

Main banner

France - Low



France Country Map



POLITICAL



ARMED CONFLICT



TERRORISM



CRIME



CIVIL UNREST



MARITIME AND PIRACY



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL



TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 17 December 2025

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

France is considered a safe travel destination, and most visits are generally trouble-free.

Crime levels are low; opportunistic crime presents the most prominent threat to travellers, particularly in major cities and in the vicinity of popular tourist sites. Travellers should, therefore, take sensible precautions to mitigate this threat, such as not displaying overt signs of wealth or walking alone at night. Instances of vio-

lent and serious crimes do occur, though travellers are unlikely to be targeted.

France is currently experiencing significant political deadlock, with four prime ministers appointed since January 2024. Protests driven by political dissatisfaction and economic concerns are likely to occur in Paris and other major cities.

Travellers are advised to monitor local media for updates and expect potential disruptions to transport and public services during periods of civil unrest.

Protests and industrial action are routine in France, particularly in Paris and other urban centres. Though the threat posed by civil unrest is generally low, travellers in the vicinity of protests face incidental risks as well as travel disruptions. The Yellow Vest protest movement, which began in October 2018, has prompted mass protests across the country, with the largest being held in Paris. Yellow vest protests have, on occasion, resulted in violent clashes with security forces as well as rioting. Travellers are advised to avoid such demonstrations as a safety precaution and should seek secure shelter at the first sign of unrest. In June 2023, violent riots and looting broke out in numerous cities across France following the fatal police shooting of a 17-year-old French youth of Maghrebi Algerian descent.

The threat posed by terrorism is considered to be high compared to almost all other countries in Western Europe. Since 2015, a series of high-profile terrorist attacks have taken place in France. The principal terror threat is posed by Islamist extremists as a result of French military intervention to combat the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, as well as extremist groups in several African nations. France's colonial history and the controversies surrounding its policy of *Laïcité* have been weaponised by Islamist extremists to support their radicalising efforts, especially targeting citizens of North African and Middle Eastern origin. Travellers should maintain a high degree of situational awareness and vigilance at all times, as attacks could be indiscriminate and could target areas such as transport hubs, government buildings and tourist attractions.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Cultural Tips

- French is the official language. English is also widely understood in tourist areas.
- The French use titles at greetings and in conversation. Visitors should use

titles until invited to use first names and address all women as "Madame."

The title "Mademoiselle" should be avoided as it can be considered condescending or offensive.

- The U.S. sign for "OK" (index finger forming a circle with the thumb) means "zero" in France. The French analogue to the "OK" gesture is the upturned thumb.
- French culture values formality in business, especially in written communications.
- The tip ("service compris") is included in the bill at restaurants and cafes (although restaurant patrons customarily leave their small change along with the tab -- or more for exceptional service). In general, taxi drivers are tipped 5-10% of the metered charge. Porters at transport depots and hotels usually receive 1 euro per bag.
- By law, smoking is banned in all restaurants, cafes, hotels, casinos and bars.
- Homosexuality and same-sex marriage are legal in France.
- When entering churches (whether for prayer or sightseeing), dress conservatively.

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL	Paris
CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE	01
COUNTRY PHONE CODE	33
CURRENCY	Euro
ELECTRICITY	230 V, 50 Hz
GMT	+1
LANGUAGES	French

KEY FACTS	
LEADERSHIP	President Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu
OFFICE WORK WEEK	Monday-Friday
OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	French Republic
PLUG STYLES	Types C, E
RELIGION	Roman Catholic 47%, Atheist/Agnostic 33%, Muslim 4%, Protestant 2%, Buddhist 2%, Orthodox 1%, Jewish 1%, other 1%
TIME ZONE OFFSET	UTC + 2 (Daylight Saving Time observed)
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	Semi-Presidential Republic

RISK SUMMARY

Political - Moderate

Since the 9 June 2024 elections, France has experienced significant political instability. The centre-left, left, and far-right factions failed to secure a decisive majority in the National Assembly, and deep ideological divisions have hindered the formation of a stable governing coalition. Following the elections, the government collapsed when Prime Minister Michel Barnier was ousted in a no-confidence vote after failing to pass a national budget.

Barnier's successor, François Bayrou, faced challenges in advancing austerity measures to address economic concerns and was subsequently removed in a no-confidence vote on 8 September 2025. The current Prime Minister, Sébastien Lecornu, a close ally of President Macron's centrist-liberal camp, now leads the government. Opposition groups have already proposed motions of no confidence in response to his appointment.

Amid this uncertainty, politically motivated civil unrest is highly likely. Following Bayrou's ousting, unions across multiple sectors called general strikes under the banner 'Bloquons Tout' ("Let's shut everything down"). Further strikes, protests, and public disruptions are expected, particularly in response to measures addressing the political deadlock and economic challenges.

