

Canvas
Holidays

2010



Holiday Guide

Living and Driving in France

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France is the largest country in Western Europe with 5,500 km of coastline, which varies from the rugged granite of Finistère in Brittany to chic Saint Tropez in the Côte d'Azur. Each one of France's 22 regions proudly shows magnificent towns and cities like the World Heritage city of Lyon in the south and the Alpine fresh city of Grenoble in the east. Some of the northern regions, Normandy in particular, have close historical links with Britain, and further inland the diverse landscape offers hundreds of Châteaux and rolling green valleys in the Loire. The Pyrénées provide an impressive backdrop in the south. Last but not least, the capital of Paris in the Île de France, displays a wealth of prosperity and artistic and cultural treasures.

General Information

Money and banking

The French currency is the Euro (€) which is divided into 100 cents (c).

Notes: €500, €200, €100, €50, €20, €10, €5.
Coins: €2, €1, 50c, 20c, 10c, 5c, 2c, 1c.

Most banks are open Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm or sometimes 5pm. In the smaller towns and cities the banks may close for lunch between noon and 2pm. It is worth remembering that banks often close early on the eve of a public holiday.

Shopping

Food shops tend to open at 8am and don't close until 7pm or 8pm. Other shops open between 9am and 10am and close again between 7pm or 8pm. Many shops take their day or half day off on Monday, and generally only open in the mornings on Sunday. You will find that shops in the provinces like to close for lunch between noon and 2pm. Supermarkets will stay open until around 8pm during the week. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops although it is worth enquiring before you buy anything.

Museum hours

National museums are closed on Tuesdays with the exception of Versailles, the Trianon Palace and the Musée d'Orsay which close on Mondays. You can also enter the Louvre and most of the other museums in Paris for free on the first Sunday of the month. Municipal museums are closed on Mondays and you can view the municipal collections free of charge on Sundays. Museums do not open on public holidays.



Public holidays

France takes the following public holidays:

5th April
1st May
8th May
13th May
24th May
14th July
15th August

Unlike the UK, where public holidays generally fall on a Monday or Friday, in France public holidays are taken strictly on the day on which they fall. Many large shops now open on public holidays, but it is advisable to check before you go.

Restaurants and eating out

You can find a restaurant to cater for every taste and price range in France. People in the provinces and in Paris tend to eat early and in the south of France the appearance of an aperitif often delays the meal. Lunch may be eaten between noon and 2pm and dinner after 8pm. You will notice that Sunday lunch is a big occasion for French families so remember to book your table in advance. All French restaurants must display a priced menu outside. Service is usually included in the bill although you can leave a tip to show your appreciation.

Telephones

Most telephone booths now accept a phone card (télécarte) which can be bought from the local post office, tobacconist (Tabac) or newsagent. When you are looking for a phone box which accepts incoming calls, look out for the blue bell sign on the box.

Calls to the UK

Dial the international access code 00 44, followed by the UK number minus the first zero.

Calls from the UK to France

To call from the UK dial the international access

code 00 33, followed by the number minus the first zero.

Clothing

France has a temperate climate and is made up of four broad climatic zones: cool summers west of the line Bayonne-Lille; a semi-continental zone with cold winters and hot summers in Alsace-Lorraine, along the rhodanian corridor and in the mountainous massifs; an intermediate zone with cold winters and hot summers in the North, the Paris region and the central region; and a Mediterranean zone with mild winters and very hot summers in the south of France. The French love to dress up although the place and occasion will dictate the dress style.

Radio World Service

The BBC World Service broadcasts in English 24 hours a day, with World News on the hour which can be picked up on (times in GMT):

From	To	Days	Frequency
05.00	08.00	Daily	9410kHz
14.00	15.00	Sat. only	12095kHz
15.00	19.00	Daily	12095kHz
17.00	21.00	Daily	9140kHz
17.00	22.00	Daily	6195kHz

Driving Information

Speed limits

Unless otherwise stipulated, the speed limits on dry roads are:

