

FRANCE





Why France?

- World's best health care
- Top quality infrastructure
- The best of Europe—romance, art, culture, food, wine
- Sophisticated urban centers
- Quaint rural villages
- Diverse geography and climate
- Numerous lifestyle options



At A Glance

- **Residency**
 - Self Sufficiency – Proof of income, address and health coverage
- **Health Care**
 - Superb health care system
 - Inexpensive prescription and OTC drugs
 - Accessible to all residents, regardless of nationality
- **Ease of Access**
 - Numerous direct flights to Paris from U.S. and Canada
 - Domestic airlines –reasonably priced, and many low-cost
 - Quality train services and connections



Country Pros

- Incredible quality of life; appreciation of life
- Best health care system in the world (WHO); accessible to all residents
- Top quality food and wine
- Excellent base for European travel
- Beautiful language
- Heritage and tradition
- Gun safety

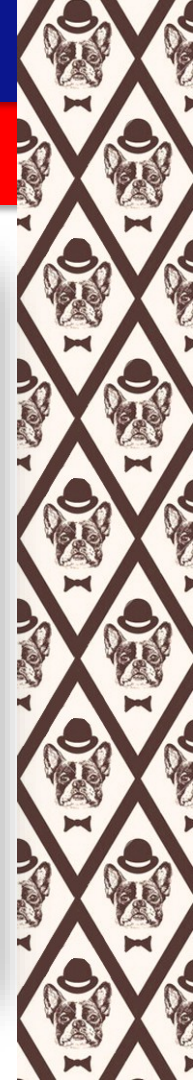
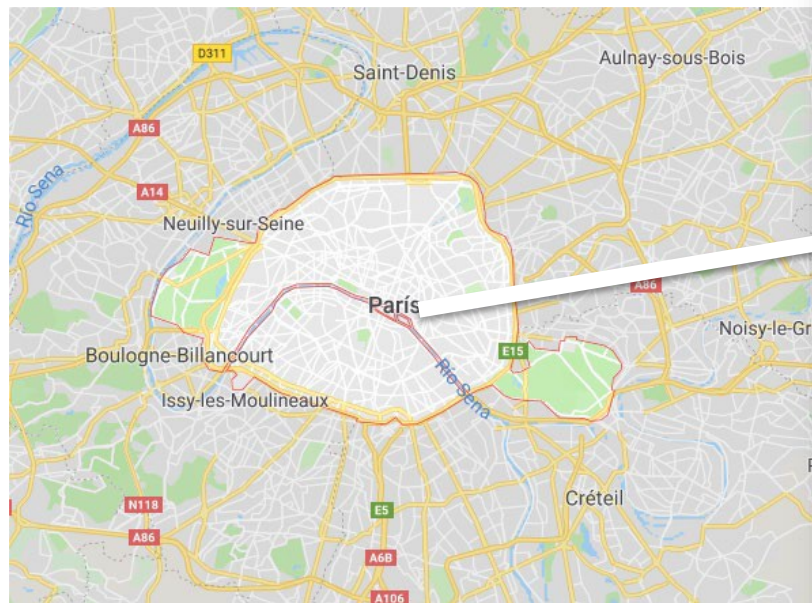


Country Cons

- Bureaucracy—lots of red tape
- Customer is NOT *le roi*
- Learning language is necessary
- Cost of social safety net
- Charm comes at cost of convenience
- Social unrest and demonstrations



Paris





Paris Pros

- Most international city in France
- Travel hub
- Cultural mecca
- Open-air museum
- Jobs and salaries
- Everyone wants to visit
- Very walkable and accessible by public transport;
No need for car



Paris Cons

- Drawbacks of density
- Cost of living
- Weather
- Lifestyle – metro, boulot, dodo
- Mood = brood
- Most difficult place to integrate with locals