Public dissatisfaction with mainstream political parties may also lead to demonstrations supporting populist movements, some of which focus on anti-migration sentiments. Such protests carry a heightened risk of confrontation with counter-protesters and may escalate into violence. Travellers should exercise caution, remain informed of political developments, and avoid areas of large gatherings or demonstrations.

Armed Conflict - Low

The threat of armed conflict in France remains low. As a NATO member surrounded by other NATO or neutral states, the likelihood of direct conflict on French soil is minimal. However, France is obligated to support any NATO ally under attack, and the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine has heightened the broader regional security risk.

Terrorism - Moderate

The terrorism threat in France is currently assessed as moderate. The country has been targeted by several high-profile attacks, resulting in significant fatalities. The primary threat comes from Islamist violent extremist organisations (VEOs) and self-radicalised individuals.

Attacks are most likely to be carried out by lone actors using knives, firearms, or

vehicles in ramming incidents. Travellers should maintain a high degree of situational awareness and vigilance at all times, as attacks may be indiscriminate but could target areas such as transport hubs, government buildings, and tourist attractions.

The island of Corsica is host to a separatist terrorist group, the FLNC (National Liberation Front of Corsica). The FLNC has historically conducted attacks against government buildings, restaurants, and holiday homes. Tourists visiting Corsica or Marseille should be aware of the potential risk from the FLNC, though it is currently considered minimal.

Crime - Low

Opportunistic and petty crimes are commonly reported, with tourists often targeted by acts such as bag-snatching or "snatch and grab" robberies near popular attractions and transport hubs. Petty theft has also been documented on metro lines in major cities and national RER lines. Travellers should take sensible precautions, including keeping valuables out of sight or securely stored in their accommodations, to minimise the risk of theft.

Violent crime is rare in France and typically targets locals. However, there have been increasing reports of foreign travellers being victims of physical and sexual assaults on RER lines serving major tourist destinations in Paris, though overall rates remain low.

Gang-related violence and drug crimes have also been on the rise in less-affluent suburbs of southern cities like Marseille. While foreign travellers are rarely affected by these incidents, it is advisable to stay informed about such occurrences and avoid areas known to be hotspots for such activity.

Civil Unrest - Moderate

Protests and demonstrations are common in France. While most occur peacefully, periods of significant unrest have led to clashes and incidents of looting. Civil unrest is often triggered by political developments, socioeconomic issues, and geopolitical events. Protests and demonstrations can occur with little to no warn-

ing and prompt notable travel disruptions. French security forces are well-equipped and frequently use heavy-handed measures, including tear gas, water cannons, and pepper spray, to disperse protesters.

In June 2023 violent riots and looting broke out across several French cities and Overseas Departments following the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old youth of Maghrebi Algerian descent by French police. The protests resulted in two fatalities, over 3,300 arrests, and approximately 650 million Euros in property damages.

Large migrant camps in Calais have also witnessed unrest, with border police being deployed and having to use crowd dispersion methods. It is not advisable to visit these camps without permission or an escort, as the security situation remains fragile.

Maritime and Piracy - Low

Maritime and piracy threats are currently assessed as low, given the relative safety and negligible piracy activity in mainland France's Atlantic and Mediterranean coastal waters.

France's northern and western coastlines are historically susceptible to European windstorms. These storms can pose substantial hazards to mariners in coastal waters, typically inducing intense winds, storm surges, and dangerous rip tides. During such storms, travellers are strongly advised to avoid coastal areas and refrain from venturing into coastal waters. The heightened risks associated with strong currents and tides during these events can lead to dangerous conditions and difficulties in search and rescue efforts.

Health - Negligible

Health facilities are generally of a high standard, and staff are well trained. EU visitors should carry their EHIC card at all times in case treatment is required. It should be noted that small regional and rural facilities may not have English-speaking staff. If visiting France for adventure tourism, it is advisable to ensure you have adequate health insurance in case of emergency, for example, covering

helicopter evacuation from the Alps.

Mosquito-borne diseases have been reported in various regions of France. Small-scale outbreaks of dengue fever have occurred in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Occitanie, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Île-de-France, and on the island of Corsica. Although the overall risk of infection remains low, travellers are advised to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Recommended measures include wearing long-sleeved clothing and full-length pants, and using insect repellent containing DEET.

Environmental - Low

Flooding occasionally affects southern France during heavy autumn rains, causing property damage and travel disruptions, though fatalities are rare. European windstorms bring strong winds and heavy rainfall, particularly along the Atlantic coast, impacting outdoor activities and transport.

