LOCATION GUIDE

Italy

Command sponsorship, the permesso di soggiorno, pets, AFI driving, housing and base notes for Vicenza, Camp Darby, Aviano, Naples and Sigonella.

BOARDING PASS

FROM	TO	START
Your current duty station	Italy	6+ months out

BASES	ALLOWANCES
Vicenza · Camp Darby · Aviano · Naples · Sigonella	OHA + COLA

SERIES OCONUS PCS

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Installations at a glance
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- Base notes: north and south
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WELCOME

Italy at a glance

U.S. forces in Italy span the Alps to Sicily. Each base feels different — mountain towns in the north, volcanoes and Mediterranean heat in the south.

INSTALLATION	AREA	MAIN SERVICES	NOTES
USAG Italy – Vicenza	Veneto, northeast	Army	173rd Airborne; most families live off post
USAG Italy – Camp Darby	Pisa and Livorno	Army	No family housing; school through 8th grade
Aviano Air Base	Friuli, near Pordenone	Air Force	31st Fighter Wing; no on-base family housing
NSA Naples	Capodichino and Gricignano	Navy, joint	Naval Hospital; volcanic risk
NAS Sigonella	Eastern Sicily, near Catania	Navy	Naval Hospital with 24/7 ER

Five things that work differently here

1

Command sponsorship

Family members must be listed on orders to move with you.

2

Permesso di soggiorno

Family members apply for a residence permit soon after arrival.

3

AFI license

Everyone who drives takes a test; base-issued plates and fuel cards follow.

4

Off-base living

Most families rent on the Italian economy, with OHA.

5

ZTL zones

Camera-enforced restricted traffic zones fine you months later.

Patriot Express has changed

Since October 2025, Naples and Sigonella families fly commercial. Ask your sponsor how you'll travel.

COUNTDOWN

Command sponsorship and timeline

Each dependent needs a no-fee passport and an Italian visa before you fly. Arriving without one can mean a trip back to the U.S. at your own expense.

As soon as you have orders 6+ MONTHS OUT

- [ ] Make sure every family member is listed on your orders
- [ ] Apply for no-fee passports and Italian visas for dependents
- [ ] Start the pet microchip and rabies vaccine
- [ ] Start overseas or EFMP screening for every family member
- [ ] Get tourist passports for leave travel
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit

Book the move 90–120 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Book travel — commercial for Naples and Sigonella
- [ ] Split household goods: express, main and storage
- [ ] Gather school, medical and IEP/504 records
- [ ] Book lodging that allows pets, if needed
- [ ] Ship your POV through PCSmyPOV (about 90 days)

Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Carry passports, visas, orders and pet papers together
- [ ] Bring a 90-day supply of prescriptions
- [ ] Bring passport photos for the permesso di soggiorno
- [ ] Order some euros for the first week

Apply for the permesso fast

Dependents apply for the permesso di soggiorno within about 8 days of arrival. Don't leave Italy until it arrives — without it, family members count as tourists.

FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY

Bringing pets to Italy

Italy follows EU pet rules, so there's no quarantine. Base housing has its own breed limits.

Four steps, in this order

1

Microchip

ISO 15-digit; implanted before the rabies shot.

FIRST

2

Rabies vaccine

At least 21 days before entry for a first vaccination.

21+ DAYS OUT

3

EU health certificate

From a USDA-accredited vet, endorsed by USDA. New forms began in October 2026.

WITHIN 10 DAYS

4

Register locally

With the base vet and the local health authority (ULSS or ASL).

AFTER ARRIVAL

Source: USDA APHIS pet travel to Italy; USAG Italy, NSA Naples and NMRTC Sigonella pet pages.

Military-specific rules

- Italy itself bans no breeds, but base housing does
- Naples Support Site quarters require spayed or neutered pets
- Naples law: carry a muzzle, keep leashes under 5 feet
- Vicenza installations ban Pit Bull types, Rottweilers, Dobermans, Chows and wolf hybrids, mixes included
- Sigonella housing allows two pets per family
- Airlines may refuse pets in extreme heat — have a backup plan

Register on time

Vicenza pets register with the ULSS within 10 days; Naples pets with the base vet within 30 days and the ASL within six months.

ON THE ROAD

AFI license, cars and driving

Italian roads, tolls and restricted zones take some getting used to. There are no gas stations on U.S. installations in Italy.

Getting your license

1

Take the class

An orientation class and road-sign test at your base.

2

Pass the test

Aviano requires 90% or better on both tests.

