



2024 athletic competitions in France

Dates: July 26–August 11, 2024 | August 28–September 8, 2024

France will be hosting one of the biggest international sporting event of 2024, with events scheduled to take place mainly in Paris and Ile-de-France Region (Seine-et-Marne, Seine-Saint-Denis, Les Yvelines and Versailles). Additional events will be held in Bordeaux, Châteauroux, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Nice and Saint-Étienne.

Nearly 15,000 athletes will be taking part in 878 sporting events over the 29 days of competition. Over 300 different events will be hosted in and around Paris as well as elsewhere in France. Although the event officially begins with an opening ceremony on Friday, July 26, football, rugby, archery and handball tournaments will have already begun on July 24–25.

This special report provides intelligence on the overall health care environment and security concerns in France, together with hospital referrals in each of the host country event locations plus logistics factors considered by UnitedHealthcare Global for coordinating medical repatriations.

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Venues in Paris:

- Bercy Arena
- Champ de Mars Arena
- Eiffel Tower Stadium
- Esplanade des Invalides
- Grand Palais
- Hôtel de Ville Square
- La Concorde Urban Park
- Parc des Princes
- Pont Alexandre III
- Porte de La Chapelle Arena
- Roland-Garros Stadium
- South Paris Arena
- Trocadéro



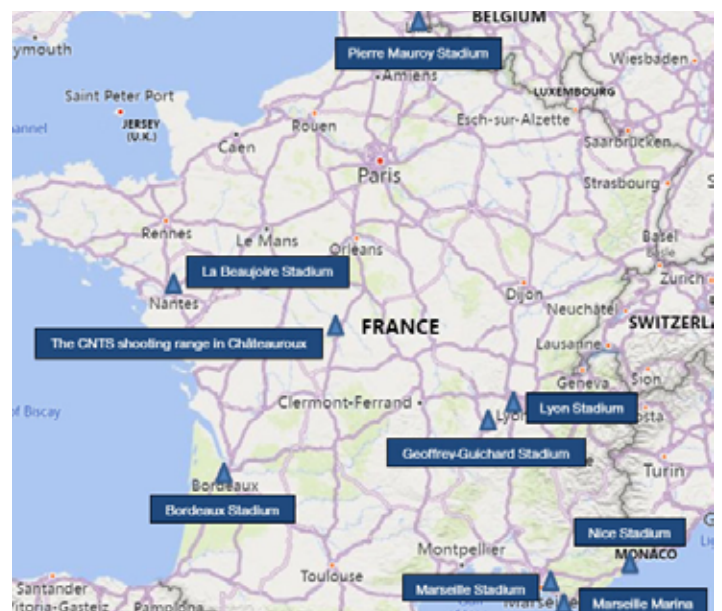
Venues in the Ile-de-France Region:

- Aquatics Centre
- Le Bourget Sport Climbing Venue
- Château de Versailles
- Elancourt Hill
- Golf National
- North Paris Arena
- Paris La Défense Arena
- Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines BMX Stadium
- Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines Velodrome
- Stade de France
- Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium
- Yves-du-Manoir Stadium



Other host cities and venues:

- Bordeaux
 - Bordeaux Stadium
- Châteauroux
 - Chateauroux Shooting Centre
- Lille
 - Pierre Mauroy Stadium
- Lyon
 - Lyon Stadium
- Marseille
 - Marseille Marina
 - Marseille Stadium
- Nantes
 - La Beaujoire Stadium
- Nice
 - Nice Stadium
- Saint-Étienne
 - Geoffroy-Guichard Stadium



Travel tips

Local perimeter limitations during events

Perimeters are being set up around the sites and during events between July 26 to August 11 and August 28 to September 8 to control traffic. According to the city of Paris the following will be in place for road events:

The **red perimeter** is a protection perimeter where motorized access is prohibited, except with specific authorizations. Access remains possible for pedestrians, bicycles, scooters, without proof. During the road races, however, bicycle and pedestrian traffic will be prohibited on the route of each of the courses and they will also be disrupted near the courses. If sidewalk access is possible for pedestrians, access points will be set up to cross the competition courses on foot, by bicycle and scooter (ped à terre); these will be open for defined times. No vehicle may enter the area, except for emergency assistance. **This includes private ambulances and vehicles used for access to health care centers such as hospitals and clinics.**