Increasingly intense heatwaves and prolonged dry summers have heightened wildfire risks, especially in forested areas of eastern and southern France. Travellers should stay alert during summer months and follow local fire advisories.

The French Alps are prone to avalanches, particularly in winter or during rapid temperature shifts. Skiers and mountaineers should check forecasts, stay on marked trails, and carry essential safety gear.

Transportation - Negligible

Roads across France are of a good standard. Be aware that, unless stated, you must give way to traffic on the right. This no longer applies to roundabouts except in very rare cases. Roads with this rule will normally have signs with 'priorité à droite' (priority to the Right) warning drivers. The majority of Motorways are tolled, and travellers will be required to either pay by cash or card at a toll booth or to take a ticket whilst joining the motorway.

Unlicensed taxis often target high-traffic destinations such as airports, train sta-

tions, theatres and nightclubs. To mitigate against this risk, where possible, only take taxis from taxi ranks or pre-booked via your hotel or through a taxi agency.

Public transport is frequent and widely available. The majority of cities have a wide network of bus and tram services. Paris is well connected by a metro and train service as well. France also has a sophisticated rail network which covers the majority of the country and also connects to the United Kingdom, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain. Both high-speed (Train a Grande Vitesse, TGV) and regional, slower trains (Transport Express Régional, TER) are widely available.

Regular ferries are available for transport across ports along the northern coast to destinations in the United Kingdom and Ireland. These ports also regularly transport freight. Additionally, ports such as Nice, Marseille and Toulon have ferries to Corsica, Italy, Spain, Algeria and Morocco. Migration issues have caused delays and even closures in some ports; as such there may be additional checks on documentation if travelling via these border crossings.

EMERGENCY DETAILS	
IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL 24/7 OPERATIONS CENTRE AT +44 (0)1202 795 801. LOCAL EMERGENCY - 112, GENERAL EMERGENCIES (HEARING ASSISTED) - 114. BRITISH EMBASSY PARIS: +33 1 44 51 31 00, U.S EMBASSY PARIS: +33 1 43 12 22 22.	
POLICE NUMBER	112
AMBULANCE NUMBER	112
FIRE NUMBER	112
EMERGENCY DETAILS	17 (police), 18 (fire) and 15 (ambulance) additional emergency numbers

TRAVEL

TRAVEL ADVICE

Local laws: Under French law, it is illegal to conceal one's face in a public space. This includes religious headdresses and balaclavas. Failure to comply with this law can lead to a fines. There are no exemptions for tourists. It is advisable to carry a copy of your identification with you at all times. You must be able to prove your identity when asked or within four hours at a police station.

Crime: Travellers should maintain situational awareness at all times. It is important to not keep passports, credit cards, and valuables all in the same place and to use a hotel safe if available. Bags should be carried across the body rather than only on one shoulder to reduce the risk of bag snatching.

Terrorism: Due to its recent history of terror attacks, the French government launched a free smartphone app to alert users about possible security incidents, including all major natural, technological, and terrorist-related risks. The app is called SAIP (Système d'alerte et d'information des populations) and is available in English and French from the App Store and Google Play.

Travel in France: If driving in France, it is compulsory to carry a warning triangle and reflective jacket. The reflective jacket must be stored inside the vehicle itself (not the boot), so it is accessible without getting out of the car. Cars are also required to have breathalysers in their car, in order to test alcohol limits. It is illegal to cross, even partially, onto the hard shoulder of a motorway without good reason. It is illegal to use mobile phones with headsets or earpieces while driving. It is also forbidden to use in-car radar detectors and satellite navigation systems which warn of speed cameras or radars.

It is important that all warnings regarding avalanches are observed, and where appropriate, travellers should consider carrying avalanche search equipment. The latest avalanche risk areas can be checked on the Meteo Alarm website.

Conditions on roads in mountainous areas can quickly become difficult in winter.

Tourist-related activities: Travellers should check weather forecasts and conditions and ensure that they are properly equipped if undertaking hiking, winter

sports, or outdoor activities in general.

