



France

Destination Guide

ARRIVING IN FRANCE

- 1) After deplaning, you will enter the Immigration line. Present your passport and answer any questions from the officer.
- 2) Claim all your checked bags and proceed through customs.
- 3) Check your travel documents for instructions for transportation to your hotel.

DURING YOUR STAY

CURRENCY

France uses the Euro. We recommend obtaining euros from your local bank before your trip. You can also exchange dollars for euros at the airport, large train stations, and banks.

ELECTRICITY

France operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. US appliances will need a power converter. If the device is a dual voltage device then you can simply use a Type C plug adapter.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- 15 for medical services
- 17 for the police
- 18 for the fire department
- 112 is the emergency number in France.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Meal times are pretty set and eating outside of these times may be difficult. 12pm to 2pm for lunch and 7:30pm to 9:30pm for dinner. Keep your voice down in restaurants. Starting a conversation in French is more culturally accepted and will give you a better chance of that person speaking English back to you. Always carry a photo ID on hand. The police have the right to ask for it at any time. It doesn't have to be your passport. Be mindful of operating hours as well.

TIPPING

Services charges are included by French law for restaurants. You will see this 15% charge as "service compris" on your bill. You can tip more for exceptional service. In most cases, you will need to leave the tip in cash.

Tipping your taxi driver is not required, but locals usually round up to the nearest Euro. If you have bags, tip 1-2 euros per bag. Private transfers and tours are usually tipped at 5-20% depending on the situation. Hotel staff should be tipped as well including bellmen, housekeeping, and concierge.

CRIME

Pickpocketing is relatively common throughout Europe. Wallets in pockets, backpacks, and purses are targeted especially in tourist areas. Consider a lock on your bag or a money belt. Be mindful when someone randomly talks to you. They may be distracting you so their accomplice can empty your pockets. Keep shoulder purses on the shoulder away from the road as someone on a scooter may grab it off of you if within reach.

RESTROOMS

Les toilettes, WC (Water Closet), Urinoir (urinal),
Les toilettes à la turque.

Men's Toilet: Toilettes pour hommes / messieurs / monsieur.

Women's Toilet: Toilettes pour dames / mesdames / madame.

COMMUNICATION

French is the spoken language and you will likely come across people who do not know English. Learning a little bit of French can go a long way.

- Oui (Yes)
- Non (No)
- Bonjour monsieur (hello sir)
- Bonjour madame (hello ma'am)
- Au revoir (Goodbye)
- Bonsoir (Good evening)
- Pardon (Excuse me)
- Merci (Thank you)
- S'il vous plaît (Please)
- Où sont les toilettes? (Where is the restroom?)

RETURNING TO THE US

1) You may be given immigration forms to fill out during your flight. Keep a pen, your passports, travel documents, and receipts from anything you purchased during your trip easily accessible from your seat.

2) After deplaning, you will enter the Immigration Line. Have your passport and completed forms in hand, answer any questions from the officer. NOTE: Some airports no longer collect paper forms. They offer automated kiosks to collect immigration and customs information.

3) Go to the luggage carousel and claim all your checked bags. (In a couple airports, this happens before immigration.)

4) Take all your belongings to the Customs line. You may be asked questions about what you are bringing back into the country, and your belongings may be subject to search.

5) For connecting flights or to reach the final airport exit, you may need to pass your checked luggage back to the airline. This is usually done at a counter outside of the Customs area. In some cases, you have to go back to the main check-in desk to hand your luggage back to the airline.

6) DUTY FREE REMINDER: If you have to pass another security checkpoint before proceeding to the next gate or to the airport exit, you will not be able to carry your liquid duty-free purchases with you. These need to be placed in your checked bags before handing them over to the airline.