The **blue perimeter** is a regulated traffic zone which aims to reduce the flow of motorized vehicles. Access to the perimeter will therefore be authorized subject to a legitimate reason and after control by the police. Pedestrians, bicycles and scooters can access this zone without restriction. **Emergency assistance (including private ambulances and vehicles used for access to health care centers e.g. hospitals, clinics) is able to enter this area.**

Since the attacks in 2015, perimeters called “SILT” are regularly implemented during major events. They result in the neutralization of numerous accesses. Only spectators and people who have been accredited by the organizer will be able to access this area. The vast majority of SILT perimeters correspond to the organizing perimeters of the Olympic and Paralympic sites. Their implementation will have no consequences for local residents, shops and businesses, and will guarantee security inside the site. **Emergency assistance (including private ambulances and vehicles used for access to health care centers such as hospitals and clinics) is NOT able to enter this area.**

See the table [here](#) for details of vehicles authorized to access the perimeters.

Health care landscape

Quality of care

The standard of medical care in France is extremely high and is consistently ranked among the best in the world. Its health care system provides universal coverage for all citizens and residents. The scheme encourages cooperation between public and private hospitals as a means of ensuring that a full range of care is available to patients regardless of their point of entry into the system.

There are two types of hospitals in France:

- State-run hôpitaux or, more commonly, centre hospitalier – Public hospitals account for most of the hospital beds in France. It may be categorized as a general or local hospital (CH), a regional hospital (CHR), a specialist hospital (CHS) or one linked to a university (CHU).
- Privately run clinics (cliniques privées) – Most private clinics are state approved and operate within the public system.

Medical risk rating

Overall medical risk	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Disease risks	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Quality of care risks	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Remoteness risks	<div><div>1</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
Cultural challenge risks	<div><div></div><div>2</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Language proficiency

Many health care professionals, especially those in Paris and other urban areas, speak English.

Diseases and health risks

France is considered to have an overall healthy environment for travelers. Food and tap water are considered safe. Travelers visiting forested areas are advised to take insect bite prevention measures to protect against tick-borne diseases.

Immunizations and preventive treatments

For recommended and required vaccinations as well as preventive treatment for travel to France, visit the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Hospital care

Hospital facilities in France are abundant, technologically well-equipped and meet international quality standards. The best hospital facilities are found in Paris and other large urban areas. In general, hospitals are well staffed with a full range of highly trained clinicians, and specialists are present in most facilities. Many facilities do experience nursing shortages, a problem that is expected to worsen in the future.

Many physicians, especially those in Paris and other urban areas, speak English, while other health care professionals may not be as proficient in English. The most technologically advanced and capable intensive care facilities can be found in public hospitals and all meet international standards.

For emergency care, only a few hospitals within each region have fully equipped emergency units. Smaller hospitals have basic emergency units. Hospitals enter into contracts with each other to enforce their cooperation (including, for example, the possibility of using a rotation of emergency staff in less busy locations).

Non-urgent care

Outpatient care is available from general practitioners and from specialists.

General practitioners work almost exclusively in private offices often found in a home or apartment building. These doctors can also handle routine pediatric and gynecological care. Hotel or house calls visits are widely available throughout the country from individual general practitioners as well as from physicians from the organization “SOS Médecins.”

Specialists can be consulted both in public or private hospitals and in private offices.

The standard of dental care in France is high, and service is widely available throughout the country. Most dentists operate in private practices.

Medications

Pharmacies can be found in shops denoted by a green (often neon) cross, and pharmacists are able to help consult about medications and recommend generic drugs. Pharmacists in France play a larger role in suggesting treatment and medications than their counterparts in the United States.

Pharmacies will carry all international medications but will often be unable to fill prescriptions written outside the country. In addition, not all medications prescribed by hospital-based doctors will be available in external pharmacies, so travelers may find it more convenient to fill prescriptions at the hospital pharmacy if they received care there.

Over-the-counter medications are available only in pharmacies and must be requested by the consumer. These medications are sold in small quantities.

Ground ambulance and emergency medical services

Ambulance and medical emergency services: 112 or 15 (SAMU – emergency ambulance service)

Fire: 112 or 18

Police: 112 or 17

All European Union (EU) country emergencies: Use 112 to contact emergency medical services in EU countries. Calls at border regions may be answered in German, Spanish or English.

Emergency medical services in France are excellent and readily available. In general, the policy in France is to bring services to the patient in crisis instead of immediately bringing the patient to the hospital. Therefore, in the event of an emergency, you should expect to be asked numerous questions by the staff at SAMU because they will need to determine which type of services to dispatch to you. The SAMU ambulance is usually staffed by a physician and a nurse.

