

RISK ASSESSMENT

School

Fraser Lake Elem Secondary School

Grade/Group: Grade 8-12 Travel Club Teacher: Shawn Lank

Destination & Activity: Vimy 2027 France + England

Date(s) of Trip: Apr 3-13, 2027 Vimy 110 Memorial Celebration = Apr 9-10, 2027

LOW RISK

<input type="checkbox"/> Day trip, in district	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Risk Application Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> On beach or near stream (<u>no</u> stepping in water)	<input type="checkbox"/> List on parent information form and permission slip

MODERATE RISK

<input type="checkbox"/> Overnight	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Risk Application Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-District but within province	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness/bear area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming in any pool or hot tub	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Component Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating or swimming in lake <u>near</u> shore	
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity near fast moving or open water	
<input type="checkbox"/> Creek or stream programs	

HIGH RISK

<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Province	<input type="checkbox"/> High Risk Application Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Ski/Snowboard	
<input type="checkbox"/> Active logging roads	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake crossing	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Component Form
<input type="checkbox"/> On fast moving water	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake ice activity (<u>not</u> on river ice)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Component Form

OUT-OF-COUNTRY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Country STEP 1 (<i>must be approved before proceeding to STEP 2</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Approval Application Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Country STEP 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Country Application Form

Identify the person in charge at the activity:

Name: Shawn Lank Qualifications: multiple field trips

How were students selected to participate and what preparation/experience do they have? _____

sign up

Are students participating in supervision? Yes No

If yes, how were students selected to participate in supervision? _____

Comments: _____

Principal/Vice Principal: M. Cl Date: Nov 3/25

Vimy 2027

110 Year
Memorial
p 15

OUT-OF-COUNTRY STEP 1: PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION FORM



STEP 1 must receive Board Approval prior to: booking, fundraising, and STEP 2 approval.

School: FLESS Application Date: Oct 27/25
 Group/Grade: grades 8-12 Teacher: Shawn Lank
 Destination: Vimy France for Apr 9 2027 110 Memorial Celebration
 Dates: Apr 3 - Apr 13 /25

Give the goals and objectives of the Out-of-Country trip: students will learn about Canada's involvement in WWI + WWII

Give the experience of the teacher: multiple international field trips

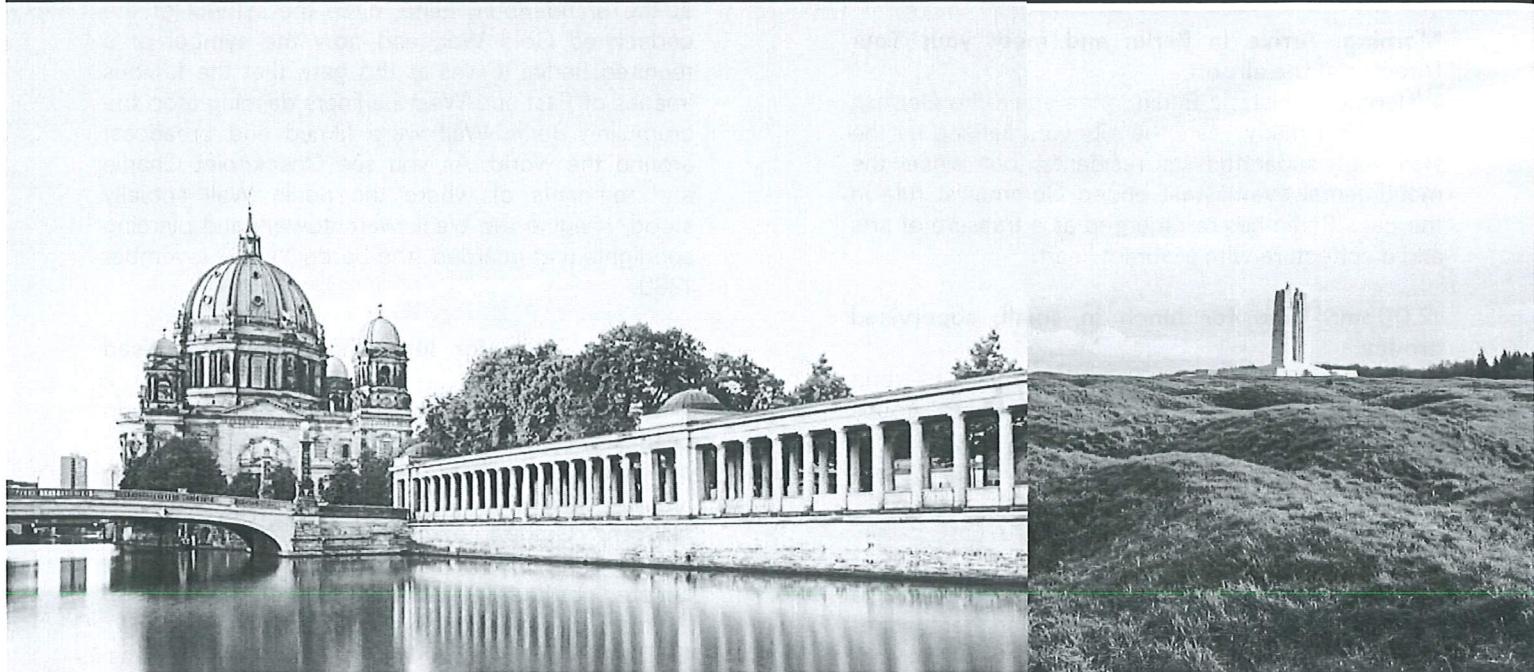
Expected number of student participants: 10 - 20

Submit with this application to the Principal/Vice Principal:

- Risk Assessment
- Itinerary
- Current Travel Advisory <http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
 - Exercise normal security precautions
 - Exercise a high degree of caution
 - Avoid non-essential travel
 - Avoid all travel

France + England

SCHOOL USE:	Principal/Vice Principal
Dates within school calendar break?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Comments:	<u>Letter must explicitly state NO ocean swimming.</u>
Principal/Vice Principal:	<u>M. Lee</u> Date: <u>Nov. 3/2025</u>
School Supervisor:	<u>J. Evans</u> Date: <u>Nov 7/25</u>
Superintendent:	<u>C. Clark</u> Date: <u>Nov. 17/25</u>
DISTRICT USE:	Board Approval
<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> PRE-APPROVAL Application Form and supporting documents	
Board Meeting Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied
Comments:	
Board Chairperson:	
Date PVP Informed:	Via: <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone By: _____



Vimy 2027: Journey of Remembrance

11 DAYS | April 3 – 13, 2027

Included in the program fee:

- Round trip airfare
- Transfers to and from the airport and hotel and between destination cities (as per program itinerary)
- Overnight in hotels with private bathrooms
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner daily
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

Not included in the program fee:

- Customary gratuities for your tour director, local guide and driver
- Personal Insurance
- Porterage
- Beverages and lunches
- Public transportation to free time activities

Overnight stays: Berlin (2); Amsterdam (2); Vimy region (2); Paris (3).

Sightseeing tours led by an expert: Berlin, Sachsenhausen, Amsterdam, and Paris.

