



Country Profile: France

France is a developed and stable democracy with a modern economy. Tourist facilities are widely available. Read the Department of State Background Notes on France and on Background Notes on Monaco for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	France
Continent:	Europe
Capital City:	Paris
Boundary Countries:	Andorra, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Spain, Switzerland
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	American Hospital of Paris, Hopital des Metallurgistes Pierre Rouques, Hopital Armand Trousseau, Hopital Bichat-Claude-Bernard, Hopital Bretonneau, Hopital Broca, Hopital Broussais, Hopital Cochin, etc
Main Cities:	Paris, Nice, Montpellier, Lyon, Bordeaux, Marseille
Country Size:	547,030 sq km
Population:	60,424,213

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	French
Currency:	Euro (EU)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 83%-88%, Protestant 2%, Jewish 1%, Muslim 5%-10%, unaffiliated 4%
National Holidays:	Bastille Day, 14 July(1789)
Economic Status:	<p>France is in the midst of transition from a well-to-do modern economy that has featured extensive government ownership and intervention to one that relies more on market mechanisms. The government has partially or fully privatized many large companies, banks, and insurers, and has ceded stakes in such leading firms as Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales. It maintains a strong presence in some sectors, particularly power, public transport, and defense industries. The telecommunications sector is gradually being opened to competition. France's leaders remain committed to a capitalism in which they maintain social equity by means of laws, tax policies, and social spending that reduce income disparity and the impact of free markets on public health and welfare. Widespread opposition to labor reform has in recent years hampered the government's ability to revitalize the economy.</p> <p>France's tax burden remains one of the highest in Europe - at nearly 50% of GDP in 2005. With at least 75 million foreign tourists per year, France is the most visited country in the world and maintains the third largest income in the world from tourism.</p>
Security:	Army (includes Marines, Foreign Legion, Army Light Aviation), Navy (including Naval Air), Air Force (including Air Defense), National Gendarmerie
US Presence:	<p>U.S. Embassy in Paris 2 avenue Gabriel 75008 Paris France Phone: [33] (1)43122222</p>

	<p><u>U.S. Consulate Bordeaux</u> 89 Quai des Chartrons 33300 Bordeaux Tel.: (0)1 43 12 48 65</p> <p><u>U.S. Consulate Lyon</u> 1, quai Jules Courmont 69002 Lyon Tel: 01 43 12 48 60</p> <p><u>U.S. Consulate General Marseille</u> Place Varian Fry 13286 Marseille Cedex 6 France Tél. : 01-43-12-48-85</p> <p><u>U.S. Consulate Rennes</u> P30, Quai Duguay-Trouin 35000 Rennes Tel: (0)1 43 12 48 70</p> <p><u>U.S. Consulate General Strasbourg</u> 15, Avenue d'Alsace 67082 Strasbourg Cedex France Tel.: (33)1 43 124 880</p> <p><u>U.S. Consulate Toulouse</u> 25, allées Jean Jaurès 31000 Toulouse Tel.: +33 (1) 43 12 48 75</p>
Major Airports:	<p>Airports: 477, Airports w/paved runways: 283</p> <p>Paris – Charles De Gaulle Airport (CDG/LFPG) Paris, CDG, France, BP 20101, F-95711 Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle cedex, FRANCE Tel: +33 (0)1 48.62.12.12 Fax: +33 (0)1 48.62.67.12 E-mail: alain.falque@adp.fr Website: www.aeroportsdeparis.fr Customs, hours- 08:00-20:00 Mon-Sat Tel: +33 (0)1 48.62.35.35 Fax: +33 (0)1 48.62.66.85</p>

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