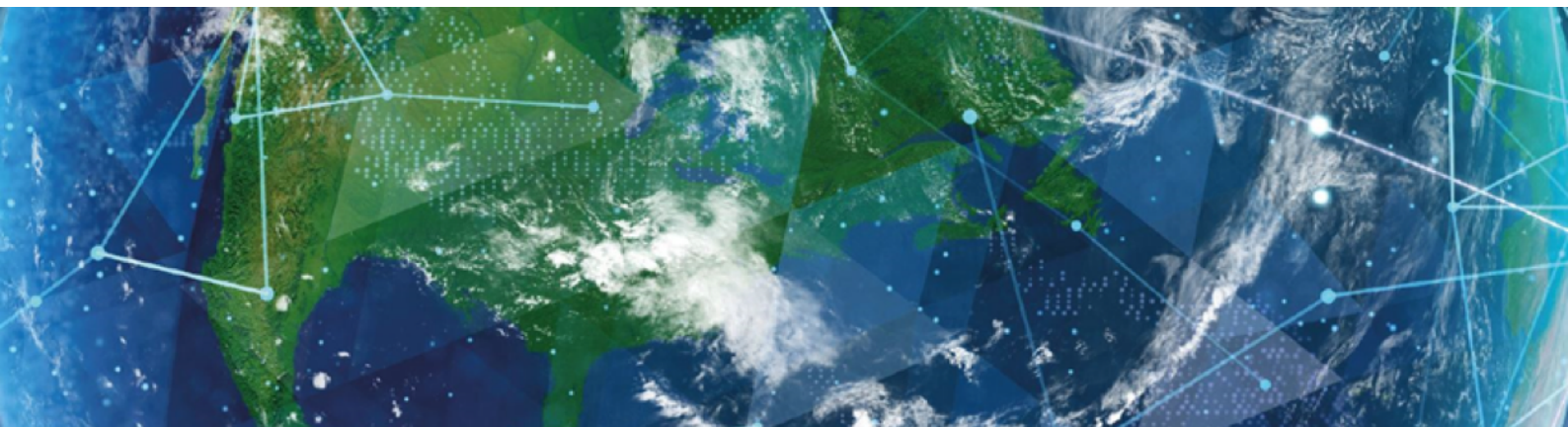


Country Travel Advice Report

France

Overall Risk Rating: **Low | 2.00**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Country Overall Risk Rating | | | | Low 2.00 |
| Security | Environmental | Infrastructural | Political | Medical |
| Low 2.25 | Negligible - Low 1.75 | Negligible - Low 1.50 | Negligible - Low 1.50 | Moderate 3.25 |

Country Overview

Low | 2.00

France is a large western European country that borders Spain to the south and Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany to the east. It is a presidential republic with a stable political system. The country has historically been a major global power and is now a leading member of several regional and international organizations. France maintains positive relations with its neighbors through close trade and bilateral links. The French economy is one of the largest in the world.

The French political environment is currently undergoing structural changes spearheaded by President Emmanuel Macron who came to power in May 2017. This election saw the newly formed La Republique En Marche (LRM) centrist party which is led by Macron win an absolute majority. The Parti Socialiste (PS) suffered a major defeat and the center-right Les Républicains (LR) were unable to mount a substantial opposition.

France is exposed to protests and anti-government demonstrations. Labor unions opposed to reform plans have held nationwide strikes. The state of emergency that had been in force since November 2015 has been replaced by a new anti-terrorism law. Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda (AQ) have carried out several high-profile attacks in the country, causing deaths and injury. Although the proficiency of counter-terrorism operations has improved, further attacks are highly likely.

Petty crime such as pick-pocketing and bag-snatching is the main threat facing travelers. Several suburban areas are havens for organized crime and rivalries periodically lead to targeted assassinations. France has well-developed infrastructure and healthcare facilities.

Security

Low | 2.25

Overview

While the vast majority of business operations and travel in France are conducted safely, the country faces an elevated terrorist threat. A state of emergency which had been in force since November 2015 was replaced by a raft of new anti-terrorism laws in 2017. Criminal activity generates a security concern for travelers in large cities. France has a history of mass protests related to socio-economic issues and as a result episodes of localized violence periodically occur in major urban centers.