3

Get an IDP

The Italian SOFA license isn't valid in some nearby countries.

Buying and owning a car

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
Shipping	Ship one POV through PCSmyPOV; expect about 90 days
Registration	AFI plates for up to three vehicles; Vicenza registers online
Required kit	First-aid kit, warning triangle and reflective vest
Fuel	Tax-free fuel cards or coupons; Aviano caps coupons at 400 liters a month
Tolls	Cash, card or Telepass on the autostrada
Insurance	Costs more than in the U.S.; several insurers are at the exchange

Rules of the road

- Never drive into a ZTL zone — cameras fine you on entry and exit
- Winter tires or chains are required November 15 to April 15 in much of Italy
- Tickets can arrive up to a year later
- Don't trust GPS to warn you about restricted zones

WHERE TO LIVE

Housing, OHA and allowances

Overseas allowances replace BAH. Most families in Vicenza and Aviano live off base; Naples and Sigonella assign many families to base housing.

1
OHA
Covers your actual rent up to a limit, plus a flat utility amount.

2
COLA
Paid to command-sponsored members to offset local prices.

3
MIHA and TLA
MIHA helps with setup; TLA covers lodging while you look.

Double-check your rates — OHA and COLA change often.
OHA: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Overseas-Housing-Allowance/OHA-Rate-Lookup/
Overseas COLA: travel.dod.mil/allowances/overseas-cost-of-living-allowance/overseas-cola-rate-lookup/

Base housing VARIES BY BASE

- Vicenza: new homes are being built; plan to live off post for now
- Naples: Support Site apartments, assigned directly
- Aviano: no on-base family housing; a few leased units
- Sigonella: Marinai townhouses; waits of 1–3 months for most

Living off base THROUGH THE HOUSING OFFICE

- Contracts are in Italian only — sign with a housing counselor
- Utilities can take 10–15 days to start; bills come every two months
- Realtor fees run about one month's rent plus tax
- Use the military clause to end a lease for PCS

Naples-only rules
Off-base homes must use city water, landlords supply bottled water, and some neighborhoods require a volcanic-risk acknowledgment.

KIDS

Schools and child care

DoDEA runs schools at every Italy base except at the high school level at Camp Darby.

AREA	SCHOOLS
Vicenza	Elementary, middle and high school
Camp Darby	Livorno Elementary/Middle (PreK–8); high school through the non-DoD program
Aviano	Aviano Elementary and Middle/High
Naples	Naples Elementary and Middle/High at the Support Site
Sigonella	Sigonella Elementary and Middle/High on NAS I

Italian schools

An option below high school, especially in the north.

Military Interstate Compact

DoDEA follows it for records, placement and graduation rules.

School Liaison Officers

Every base has one for enrollment and IEP transitions.

Child care

- Request Child Development Center care on MilitaryChildCare.com as soon as you have orders
- Youth centers and teen programs run on most bases
- Family Child Care homes on base fill gaps
- Italian preschools (scuola dell'infanzia) are an option

HEALTH CARE

Medical and dental

Italy is in the TRICARE Overseas Program. Naval hospitals serve Naples and Sigonella; northern Italy has clinics but no U.S. emergency room.

1

Naval hospitals

U.S. Naval Hospital Naples (Gricignano) and U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella, which has a 24/7 ER.

2

Northern clinics

Vicenza and Aviano have clinics but no ER. Emergencies go to San Bortolo or Pordenone hospitals.

Before you go

- Complete overseas screening for every family member
- Get copies of medical, dental and shot records
- Host-nation patient liaisons help at Italian hospitals
- Bring a 90-day supply of prescriptions in original bottles
- Camp Darby's clinic serves active duty only
- International SOS offers interpretation help

Good to know

TOPIC	DETAIL
Emergencies	Dial 112 (EU) or 118 for an ambulance
Police and fire	113 for police, 115 for fire
Dental	Active duty uses base clinics; families use the TRICARE Dental Program overseas
Language	Italian hospitals may have limited English — use the patient liaison

DAILY LIFE

Money, phones and daily life

Italy runs on its own rhythm. Expect afternoon closures in smaller towns, slow paperwork and wonderful food.

Electricity

220–230V with type F and L plugs. Loaner transformers are available.

Phones

Italian carriers offer contracts or cheap prepaid SIMs.

Recycling

Required by law, with fines for mistakes.