Entrances included: Topography of Terror; Sachsenhausen; Amsterdam Immersion Challenge; Anne Frank House; Essex Farm Cemetery; St. Julien Memorial; Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate; Vimy 110 Commemorative ceremonies; Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial; Ring of Remembrance; Notre Dame Cathedral

Optional Excursions: Volendam and Zaans Schans. Seine River Cruise. Versailles.

Please note that the following is a sample timed itinerary for this EF tour with approximate addresses, activity durations, and transfer times. Exact timing may vary based on available flights, hotel location, scheduled activity bookings, traffic, etc. Your EF Tour Director is available to the group 24/7 while on tour. EF works with Group Leaders to ensure that travellers have a safe and memorable experience while on tour.

Day 1 – Saturday, April 3, 2027 : Board your overnight flight to Berlin

Day 2 – Sunday, April 4, 2027: Berlin

Morning: Arrive in Berlin and meet your Tour Director at the airport

Welcome to historic Berlin, once again the German capital. For many years the city was defined by the wall that separated its residents, but since the monumental events that ended Communist rule in the East, Berlin has re-emerged as a treasure of arts and architecture with a vibrant heart.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: See East Side Gallery

Stop for a photo opportunity at the East gallery memorial. This open-air gallery is on the longest surviving section of the Berlin Wall. It consists of a series of murals painted directly on a long remnant of the Berlin wall, located near the center of Berlin.

3:00pm: Visit the Topography of Terror Museum

Located on the site of the former SS headquarters in Berlin, this museum outlines the Nazi's rise to power and the depth of their administrative center. The outdoor exhibits in the former basement cells focuses on the regime's systemized rule of terror, and the fate of some of the individuals who were imprisoned and tortured in these dungeons.

5:30pm: Group dinner in Berlin region

7:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Berlin

9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 3 – Monday, April 5, 2027: Berlin

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to central Berlin

9:00am: Guided sightseeing of Berlin

On your guided bus tour over to the Eastern sector, pass the Reichstag, former seat of the parliaments of the German Empire and the Weimar Republic. Arrive at the Brandenburg Gate, once the symbol of the undeclared Cold War, and now the symbol of a reunited Berlin. It was at this gate that the famous images of East and West Berliners dancing atop the crumbling Berlin Wall were filmed and broadcast around the world. As you see Checkpoint Charlie and remnants of where the Berlin Wall actually stood, imagine the bleak watchtowers and piercing spotlights that guarded "the border" until November 1989.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

1:30pm: Guided excursion to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial Site

Located north of Berlin, Sachsenhausen was a German concentration camp that operated from 1936 to 1945. It was primarily used by Nazi forces as a detention camp for political prisoners. From 1945 to 1950, it was referred to as "Special Camp #7" by occupying Stalinist Soviet forces who also used it to house political prisoners.

5:30pm: Group dinner in Berlin region

7:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Berlin

9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 4 – Tuesday, April 6, 2027: Berlin | Amsterdam

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by train to Amsterdam

TBD: Arrive in Amsterdam

Known both as a center of entertainment and as a city of classic design and architecture, Amsterdam is a city of astonishing contrast.

3:00pm Canal Cruise

Cruise the canals on board a glass-topped boat, the perfect way to become acquainted with the city. You will pass some of Amsterdam's most enchanting bridges, including those depicted in some of van Gogh's paintings.

6:00pm: Group dinner in Amsterdam region

8:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Amsterdam

10:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 5 – Wednesday, April 7, 2027: Amsterdam

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to central Amsterdam

9:00am: Visit the Anne Frank House

Enter through the secret staircase up to where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944- and where she penned the poignant diary that has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide. (Pending availability due to entrance capacities and limited group reservations)

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

2:00pm: Optional Activity - Guided Excursion to Volendam & Zaandse Schans

Today, enjoy an optional half-day excursion to the heart of the Dutch countryside. Visit the picturesque fishing village of Volendam and the living and working neighborhood of Zaandse Schans, re-created to look like an old Dutch village. Make your way down the winding, cobblestone streets, past windmills, charming shops and crooked houses. Also, you will enjoy a demonstration on cheese and clog making.

**if your group does not select this optional excursion, you will have supervised exploration time with your Group Leader and Chaperones*

6:00pm: Group dinner in Amsterdam region

8:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Amsterdam

10:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 6 – Thursday, April 8, 2027: Amsterdam | Vimy region

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to the Vimy region via Ypres

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

2:00pm: Visit the Essex Farm Cemetery

This small and sometimes overlooked place remains a moving and important First World War site for Canadians. Essex Farm is the location where Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae penned the famous and haunting war poem "In Flanders Fields". The advanced dressing station where McCrae was stationed remains remarkably intact and shares the site with a small Commonwealth cemetery.

3:30pm: See the St. Julien Canadian Memorial

Also known as the Brooding Soldier, this memorial is located in the small village of Saint-Julien, Belgium. It honours Canada's First Division's contributions during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. It was during this battle that the German forces introduced poison gas as a weapon for the first time. While many French troops retreated, the Canadian forces held the line for 48 hours, during which time multiple counter attacks were launched. It was at this time that Canadian forces developed a great reputation as a force to be reckoned with, however during this process one in every three soldiers was killed. The monument was unveiled in 1923.

5:00pm: Walking Tour of Ypres

6:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in Ypres

8:00pm: Attend the "Last Post Ceremony" at the Menin Gate

Experience a unique and moving nightly ceremony to honour the dead of WWI. At exactly 8 pm up to six members of the regular buglers from the local volunteer Fire Brigade step into the roadway under the memorial arch and play the Last Post, followed by a short silence and Reveille. The Last Post Ceremony has become part of daily life in Ieper (Ypres) and the local people are proud of this simple but touching tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice of those who fell in defense of their town.

9:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in the Vimy region

10:30pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 7 – Friday, April 9, 2027: Vimy region

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to the Vimy Ridge Historic Site

Join fellow Canadians for the 110th anniversary ceremonies celebrating Canada's victory at Vimy Ridge. Spend some time exploring the site where Canadian history was made on April 9, 1917. Discover the secret behind the sheep that graze the fields and admire the profoundly moving Canadian National Vimy Memorial.

7:00pm: Group dinner in Vimy region

9:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 8 – Saturday, April 10, 2027: Vimy region | Paris

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to Paris via Normandy Region

9:30am: Visit Notre dame de Lorette and Ring of Remembrance

11:00am Visit the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial

This morning you will have a guided visit of the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, built to commemorate and honour all of the soldiers from Newfoundland and Labrador who were killed during the First World War. Opened in 1925, the memorial features a 15m bronze caribou overlooking the battlefield and remaining trenches. The site also includes an excellent visitors' centre which details the story of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. As the largest memorial site of the six memorials erected by the Government of Newfoundland following the First World War, it is an immersive, contemplative, humbling and emotional experience for all who visit.

1:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

4:00pm: Arrive in Paris

Welcome to Paris, the cosmopolitan City of Light. While visiting, learn why Paris has grown to become the undisputed center of France, and one of the world's most important cities both culturally and politically.

5:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Paris

8:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Paris

10:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 9 – Sunday, April 11, 2027: Paris

6:00am: Wake-up call

7:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

8:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to central Paris

9:00am: Guided sightseeing of Paris

Discover the city on the Seine during your panoramic bus tour. An expert local guide will accompany you as you drive through Paris' lively Latin Quarter. Nearby, see Notre-Dame Cathedral, standing tall at the center of the city. You will also drive down the elegant, tree-lined Champs-Elysées. Finally, be sure to snap a photo at the magnificent Eiffel Tower.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

1:00pm: Optional Activity – Guided Excursion to Versailles

Step back into le grand siècle as you experience the opulence of Versailles, the elaborate palace of Louis XIV. Built to be the envy of all Europe, France's most extravagant château continually threatened to bankrupt the national treasury. Here the Sun King held court in the most lavish style imaginable. At one point, 1,000 nobles were attended by 4,000 servants inside the palace, while 15,000 soldiers and servants inhabited the annexes. You'll also tour the State Apartments of the King himself and walk through the historic Hall of Mirrors, where France, Spain and England officially recognized the independence of the United States in 1783, and where the Treaty of Versailles, which ended WWI, was signed. You'll also witness the ornate decor of the Queen's State Apartments, furnished for Marie Antoinette. After your visit inside the palace, be sure to take some time to stroll through the elaborate gardens, designed by André Le Nôtre. *Because of the extreme popularity of Versailles, guided visits of the interior cannot be guaranteed during peak seasons. In this case, your group will hear a presentation from your guide before entering the palace.*

**if your group does not select this optional excursion, you will have supervised exploration time with your Group Leader and Chaperones*

5:30pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Paris

7:00pm: Optional Activity – Seine River Cruise

This evening, take a narrated river cruise along the Seine. As your boat glides from one graceful bridge to the next, sit back and gaze at the illuminated landmarks of Paris as they pan into view.

9:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Paris

10:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 10 – Monday, April 12, 2027: Paris

7:00am: Wake-up call

8:00am: Breakfast at the hotel

9:00am: Travel by private motorcoach to central Paris

10:00 Walking tour of Paris

Join your Tour Director on a walking tour that will introduce you to Paris. Together, you might see the chic, boutique-filled Opéra district, city's largest square at the Place de la Concord, and the geometric Tuileries gardens.

11:30am: See Notre-Dame Cathedral

Built between 1163 and 1361 over the remains of an ancient Roman temple, it was here that Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Victor Hugo once described the sculptured façade of Notre Dame as “a vast symphony in stone.” However, had it not been for the creation of his famous hunchback, Quasimodo, the cathedral might never have returned to its former glory.

12:00pm: Time for lunch in small, supervised groups

With the support of the Tour Director, the Group Leader will determine boundaries of where groups can go during this time.

1:30pm: Visit the Louvre

The Palais du Louvre, built to defend the city in the 13th century, now safeguards one of the world's greatest art collections. Enter the museum through world-renowned architect I.M. Pei's 1989 modernist glass pyramid. Inside, discover priceless antiquities from Egypt, Greece, Italy and Asia such as the statues of *Venus de Milo* and *Nike of Samothrace*, better known as *Winged Victory*. You'll also see some of the Louvre's most prized paintings by Renaissance and European masters, including Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the mysterious *Mona Lisa*.

4:00pm Take a walking tour of Montmartre

Get to know Montmartre during your Tour Director-led walking tour. Together you might see breathtaking views of the City of Light, watch artists at work at the Place du Tertre, or gaze up at the Sacré-Coeur Basilica.

6:00pm: Group dinner at a restaurant in central Paris

8:00pm: Travel by private motorcoach to the hotel in Paris

10:00pm: Group Leaders and Chaperone team will facilitate room checks and lights out

Day 11 – Tuesday, April 13, 2027: Depart for Home

5:30am: Wake-Up Call

6:30am: Breakfast at Hotel

7:30am: Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you will check in for your return flight home.

The itinerary is subject to change.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.ca/bc.



The world leader in international education

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: Opening the World Through Education. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and global competence.

THE EASIEST WAYS TO
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Enrol by website
eftours.ca/enroll

Enrol by mail
EF Educational Tours
80 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON M5S 2V1



Your Price Quote

Vimy 110: Journey of Remembrance

Prepared For
Shawn Lank

Prepared On
September 23, 2025

Tour Page
www.eftours.ca/VIM



Total Price

Price valid for travellers enrolled October 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025

Student

\$6,199

or \$353 / 17 mos

Adult

\$7,409

or \$425 / 17 mos

Student Price Breakdown

Program Price	\$6,000
Peace of Mind	FREE
Global Travel Protection Plan	\$199

For every 6 paying travellers, 1 chaperone travels FREE

Adult supplement required for age 20 and older at the time of travel, roomed in twin accommodation. Students, travelers under age 20, will be roomed in triples or quads.

Program Price valid for today. Program price includes HST/GST where applicable, (domestic tours only), departure taxes, and airport fees. Please call 1-800-387-1460 for more information.

To view EF's Booking Conditions, visit eftours.ca/bc which outline full price inclusions, payment schedule, cancellation, and refund policies.

We understand that plans sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances. EF's Peace of Mind Program allows your entire group to change your tour or departure date. Your group can feel secure planning your trip, knowing that your plans are flexible.

Travellers may also purchase the Global Travel Protection Plan and, if applicable, the Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) Insurance Add-On. Please visit eftours.ca/coverage for complete terms, conditions and exclusions by referring to the Zurich Certificate of Insurance.

Itinerary shown is for 2027 travel. Itineraries are subject to change biannually, please call for more details.

EF Educational Tours is registered with TICO (registration #2395858) Consumer Protection BC (registration #73991) and a holder of a Quebec permit with the Office de la protection du consommateur (OPC permit #702732). For residents of Quebec: Effective November 1, 2021, contribution to Travel Agent Compensation Fund (FICAV) of \$3.50 per \$1000 is included in the Program Price. Find out more at ficav.gouv.qc.ca/en.

Your travel details

Total Length

11 days

Departing From

Prince George (BC)

Requested Travel Dates

Saturday, April 3, 2027 - Tuesday, April 13, 2027

Your Departure Date Range

Earliest Requested Latest
Thu, Apr. 1 Sat, Apr. 3 Mon, Apr. 5

Everything you get

Tour Inclusion

Round trip economy class flights, hotels with private baths roomed in triples or quads, breakfasts and dinners (see your itinerary for meal details), on-tour transportation and sightseeing activities are covered. Discover all of your itinerary details at www.eftours.ca/VIM.

Full-time History Tour Director

Your dedicated Tour Director, specially trained in Canadian history, stays with you 24/7 to handle all on-tour logistics and provide knowledgeable insights everywhere you go.

Expert Local Guides

Your expert local guides add cultural insight and global perspective on your sightseeing tours.

Personalized Learning Support

Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project.

Continuous Support

Your dedicated EF team helps you every step of the way—from recruiting and enrolling travellers to planning and managing your tour.

24-hour Emergency Service

Travellers and their families can count on EF's dedicated emergency service team.

Worldwide Presence

EF has over 500 schools and offices in more than 50 countries worldwide so wherever you go, we're there too.

