

FRANCE





Why France?

- World's best health care
- Top quality infrastructure – rail networks, public transport, highways, etc.
- The best of Europe—café culture, romance, art, history, fashion, culture, food, wine
- Sophisticated urban centers
- Quaint rural villages, peaceful countryside
- Diverse geography and climate = Many 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
- History, art
- Large, diverse country—mountains, coastlines, countryside, cities
- Biking culture

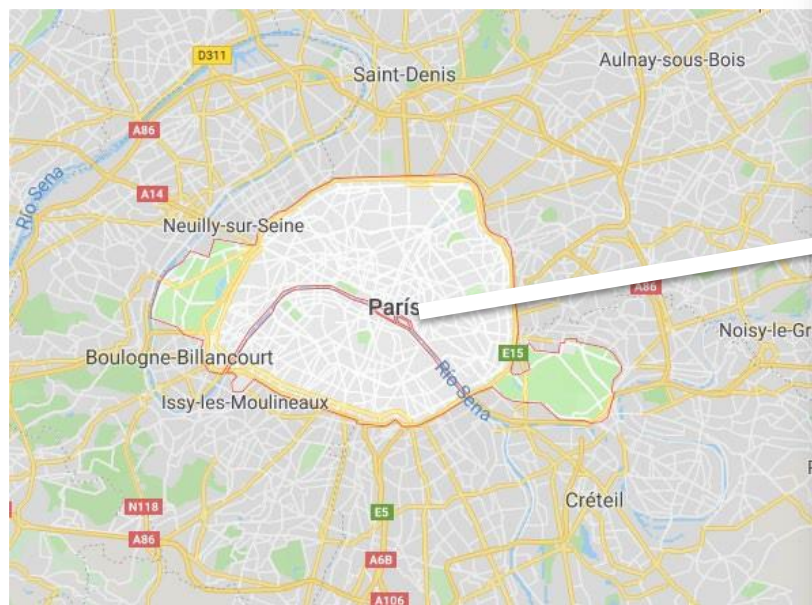


Country Cons

- 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
- Staid, formal; traditional attitudes; not overly kid friendly



Paris





Paris Pros

- Most international city in France; tons of expats
- 100% walkable and accessible by public transport;
No need for car
- Cultural mecca
- Open-air museum
- Jobs and salaries
- Friends and family will all come visit
- Travel hub

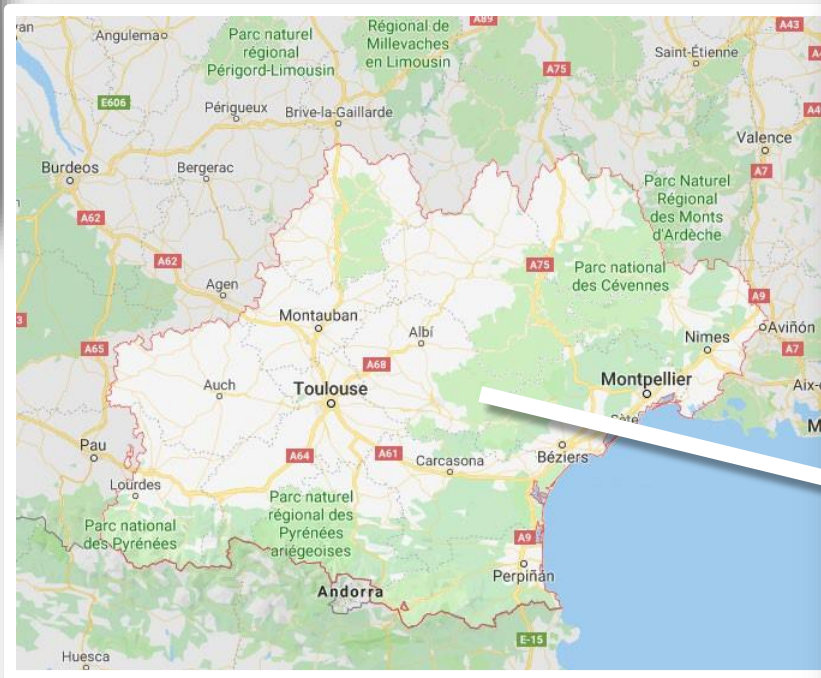


Paris Cons

- Drawbacks of density
- Cost of living
- Weather – “*Il fait gris.*”
- Lifestyle = “*metro, boulot, dodo*”
- Mood = brood
- Most difficult place to integrate with locals
- Bad air quality



Occitanie





Occitanie Pros

- International travel base – 6 airports, TGV
- Vibrant cities – Montpellier, Toulouse, Carcassonne
- Charming villages, *Les Plus Beaux Villages de France*
- Coastal towns
- Diverse landscapes – sea/sand beaches, mountains, wetlands, vineyards, forests
- Peaceful countryside
- Market lifestyle
- Heritage – Roman arenas & aqueducts (Pont du Gard), Cathar castles (Carcassonne), Canal du Midi
- Low cost of living
- Proximity to Spain



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



Nouvelle Aquitaine





Nouvelle Aquitaine Pros

- Peaceful countryside; few people; no traffic
- Amazing seaside towns: La Rochelle, Ile de Ré, Biarritz
- Villages, Bastides, *Les Plus Beaux Villages de France*
- Bordeaux wine region
- Proximity to Spain
- Slow pace of life
- Market lifestyle



Nouvelle Aquitaine Cons

- 100% rural; farming culture
- Very low population density
- Practically no North Americans (a few Brits, though)
- Large region, harder to pinpoint your favorite part
- 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 the 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 – completely reversed mindset about productivity
- 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

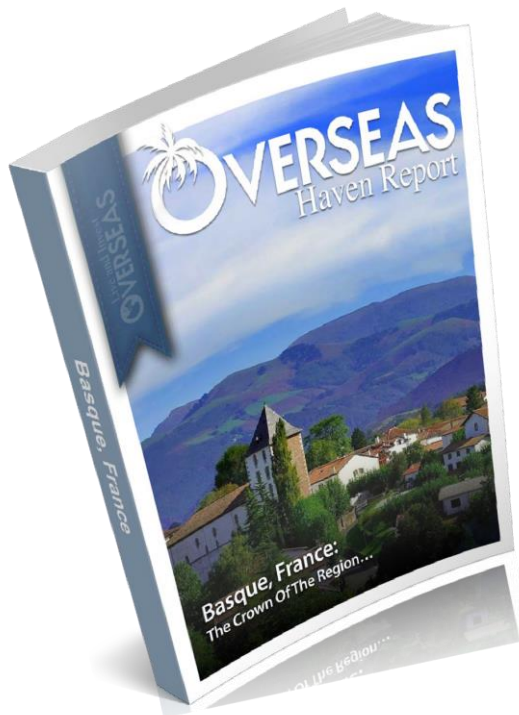


Grading France

- 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



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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