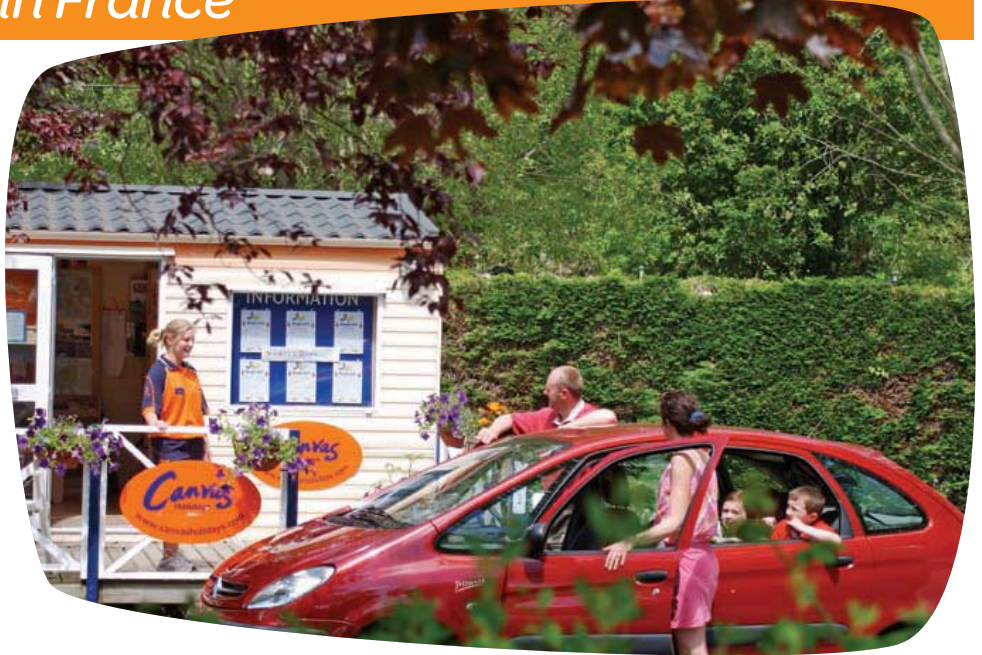
- 50km/h (31mph) in built up areas.
- 90km/h (55mph) on other roads outside built up areas (80km/h (48mph) in wet weather).
- 110km/h (68mph) on dual carriageways and motorways without tolls.
- 130km/h (80mph) on toll motorways (110km/h (68mph) in wet weather).
- Speeding incurs a heavy fine. Any driver caught exceeding any speed limit by more than 25mph can lose their licence on the spot. If there is nobody with you who can drive the car then you will have to pay to have it brought back to the UK/Ireland.

Regulations

- The minimum driving age is 18 years (€1500 fine if this law broken).
- No children under the age of 10 are permitted



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in the front seat.

- The alcohol limit is 0.5mg/ml, random tests are frequent.
- Priority is given to drivers coming from the right.
- Headlight beams must be adjusted for right-hand drive.
- Vehicles are recommended to be equipped with spare bulbs, a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit.
- It is compulsory to carry a warning triangle in your vehicle.
- You must carry a high visibility jacket or waistcoat at all times. These must be worn if leaving the vehicle on the carriageway of a motorway or non-urban highway, at any time, day or night.
- Use of mobile phones whilst driving and radar detectors are strictly forbidden.
- A GB/IRL car sticker must be displayed at all times.

Emergency numbers and breakdown

Fire	18
Police	17
Ambulance	15

- There are orange emergency telephones every 2km on the motorway.
- Parking areas are every 10-20km on motorways.
- The European emergency call number is 112. Dial this number and request the service you require.

Fuel

- Fuel is cheaper at the larger supermarkets than at petrol stations.
- 24 hour Petrol stations offering a basic maintenance service are every 40km on motorways. Please note that UK credit cards with magnetic strips are not accepted by 24 hour petrol stations in France after hours, many 'chip and PIN' cards will not work either.
- You should bear in mind that most supermarkets and petrol stations are closed on Sundays and public holidays

Documents

- You must carry a driving licence, vehicle registration document (V5) and insurance certificate at all times whilst driving in France.
- A green card is no longer compulsory in France but it is advisable to have one.
- It is advisable to carry a 'constat amiable' or accident report. This is normally provided by your insurance company.