Everyday details

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
Money	Euros; VAT is 22%, and tax-relief rules vary by base
Mail	APO/FPO address; not for home businesses
Internet	Installation can take 2–4 weeks
Working off base	Requires an Italian work visa and gives up SOFA protections
Time zone	6 hours ahead of the U.S. East Coast

Learn a little Italian

A few phrases go a long way with landlords, shopkeepers and neighbors — and a translation app helps with everything else.

LIVING IN ITALY

Culture, safety and the NEO go-bag

Local customs

- Greet shopkeepers with "buongiorno" when you walk in
- Many small shops close for a midday break
- Dress a step up in churches and nicer restaurants
- Coffee is usually taken standing at the bar
- Sundays are for family; many shops close

Safety

- Naples sits near Campi Flegrei — earthquakes are common; know your plan
- Mount Etna ash can disrupt flights at Sigonella
- Watch for pickpockets in big cities and train stations
- Summer heat in the south can be extreme
- Follow base guidance on water and environmental health

NEO go-bag KEEP IT PACKED

- [ ] Passports, orders and ID cards for everyone
- [ ] Medications for at least a week
- [ ] Water, snacks and a flashlight
- [ ] Pet carrier, food and records
- [ ] Copies of birth and marriage certificates
- [ ] Cash in euros and dollars
- [ ] Phone chargers and a battery pack
- [ ] A change of clothes for each person

NEO is part of overseas life

Command-sponsored families take part in noncombatant evacuation planning. Keep your NEO packet current and update it whenever your family changes.

BASE NOTES · NORTH

Vicenza, Camp Darby and Aviano

USAG Italy – Vicenza CASERMA EDERLE · DEL DIN

- Plan to live off post while new homes are built (through 2028)
- Register pets with the ULSS within 10 days
- Most families live within about 30 minutes of post
- No ER on post — San Bortolo is the local hospital

HOUSING OFFICE | LODGING | CLINIC | VET CLINIC

USAG Italy – Camp Darby BETWEEN PISA AND LIVORNO

- No family housing; the clinic serves active duty only
- Plan for ZTL permits if you live in Pisa, Livorno or Lucca
- Livorno Elementary/Middle; no DoDEA high school

Aviano Air Base NEAR PORDENONE

- No on-base family housing; set up your AHRN account before you PCS
- The base soggiorno office helps families with permits
- You need 90% on both license tests
- Pordenone Hospital handles emergencies

HOUSING OFFICE | LODGING | CLINIC | VET CLINIC

BASE NOTES · SOUTH

Naples and Sigonella

NSA Naples CAPODICHINO · SUPPORT SITE

- Support Site housing is assigned directly; declining it can mean no OHA
- Some neighborhoods require a volcanic and seismic risk acknowledgment
- Off-base homes must be on city water; landlords supply bottled water
- No Patriot Express since October 2025

HOUSING OFFICE | LODGING | HOSPITAL | VET CLINIC

NAS Sigonella EASTERN SICILY

- Accompanied families are assigned to Marinai housing
- U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella has a 24/7 ER
- Report to the Housing Service Center within 48 hours
- Etna hiking above 6,500 feet needs a certified guide

HOUSING OFFICE | LODGING | HOSPITAL | VET CLINIC

KEEP THIS HANDY

Contacts and links

Base numbers change often and use DSN or local formats. Write in your own from your sponsor and welcome packet.

OFFICE	DSN	FROM A CELL
Sponsor		
Housing office		
Lodging		
Family readiness center		
Clinic or hospital		
Vet clinic		

NUMBER	USE
112	Emergency (EU-wide)
118	Ambulance
+39-095-86-1911	Sigonella emergency (from a cell)
081-568-4911	Naples emergency dispatch

Links

USAG Italy PCS guide · Aviano newcomers · USDA pet travel to Italy · OHA Rate Lookup · Overseas COLA Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: USAG Italy PCS guides; Aviano newcomers FAQs; CNIC Naples and Sigonella housing; NMRTC Sigonella; USDA APHIS; Stars and Stripes (2024–26).

READY FOR THE FULL PLAYBOOK?

Go step by step with the kits.

Worksheets, trackers and a complete binder setup for every stage of your move.

pcslikeapro.org

hello@pcslikeapro.org

WORKSHEET

Pet tracker and budget

Pet import tracker

STEP	DATE DONE	PET 1	PET 2
Microchip number			
Rabies vaccine			
21 days ends			
Health certificate			
USDA endorsement			
Flight booked			
Base vet registration			
ULSS / ASL registration			

Monthly budget

ITEM	AMOUNT
OHA + utility allowance + COLA	$
Rent (if off base)	$
Utilities	$
Car insurance, fuel and registration	$
Left over	$