SIGNIFICANT DATES
DECEMBER 21, 2025 • December Solstice: France - Seasonal
DECEMBER 24, 2025 • Christmas Eve: France - Observance
DECEMBER 25, 2025 • Christmas Day: France - National
DECEMBER 26, 2025 • St Stephen's Day: France - Moselle, Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin - Local holiday
DECEMBER 31, 2025 • New Year's Eve: France - Observance
JANUARY 01, 2026 • New Year's Day: France - National
MARCH 20, 2026

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **March Equinox:** France - Seasonal

MARCH 29, 2026

- **Daylight Saving Time starts:** France - Clock change

APRIL 03, 2026

- **Good Friday:** France - Moselle, Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin - Local holiday

APRIL 05, 2026

- **Easter Sunday:** France - Observance

APRIL 06, 2026

- **Easter Monday:** France - National

MAY 01, 2026

- **Labor Day / May Day:** France - National

MAY 08, 2026

- **WWII Victory Day:** France - National

MAY 14, 2026

SIGNIFICANT DATES

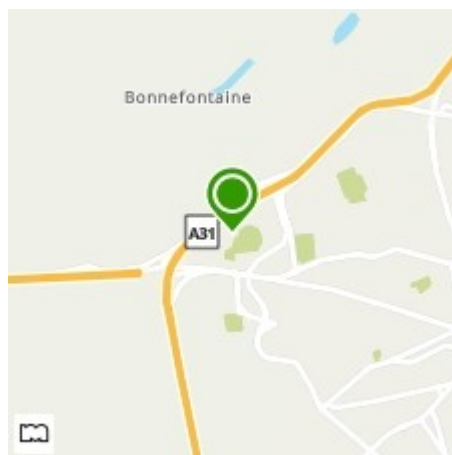
- **Ascension Day:** France - National

MAY 24, 2026

- **Whit Sunday:** France - Observance

RECENT ALERTS

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE REPORTED IN LAXOU



Category: Caution - **Risk:** Low



17-Dec-2025 09:32

The Meurthe-et-Moselle National Police have reported that a suspicious package has been reported on the Rue de la Meuse in Laxou. A security perimeter has been put in place, and the National Police have urged people to avoid the area. Further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

RECENT ALERTS

FARMERS' UNIONS BLOCK THE A9 NEAR NARBONNE, FRANCE



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate

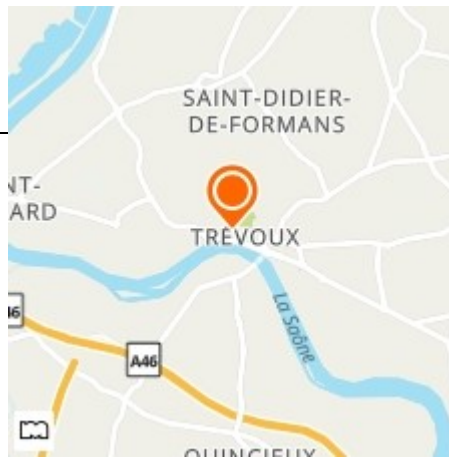


17-Dec-2025 08:59

According to local media sources, protesting farmers' unions have blocked the A9 at the interchange A9/A61 of Narbonne in the direction of Béziers and Perpignan. Footage circulating on social media shows tractors driving on the A9 and fires burning on the road and plumes of smoke. There is no indication when routes are expected to clear. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary.

SIX PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED FOLLOWING AN EXPLOSION IN TRÉVOUX





Category: Caution - **Risk:** High



15-Dec-2025 20:27

Local media reports that at least six people have been killed and at least seven more have been injured following an explosion in Trévoux. Emergency services are on the scene and at least five people are receiving medical treatment.

Reports indicate that the explosion occurred at 17:30 local time. Evacuations are ongoing with 30 people having been rescued at this time. The six people dead include two children. The cause of the explosion is not known at this time.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates if necessary.

FARMERS BLOCK THE A64 AND A65 IN PYRÉNÉES-ATLANTIQUES



RECENT ALERTS

Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



13-Dec-2025 19:37

Local authorities report that protesting farmers have blocked several roads in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques Department. As of 19:30 local time, the A64 was closed in both directions between Briscous and the Hautes-Pyrenees, the A65 was closed at Garlin height in the north-south direction and the Rode Nord de Pau was completely closed. There is no indication when routes are expected to clear. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary.

PLANNED PROTEST IN MARSEILLE ON 14 DECEMBER



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



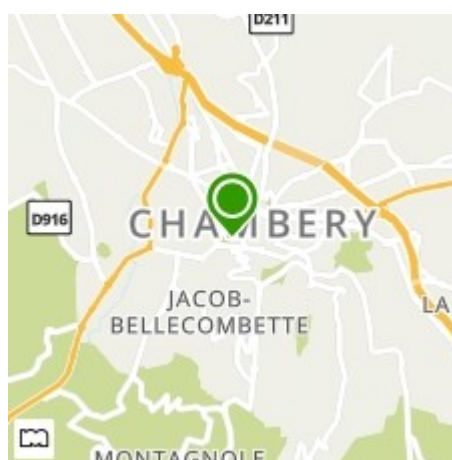
11-Dec-2025 09:14

According to local media sources, a planned protest will take place in Marseille on 14 December against the participation of the state of Israel in the Gaza con-

