



Belmore Travel
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French Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to France

Tourist Entry Requirements

France forms part of the Schengen Area. Australian ordinary passport holders are usually allowed to enter the Schengen Area for tourism or business purposes for up to 90 days in any 6 month period without a visa. The countries which make up the Schengen Area are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Travellers to the Schengen Area should ensure their passport is valid for at least six months beyond their intended stay and are recommended to be able to provide documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, travel insurance covering their period of stay as well as tickets and entry documents for their onward destination. Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a French mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter the Schengen Area without a visa.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Depending on a travellers itinerary and activities, vaccination against hepatitis B may be considered when travelling to France. Tick-borne encephalitis is present throughout many areas in Europe (predominately in forested regions). Whilst no vaccine is available in Australia, travellers visiting risk areas and planning outdoor activities between May and September might consider vaccination once in Europe. Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to France should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

French representatives in Australia

Embassy of France, Canberra

6 Perth Avenue
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6216 0100
Fax: (02) 6216 0127

Web: www.ambafrance-au.org

Consulate General of France, Sydney

Level 26, St Martins Tower
31 Market Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9268 2400
Fax: (02) 9268 2431

France also maintains honorary consulates throughout Australia. However, the two posts previously outlined should first be contacted as honorary consulates offer limited services.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 11th April 2016.

We advise you to exercise a high degree of caution in France due to the threat of terrorist attack. 130 people were killed and over 300 injured in coordinated attacks at six locations in Paris on 13 November. ISIL has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The French Prime Minister has advised that further attacks are expected. French authorities have also announced border controls at all entry points into France. Travellers should expect increased security checks at borders, including the checking of identification.

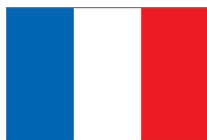
You should remain vigilant, follow the instructions of local authorities and follow the media for latest information on security. You should also subscribe to this travel advice for the latest updates. Protect your personal belongings at all times, especially your passport. Petty crime, including bag snatching and pickpocketing, is a serious problem in tourist areas and on public transport.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in France at www.smartraveller.gov.au.



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Time differences between France and Australia

France is Greenwich Mean Time +1 hour (+2 during daylight saving (DST)). The applicable time zones are Central European Time (CET) or Central European Summer Time (CEST). DST starts on the last Sunday in March and ends on the last Sunday in October.

France, 12 noon, December = Perth 7pm; Darwin 8.30pm; Brisbane 9pm; Adelaide 9:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 10pm.
France, 12 noon, June = Perth 6pm; Adelaide, Darwin 7:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 8pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for France: +33
To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>
Australian Reverse Charges Direct: 0800 99 0061. Users may need to insert phone cards or coins.
Travelex Card Services: 0800 905 190
Visa Global Assist: 0800 904 349
MasterCard: 0800 901 387
American Express Travellers Cheques: 0800 832 820
Emergency Services:
General - 112
Ambulance - 15
Fire - 18
Police - 17

As a matter of common practice, the 112 number will have English speaking staff. Other services may not always have English speakers available.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports
Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____
Name: _____ Institution: _____
Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in France

Australian Embassy, France
4 Rue Jean Rey Tel: (+33) 01 4059 3300
PARIS 75724 CEDEX 15 Fax: (+33) 01 4059 3315
Web: www.france.embassy.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in France are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Paris, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.

Note: All calls within France are dialled as 10 digits, with a leading digit 0. However, from outside France, only the 9 digits following the 0 are dialled after country code +33.



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Duty free allowances for France and Australia

Allowances when entering France from a non EU state:

Alcohol: 1 L spirits (>22% alc vol) or 2 L other beverages; as well as 4 L of still wine and 16 L of beer.
Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco.
Other Goods: Up to a value of €430 for air and sea travellers, €300 for others and €150 for those under 15 years.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
Tobacco: 50 cigarettes or 50g of tobacco.
Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting France and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on French customs please visit www.douane.gouv.fr, or for information on Australian customs please visit www.customs.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical Socket type: European (type C).