Peace of Mind Program

Feel secure knowing your group can change their destination or travel dates due to unforeseen circumstances.

Your Tour Consultant



Stef Carlson
1-800-387-1460
stef.carlson@ef.com

WATER COMPONENT FORM

** Complete this form and attach to your application as required. **

MODERATE-RISK	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Near fast moving or open water <input type="checkbox"/> Fish release <input type="checkbox"/> Creek or stream programs <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming in public pool <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swimming in hotel pool/hot tub	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed on permission form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher/chaperone supervision
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming in unguarded or private pool <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming in lake near shore <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing or kayaking near shore <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed on permission form <input type="checkbox"/> Certified lifeguard or swimming instructor(s) Name: _____ Level: _____ Name: _____ Level: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Certified BC/CRCA boating instructor Name: _____ Level: _____
HIGH-RISK	
<input type="checkbox"/> On fast moving water (e.g., river rafting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parental informed consent <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on permission form <input type="checkbox"/> Company documents: water certification/insurance policy/informed consent process
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing in lake (<i>not near shore</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking in lake (<i>not near shore</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming in lake (<i>not near shore</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Lake crossing <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Parental informed consent <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on permission form <input type="checkbox"/> Certified BC/CRCA canoe or kayak instructor Name: _____ Level: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Certified lifeguard or swimming instructor Name: _____ Level: _____

Provide a description of the water component: *if the hotel has a pool, students may want to use it. There is also a River & Canal Tour.*

SCHOOL USE:	Principal/Vice Principal
Comments:	_____
Principal/Vice Principal:	Date: _____



Government
of Canada

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du Canada

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France travel advice

Exercise a high degree of caution

Latest updates: The Health section was updated - travel health information (Public Health Agency of Canada)

Last updated: October 27, 2025 10:05 ET

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- [Health](#)
- [Laws and culture](#)
- [Natural disasters and climate](#)
- [Need help?](#)



Risk level

France - Exercise a high degree of caution

[Exercise a high degree of caution](#) in France due to the elevated threat of terrorism.



Safety and security

Terrorism

There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorists have carried out attacks in several European cities.

Over the past few years in France, several opportunistic and premeditated attacks have occurred. These have resulted in many deaths and injuries. Further attacks are likely.

Vigipirate plan

The Vigipirate plan is a set of measures established by the French government to prepare and protect the French population, infrastructure and institutions in the event of an attack. The aim is also to allow rapid deployment of intervention measures if necessary.

As part of this plan, the government maintains a 3-level public alert system for terrorism. The Vigipirate plan's security level is currently at level 3, « urgence attentat » ("attack emergency"). Changes in the threat level are communicated online and through local and national media.

[Vigipirate plan](#) – Government of France (in French)

Operation Sentinelle

Operation Sentinelle allows the deployment of military brigades in public places to patrol and deter terrorist acts. Expect an increased police or military presence in public places.

Enhanced security measures have been deployed in various strategic locations, including:

- transport hubs
- public places
- tourist locations, especially in Paris

Attacks can occur anywhere. Terrorists may target:

- government buildings, including schools
- places of worship
- cultural venues, including concert halls, nightclubs, and event centres
- airports and other transportation hubs and networks
- public areas such as tourist attractions, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, shopping centres, markets, hotels and other sites frequented by foreigners

Always be aware of your surroundings when in public places. Be particularly vigilant if attending sporting events and during religious holidays and other public celebrations, as terrorists have used such occasions to mount attacks.

Useful links

- Information on the terrorist threat in France – Ministry of the Interior (French only)
- How to react in case of a terrorist attack – Government of France (French only)
- Social media accounts of the Ministry of the Interior – Ministry of the Interior (French only)
- Vigipirate – General secretary of defense and national security (French only)

Crime

Petty crime

Petty crimes, such as pickpocketing and purse and mobile phone snatching, are common. Thieves often target tourists.

Petty crime occurs frequently on public transportation, particularly:

- the Paris metro
- Île-de-France regional express network (RER) lines linking the capital to its surroundings
- international rail routes such as Paris-Brussels-Amsterdam and Paris-London.

Thieves are very skilled. They often act in groups and regularly work with minors. They may use various techniques to divert your attention and steal your belongings.

Thieves are mainly active in large cities and busy places, such as:

- popular tourist sites
- department stores
- restaurants and patios
- hotel lobbies
- parks
- transport hubs

During your trip:

- keep your personal belongings, including your passport and other travel documents, in a secure place
- don't carry large sums of cash or valuables unnecessarily
- avoid walking alone after dark
- be aware of your surroundings, especially in busy tourist areas

- be extra cautious when withdrawing cash from ATMs
- Keep a photocopy of your passport in a safe place in case it's stolen

Lost or stolen belongings abroad

Violent crimes

Violent crimes are rarer, but still occur.

Tourists are sometimes victims of violent attacks by groups of young people who want to rob them. These attacks usually occur :

- around major tourist attractions
- near railway stations
- on trains of the Île-de-France regional express network (RER) connecting the capital to its surroundings

Assaults can also occur outside night-time establishments and in more isolated areas at night.

Residential break-ins

Residential break-ins occur, especially in large cities and coastal areas. Burglars sometimes target houses or holiday rental apartments.

While in France:

- be vigilant, particularly when approached by strangers
- ensure that your belongings, including passports and other travel documents, are secure at all times
- avoid showing signs of affluence and carrying large sums of cash
- limit the use of mobile phones on public transportation and in crowded areas to ensure you remain aware of your surroundings and to avoid attracting attention
- don't keep your credit, debit cards and cash in the same place

- never leave your bags unsupervised
- choose well-secured accommodation and make sure you lock doors and windows at night and when you're away

Parked vehicles and vehicles on the road

Vehicle break-ins are frequent. Theft of parked cars or their contents is particularly common on beach roads in the south of France and at highway rest stops throughout the country, especially during the summer, when there is a high number of travellers.

- Leave nothing in view in the vehicle
- Use secure parking facilities
- Be particularly vigilant when renting automobiles, as rented vehicles are a target of choice

Drivers are often tricked into stopping their cars by thieves who either obstruct the road or distract the driver by flashing their headlights. They may also pretend that you have a flat tire or even puncture a tire themselves. Once the vehicle is stopped, the thieves seize the opportunity to steal a bag or other valuable objects.

- Beware of any person who waves at you to stop on the highway
- Be especially vigilant when stopped at traffic lights, as bags are often snatched from the front passenger seat by thieves travelling on scooters
- Keep windows closed and doors locked at all times

Victims of crime

If you're a victim of theft, go to the nearest police station to report the crime. Keep a copy of your theft report, as you will need it if you wish to make a claim to your insurer. If the incident takes place in the metro, a

metro officer can direct you to the nearest police station.

You can complete an online pre-complaint for certain types of minor crime, such as property theft, before going to the police station. This may speed up the process once you get there.

Useful links

- [Prevention advice for tourists](#) - Préfecture de police de Paris
- [Online pre-complaint](#) - Ministry of the Interior (in French)

Bomb threats

Since October 2023, there have been a number of bomb threats reported in public places across France.