Tolls

Toll roads or 'péage' make up the majority of the French motorways. On some motorways as you enter the 'péage', you will be issued with a ticket which you have to hand in with your payment at your exit from the 'péage'. On others you may pay as you enter the road. You can pay with Euros (not all tolls accept UK/ROI credit cards). Tolls vary on different roads, some of the major routes through France are detailed opposite:

French motorway tolls

The following toll charges give you an idea of the tolls you will expect to pay. They are based on a medium sized car.

From	Destination	Toll
Calais	Paris	€18.70
	Reims	€20.20
Boulogne	Paris	€18.70
Caen	Paris	€21.60
Reims	Lyon	€37.20
	Chamonix	€51.00
Paris	Geneva (to CH border)	€47.00
	Rennes	€27.60
	Nantes	€33.40
	Tours	€20.80
	Bordeaux	€50.70
	Lyon	€30.80
	Clermont Ferrand	€33.80
	Strasbourg	€34.90
	Marseille	€53.00
	Nice	€68.80
Lyon	Le Perthus (Spanish border near Perpignan)	€49.70
	Chamonix	€17.40
	Geneva (to CH border)	€15.00
Tunnel de Fréjus	Chambery	€10.20
	one way	€23.20
	return (valid 7 days)	€29.10

Ile de Ré bridge tolls

To get to the Ile de Ré campsite you need to cross from the mainland over a toll bridge. Single trips across the bridge cost €16.50

(20 Jun - 11 Sep) and €9 on other dates (2009 prices). Booklets can be bought at the office next to the toll booths which work out cheaper than paying for individual trips. 2009 prices for the booklets are detailed below.

5 return journeys	€27/€67 (20 Jun-11 Sep)
10 return journeys	€53/€121 (20 Jun-11 Sep)
25 return journeys	€130/€243 (20 Jun-11 Sep)

To purchase a booklet you will need to provide vehicle documents and show the registration plate of the vehicle.

Special note

Always lock car doors when driving in the south of France particularly in the Marseille to Menton area. It is a common occurrence for bags to be snatched from the front passenger seat, often when the vehicle is stationary at traffic lights and usually by individuals on motorbikes. Try to conceal bags and purses when driving and never leave valuables in a vehicle, even for a short period of time or when you are nearby.

