

France

Medical Summary

The health risk information presented here is summarized from Shoreland Travax[®], a decision-support tool used by health care providers to perform a detailed health risk analysis based on specific locations, individual travel styles, and traveler risk behaviors. Travax provides practitioners current, independently researched malaria risk and prevention recommendations in a map-based format that goes beyond the annual WHO and CDC statements included here. Not included here are current reports from Travax of disease outbreaks or environmental events that may pose elevated risks to travelers' health and safety. The Providers section of this site offers a directory of health care providers who utilize Shoreland Travax for travel health counseling. Learn more about the detailed reports and maps available from these practitioners (includes links to samples).

General Information

France is an advanced economy classified as high income. Located in western Europe along the Atlantic Ocean (south of Belgium and north of Spain), the climate is classified as predominantly humid temperate (no dry season).

Immunizations

Depending on your itinerary, your personal risk factors, and the length of your visit, your health care provider may offer you vaccination against hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal meningitis, rabies, or tick-borne encephalitis. Routine immunizations, such as those that prevent tetanus/diphtheria or "childhood" diseases, should be reviewed and updated as needed.

Malaria

The following is current information as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

WHO—International Travel and Health (current online update, Country List)

No statement given.

CDC—Health Information for International Travel (current online edition)

Areas with malaria: None.

Drug resistance: Not applicable.

Other Concerns

Travelers' Diarrhea

Minimal risk exists throughout the country. Community sanitation is generally good, and health concerns related to food and beverages are minimal.

Travelers should carry loperamide for self-treatment of diarrhea and, if risk is moderate to high, an antibiotic to add if diarrhea is severe. Consult a knowledgeable health care provider regarding which antibiotic is appropriate for you and most effective for your destination.

Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases

Dengue, leishmaniasis, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, West Nile virus may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include air pollution, hantavirus, marine hazards, schistosomiasis.

Consular Advice

The material below includes information from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), as well as from additional open-source material. Standard safety precautions that apply to all international travel can be found in the Library article Safety and Security.

Terrorism Risk

Risk of attack by transnational terrorist groups exists throughout Europe, especially in Paris. Targets may include domestic and international organizations and businesses; public places and events, including those frequented by tourists; transportation systems. From 2015 through 2019, attacks occurred in areas frequented by tourists.

Crime

Moderate risk of violent crime (armed robbery and sexual assault) exists in areas frequented by tourists and on public transportation, especially in Paris, including on trains to and from Charles de Gaulle Airport and Paris Orly Airport.

Moderate risk of petty crime exists throughout the country, especially on the streets of larger cities (Paris, Marseille, and Nice); in areas frequented by tourists; in department stores, hotel lobbies, and restaurants; on or near public transportation. Theft of valuables from unattended rental vehicles is common.

Scams involving the use of distraction techniques to commit robbery, exorbitant fees for services at bars and cabarets, and false befriending have been reported.

Risk exists of robberies and/or assaults occurring after consuming intentionally drugged food or drink; tourists are frequently targeted.

Civil Unrest

Protests, demonstrations, and strikes frequently occur throughout the country and have the potential to turn violent without warning. Bystanders are at risk of harm from violence or from the response by authorities. Disruption to transportation, free movement, or the ability to carry out daily activities may occur.

Water Safety

Rent water sports equipment from reputable operators. Scuba dive only with personnel certified by PADI or NAUI and use equipment only from PADI- or NAUI-certified dive operators.

Transportation Safety

Low risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is less than 7 per 100,000 population, the lowest risk category.

Traffic flows on the right-hand side of the road. Travelers (including drivers and pedestrians) accustomed to traffic moving on the opposite side should be vigilant when navigating traffic.

Exercise caution on public transportation due to the risk of pick-pocketing.

Many taxis are unsafe. Use taxis from official ranks or dispatched via smart phone app or radio from a reputable company and ascertain the license or identification number of the dispatched vehicle.

Airline Safety

U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the civil aviation authority of this country oversees its air carriers in accordance with minimum international safety standards.

Natural Disasters

Avalanches may occur, especially in mountainous areas.

Seasonal flooding frequently occurs, especially in mountainous areas.

Forest fires occur from June through August, especially along the Mediterranean coast and on Corsica.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in France

- | United States: [+33] 1-43-12-22-22; fr.usembassy.gov
- | Canada: [+33] 1-44-43-29-00; www.france.gc.ca
- | United Kingdom: [+33] 01-44-51-31-00; www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-paris
- | Australia: [+33] 01-40-59-33-00; www.france.embassy.gov.au

France's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: ambafrance-us.org
- | In Canada: www.ambafrance-ca.org
- | In the U.K.: www.ambafrance-uk.org
- | In Australia: www.ambafrance-au.org

Visa/HIV Testing

HIV testing is not required to obtain a tourist, work, or residence visa.

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