RECENT ALERTS

flict. Participants will gather at 14:00 local time at the Porte d'Aix. The turnout and duration of the event are not immediately clear, as further information remains limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

YELLOW WEATHER WARNINGS ISSUED FOR PARTS OF EASTERN FRANCE DUE TO AN AVALANCHE RISK



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Low

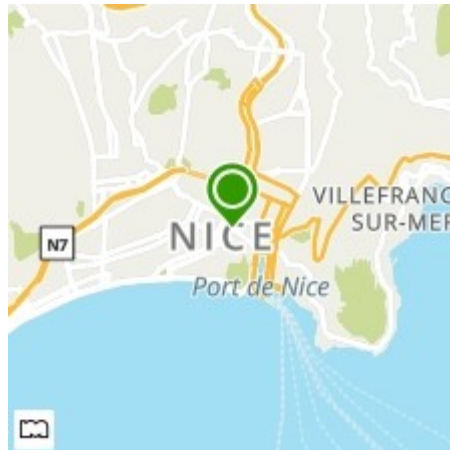


10-Dec-2025 13:39

Meteo France has issued yellow weather warnings for parts of eastern France due to an avalanche risk. Locations listed within the yellow warning include Annecy and Chambéry. There are no reports of structural damage or evacuation orders at this time. No further information is currently available.

DOCTOR STRIKE EXPECTED TODAY WITH PROTEST SCHEDULED AT 1200 AT PLACE GARIBALDI IN NICE

RECENT ALERTS



Category: Health - **Risk:** Low



03-Dec-2025 07:20

Local media has reported that a private doctor strike and protest is expected today at 1200 at Place Garibaldi in Nice. It is unclear the exact cause of the protest and strike, and how long it will last; however, it is said to only be for private doctors, therefore, hospital services in Nice and the surrounding areas should still be operating.

BOMB THREAT REPORTED AT THE TOWN HALL IN ROMANS-SUR-ISERE



RECENT ALERTS

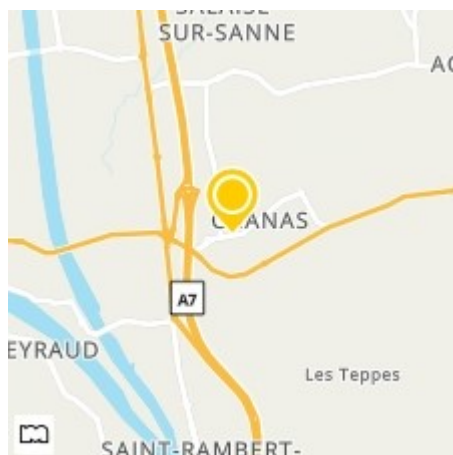
Category: Caution - **Risk:** Moderate



01-Dec-2025 15:27

The French police confirm that an operation is underway at the town hall in Romans-sur-Isere after a bomb threat was received. The police have asked the public to avoid the area. Further information is currently unavailable.

A7 MOTORWAY CLOSED TOWARDS MARSEILLE FOLLOWING ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT



Category: Travel Information - **Risk:** Moderate



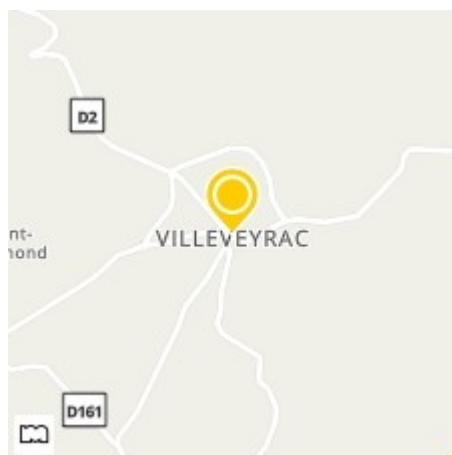
01-Dec-2025 07:39

Local media reports that the A7 motorway has been closed to traffic heading towards Marseille due to a road traffic accident. At 05:00 local time on 01 November, the A7 motorway has been closed to traffic towards Marseille, between Chanas-St Rambert d'Albon and Tain l'Hermitage. The incident causing the disruption involved two trucks, one of which caught fire. Firefighters are

RECENT ALERTS

present on the scene. One of the truck drivers has been taken to the hospital.

ONGOING FIRE IN VILLEVEYRAC



Category: Caution - **Risk:** Moderate



30-Nov-2025 15:36

Local media reports that at least one building has been destroyed in an ongoing fire in Villeveyrac. Starting out as a fire in low grass, the fire spread to three small stone structures, one of which contained gas cylinders. Emergency services are on the scene, and efforts to put out the fire are ongoing.

FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 13:50:02

Warnings and insurance

Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about the risks of travel, to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of the current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in France set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [French Embassy in the UK](#).

Passport validity requirements

France follows [Schengen area rules](#). Your passport must:

- have a ‘date of issue’ less than 10 years before the date you arrive – if you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago
- have an ‘expiry date’ at least 3 months after the date you plan to leave the Schengen area (the expiry date does not need to be within 10 years of the date of issue)

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

Visa requirements

You can [travel without a visa to the Schengen area](#), which includes France, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel:

- as a tourist
- to visit family or friends
- to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events
- for short-term studies or training

The [requirements for working in France](#) are different.

If you're travelling to other Schengen countries as well, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day visa-free limit. Visits to Schengen countries in the 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days. If you overstay the 90-day visa-free limit, you may be banned from entering Schengen countries for up to 3 years.

If you cannot return to the UK before your visa-free limit expires, contact the nearest [local prefecture in France](#).

Until the Entry-Exit System (EES) is fully rolled out, make sure you get your passport stamped on entry and exit (read 'New Schengen entry requirements').

If you're a visitor, border guards will look at passport stamps to check you have not overstayed the 90-day visa-free limit for the Schengen area.

If your passport is missing a stamp, show evidence of when and where you entered or left the Schengen area (for example, boarding passes or tickets) and ask the border guards to add the date and location in your passport.

At French border control, you may be asked to:

- show proof of your travel insurance to demonstrate you can cover any emergency costs
- prove that you have [enough money for your stay](#)
- show proof of your accommodation
- show a return or onward ticket

Staying with family, friends or a third party

You may be asked to provide a welcome invitation ('attestation d'accueil') from your host. The French resident hosting you must get the [attestation d'accueil](#) from their local mayor's office and send the original attestation before you enter France.

Second homes in France

You may need to show evidence of ownership or tenancy of your property, such as a tax or utility bill.

Staying longer than 90 days in a 180-day period

To stay longer than 90 days, you must meet the [French government's entry requirements](#).

If you're in France with a residence permit or long-stay visa, this does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit for the Schengen area.

Read about [entry processes if you live in France](#).

New Schengen entry requirements

From 12 October 2025, the European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) will begin roll out.

This means that when you travel into the Schengen area for short stays, you may need to register your biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo. You do not need to take any action before you arrive at the border, and there is no cost for EES registration.

On your first visit into a Schengen country from 12 October onwards, you may be asked to register your details at a special booth before proceeding to the immigration desk. Follow directions from your travel operator or the staff at your port of entry. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. Children aged 11 or younger will not have their fingerprints scanned but can be required to have their photo taken.

EES may take each passenger a few extra minutes to complete so be prepared to wait longer than usual at the border.

EES will not be rolled out to all ports of entry at once, the numbers of passengers being registered at each port of entry will vary, and some destinations may take up to 6 months to fully roll out the new process.

Until EES is fully rolled out your passport will continue to be stamped, even if you've already been registered for EES. Once EES is fully rolled out, it will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the Schengen area for short stays and you will input biometric details every time you enter or exit.

If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel at Folkestone or Eurostar at St Pancras International and you are asked to register for EES, the information will be taken at the border before you leave the UK.

Read more [information on the EU Entry/Exit System and to understand which countries are in the Schengen area](#).

Border controls at Germany's land borders

There are temporary border controls in place to travel into Germany. Check the [entry requirements for Germany](#).

Vaccine requirements

For details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's France guide](#).

Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of France](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

Taking food and drink into France

You cannot take [meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries](#). There are some exceptions such as powdered baby milk, baby food and special foods or pet feed required for medical reasons.

Taking money into France

Declare cash or travellers cheques if the value is 10,000 euros or more. You will get a certified declaration to show you brought it in with you. If you do not, your money could be seized when you leave.

Safety and security

Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British

nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

Terrorism in France

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in France.

Terrorism attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by tourists and foreign nationals such as:

- shopping centres
- entertainment establishments and nightlife venues
- sporting and cultural events
- public transport and national and international transport hubs
- places of worship
- crowded places and public gatherings

Methods of attack have included knife attacks, shootings, bombings and vehicle attacks. Be vigilant in public places and follow the advice of local French authorities.

There have been several recent high-profile terrorist attacks in France, including:

- in 2023, one person was killed in a knife and hammer attack in central Paris
- in 2023, a teacher was killed in a knife attack in a school in Arras

French authorities regularly report that they have disrupted planned attacks and made arrests.

Industrial action and demonstrations

Industrial action

There can be frequent industrial action across France. This can lead to disruption and delays on roads and public transport. If you're due to travel to or within France, monitor the media, check your operator's advice and follow the advice of the authorities.

