Canadian standards.
- 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 mold or inadequate power supply.

EMPLOYMENT

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

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

Op Tempo: The op tempo will vary greatly depending on position. TD is possible.

HEALTH CARE

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

- Private on the economy.
- 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 the bedside manner is 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 Rome.

Consideration for pregnancy / birth:

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

Dental:

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

SCHOOLING

- Schooling is typically at the American Overseas School of Rome (IB) for grades JK-12, Marymount International School Rome (IB) for grades JK-12, St. Stephen's School (IB) for grades 9-12, St. Georges British International School (IB) for grades JK-8, and Lycée Chateaubriand de Rome for grades JK-12
- British curriculum is only deemed compatible up to gr 8; access to British curriculum beyond gr 8 requires WG B approval.
- 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 enroll students based upon their denominational requirements and if there is space, they will enroll students from other denominations or who have no denomination. Religious philosophy may be integrated across the curriculum in the denominational schools therefore making it difficult to avoid

Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- Curriculum varies depending on choice of school.
- None of them offers Canadian history or geography.

Resources for special need 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

Things to Consider:

- Local childcare available but very limited in English/French

TRANSPORTATION

Things to Consider: Airports: Fiumicino (FCO), also referred to as Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport, and Ciampino (CIA).

- 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 makes might be expensive to maintain, parts might be expensive or imported at high cost and delay.
- Public transportation in Rome 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.

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

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

- No, under Naples MFSE located in Naples, Italy

Psychosocial / Mental Health Resources:

- Not at post, MFS(E) SW for dependants only, CAF SW/Mental Health Team for member and family are located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Padre is located in Naples, Italy.

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

- Internet connection quality and availability varies widely depending on location. In general, it is unreliable.
- Cellular phone plans and internet are reasonably priced.
- Some areas of the city have fiber optic internet. Outside the city center this may not be available.
- Cloudy/windy day may affect the signal.

ACTIVITIES

Access to sports or other leisure activities:

- On the economy, very limited in English or French

Availability of playgrounds: Yes.

RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are common law relationships recognized? Yes

Are same sex couples recognized? Yes but Italy is still in process of voting the very first anti-homophobia law.

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 an official letterhead.

Other Considerations:

- Medication that is sold over-the-counter in Canada (cold and flu medication, antihistamines, etc.) is available on the economy. 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 de ganado mayorero, Dogo Canario, Pitbull and all its variants, Portuguese Mastiff, Rottweiler, Tosa Inu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **European Commission Country Reports (2019)**
https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2019-european-semester-country-reports_en
- **Canadian Travel Advisories**
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- **CIA World Factbooks (One Pagers from US)**
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pl.html>
- **Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)**
<https://www.gov.uk/topic/help-british-nationals-overseas/europe>
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**
<https://data.imf.org/?sk=4FFB52B2-3653-409A-B471-D47B46D904B55>

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

- MFS(E) Social Worker : chebat.myriam@cfmws.com or Myriam.Chebat@Forces.gc.ca
- CAF Social Worker: martin.laferrieresimard@formces.gc.ca
- MFS(E) Naples: + 39 (0) 81 509 9575, MFSE.Naples@cfmws.com
- MFS(E) Regional Office: +49 (0) 2451 717 173, MFS.Europe@cfmws.com