Bomb threats and hoaxes can target any location, including:

- tourist areas
- shopping centres
- transportation hubs
- government facilities
- schools
- religious institutions

If you are in an area targeted by a bomb threat, follow the instructions of local authorities including evacuation orders.

Fraud

Credit card and ATM fraud

Credit card and ATM fraud occurs.

When using debit or credit cards:

- pay careful attention if other people are handling your cards

- use ATMs located in public areas or inside a bank or business
- avoid using card readers with an irregular or unusual feature
- cover the keypad with one hand when entering your PIN
- check for any unauthorized transaction on your account statements

Cybercrime

Cybercrime and online extortion, including phishing scams, occur.

Cybercriminals can compromise public Wi-Fi networks to steal personal data or credit information. They may try to trick you with communications that seem legitimate but are fraudulent. These could include promises of discounted merchandise or accommodations, or free event tickets.

- Use secure public Wi-Fi networks
- Carry your own USB adaptor or carry an extra battery pack instead of using public charging stations
- Make online purchases only from secure and official websites
- Be cautious when posting information or photos on social media
- Beware of people who show a keen interest in you online
- Always meet new acquaintances in a secure and familiar location

Useful links

- [Overseas fraud](#)
- [Cyber security while travelling](#)
- [Don't take the bait : Recognize and avoid phishing attacks](#)

Demonstrations

Demonstrations occur frequently. They are usually planned as permission from the local authorities is required. However, unauthorized and spontaneous demonstrations also take place.

Even peaceful demonstrations can turn violent at any time. They can also lead to disruptions to traffic and public transportation.

Radical activists and vandals have a history of using aggressive and violent tactics during demonstrations in order to cause damage and provoke a strong response from the police. They sometimes throw stones, smoke grenades, bottles and other debris at rallies. The police normally respond with tear gas to disperse the crowds.

- Avoid areas where demonstrations and large gatherings are taking place
- Follow the instructions of local authorities
- Monitor local media for information on ongoing demonstrations

Mass gatherings (large-scale events)

Strikes

Strikes and pressure tactics occur regularly, particularly in key sectors such as transport. These strikes can sometimes complicate travel and disrupt public services.

- Consult local media to be aware of strikes that may affect your stay or travel plans
- In the event of a transport strike, plan extra time to get to your destination

Swimming, boating and water safety

Swimming

Coastal waters can be dangerous. Always obey warning flags at beaches.

The main warning flags used in France are:

- Green: calm waters, swimming is allowed
- Yellow: agitated waters, swim with precautions
- Red: dangerous waters, swimming is prohibited
- Purple: contaminated waters or presence of dangerous aquatic species, swimming is prohibited

In autumn and winter, be cautious when walking on the shore, as waves can be unpredictable, breaking further than expected and causing strong undertows.

- Avoid visiting beaches or coastal areas during periods of severe weather warnings
- Look out for signs warning of cliff erosion and falling rocks
- Don't dive into unknown waters, as hidden rocks or shallow depths can cause serious injury or death
- Exercise caution and follow the advice of the local authorities

Recreational boating

If you are planning to go boating:

- know the capacity of your boat (people and weight) and don't exceed it
- know the navigation rules
- follow safe practices for all activities on the water: personal watercraft, water-skiing and towed devices, diving or swimming, fishing, etc.
- equip your boat with a VHF marine radio that will generate your position in case of emergency
- be prepared for emergencies

Search and rescue missions in France are carried out by the Regional Operational Surveillance and Rescue Centres (CROSS). In case of emergency, contact the centre on VHF radio channel 16 or by dialling 196.

Useful links

- [Surveillance and rescue at sea - Ministry of the Sea \(in French\)](#)
- [Water safety abroad](#)

Mountain activities

Mountain activities, such as hiking, can be dangerous, especially if they are not well prepared. Trails are not always marked and weather conditions can change rapidly, even in summer.

In winter, heavy snowfall can make it difficult to reach some villages and ski centres. Roads may become impassable. There is also a risk of avalanches, some of which can be fatal.

If you intend to go hiking, mountaineering or skiing:

- never do so alone and do not part with your hiking companions
- buy travel insurance that includes helicopter rescue and medical evacuation
- ensure that your physical condition is good enough to meet the challenges of your activity
- do not venture off marked trails or slopes
- ensure that you're adequately equipped
- stay informed about weather and other conditions that may pose a hazard
- inform a family member or friend of your itinerary
- know the symptoms of high-altitude illnesses, which can be fatal

- obtain detailed information on your activity and on the environment in which you will be doing it before setting out

Useful links

- Information on mountain conditions - Association nationale pour l'étude de la neige et des avalanches (ANENA) (in French)
- Specialised mountain units - Gendarmerie nationale (in French)
- Avalanche forecasts and warnings - European Avalanche Warning Service (EAWS)

Road safety

French roads are well maintained.

Drive carefully and respect the Highway Code.

Public transportation

Urban and intercity public transportation is reliable. When using these types of transport, make sure you validate your ticket and keep it until the end of your journey. The authorities carry out regular random checks and you may be fined if you do not have a validated ticket.

Taxis

There is a problem of illegal taxis in Paris airports and train stations.

These scammers charge much higher rates than the official ones.

- Ignore direct solicitations when leaving the airport or train station
- Use only official taxis or a trusted ride-sharing app
- Don't share a taxi with strangers

Air travel

We do not make assessments on the compliance of foreign domestic airlines with international safety standards.

[Information about foreign domestic airlines](#)

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Entry and exit requirements

The authorities of a country or territory decide who can enter or exit through its borders. The Government of Canada cannot intervene on your behalf if you do not meet your destination's entry or exit requirements.

We have obtained the information on this page from the French authorities. It can, however, change at any time.

Verify this information with the [Foreign Representatives in Canada](#).



Entry/Exit System (EES)

The Entry/Exit System (EES) began operations on October 12, 2025.

The EES is an automated registration system for travellers from countries outside the European Union or the Schengen area. You will be required to register through this system upon arrival at the border of any of the 29 countries in the Schengen area.

You don't need to take any action before you travel. The EES collects information about your trip as well as your facial image and fingerprints.

Useful links

- [Travelling to Europe](#)
- [Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#) – European Union

Schengen area

France is a Schengen area country. Canadian citizens do not need a visa for travel to countries within the Schengen area. However, visa-free travel only applies to stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Stays are cumulative and include visits to any Schengen area country.

Member states may reintroduce temporary controls at internal border crossings within the Schengen area. You may be required to pass through immigration controls when entering France, even if arriving from another Schengen area country. Verify if temporary border controls are in effect before you travel to France.

If you plan to stay in the Schengen area for a longer period of time, you will need a visa. You must contact the high commission or embassy of the country or countries you are travelling to and obtain the appropriate visa(s) before your departure.

Useful links

- [Schengen area](#)
- [Foreign Representatives in Canada](#)
- [Temporary Reintroduction of Border Control – European Commission](#)

Passport

Entry requirements vary depending on the type of passport you're travelling with.

Before you travel, check with your transportation company about passport requirements. Its rules on passport validity may be more stringent than the country's entry rules.