Translations

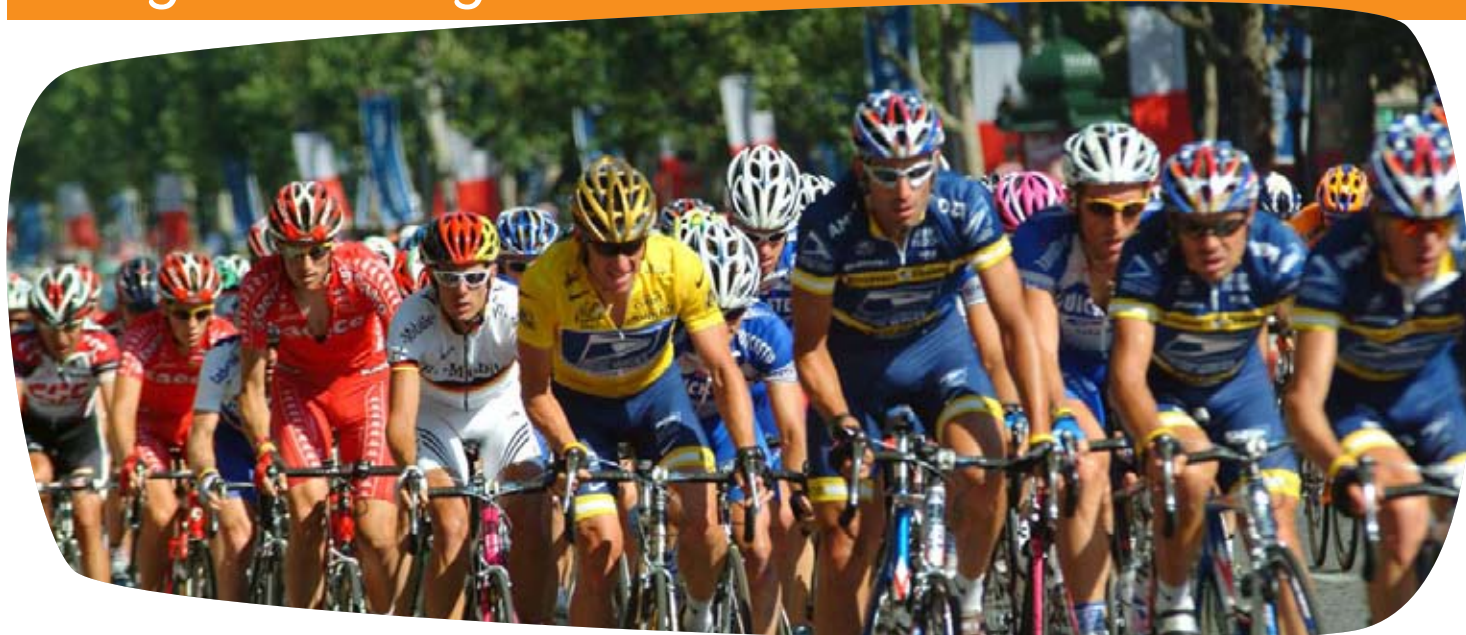
Main Road Signs

French	English
Toutes Directions	All Directions
Travaux/chantier	Roadworks
Péage	Toll road
Autoroute	Motorway
Route barée	Road closed
Sens interdit	No entry
Rappel	Warning
Virages	Bends
Serrez à droite/ gauche	Keep right/left
Cédez le passage	Give Way
Priorité à droite/gauche	Priority to the right/left
Sens unique	One way street
Itinéraire bis	Alternative (tourist) route
Allumez vos feux	Switch on your lights

Fuel Terms

Gazole	Diesel
Essence sans plomb	Unleaded petrol

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Tour de France 2010

The 97th Tour de France will start on 3 July in Rotterdam. There will be 20 stages covering a total of 3588km, finishing on 25 July with the traditional sprint up the Champs-Elysees in Paris. Several stages of the race will pass close to some of our campsites, see below for details. You should be aware that on these days traffic can be extremely busy, but it is well worth making the effort to find a place to watch 'Le Tour' pass and to take in the atmosphere.

Stage	Date	From	To	Distance	Passing near (Canvas campsite)
P	03-Jul	Rotterdam	Rotterdam	8km	Wassenaar
1	04-Jul	Rotterdam	Bruxelles	224km	Wassenaar
2	05-Jul	Bruxelles	Spa	192km	N/A
3	06-Jul	Wanze	Arenberg	207km	N/A
4	07-Jul	Cambrai	Reims	150km	Berny Rivière
5	08-Jul	Epernay	Montargis	185km	Berny Rivière & Pierrefitte
6	09-Jul	Montargis	Gueugnon	225km	Pierrefitte, Gigny-sur-Saône & Vandenesse
7	10-Jul	Tournus	Station des Rousses	161km	Gigny-sur-Saône, Vandenesse & Lac de Chalain
8	11-Jul	Station des Rousses	Morzine/Avoriaz	189km	Lac de Chalain & Interlaken
9	13-Jul	Morzine/Avoriaz	St-Jean-de-Maurienne	204km	Interlaken & Lake Annecy
10	14-Jul	Chambery	Gap	179km	Lake Annecy
11	15-Jul	Sisteron	Bourg-les-Valence	180km	Pon d'Arc
12	16-Jul	Bourg-les-Valence	Mende	210km	N/A
13	17-Jul	Rodez	Revel	195km	N/A
14	18-Jul	Revel	AX-3 Domaines	184km	N/A
15	19-Jul	Pamiers	Bagnères-de-Luchon	187km	N/A
16	20-Jul	Bagnères-de-Luchon	Pau	196km	Biarritz
17	22-Jul	Pau	Col du Tourmalet	174km	Biarritz
18	23-Jul	Salies-de-Bearn	Bordeaux	90km	Biarritz & Messanges
19	24-Jul	Bordeaux	Pauillac	51km	N/A
20	25-Jul	Longjumeau	Paris Champs Élysées	105km	Berny Rivière & Touquin

For more information on the 2010 Tour de France and a full listing of the exact route, visit the Tour de France website at www.letour.fr/2010. The local information folders in the Canvas reception onsite also provide more information on when Le Tour is passing the close to the sites.