Private ambulances are also available for non-emergency transport but are not recommended for more serious emergencies.

Medical evacuation and repatriation

As the standard of medical care in France is excellent, medical evacuation is only necessary from a rural area to a tertiary care facility in an urban area of France for critical medical cases.

Repatriation to the home country may be required for long term care. Depending on the patient's condition, evacuations may be carried out by air ambulance or a commercial aircraft with or without stretcher and/or medical non-medical escort.

Designated medical facilities within Paris

Specialty hospital serving globally mobile populations in Paris:

American Hospital of Paris (Hôpital Américain de Paris)

63 Boulevard Victor Hugo
92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine
International phone: +33 1 46 41 25 25
Local phone: 01 46 41 24 24
Website: american-hospital.org

Facility description: Accredited by the Joint Commission, this private facility offers a wide range of medical specialties including an ER open 24/7 and supported by advanced diagnostic equipment. The hospital is very accustomed to providing care to foreign patients and has English speaking hospital staff and physicians. It is located in Neuilly-sur-Seine, a western suburb of Paris.

The following hospitals have a 24/7 ER supported by advanced diagnostics and provide a comprehensive range of medical and surgical services.

Hôpital Franco-Britannique

4 rue Kléber
92300 Levallois
Phone: 01 47 59 59 59
Website: hopitalfrancobritannique.org

Facility description: This hospital has 270 beds and 700 health care professionals including 120 doctors, divided between 5 specific health care centers:

- Digestive, orthopaedic, gynaecological and urological surgery
- Woman-Mother-Child: maternity 2A
- Medical and surgical cancerology
- Internal medicine and acute geriatrics
- Emergency ward (46,000 patients per year) and Intensive Care Unit

Hôpital Foch

40, rue Worth
92150 Suresnes
Phone: 01 46 25 20 00
Website: hopital-foch.com

Facility description: The hospital is a leader in the fields of neurosurgery, thoracic surgery, gynaecology, urology, internal medicine and oncology through innovative treatments. With 2,000 staff members (including 300 doctors) and 600 beds, our hospital is one of the most effective and renowned non-profit hospitals with a public service mission in France.

Hôpital Saint-Antoine

184, rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine
75012 Paris
Phone: 01 49 28 20 00
Website: saintantoine.aphp.fr

Facility description: Offering all types of care including emergencies, consultations, hospitalization (day, short or long term), Saint-Antoine Hospital is a public hospital that is part of Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP), which is the University Hospital Center (CHU) of the Ile-de-France region. The AP-HP provides care, teaching, research, prevention, health education and urgent medical aid missions. It covers all disciplines of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and biology, and welcomes more than 6 million patients of all ages each year.

Hôpital européen Georges-Pompidou

20 Rue Leblanc
75015 Paris
Phone: 01 56 09 20 00
Website: hopital-georgespompidou.aphp.fr

Facility description: Located in the 15th arrondissement of Paris, the hospital is recognized for its expertise in adult pathologies, particularly in the cardiovascular and renal fields, cancer and emergencies. It is equipped with innovative and efficient technical platforms for imaging, interventional radiology and biology.

Hôpital Paris Saint-Joseph

185, rue Raymond Losserand
75014 Paris
Phone: 01 44 12 33 33
Website: hpsj.fr

Facility description: The hospital provides its patients with a range of hospital and local care, including emergency services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and their medical and surgical treatment. Twenty-five medical and surgical specialties treat the majority of illnesses in the same place.