Regular Canadian passport

Your passport must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date you expect to leave the Schengen area.

Passport for official travel

Different entry rules may apply.

Official travel

Passport with “X” gender identifier

While the Government of Canada issues passports with a "X" gender identifier, it cannot guarantee your entry or transit through other countries. You might face entry restrictions in countries that do not recognize the "X" gender identifier. Before you leave, verify this information with the closest foreign representative for your destination.

You should also be aware that current systems used by some countries and travel companies may not recognize the "X" gender identifier. You may still be asked to provide your sex/gender information as either male or female when travelling.

Other travel documents

Different entry rules may apply when travelling with a temporary passport or an emergency travel document. Before you leave, verify this information with the closest foreign representative for your destination.

Useful links

- [Travel and your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics](#)
- [Foreign Representatives in Canada](#)
- [Canadian passports and other travel documents](#)

Visas

Tourist visa: not required for stays up to 90 days in any 180-day period

Long-stay or residency visa: required for stays longer than 90 days

Work permit: required

Student visa: required for stays longer than 90 days

Useful links

- [More information on Visas - Government of France](#)

- [Guide to temporary entry into France under CETA](#)

Other entry requirements

Customs officials may ask you to show them a return or onward ticket and proof of sufficient funds to cover your stay.

Children and travel

To leave France, any child under the age of 18 who normally resides in France must be accompanied by at least one parent. Children travelling without at least one parent must be in possession of:

- an authorization to leave the country signed by one of the parents
- a photocopy of the signing parent's identification

Useful links

- [More information on the authorization to leave the country](#) - French administration services
- [More about travelling with children](#)

Yellow fever

Learn about [potential entry requirements related to yellow fever](#) (vaccines section).

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Relevant Travel Health Notices

- [Measles: Advice for travellers](#) - 12 May, 2025

- COVID-19 and International Travel - 12 May, 2025

This section has information and advice about health risks you might face when travelling. Following this advice can help reduce your risk of getting sick. Not all risks are listed here.

It's best to talk to a healthcare provider or visit a travel health clinic preferably 6 weeks before your trip to get personalized health advice. Even if your travel date is coming up soon, it's still worthwhile to make an appointment.

Routine vaccines

Make sure your routine vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel, no matter where you're going.

These may include vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, varicella (chickenpox), meningococcal disease, seasonal flu, and others.

Provincial and Territorial Immunization Information

Pre-travel vaccines and medications

When travelling in this destination, you might be at risk for diseases that can be prevented with vaccines or medications. Talk to a travel health care provider about which ones are right for you based on your travel plans.

The highlights below will also tell you if your destination may require that vaccine for entering or exiting.

- Yellow Fever - Country Entry Requirements

► Tick-borne encephalitis

► Measles

► Hepatitis B

► COVID-19

► Influenza

► Rabies

Safe food and water precautions

Eating or drinking unsafe food or water, or swimming in contaminated water can make you sick while travelling. Take precautions by following these tips:

- Boil it, cook it, peel it, or leave it (only eat food that is prepared safely)
- Avoid, if possible, getting water in your eyes, mouth, or nose when swimming in freshwater (like streams, lakes, or canals), especially after heavy rain or flooding - the water might look clean but can still be contaminated
- Don't swallow water when bathing, showering, swimming in pools, or using hot tubs

Eat and drink safely abroad

Tick and insect bite prevention

Many diseases are spread by bites from infected ticks and insects like mosquitoes, fleas, or flies. Before you travel, find out what types of ticks or insects are in the area, when they're most active, and what diseases

they can spread.

To protect yourself from bites:

- use an approved bug spray (insect repellent) on exposed skin
- wear light-coloured, loose clothing made of tightly woven materials like nylon or polyester
- wear socks and closed-toe shoes
- sleep under mosquito netting if you're outdoors or staying in places that aren't fully enclosed
- do a full body tick check on yourself, your children, your gear, and any pets you're travelling with when you return from outdoor activities

Insect bite and pest prevention

Personal insect repellents

- ▶ Dengue
- ▶ Zika virus
- ▶ Chikungunya

Animal precautions

Some infections can spread directly from animals to people, like rabies or bird flu (avian influenza). Others don't spread directly from animals but can infect people who visit areas animals have contaminated with their droppings or body fluids.

Certain activities can increase your chances of coming into contact with animals, their droppings, or their body fluids, like:

- travelling in rural or forested areas
- camping, hiking, or visiting caves

- visiting places where live animals are sold or killed for food, like wet markets

To reduce your risk of getting sick:

- avoid contact with animals like stray dogs, livestock (such as pigs and cows), monkeys, snakes, rodents, birds, and bats.
- stay away from places where animal waste can build up, such as caves
- avoid eating undercooked meat

Make sure to closely watch children; they are more likely to try to touch animals.

Person-to-person infections

When travelling, you can reduce your risk of getting or spreading respiratory infections, like the flu or COVID-19, by:

- staying at your accommodation and limiting contact with others if you're sick
- wearing a well-fitting mask, especially:
 - if you're sick and need to be around others
 - when you're at large indoor events or in crowded settings, like sporting events, concerts, and airports
- cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol
- covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow, not your hands

Mass gatherings (large-scale events)

Clean your hands to help reduce the spread of infectious diseases

Respiratory infectious diseases: How to reduce the spread with personal

protective measures

To lower your risk of getting sexually transmissible infections (STIs), HIV, and mpox, you can:

- get vaccinated against mpox if you're eligible
- practise safer sex methods
 - use barrier protection during sexual activity, like condoms and dental dams.

Mpox vaccines

Sexual health and travel

HIV and AIDS: Travel health advice

Medical services and facilities

Health care is excellent and available throughout the country. Up-front payment may be required.

Make sure you get travel insurance that includes coverage for medical evacuation and hospital stays.

Health and safety outside Canada

Keep in Mind...

The decision to travel is the sole responsibility of the traveller. The traveller is also responsible for his or her own personal safety.

Be prepared. Do not expect medical services to be the same as in Canada. Pack a travel health kit, especially if you will be travelling away from major city centres.

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Laws and culture

You must abide by local laws.

Learn about what you should do and how we can help if you are arrested or detained abroad.

Transfer to a Canadian prison

Canada and France are signatories to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. This enables a Canadian imprisoned in France to request a transfer to a Canadian prison to complete a sentence. The transfer requires the agreement of both Canadian and France authorities.

This process can take a long time, and there is no guarantee that the transfer will be approved by either or both sides.

Drugs

Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe. Convicted offenders can expect jail sentences or heavy fines.

Drugs, alcohol and travel

Identity checks

You may be subject to identity checks during your stay in France.

Always carry valid identification such as a driver's licence, passport or a copy of it.

Keep photocopies or digital copies of the following documents, in case of loss or seizure:

- the identification page of your passport
- your birth certificate
- your Canadian citizenship card
- your driver's licence

Keep originals and copies in separate safe locations.

Concealing your face in public places

In France, it's illegal to cover your face in public places, including international airport arrivals areas.

Offenders risk a very high fine. There is no exemption for tourists or for religious reasons.