Check your operator's advice before travelling, including where you are taking connecting flights.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations, political gatherings, or marches can take place with little or no warning, particularly in cities.

Whilst most demonstrations are peaceful, if you're near areas where they are taking place, you should remain aware of what is happening around you and follow the advice of the police and local authorities.

Crime

Protecting your belongings

Take sensible precautions against street crime and car crime. Pickpockets can work in gangs; one distracts you while the other one goes into your bag.

Thieves and pickpockets operate on the Paris Métro, on RER (train) lines and at mainline stations. To reduce the risk of theft:

- keep your passport, credit cards and other valuables in separate bags or pockets
- use the inside compartments in bags where possible
- carry your bag across your body rather than on your shoulder
- keep your belongings close to you in restaurants and bars
- do not leave any valuables in your vehicle
- do not get distracted around tourist attractions and ATMs

Assaults

There have been several cases of serious assault on the RER line B, which serves:

- Paris Charles de Gaulle airport
- Orly Airport
- Paris Gare du Nord Eurostar terminus

There have also been serious assaults on RER line D, which serves the Stade de

France.

Drink spiking and sexual assault

Be alert to the possible use of 'date rape' and other drugs including GHB and liquid ecstasy.

Buy your own drinks and always keep them in sight to avoid them being spiked. Alcohol and drugs can reduce your vigilance, making you less in control. If you drink, know your limit. Drinks served in bars in France are often stronger than those in the UK.

Laws and cultural differences

Personal ID

You must be able to [prove your identity](#) by providing documents when asked or within 4 hours at a police station. Accepted IDs are:

- passport
- photocard driving licence
- other documentation provided by a government body

Face-covering ban

Covering your face in public places in France is illegal. This includes balaclavas, full veils or any other garment or mask that is used to hide the face. You could get a fine of up to 150 euros if you do not comply.

Forcing someone to hide their face is also a crime and is punishable by a year's imprisonment and a fine of up to 30,000 euros. If the person forced to hide their face is aged 17 and under, the sentence is doubled. This law applies to tourists.

Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs, including cannabis, carry severe penalties including imprisonment and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including when transiting through airports, ports and Eurostar stations.

Airports, ports and Eurostar stations in France have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of

transiting passengers.

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

Swimming safety

Local sea conditions can be dangerous even for strong swimmers. Most beaches have lifeguards and flag warning systems. Make sure you understand the warning system before swimming and always follow the advice closely. See [water safety on holiday](#) from the Royal Life Saving Society.

Some beaches have strong undercurrents, especially along the Atlantic coast. There is a risk of riptides ('baïnes') in some areas, particularly around the coast of Gironde and Landes.

Follow local advice if there are jellyfish in the sea.

Watersports

Before taking part in water-based activities, find out how you and your friends or family will be supervised and supported.

See [watersports safety advice](#) from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA).

Trekking and mountaineering

Check weather forecasts and conditions and make sure you're properly prepared. Do not undertake any activity alone and consider hiring a guide for expert advice. Always leave copies of your itinerary with someone.

In mountainous areas, make sure your insurance covers you for extra costs such as mountain rescue service and helicopter evacuation. In the départements of Savoie and Haute-Savoie, you may need to be transferred to Switzerland for treatment.

Winter sports

Read advice on how to [prepare for winter sports](#). Check [current weather forecasts and avalanche risks](#) on the Meteo France website and consider carrying avalanche search equipment if you ski off-piste.

Transport risks

Road travel

If you are planning to drive in France, see [information on driving abroad](#) and check the [rules of the road in the RAC's France guide](#). The guide lists driving regulations and other legal requirements you need to be aware of.

You can use a UK photocard driving licence to drive in France. If you still have a paper driving licence, you may need to [update it to a photocard licence](#) or get the [correct version of the international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) as well.

Check if you need a [UK sticker to drive your car outside the UK](#). These have replaced GB stickers.

If you are visiting France, you may be able to use your [Blue Badge](#) in some circumstances. Check local parking rules.

Hire car companies often have stricter requirements for their customers, such as a year of driving experience, a higher minimum age and holding an [IDP](#).

Penalties

Police give you on-the-spot fines for driving offences, including speeding.

France has strict drink-driving laws and the legal alcohol limit is a third lower than the limit for England and Wales. Police regularly carry out roadside checks for alcohol and drugs. Penalties include fines, loss of licence and prison.

Winter tyres and chains

Vehicles driven in certain mountain regions during the winter period (1 November to 31 March) must be fitted with winter tyres or chains. You could receive a fine if you do not comply. Visit the [French public services website](#) for more information (in English) about:

- what type of vehicle this applies to
- what type of tyre or chain should be fitted
- where in France these rules apply.