Hôpitaux Universitaires Pitié Salpêtrière

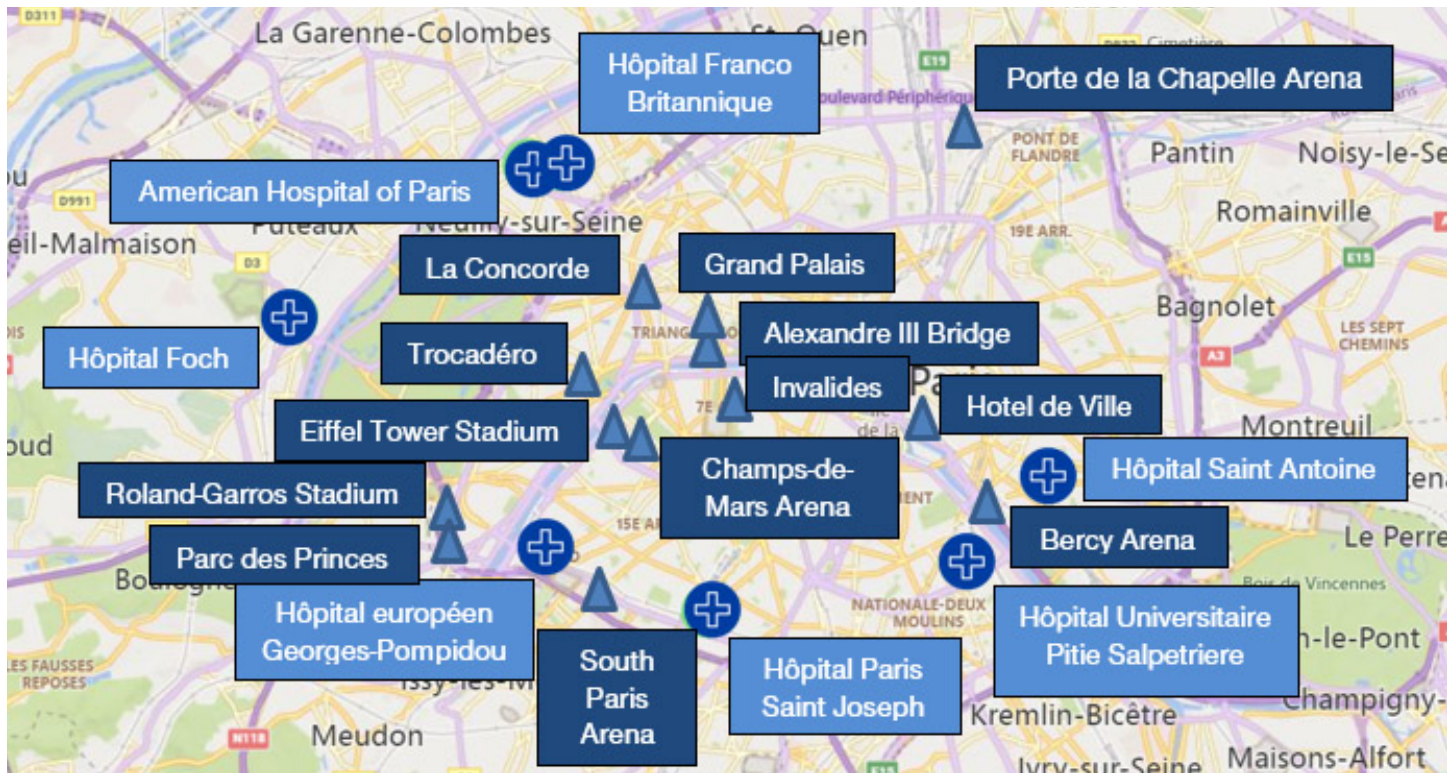
47-83 Bd de l'Hôpital

75651 Paris

Phone: 01 42 16 00 00

Website: pitie-salpetriere.aphp.fr/hopital-universitaire-pitie-salpetriere

Facility description: A public health establishment which is part of the Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP), this hospital is a local and specialty, teaching and research hospital located in the heart of the 13th arrondissement of Paris. It offers 77 services grouped into 10 centers with a wide range of medical specialties including 26 rare disease reference centers and two University Hospital Institutes (IHU): ICAN, Institute of Cardiometabolism and Nutrition and the A-ICM, Institute of Neurosciences.



Venues may also be served by public hospitals, examples below:

La Concorde > Hôpital Lariboisière

Roland Garros Stadium and Parcs des Princes > Hôpital Ambroise-Paré

Port de la Chapelle Arena > Hôpital Bichat–Claude-Bernard

Security and intelligence

Security summary

The overall assessment of threats in **Paris** is **Medium**. Petty crime is the primary security concern for travelers to the city. Criminals have targeted vehicles traveling between Paris and Le Bourget and Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airports in the past. Demonstrations and strikes occur frequently in Paris; while these actions are generally peaceful, violence and transportation disruptions take place on occasion. Terrorism remains a significant threat in Paris, and there have been several “lone wolf” attacks in recent years.

Security and safety measures

In preparation for the event, authorities are implementing enhanced physical security measures, such as additional security staff, QR codes, and transportation restrictions near competition venues. Authorities estimate that 45,000 security personnel will be required to monitor the opening ceremony, which will be held along the River Seine, while 35,000 security staff members will remain deployed in the days following the opening ceremony. Security forces will monitor sporting venues 24 hours a day.

