

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR FRANCE

General Information: France is included in the Schengen area, a zone of 29 European countries that have abolished internal border controls, allowing for free movement of citizens of these countries. The Schengen countries including France have common external border rules and visa policies for non-EU visitors. A Schengen visa is a short-stay permit for non-EU nationals to visit the 29 Schengen Area countries for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. You apply at the embassy of your main destination country, needing a valid passport, photos, fee, travel insurance, and proof of purpose/funds, with the visa valid across all member states like France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and non-EU members Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein

Citizens of the US, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom do not need a visa to enter France (or the Schengen zone countries) for short stays (up to 90 days). Use of a valid passport allows visa-free entry for these countries.

For citizens of other countries, use the VISA wizard to check VISA requirements: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/visa-wizard>. If a VISA is required, you must complete the online form, book an appointment at a visa center, submit your documents in person (biometrics needed), and track your application. **Always apply well in advance, as processing times vary.**

Entry/Exit System (EES) Implementation:

Beginning October 2025, a new Entry/Exit System (EES) will be deployed over a period of 6 months across the external borders of the 29 European countries. These European countries will introduce the EES in phases, including the collection of biometric data (facial image and fingerprints). By June 2026, it is anticipated that travellers' biometric data will be collected at Schengen border crossings, and their personal information will be registered in the system. Passports will continue to be stamped as usual. The EES applies to you if you are a non-EU national travelling for a short stay to a European country using the EES and you either:

- possess a short-stay visa; or
- do not need a visa to stay for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period.

Your travel document data and other personal data will be collected, including your entry and exit dates, and will be registered electronically in the system. This procedure will facilitate your border crossing.