Useful links

- [Identity checks](#) - French administration services
- [Concealment of the face in public places](#) - French administration services

Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is legally recognized in France.

If you are a Canadian citizen, but also a citizen of France, our ability to offer you consular services may be limited while you're there. You may also be subject to different [entry/exit requirements](#).

Dual citizens

International Child Abduction

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is an international treaty. It can help parents with the return of children who have been removed to or retained in certain countries in

violation of custody rights. The convention applies between Canada and France.

If your child was wrongfully taken to, or is being held in France, and if the applicable conditions are met, you may apply for the return of your child to the French court.

If you are in this situation:

- act as quickly as you can
- contact the Central Authority for your province or territory of residence for information on starting an application under The Hague Convention
- consult a lawyer in Canada and in France to explore all the legal options for the return of your child
- report the situation to the nearest Canadian government office abroad or to the Vulnerable Children's Consular Unit at Global Affairs Canada by calling the Emergency Watch and Response Centre

If your child was removed from a country other than Canada, consult a lawyer to determine if The Hague Convention applies.

Be aware that Canadian consular officials cannot interfere in private legal matters or in another country's judicial affairs.

Useful links

- [List of Canadian Central Authorities for the Hague Convention](#)
- [International Child Abductions: A guide for affected parents](#)
- [Children and travel](#)
- [The Hague Convention](#) – Hague Conference on Private International Law
- [Canadian embassies and consulates by destination](#)

- Request emergency assistance

Drones

Recreational and commercial flying of drones is regulated.

You must register your drone to use it across the European Union. If you don't comply, you may be fined and your drone confiscated.

Useful links

- Civil drones - European Union Aviation Safety Agency
- General Directorate of Civil Aviation – Government of France (in French)
- Drones: piloting rules to follow– Government of France (in French)

Driving

You must be at least 18 years old to drive a car in France.

You should carry an International Driving Permit. You can drive with your Canadian licence for up to 1 year. If you stay in France, you will have to exchange your Canadian licence for a French licence.

Numerous roadside cameras have been installed to help enforce traffic regulations. You could receive heavy fines if you do not obey the speed limit or the Highway Code. Local authorities may also confiscate your driver's licence.

Fines must generally be paid within 3 days. They may be increased in case of delay of payment.

A reflective vest and warning triangle are mandatory in all vehicles.

From November 1 to March 31, winter tires or chains are compulsory in some cities and regions in mountainous areas.

Priority to the right

The “priority to the right” system is in effect in France. Drivers must give way to vehicles approaching from the right at intersections, even on secondary roads. This is often a surprise to foreign drivers and results in accidents.

In general, traffic in a roundabout has priority over vehicles trying to enter it. Priority switches to vehicles from the left.

Low-emission zones

Some cities and territories have put in place low emission zones to reduce air pollution.

Access to these zones is restricted to vehicles that meet certain environmental standards. You may need to get a permit to drive in these areas.

Useful links

- [More information about road travel in France](#) - European Commission
- [Obligations to equip vehicles in winter](#) - French administration services (in French)
- [Air quality certificates: Crit'Air](#) - Ministry of Ecological Transition (in French)

Money

The currency of France is the euro (EUR).

If you are carrying €10,000 or more, or the equivalent in other currencies or monetary instruments, you must make a declaration to customs when you enter or leave the European Union.

This does not apply if you are travelling within the European Union or in transit to a non-EU country.

[EU Cash Controls](#) – European Commission

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Natural disasters and climate

Avalanches

There is a risk of avalanches in mountainous areas, which can cause fatal accidents. If you intend to ski or climb, find out about the weather and safety conditions and follow the advice given.

Useful links

- [Familiarise yourself with the avalanche risk levels](#) - French administration services
- [Information on mountain conditions](#) - Association nationale pour l'étude de la neige et des avalanches (ANENA) (in French)
- [Avalanche forecasts and warnings](#) - European Avalanche Warning Service (EAWS)

Flooding

There is a risk of seasonal flooding, particularly in areas along major rivers and streams. Flooding can hamper overland travel and the provision of essential services.

The French government has a flood forecasting service called Vigicrues.

- Follow the instructions of local authorities

- Stay informed of the latest regional weather forecasts

Flooding risk - Vigicrues

Forest and maquis fires

Forest and maquis fires often occur in summer, particularly on the Mediterranean coast and in Corsica.

The air quality in areas near active fires may deteriorate due to heavy smoke.

There is a ban on smoking in woods and forests during high forest fire risk periods as defined by the prefecture. This ban applies equally to areas situated within 200m of wooded areas.

In case of a major fire:

- stay away from affected areas, particularly if you suffer from respiratory ailments
- follow the advice of local authorities
- monitor local media for up-to-date information on the situation

Forest weather – Météo France (in French)

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Local services

► Emergency services

- ▶ **Paris** - Embassy of Canada
- ▶ **Nice** - Honorary consul of Canada
- ▶ **Lyon** - Honorary consul of Canada
- ▶ **Wellington** - High Commission of Canada

Consular assistance - France

Please call the consulates before visiting them.

For emergency consular assistance, call the Embassy of Canada to France, in Paris, and follow the instructions

Consular assistance - Wallis and Futuna

For emergency consular assistance, call the High Commission of Canada to New Zealand, in Wellington, and follow the instructions.

At any time, you may also contact the [Emergency Watch and Response Centre](#) in Ottawa.



Useful links

- [Register as a Canadian abroad](#)
- [View travel insurance information](#)
- [Read our Traveller's Checklist](#)
- [Advice for different types of travellers](#)
- [What to do if things go wrong](#)

Disclaimer

The decision to travel is your choice and you are responsible for your personal safety abroad. We take the safety and security of Canadians abroad very seriously and provide credible and timely information in our Travel Advice to enable you to make well-informed decisions regarding your travel abroad.

The content on this page is provided for information only. While we make every effort to give you correct information, it is provided on an "as is" basis without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied. The Government of Canada does not assume responsibility and will not be liable for any damages in connection to the information provided.

If you need consular assistance while abroad, we will make every effort to help you. However, there may be constraints that will limit the ability of the Government of Canada to provide services.

Learn more about [consular services](#).

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2025-10-27



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United Kingdom travel advice

Exercise a high degree of caution

Latest updates: Need help? – editorial change

Last updated: October 14, 2025 16:11 ET

On this page

- [Risk level](#)
- [Safety and security](#)
- [Entry and exit requirements](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Laws and culture](#)
- [Natural disasters and climate](#)
- [Need help?](#)



Risk level

United Kingdom - Exercise a high degree of caution

Exercise a high degree of caution in the United Kingdom due to the threat of terrorism.

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Safety and security

Terrorism

There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorists have carried out attacks in several European cities.

In the United Kingdom, previous attacks have resulted in casualties. They have included random violent incidents in public areas, such as knife and vehicle attacks as well as explosions.

These incidents have occurred mainly in the London area but have also happened elsewhere.

Further attacks in the United Kingdom are likely. Targets could include:

- government buildings, including schools
- places of worship
- airports and other transportation hubs and networks
- public areas such as tourist attractions, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, shopping centres, markets, hotels and other sites frequented by foreigners

Always be aware of your surroundings when in public places. Be particularly vigilant if attending:

- sporting events
- religious holidays
- public celebrations
- major political events, such as elections

Terrorists have used such occasions to mount attacks.

