

Andy Swann VOYAGE

Travel Tips 2024

Time

France is in Central European Time (CET), six hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time in the United States (e.g. 10AM in the US is 4PM in France). France and the US do not switch from Standard to Daylight Time (and vice-versa) on the same date; during this interim period the time difference is five hours, not six hours.

Using Phones in France

French phone numbers consist of 10 digits, all beginning with 0. Generally speaking, numbers starting with 06 and 07 are cell phones, while other numbers are specific to a region (for instance, 01 for Paris numbers, 04 for South of France numbers). The country code for France is 33.

- To call French numbers from the US (or from some US cell phones), dial 011 (international access) + 33 (French country code) + the nine digit phone number, *dropping the initial 0*
- To call a French number within France, drop the country code and dial the 10-digit number, including the initial 0.
- To call US numbers from France, dial 001 + the area code + the phone number

For example, when dialing our cell number +33 (0)6 76 66 49 40, dial:

- 06 76 66 49 40 (within France)
- +33 6 76 66 49 40 (from the US and from some US cell phones)

Useful numbers

Andy Swann Voyage	Andy Swann Voyage 24x7 assistance	+33 6 76 66 49 40
Sapeur Pompiers	Fire brigade / EMT	18
SAMU (in French)	Ambulance	15
Police (in French)	Police	17
European Emergency Services	(English speaking; dial from any phone)	112
US Consulate General Marseille	Consulate services	+33 1 43 12 48 85
US Consulate General Lyon	Consulate services	+33 1 43 12 48 60
US Consulate General Paris	Consulate services	+33 1 43 12 22 22

In the unlikely event that you lose your US passport, please contact your nearest Consulate or Embassy. See the information on this page: [Emergency Information for American Citizens](#).

Tipping

Tipping in France is strictly optional, depending on the level of service. The tipping suggestions below are meant to serve as a guideline only. Please tip at your own discretion, based on your level of satisfaction with the service provided.

Guides, Driver-guides, and Drivers

- **Guides and driver-guides:** €50 for a half-day tour or €100 for a full-day tour
- **Airport transfers:** €15-20, depending on the distance / duration of the transfer
- **Airport greeter / porter:** €20 for the Greeter and €5 per bag for the porter
- **Private drivers service:** €20-50, depending on the distance / duration of the service
- **Public taxis:** Tips are not expected, but you can round up or offer 5 percent of the final fare if the driver helped with your luggage.

Restaurants, Cafés, and Services

Generally speaking, tips are included (*service compris*) in the final bill at restaurants and cafés (unless the invoice states *service non compris*). However, it is customary to leave an additional gratuity. The following are suggested tipping guidelines, subject to the quality of service received:

- **Café Waiter/Waitress:** When paying for a coffee or beverage, leave 5-10% or round up to the nearest whole figure on the total bill.
- **Restaurant Server:** If service is included but exceeded your expectations, leave 5-10% of the total bill or round the bill up to the nearest whole figure. Optionally, leave one or two euros per every €20.
- **Coat Check:** An optional tip of €1 is appropriate.
- **Bartender:** Leave the change or round up to the nearest whole figure on the drinks bill.
- **Doorman:** Tip €1 if the doorman helped hail a cab or brings in your luggage.
- **Bellhop:** Tip €1 to €2 per bag, depending on size.
- **Housecleaning:** Leave a tip in your room of €1 to €2 per day. While not obligatory, it is a considerate way to thank the housekeeping staff.
- **Concierge:** If the concierge goes above and beyond with helping you book reservations, giving you directions, and providing recommendations, it's considerate to tip €10-20 or more, depending on the service provide.
- **Hairdresser / Beautician:** Tip 10% of the total cost.

Electricity

French electricity runs at 220 volts and 50 cycles. Appliances from the US that are not battery-operated will need an adapter and transformer.

Basic phrases

Phrases like "Bonjour" (Hello), "Merci" (Thank you), "S'il vous plait" (Please) and "Pardon" (Excuse me) are essential in France. Whenever you walk into a store, restaurant, or another place of business, say "Bonjour" to the proprietor, server, or the person at the counter. Failure to do so is seen as a personal affront.