

## IAESTE App: Country Information

### General information:

Country: France

Capital: Paris

Population: 67 Million of inhabitants

National language(s): French

Currency: Euro

Time zone: UTC+1 in winter, UTC+2 in summer

Voltage: 230 V, type C and E

Phone country code: +33

Cities with IAESTE LCs: Grenoble

Climate:

Winter: [0-8°C]

Autumn/Spring: [8-20°C]

Summer: [20-35°C]

The weather is sunny, cloudy, a bit rainy, it depends on the days.

### Travel tips:

Fun facts about the country:

- France is the biggest country in Europe, with 633 000 km<sup>2</sup>, followed by Spain and Sweden.
- Never put the “Baguette” upside down in the table!! It will bring bad luck.
- We eat frog legs, snails, oyster, rabbit or foie gras, but not every day! Usually we eat it for Christmas or New Year, but not all together!
- France is the only European country to have pigeon in the army. There are 150 homing pigeon in the French army, “in case of major emergency”.
- More than half of the roundabouts in the world are in France... Very useful for traffic, they are also very well decorated.
- The Statue of Liberty in New York had been built by the French nation and offered to the USA for the centenary of their independence. The sculptor Bartholdi asked the help of Gustave Eiffel, the builder of the Eiffel tower, to design the internal structure of the statue of Liberty.

Cities/towns that you recommend visiting:

- Paris (Tour Eiffel, Arc de Triomphe, Basilique Montmartre, Sacré-cœur, avenue des Champs-Élysées)
- Marseille (quartier du Panier (very typical district in the city center), vieux-port (old port), palais Longchamp (palace with its gardens), Mucem museum & Fort Saint

Jean (near the sea, you can go to the terrace of the museum (free access) and you cross the sea on a bridge directly to join the Fort Saint Jean), Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde, plage du Prado (Prado's beach), pointe Rouge...

- Lyon (Old town of Lyon, Basilique de Fourvière, Place des Terreaux (where bars are), La Part Dieu shopping mall, Croix-Rousse district (historical district and "traboules", small streets very typical from Lyon), quartier des murs peints (district of the painted walls))
- Bordeaux (walk along the quays, palais Gallien, cathédrale Sainte Andrée, Place Gambetta, Basilique Saint Michel, Grand Théâtre, la porte Cailhau (Cailhau's gate), marché des Capucins (food market)).
- Annecy (old town called "Vieille ville" (don't mix up with "Annecy le Vieux", a city nearby Annecy), lake of Annecy with its Love Bridge (Pont des Amours) and walk along the Europe's gardens (Jardins de l'Europe), Palais de l'Île, animated museum...)

*(short description for each, pointing out the most important landmarks people should visit):*

Other places you recommend visiting:

- The Alps (lots of hiking available in summer, lots of ski in winter)
- Normandie (historical region, where a part of the second world war happened).
- Mont Saint Michel (very small village on a rock which becomes an island depending on the tides).
- Les gorges de l'Ardèche (rivers in the mountains where you can go to practice canoe and go swimming)
- Dune du Pilat (biggest sand dune of Europe, near Bordeaux)
- Châteaux de la Loire (many castles along the Loire river)
- French riviera (in the south of France, this is the Mediterranean coast. Some cities are expensive, like Saint Tropez, Monaco, Cannes... But other are cheaper, like La Ciotat, Sanary-sur-Mer, Bandol, Hyères, Marseille...)
- Toulouse (a nice city where the buildings are made of specific rocks which are a bit pink)
- Alsace (a region near Germany, with its own culture, many small villages very typical and nicely decorated).

*(short description for each. This can include national parks, historical landmarks, beaches, mountains, museums or anything else):*

Airports with budget airlines (*Wizz Air, Ryanair, EasyJet, Transavia, Norwegian*):

Bâle-Mulhouse (BSL), Bordeaux (BOD), Lyon (LYS), Marseille (MRS), Nantes (NTE), Nice (NCE), Paris (CDG & ORY), Toulouse (TLS)

Website(s) with travel connections inside the country (*train, bus, public transportation, ridesharing*):

- Blablabus (bus) <https://www.blablacar.fr/bus>
- Flixbus (bus) <https://global.flixbus.com/>
- SNCF (trains) <https://en.oui.sncf/en/>
- Blablacar (app for carsharing) <https://www.eurocheapo.com/blog/guide-using-finding-cheap-rides-bla-bla-car.html> (explanation website) or <https://www.blablacar.fr/> (in French)

Traditional food and drinks you recommend trying: *(short description for each)*

- Baguette (most famous bread)
- Fondue savoyarde (melted cheese with white wine, that you eat with pieces of bread)
- Raclette (melted cheese with potatoes and cooked meats)
- Fromage (cheese)

- Crème brûlée (sweet cream, often vanilla taste, which is burnt on the top)
- Ratatouille (mix of vegetables (courgette/zucchini, aubergine/eggplant, tomatoes, cooked in olive oil)
- Crêpes (thin pancake made with milk, eggs and flour)
- Pastis (drink made of anis seeds which comes from Marseille)

Tipping in the restaurants: *(is it common or unusual, how much should you leave?)*

In French, a tip is called a “pourboire”. It comes from the words “pour” and “boire” which means “for drinking” for the waiter/waitress.

In France, the service is always included in the meal’s price. So, we tip only if we are very happy with the meal. For example, for a 40€ meal, you can tip 3€. We don’t tip in fastfood, neither in bars when you only take a drink and a snack. But for students, it is fine with not tipping, they know that students have small budgets 😊

Discounts for transportation *(do you know about any way of getting discounts for transportation? - e.g. in Belgium is cheap train Go Pass ticket if you are under 26, but you have to ask for it):*

With SNCF (trains), you can buy the “Carte Jeune” which offers you between 30% and 50% discount on every trip. The card costs 50€ and is valid for 1 year.

What is the common greeting in your country *(do you only shake hands, or you kiss on both cheeks...?)*:

For boys-boys: shake hands

For boys-girls or girls-girls: we kiss on both cheeks.

For the first day at work, or for people you don’t know at all, often older than you, you can shake hands the first times.

## **Emergencies - numbers:**

Police: 17

Firemen: 18

Ambulance (called SAMU): 15

Any other interesting or useful information: general number for emergency: 112

Please also attach ~10 pictures with the most beautiful places from your country and any nice group pictures from your summer reception. Make sure the authors of the pictures agree with you sharing them. If you search for images on Google, first go to 'Advanced search' and set the usage rights to 'free to use or share'. You can also try [www.pixabay.com](http://www.pixabay.com) for images that are free to be used.

The pictures are attached to the folder:

- Eiffel tower
- Lyon
- Mont Saint Michel
- Sacré Cœur
- Marseille
- Basilique de
- Calanques de Cassis

- Dune du pilat
- Gorges de l'Ardèche
- Châteaux de la Loire