# France

TRAVEL MONEY Oz®

## Visa Costs (Inbound)

Thanks to the Schengen Convention, tourists from Australia and New Zealand can visit France for up to 90 days without a visa.

## Departure Tax

A departure tax is usually included in the price of plane tickets if required.

## Tipping

French restaurants charge a service fee, so tipping is not generally required. At cafés, if impressed by your waiter, you can leave a tip of around 5% of your bill.

A decent tipping percentage is 10% for taxi drivers and tour guides, while a euro here and there will be appreciated by any hotel staff who assist you during your stay.

## ATM Access

**Good** – There are ATMs everywhere.

POOR   FAIR   GOOD

## Debit and Credit Card Access

Cards are widely accepted for payments throughout France. However, to purchase incidentals and avoid high transaction fees, it's nice to have plenty of euros in your wallet.

Let your bank know about your travel plans if you will be relying on your credit or debit card significantly during your time abroad.

## Pickpocket Security Rating

**2 stars** – theft is common

COMMON   POSSIBLE   RARE

Pickpocketing is a significant problem in France, particularly in the larger cities including Paris, Nice, and Marseilles. Remain alert in any crowded areas, such as tourist attractions, shopping centres and on public transport.

## Insurance Cover Tips

A regular policy should cover you adequately for a trip to France. If you plan to take part in any winter sports or high-risk activities, raise this with your provider and upgrade your travel insurance if necessary.

## Cost of a Coffee

€2-€3.50

## Accommodation

**Budget:**  Around AU$90/night*

**Moderate:**  Around AU$220/night*

**Luxury:**  Around AU$1100/night*

*Based on a standard room for 2 people in Paris.

## Transport

Some French cities have a subway system, a light-rail network, or both. In these destinations, you can often save money by purchasing a day pass or a booklet of 10 tickets for about €14 rather than single tickets for each trip (this would generally cost you up to €1.80 per ride).

Taxis are reliable throughout most of the country and you can expect to pay around €1.50 per kilometre on top of a €4.50 base price.

## Bargaining Scale

IMPOLITE   POSSIBLE   EXPECTED

Bargaining isn't really customary in French shops, though market stall owners are sometimes open to some respectful negotiation. Never attempt to haggle at a food market; the marked figures are the only prices you'll be offered here.

## Top Expert Tip

A café-bar in France will usually charge you extra to sit. If you're just looking for a quick caffeine hit between attractions, consider downing your cappuccino at the bar to save a couple of euros.

## Scammers and Ripoffs

From time to time, there are reports of ATM skimming devices being used in France. Be careful when making any withdrawals, particularly from machines in touristy areas and at remote service stations.

Be wary of con artists, who have a variety of ploys to trick visitors into handing over coins. A popular scam involves pretending to find a gold ring on the ground, offering it to a passing tourist, and then demanding a 'finder's fee' for it. There are numerous variations of this scheme.

Other infamous con artists in Paris are the 'string men', who tend to reside outside Sacré-Cœur Basilica. They will offer to make you a friendship bracelet with a piece of string, which they will then make so tight that you can't take it off. They will then demand a hefty sum to remove it for you.