Air pollution sticker

All vehicles driving in central Paris, Lyon and Grenoble must display a pollution sticker from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday. Checks can happen at any time, depending on pollution levels.

Some older vehicles do not qualify for a sticker at all due to their high emissions. These vehicles must not be driven in central Paris from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

Other cities may also limit vehicle access to town centres and main roads. For more information or to apply for a sticker, visit the [French Ministry of Environment website](#).

Road safety

If you're involved in a car accident or witness an accident on the motorway, use the [orange emergency phones](#) to ask for help.

If you are driving long distances in France:

- plan your journey carefully
- take into account unknown roads, weather conditions and fatigue
- take regular breaks

Keep vehicle doors locked in slow-moving traffic and secure your vehicle if you leave it unattended.

Information on road safety and potential traffic black spots is available on the [Bison Futé website](#) (in French). Real-time information on road traffic conditions is also available on Motorways Radio: 107.7 FM in French and in English.

Risk of people entering your vehicle

There have been attempts by people to enter private vehicles with a view to entering the UK illegally. They may target vehicles like camper vans while stationary or in slow-moving traffic. Sometimes people might try to slow down traffic on roads to ports, including by placing obstacles on the Calais Port road.

Keep car doors locked, keep moving where it's safe to do so, and do not leave your vehicle unattended. If it is not safe to proceed, stop and call 112.

Commercial transport firms must take [steps to prevent people from entering their vehicles](#).

Thefts from caravans and camper vans

Burglaries can happen while you are asleep in your vehicle. Take sensible precautions against vehicle break-ins. You should:

- avoid parking in isolated or dark areas of unsupervised camping grounds or car parks
- consider installing an alarm

Extreme weather and natural disasters

Find out what you can do to [prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

Wildfires

Wildfires can start anywhere in France during the summer months, particularly along the Mediterranean coast and in Corsica.

The French weather service has launched a [fire alert map](#) to help travellers stay up to date.

Fires have become more frequent because of drought and high temperatures. French authorities may evacuate areas and close roads for safety reasons. Causing a wildfire is [illegal in France](#), even if it is started by accident. You could get a fine or a prison sentence.

If you're staying in, or near, a high-risk area see advice from the [French government](#) (in English) for information about:

- what to do if a wildfire breaks out
- how to prevent wildfire outbreaks
- protecting your home from wildfires (including mandatory bush clearance)

If you are caught in, or witness, a wildfire, call the emergency services on 18 (fire) or 112 (emergency services).

Flooding

There is a risk of flooding in areas of France. If your accommodation is near a river, check [flash flood watch \('vigicrues'\)](#) (in French) for more information on current flood risks.

Avalanches

There is a risk of avalanches in mountainous areas. Check [current weather forecasts and avalanche risks](#) on the Meteo France website. Follow local advice before you ski or hike and consider carrying avalanche search equipment.

Conditions on roads in mountainous areas can quickly become difficult in winter. Carry water, food, warm clothing and medicines in your vehicle.

Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Emergency medical number

Call 112 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for France](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See what [health risks you'll face in France](#), including:

- dengue
- chikungunya
- biting insects and ticks

Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of France. Read more about [altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro](#).

Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

Healthcare in France

FCDO has a list of [hospitals in major cities including Paris, Marseille and Bordeaux region](#) where some staff will speak English.

Health insurance cards

To get medically necessary state healthcare in France, you need a Global Health Insurance Card ([GHIC](#)) or a valid existing European Health Insurance Card ([EHIC](#)).

The NHS's [getting healthcare abroad webpage](#) has details about:

- how to apply for a [GHIC](#)
- how to get temporary cover if you lose your card or it does not arrive in time
- who qualifies for a new [EHIC](#) instead of a [GHIC](#)
- what treatment counts as medically necessary

State healthcare in France is not always free. Treatment is on the same basis as for French citizens.

A [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) is not an alternative to travel insurance. You may have costs your [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) does not cover, including:

- changes to travel and accommodation bookings
- additional standard costs for treatment
- medical repatriation to the UK
- treatment that is ruled non-urgent
- private healthcare
- private clinics

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in France](#).

Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([FCDO](#)) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

Emergency services in France

Telephone 112 (ambulance, fire, police)

Ambulance: 15

Fire: 18

Police: 17

Deaf and hard of hearing emergency number (SMS, chat, video and fax): 114

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you

need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in France
- dealing with a [death in France](#)
- being [arrested in France](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you are [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting FCDO

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

Help in the UK

You can call FCDO in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow ECDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in France](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take

malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

THINK SAFE: Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice).

DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself. You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email SGR@solaceglobal.com for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact support@solaceglobal.com.

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