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

A voltage converter will generally not be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

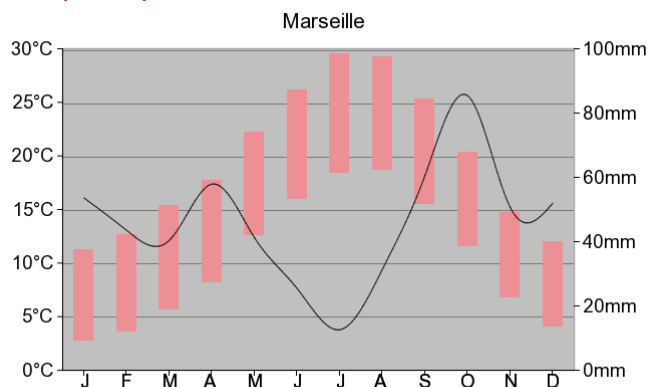
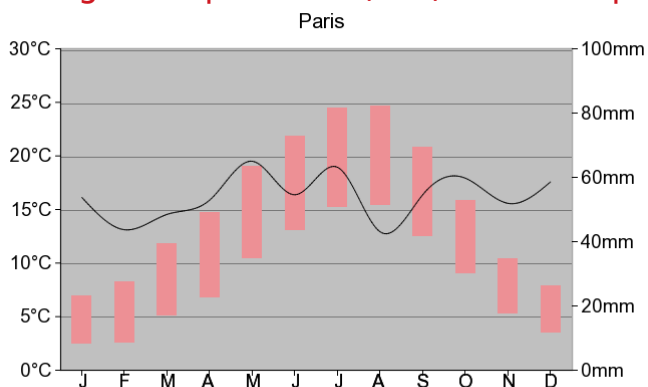
A socket converter is usually all that will be required for these appliances.



French Holidays 2016

01 Jan:	New Year's Day	14 Jul:	Bastille Day
28 Mar:	Easter Monday	15 Aug:	Assumption
01 May:	Labour Day	01 Nov:	All Saints Day
05 May:	Ascension Day	11 Nov:	Armistice Day
08 May:	Victory Day	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
16 May:	Whit Monday		

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in France



For local forecasts please visit [Meteo France](http://www.meteofrance.com) at www.meteofrance.com (French only) or go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Page 4 of 5 French/Euro Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate Purchasing-Power Parity

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.66 Euro
1 Euro (EUR) = 1.51 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 0.64 Euro
1 Euro (EUR) will cost 1.57 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Tuesday, 12 Apr 2016. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Euro in France and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing-power of the currencies.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.30 (AUD) = 3.50 Euro
Big Mac France: €3.90 (EUR) = 5.90 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in France is therefore 11% more expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2015 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

€0.50 = \$0.79 AUD	€10 = \$15.73 AUD	€100 = \$157.34 AUD
€1 = \$1.57 AUD	€20 = \$31.47 AUD	€200 = \$314.67 AUD
€2 = \$3.15 AUD	€30 = \$47.20 AUD	€300 = \$472.01 AUD
€3 = \$4.72 AUD	€40 = \$62.93 AUD	€400 = \$629.35 AUD
€4 = \$6.29 AUD	€50 = \$78.67 AUD	€500 = \$786.69 AUD
€5 = \$7.87 AUD	€60 = \$94.40 AUD	€600 = \$944.02 AUD
€6 = \$9.44 AUD	€70 = \$110.14 AUD	€700 = \$1,101.36 AUD
€7 = \$11.01 AUD	€80 = \$125.87 AUD	€800 = \$1,258.70 AUD
€8 = \$12.59 AUD	€90 = \$141.60 AUD	€900 = \$1,416.04 AUD
€9 = \$14.16 AUD	€1,000 = \$1,573.37 AUD	

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of France is the Euro, which is abbreviated using the symbol € (for example €100). The subunit of the Euro is the cent, of which there are 100 in every Euro. The following units of currency are the most common in France but other versions and denominations are also in circulation (including a purple €500 note and other nations' coins). Pictures are not to scale.





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About France

Full Name: Republique francaise (French Republic).
Size: 551,500 sq km (70% of the size of NSW).
Population: 66 million (almost 3 times the size of Australia). Paris 10.8 mil.; Lyon 1.6 mil.; Marseille 1.6 mil.; Lille 1 mil.; Nice-Cannes 960,000.
Religion: Catholic 64%, Muslim 8%, none 26% (approx.).
Language: French is the major language with regional dialects/languages spoken in various areas.
GDP Per Capita: US\$40,400 (Australia US\$46,600).

Significant Dates:
486-496 AD - Clovis I unites the Franks, converts to Christianity.
1337-1453 - Hundred Years' War between France and England.
1348-52 - The Black Death claims half the French population.
1562-98 - Wars of Religion between Catholics and Protestants.
1789-99 - French Revolution ends the French monarchy.
1804-14 - Napoleon crowns himself Emperor, military success brings most of continental Europe under his control.
1815 - Napoleon is defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.
1914-18 - World War 1. France sees heavy fighting and trench warfare in the north east.
1939-45 - World War 2. France is occupied by Germany.
2001 - The French Franc is replaced by the European Euro.



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