Occitanie





Occitanie Pros

- **International travel base** – 6 airports, TGV
- **Vibrant cities** – Montpellier, Toulouse, Béziers, Narbonne, Carcassonne, Perpignan, Nîmes
- **Charming villages** – Uzès, Pézenas, Sommières, Lagrasse, Limoux, Céret
- **Coastal towns** – Sète, Collioure, Agde
- **Diverse landscapes** – sea/sand beaches, mountains, wetlands, vineyards, forests
- **Heritage** – Roman arenas & aqueducts (Pont du Gard), Cathar castles (Carcassonne), Canal du Midi
- **Low cost of living**



Occitanie Cons

- Depressed economy, high unemployment
- Not as glitzy as the Riviera
- Few North Americans (many Brits, though)
- Windy in some parts
- Large region, tough to choose one favorite
- Siesta lifestyle
- Need a car



Savoie





Savoie Pros

- Gorgeous towns and villages in the heart of Alpine mountains and lakes
- Mountain lifestyle—hiking and skiing
- Clean air and lots of it
- Close to borders of Italy, Switzerland
- More Germanic style of French culture
- 4-5 hour drive to Mediterranean coast
- Big cities of Lyon and Geneva close by
- Older population—quiet and reserved, very traditional



Savoie Cons

- Quiet, rural (even isolated) lifestyle—few conveniences
- Serious cold, snow, and ice in winter
- Can be geographically isolated—little access in height of winter
- Older population (no universities, nightlife)
- Siesta lifestyle
- Need a car



Reality Check

- Work to live
- Quality over quantity
- Traditional; risk averse, not innovative
- "*Demain* attitude"
- Things lost in translation
- English not as commonly spoken as you'd think
- Difficult to break into local community

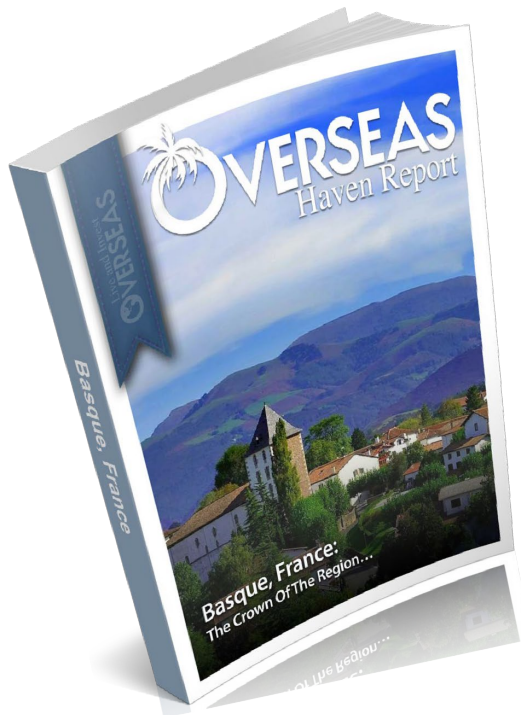


Grading France

- English Spoken – B
- Health Care – A+
- Climate – B
- Infrastructure – A+
- Accessibility – B
- Safety – A
- Culture – A+
- Recreation – A+
- Taxes – C
- Schools – A+



Recommended Resources



Overseas Haven Reports

Complete, fully illustrated reports on a specific region or city identified by our experts as an overseas retirement haven.

Want to know more? Connect with us through the Networking Chat tab!



Recommended Resources



France Starter Kit

The France Starter Kit is a comprehensive collection of our top resources on the country, including our **Live and Invest in France Manual**.

Want to know more? Connect with us through the Networking Chat tab.



Recommended Resources



Discover Europe Kit

This all-new program features six fully-illustrated reports covering our top picks for Old World living on a budget, plus the special 100+ page guide Exploring Europe: A Grand Tour Of The Old World's Most Romantic Places To Spend Time.

Each report is loaded with residency and cost of living information, firsthand experiences, and insights on enticing and affordable European enclaves and lifestyles.

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