Additionally, residents living near the event venues will be required to obtain a QR code in order to pass through police barriers, and all visitors watching from balconies, windows, rooftops or houseboats must be registered. Individuals who plan to travel within the vicinity of event venues must provide specific reasons for doing so. Vehicular traffic and roadways near the event venues will likely be heavily restricted. Public transportation lines, such as the metro, the RER and tram lines will remain operational during the event; however, disruptions are likely to occur. Authorities have encouraged individuals to travel by bicycle with the implementation of new bike lanes throughout the city.

Paris security tips

- Petty theft is a concern around hotels in the vicinity of Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport, in department stores, on subway lines, in hotels and at tourist attractions, such as the Eiffel Tower, Pigalle (Paris' "red light" district) and the Latin Quarter
- Travelers should avoid public parks at night due to the possibility of petty crime, choosing walking routes that are well-lit and being aware of their surroundings
- Travelers, particularly women, should take care when around new acquaintances and should not accept drinks from strangers while in France, especially at nightclubs. Women should also be cautious when utilizing public transportation.
- Sexual assault is reported relatively frequently on public transportation in France, so travelers, especially women, should maintain a high level of vigilance and be cautious when using public transportation
- International industrial espionage in France has raised serious concern, and there have been indications that the government sanctions it. Travelers should keep all confidential documents and laptop computers with them at all times and should avoid leaving such items in hotel rooms. Travelers should also avoid discussing confidential business matters on French airlines and in hotels and restaurants.
- Tap water is generally safe to drink in most major French cities

Crime

Crime, particularly petty theft, is the security concern travelers are most likely to encounter when visiting Paris. The crime rate is comparable to that of other Western cities of similar size. Criminals are active aboard public transportation – particularly on train and subway platforms – and in popular tourist areas, where crowded conditions leave travelers more vulnerable to pickpocketing and bag snatching. Thieves are particularly active on the RER B rail line from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport to central Paris, as well as on Metro Line 1 that travels through the city center. The rate of petty theft is rising more quickly than any other form of crime in the city. Theft of mobile phones, which increasingly involves violence, is of particular concern. Theft from hotel rooms is also a concern. Visitors frequently report being victims of vehicle break-ins; foreign travelers are also often the victim of pickpocketing and scams.

Violent crime is not likely to affect short-term travelers, but incidents do occur periodically. Travelers should also note that opportunistic crimes sometimes escalate into violent encounters, particularly if the victim resists. The impoverished suburbs surrounding Paris experience a high rate of youth gang-related violent crime, as illustrated by rioting that has occurred in those areas in the recent past. Tensions in some Parisian suburbs remain high because the underlying issues that sparked past rioting remain unresolved. There is a possibility that even seemingly minor incidents in these impoverished areas may trigger civil unrest and rioting in the city.

Labor strikes

Strikes in the public and private sectors occur frequently across France, including Paris. The primary concern regarding labor actions is their potential to disrupt services used by travelers, particularly when they occur in the aviation and public transportation sectors. Members of public sector unions have warned of possible work stoppages during the event over pay disputes. Labor actions may cause disruptions to traffic and security services during the event. While unions have not announced official plans, strikes are often called with little prior notice, so travelers should keep abreast of announcements ahead of and during their trips. Demonstrations and protests – which are discussed further below – often accompany strikes.

Demonstrations

As the nation's capital, Paris experiences more protests and demonstrations than the rest of France. Such events often block the city's main arteries, leading to congested traffic or hindering access to public transportation hubs.

While there are currently no demonstrations scheduled to take place during the international games, staff members have announced the possibility of protest actions during the two-week-long event. Such protests may cause disruptions to travel within the vicinity of the venue. Although most demonstrations are generally peaceful, violence is an ever-present concern during such gatherings. Travelers should avoid large crowds while traveling through Paris as a general precaution.

Terrorism

The threat of terrorism is a modern-day reality. Attacks could involve large-scale bombings or less sophisticated, but still dangerous, smaller-scale assaults. Stay alert in all situations, but particularly in crowded gatherings and in large public areas. Know beforehand where potential safe areas might be if you need to regroup with others after being separated, such as police stations, hotels and hospitals. Make a plan with fellow travelers of where you will go if a security incident takes place. The [U.S. Department of State](#) recommends that individuals follow the “run, hide, fight” rule during a terrorist attack or similar incident. If you can, quickly leave. If not, hide. As a last resort, if needed, yell and fight.