Political

Negligible - Low | 1.50

Overview

France is a highly stable democracy which currently does not face any serious threat to its constitutional system. Corruption levels are low in the public sector and political tensions exist only within the democratic framework.

Infrastructural

Negligible - Low | 1.50

Overview

France's infrastructure is very well maintained and presents few operational, travel or safety risks. Public authorities closely audit local infrastructure and operators are efficient and well trained.

However, union-sponsored strike action is common and this frequently leads to transport disruptions.

Environmental

Negligible - Low | 1.75

Overview

France has a variable climate and its European territory encompasses both alpine tundra and semi-arid Mediterranean scrub land. The vast majority of France has a temperate climate that poses few travel risks. However, extreme heat can occur on its southern Mediterranean coastline in summer months and this can lead to illness and forest fires. Avalanches may also occur in winter months in mountainous areas of the French Alps. Heavy rains and high tides can cause flooding in coastal areas and in regions located near rivers. Storms and strong winds can occasionally result in power outages and travel disruptions.

Medical

Moderate | 3.25

Overview

A high standard of medical facilities and medicines are available, although it may be difficult to access from remote locations. The country does not face any outstanding health risk. Pharmaceuticals are readily available nationwide, and water supplies are generally safe.

Fact Box

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Government Type | Semi-Presidential Republic |
| Population | 66,808,385 (2015) |
| Currency | EURO |
| Languages | French (official) 100%, |
| Time Zone | UTC+1 |
| Religions | Christian (Roman Catholic) between 63 and 66%, Muslim between 7 and 9%, none between 23 and 28%. NB: The French government does not collect data on religious affiliation, and the breakdown is an estimate. |
| Traffic | Drives on the right |
| Plug Types | Type C and Type E |
| Ethnicities | Celtic and Latin with Teutonic, Slavic, North African, Indochinese, Basque minorities |
| Drinking Water | Safe to Drink |
| Additional Information | <p>2020 Significant Dates:</p> <p>January 1 - New Year's Day April 10 - Good Friday April 13 - Easter Monday May 1 - Labour Day May 8 - Victory Day May 21 - Ascension Day June 1 - Whit Monday July 14 - Bastille Day (Quatorze Juillet) August 15 - Assumption Day November 1 - All Saints' Day November 11 - Armistice Day December 25 - Christmas Day December 26 - Boxing Day/St Stephen's Day</p> |
| International Country Code | +33 |

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travellers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine.

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers may require vaccines from:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Rabies

Pre-departure

Travellers should provide friends and family a copy of their travel itinerary, and make a copy of important travel and identification documents prior to departure.

On Arrival

There are no significant measures to undertake when arriving in France.

In Transit

Public transport is generally safe across France, and self-driving may be conducted. French airports have good levels of security and crime in communal areas is relatively rare.

Travellers should conduct research into their area of operations to ensure that public transport operator protests and strike action does not impact their travel.

At Your Hotel

There are no extraneous measures that should be undertaken at the hotel.

In the Street

While the terrorist threat is generally low, Islamic extremist groups, including the Islamic State (IS) pose a risk to travellers. Terrorist activity should be monitored using intelligence sources and local media. Travellers should exercise increased vigilance in crowded areas. If travellers observe anything suspicious they should leave the area immediately and subsequently report their concerns to the authorities. Travellers should heed all advice issued by the police and security services.

Demonstrations, strikes and protests occur frequently in French cities. Travellers should avoid demonstrations, protests and rallies as these present a dynamic threat environment and increase the risk of crime. They should also be advised that such incidents may disrupt local transport networks.

Travellers should be aware of local laws and customs. It is illegal to cover your face in public places, and failure to comply can lead to heavy fines.

Crime rates are generally low, although travellers are sometimes targeted by opportunistic thieves. They should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment. Do not display money, jewellery or valuables and keep a low profile.

Travellers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on your person. Reduce the contents of your wallet or purse contents, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts.

Travellers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with them at all times and that it has sufficient battery life and is programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travellers should also carry an ID card or passport and any relevant emergency medical information on their person.

Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and of walking through dimly lit streets after dark. They should know their planned route and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.

In crowded situations and tourist locations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. Travellers should also be aware of people loitering, and also that thieves may first pass their victim to attack from behind.

COVID-19 Information

Total Cases (ECDC) (Updated on Monday): 28,289,232

Weekly percentage increase in cases: 2.01%

Travel Restrictions: Internal Restrictions Individuals must have a health pass to access healthcare facilities, retirement or nursing homes, and establishments for individuals with disabilities. Individuals may obtain a health pass through submission of a vaccination certificate, a negative result from a PCR or antigen test taken within the previous 24 hours, or a document indicating recent recovery from COVID-19 that is dated more than 11 days and fewer than six months ago. Wearing a facemask remains mandatory on public transport for individuals ages 11 and older, in taxis and privately hired vehicles without a plexiglass screen, and in health facilities.

International Travel Restrictions Authorities in France have eased the country's international travel restrictions for travelers from the UK. As of March 31, France had moved the UK to its green list of countries. Under the green-list international travel rules, travelers from the UK are no longer required to complete a sworn statement testifying to their absence of COVID-19 symptoms and unvaccinated travelers no longer need to have a compelling reason to travel to or from France.

France uses a four-tiered, color-coded system to classify countries based on COVID-19 risk and accordingly impose international travel restrictions. Green countries are those assessed to have the lowest disease risk, with orange countries considered moderate risk, red being those with high risk, and scarlet being those with the highest risk. As of March 31, France considered all countries as either green or orange locations. For a detailed list of entry restrictions, including current country color classifications, [click here](#).

France considers individuals to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 28 days after receiving one dose of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, seven days after receiving a second dose of other vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency (i.e., Pfizer-BioNTech; Moderna; AstraZeneca), and seven days after receiving an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine for those who have received all required doses of a vaccine approved by the WHO but not approved by the European Medicines Agency. France considers individuals ages 18 and older who have completed their initial vaccine series within these parameters during the last nine months to be vaccinated; those who had completed their initial series more than nine months prior to traveling to France must have received a booster dose of an approved mRNA vaccine within nine months of receiving their last dose of the initial series to be considered vaccinated. Individuals failing to meet these criteria are considered unvaccinated and are accordingly subject to international travel restrictions for unvaccinated travelers as described below.

Vaccinated travelers from green countries and territories are not required to present a negative COVID-19 test result upon departure to France; however, these individuals must present proof of vaccination. Unvaccinated travelers from green countries must present a negative result from either a PCR test taken less than 72 hours before departure or an antigen test taken less than 48 hours before travel; alternatively, these travelers may present a recovery certificate indicating receipt of a positive result from a PCR or antigen test taken more than 11 days and less than six months prior. Children under the age of 12 are exempt from pre-travel testing requirements. There are no testing or isolation requirements upon arrival in France for travelers arriving from green-list countries and territories.

All individuals traveling to France from orange countries and territories must present a sworn statement testifying that they have no symptoms of COVID-19 infection. Other international travel restrictions for individuals traveling from orange countries depend on vaccination status. Vaccinated individuals must present proof of vaccination but are not required to present a negative COVID-19 test result to travel to France. Alternatively, unvaccinated travelers must have a compelling reason for traveling to France and present a negative result from either a PCR test taken less than 72 hours before departure or an antigen test taken less than 48 hours before travel. Unvaccinated travelers from orange countries must also agree to possible health screening upon arrival in France; those who are screened and test positive for COVID-19 upon arrival must self-isolate. Children under the age of 12 are exempt from these requirements.

Travelers may be required to complete the EU-PLF form before boarding their flight to France; to view the form, [click here](#).

Unvaccinated individuals traveling from France to an orange country or territory must have a compelling reason for their trip.

Additional Information: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

Threat Scale Reference

| Threat Rating | Implication |
|----------------|--|
| 1 - Negligible | The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel. |
| 2 – Low | The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations. |
| 3 – Moderate | The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations. |
| 4 – High | The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning. |
| 5 – Extreme | The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures. |

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