

Info Sheet Naples

OUTCAN; Semi-Isolated & Isolated Posting locations

Location

- **Country:** Italy
- **Province/state:** Campania

Population

- **Size:** Over 3,000,000 in the metropolitan city of Naples
- **Ethnicity:** Italian

Language(s)

- **Official language:** Italian
- **Prevalence of French or English speaking:** Unlike other parts of Italy and Europe, very little English is spoken in Naples (particularly in the suburbs where most families live). The inability to easily converse with neighbours and community members can contribute to feelings of isolation. Routine errands can become very arduous when you don't speak the local language. Some English is spoken in the area around the JFC base.

Cost of Living

- **Exchange rate to consider:** approximately 1 EUR = 1.42-1.56 CAD. Financial benefits offered to military personnel help alleviate the increased cost of living.

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 volcanos, better known and most likely to erupt being Vesuvius. Roads can flood in heavy storms making driving quite treacherous. One Canadian family has had to move homes mid-posting due to a landslide and road closure next to their house.
- **Laws and culture:** 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 is a common occurrence in Naples. The Canadian community has experienced home invasions, broken car windows, pickpockets and credit card fraud. It is important to always be mindful of keeping personal effects secured and to use all safety measures available (e.g. activate alarm system, lock doors and gates, close shutters etc.)
- **Level of isolation:** Naples is home to approximately 40 Canadian families. The community engages in social events frequently and activities are offered through MFS(E), PSP, JFC International Spouses Club and the Canadian Element. The gated communities and barricaded houses (shutters) can make it easy to feel isolated. It can become extremely isolating if the family owns only one car or the spouse does not drive! It can be difficult for children 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 full range services and programs to any and all age groups.

Housing

All families in Naples are able to obtain more than adequate housing. Most families live in large Villas. The rent allowance ensures all Canadian Military Personnel in Naples can afford suitable accommodations. Houses in Italy are not built to Canadian standards, so 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. Your sponsors and the housing agency will help you make an informed decision.

Employment

- **Are dependants authorized to work?** In Italy, dependants are not authorized to work in the local economy.
- **Opportunities:** Work opportunities for dependants are extremely limited. Spouses are only eligible for employment through MFS(E), PSP or as a civilian employee for the Canadian Forces. Approximately 7 positions overall.
- **Op Tempo:** The op tempo will vary greatly depending on position. Most positions in Naples are deployable and TDs are frequent.

Health Care

- **Access:** The Canadian community has access to the US Support Site for health care. It should be noted that the US hospital is approximately 30 minutes by car from JFC. The quality of care is excellent, unfortunately, the hospital has plans to convert to a clinic and offer fewer services by 2019. This change will mean the Italian hospital will be the only option. This poses a challenge as far as the language barrier and the bedside manner is not what Canadians are accustomed to.
- **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/birth:** Birthing classes in English are hard to find, especially if you have something specific like Lamaze in mind.

School

- **Language:** There are English, French and Italian immersion options.
- **Curriculum vs Canadian curriculum:** Curriculum varies depending on choice of school. None of them offer Canadian history or geography at the elementary level.
- **Resources for special need children:** Resources for special needs children are extremely limited. The US school offers help in English for non-native speakers.
- **School recommended:** Although there are a few school options in Naples, it can be challenging to get approval from dependant education to enroll children in schools other than the US school. For elementary education, parents can explore the options for the US school, International school of Lago Patria, Teodoro Monticelli and the French school downtown. For high school education there are the US school, the Canadian College Italy (boarding school in Lanciano Italy) and Neuchâtel Junior College (students live with local family in Switzerland.) Families need to be aware that some schools will require significant commuting times and/or have limited bus services.

Childcare

The only options available for daycare for pre-school aged children are Italian daycares, which are a lot less structured than what Canadian parents are accustomed to, or a nanny that would need to be personally screened by the parents. The availability of Canadian babysitters is limited. Parents should be prepared that they may need to engage and personally screen Italian childcare providers.

Banking

Banco di Napoli branch on JFC Lago Patria speak some English and can assist you with your banking needs and problems. Bank accounts are offered to Canadians, as well as house insurance.

Transportation

Driving in Naples can be challenging at first. Neapolitans drive aggressively and there is little regard for road regulations. If you chose to purchase a car upon your arrival, be aware that the vast majority of cars for sale in Europe have a manual transmission. Public transport is available in larger cities but can be very difficult to navigate in more rural areas.

Resources and Amenities

- **Accessibility:** Canadians have access to services in English on the US Support Site, however, for some of these services (dentist) Canadians fall at the bottom of the wait list and can only be offered services if no American family needs them. Services in English or French on the local economy are scarce.
- **Is there an MFS/MFRC available in that location:** MFS(E) Naples has offices at Villa Maple Leaf, a Villa rented for the benefit of the Canadian community. It is located 5 min from JFC and is open from 8:00 to 15:00 Monday through Friday. Staff is bilingual.
- **Psychosocial / Mental Health resources:** A Canadian social worker based in Germany is available for the Canadian community in Europe as well as the Chaplain in SHAPE. Both are bilingual.
- **Communications:** Internet connection quality and availability in Naples varies widely depending on location. In general, it is unreliable. Cellular phone plans and internet are reasonably priced.

Activities

- **Access to sports or other leisure activities** : MFS(E) facilitates monthly kid's and teen's clubs to provide an opportunity for children to socialize. There are few after school activities or summer camp options available to families "on the economy". Many activities are offered through the US Support Site, but substantial commuting time is required.
- **Availability of playgrounds:** Parents need to be aware that there is very little 'green space' available for outdoor recreation. The facilities that are available may require significant commuting time. 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 off from neighbors. The "parco" layout is usually unsafe for unsupervised play.

Restrictions to consider

- **Are common law relationships recognized?** Yes
- **Are same sex couple recognized?** Yes
- **Others:** Naples is dirty, public spaces are littered with trash and piles of garbage are thrown on the side of the highway. Stray animals are a huge problem.

Assistance: Road assistance: 116 Towing: 338 227 8164

Emergency Numbers: Police: 113 Fire: 115 Ambulance: 118

For questions, please contact MFS(E) Naples by e-mail @ mfse.naples@cfmws.com
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