Airports and transportation

Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport (LFPG/CDG)

Roissy-Charles de Gaulle is the largest airport serving Paris. There are 3 terminals at the facility. A full range of services is available in the terminals, including restaurants, bars, shops, banking services, ATMs, post offices and business centers. Wireless Internet access is available in all terminals; there are work areas with power outlets in terminals 1, 2D and 2EF. An electric shuttle service (known as CDGVAL) runs 24 hours a day and provides transportation between the airport’s terminals. General aviation flights are only permitted to land at Charles de Gaulle if the passengers or crew are connecting to Air France flights from this airport. Additionally, the aircraft in question will most likely only be allowed to stay on the ground for a limited amount of time.

Due to European security regulations, all crew members, passengers and their luggage must pass through mandatory security screenings. The screenings are provided through the FBOs. All baggage is screened by X-ray machines, and crew members/passengers are required to walk through a metal detector. Security at the airport has been strengthened since October 2023 in accordance with France’s heightened security alert level. Travelers may be required to undergo additional and random security checks while at the airport, which may result in longer wait times.

Orly Airport (LFPO/ORY)

Orly Airport serves as the secondary commercial airport for Paris. In 2019, the airport opened a connecting building between the formerly separate Orly South and Orly West terminals, creating a single terminal with 4 departure and arrival areas. Passengers departing through Orly Airport will find Orly 1, 2, 3 or 4 on their ticket, indicating which area their flight will depart from. There is no specifically designated area for corporate aviation. ATMs, currency exchange booths, shops, bars, restaurants and lounges are located in the terminal.

Le Bourget Airport (LFPB/LBG)

The entry point to the secure area of the airport is manned by security personnel, who operate X-ray control devices. Airport authorities conduct random checks of approximately 25% of all passengers and vehicles passing through the checkpoint. Due to European security regulations, all crew members, passengers and their luggage must pass through mandatory security screenings. The screenings are provided through the FBOs. All baggage is screened by X-ray machines, and crew members/passengers are required to walk through a metal detector.

In general, handlers do not give specific security instructions to their ramp personnel. Some parking locations are isolated, so there is no direct view of the aircraft. The perimeter fence and lighting are adequate. There are 2 main vehicle access points controlled by the Gendarmerie, and additional access points are secured with metal gates. The handler is tasked with checking all persons who access the ramp.

Transportation

Le Bourget Airport is located approximately 15 km (10 mi) north of central Paris, while Roissy-Charles de Gaulle is located approximately 25 km north of the city center. Orly Airport is located about 15 km south of the city. Taxis, buses, rental cars and the suburban RER train (which connects to the Metro) are available for transport from all of these airports to the city center.

Individuals who use public transportation should be attentive to the threat of crime, as petty thieves frequently target travelers, taking advantage of those unfamiliar with, or inattentive to, their surroundings. Occasional thefts and violence have been reported on the Metro and in railway stations, particularly along the Paris Metro Line 1, and in Gare du Nord and Gare de l’Est. Busy metro stations attract petty thieves and homeless people at night. The frequency of strikes in the public transportation industry is high, and services in Paris commonly experience disruptions.

French drivers are noted for their aggressiveness. Traffic drives on the right. Priorité à droite applies, meaning that cars coming out of a side turning on the right have the right-of-way, unless road signs indicate otherwise. It is compulsory for drivers (both residents and tourists) to carry a breathalyzer, fire extinguisher, first aid kit and spare headlight bulbs at all times; those found guilty of violating this law may be subject to a fine. Licenses are confiscated from motorists caught driving more than 25 mph (40 kph) over the speed limit. The measure is intended to lower the number of fatal accidents on French roads, and it applies equally to foreigners. Licenses taken from foreigners will be returned as their owners leave the country. In addition, police officers may impose heavy on-the-spot fines for traffic offenses. It is also illegal to drive a vehicle in France while wearing or doing anything that is perceived as an impediment to the driver. For instance, wearing headphones while driving will result in a fine of up to \$155 USD/€135; fines have also been issued over drivers wearing flip flops, eating while driving, smoking and other activities.

The importance of travel protection

It's essential to consider the safety of employees on out-of-country business assignments, whether it's a short-term travel or longer, expatriate experiences. The information in this report is intelligence gathered with these individuals in mind, with the intention of providing a comprehensive resource for any eventuality. In addition to sharing this information with employees, consider UnitedHealthcare Global plans to provide assurance and backup plans for business travelers. Our flexible solutions include help for emergency and urgent medical coverage, to virtual care and 24/7 support, and even hotspots security alerts, all to help keep employees safe and well, wherever they are.

Visit uhcglobal.com or uhcglobal.eu to learn more about all our products and services for international travelers.

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