The Government of the United Kingdom maintains a public alert system on terrorism and communicates terrorism and national emergency threat level changes online and through local media. The national terrorism and national emergency threat level is currently 3 ("substantial") on a scale of 5. A separate threat level for Northern Ireland is currently 4 ("severe") on a scale of 5.

National threat level - British Home Office

Demonstrations

Demonstrations take place regularly. Even peaceful demonstrations can turn violent at any time. Past violent clashes between protestors and security forces have resulted in assaults, riots, looting and vandalism. Protests can deteriorate quickly. They can also lead to disruptions to traffic and public transportation.

- Avoid areas where demonstrations, protests and large gatherings are taking place
- Exercise caution
- Expect an increased security force presence in areas where demonstrations are taking place
- Follow the instructions of local authorities
- Monitor local media for information on ongoing demonstrations

Crime

Petty crime

Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching, is common. Cellphone theft is common in certain tourist areas of London. Vehicle theft and theft from parked vehicles also occurs, particularly in tourist

areas and roadside rest areas. Theft is common in restaurants, pubs and bars. Never leave bags or purses hanging on the back of your chair.

Thieves work alone and in groups. They may use various techniques to distract you and steal your belongings.

They are especially active in crowded areas, such as:

- tourist attractions and busy areas, including Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square and Leicester Square
- airports and public transportation
- patios and outdoor cafés
- hotel lobbies
- underground pedestrian walkways
- roadside stops

Violent crime

Violent crime, such as mugging, knife crime and sexual assault occurs, particularly in larger cities. There have been incidents of passengers being sexually assaulted and robbed when riding in unlicensed taxis.

If you are the victim of a crime on the transportation system, including in a taxi, consult Transport for London to learn how to report it.

[Report a crime or incident on the transportation system](#) - Transport for London

During your trip:

- ensure that your belongings, including your passport, are secure at all times
- don't keep your passport and other types of ID at the same place and carry a photocopy rather than the original
- avoid showing signs of affluence

- avoid carrying large sums of cash or unnecessary valuables
- pay attention to your surroundings, particularly in crowded and tourist areas
- be wary of unsolicited offers or advice from strangers
- be vigilant in urban areas, particularly after dark
- never leave personal belongings unattended in a vehicle, even in the trunk
- use secure parking facilities, especially overnight

Spiked food and drinks

Snacks, beverages, gum and cigarettes may contain drugs that could put you at risk of sexual assault and robbery.

- Be wary of accepting these items from new acquaintances
- Never leave food or drinks unattended or in the care of strangers

Fraud

Credit card and ATM fraud

Credit card and ATM fraud occurs. Fraud can range from simple to sophisticated, and sometimes involve hidden electronic devices that obtain account information and personal identification numbers.

When using debit or credit cards:

- pay careful attention when others are handling your cards
- use ATMs located in public areas or inside a bank or business
- avoid using card readers with an irregular or unusual feature
- cover the keypad with one hand when entering your PIN
- check for any unauthorized transactions on your account statements

Cybercrime

Cybercrime occurs. Perpetrators may compromise public Wi-Fi networks to steal credit card or personal information.

- Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks
- Avoid making purchases on unsecured websites
- Use judgment when posting information on social media
- Be especially careful if you are meeting people you have met online
- Never click a suspicious link in an email or text message asking for your credit card details

Useful links

- [More about overseas fraud](#)
- [Cybercrime - National Crime Agency](#)

Strikes

Strikes and pressure tactics occur from time to time, in key sectors such as transport. These strikes can sometimes complicate travel and disrupt public services.

- Consult local media to be aware of strikes that may affect your stay or travel plans
- In the event of a transport strike, plan extra time to get to your destination

Northern Ireland

Inter-communal tensions can arise from April to August during the summer marching season. This is particularly common during the weeks leading up to July 12.

During the summer marching season:

- expect possible delays and disruptions in some areas
- exercise caution
- follow the advice of local authorities

Mass gatherings (large-scale events)

Adventure tourism

Outdoor activities, such as hiking and biking, may lead to safety concerns if they are not well-organized. Weather conditions can change rapidly, even in summer.

Avalanches can occur in Scotland, especially in the Cairngorms area between December and April. Check local avalanche forecasts before you go.

If you intend to go walking, biking or hiking in remote areas:

- never do so alone and do not part with your hiking companions
- obtain detailed information on your activity and on the environment in which you will be doing it before setting out
- buy travel insurance that includes helicopter rescue and medical evacuation
- ensure that your physical condition is good enough to meet the challenges of your activity
- avoid venturing off marked trails
- ensure that you're adequately equipped
- stay informed about weather and other conditions that may pose a hazard
- inform a family member or friend of your itinerary

Useful links

- Weather conditions - Met Office

- [Avalanche Forecasts](#) - Scottish Avalanche Information Service

Road safety

Vehicles drive on the left.

Pedestrians should use caution when crossing streets and be mindful that traffic comes from the opposite direction than it does in Canada. There are many one-way streets in London and other cities. Always confirm the direction of traffic before you cross the street.

Road conditions

Roads are excellent but are often narrow and congested, especially in urban areas. Use caution when entering a traffic circle (roundabout). Rural roads may become hazardous during severe weather conditions. You should be especially careful when driving in the countryside during periods bad weather or freezing temperature. You should always slow down before approaching turns on narrow roads as curves may hide oncoming traffic.

Public transportation

Public transportation is extensive. Train and bus services connect most cities and areas of the country.

Taxis

Taxis are widely available. Only use officially licensed and marked taxis or private hire vehicles.

Useful links

- [Getting around Britain](#) - Visit Britain
- [Train schedules and service alerts](#) - National Rail

- Taxis and minicabs – Transport for London

Air travel

We do not make assessments on the compliance of foreign domestic airlines with international safety standards.

Information about foreign domestic airlines

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Entry and exit requirements

The authorities of a country or territory decide who can enter or exit through its borders. The Government of Canada cannot intervene on your behalf if you do not meet your destination's entry or exit requirements.

We have obtained the information on this page from the British authorities. It can, however, change at any time.

Verify this information with the Foreign Representatives in Canada.

Passport

Entry requirements vary depending on the type of passport you're travelling with.

Before you travel, check with your transportation company about passport requirements. Its rules on passport validity may be more stringent than the country's entry rules.

Regular Canadian passport

Your passport must be valid for at least the expected duration of your stay in the United Kingdom. This requirement may also apply when travelling to Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom, and vice versa.

Passport for official travel

Different entry rules may apply.

Official travel

Passport with “X” gender identifier

While the Government of Canada issues passports with a “X” gender identifier, it cannot guarantee your entry or transit through other countries. You might face entry restrictions in countries that do not recognize the “X” gender identifier. Before you leave, verify this information with the closest foreign representative for your destination.

You should also be aware that current systems used by some countries and travel companies may not recognize the “X” gender identifier. You may still be asked to provide your sex/gender information as either male or female when travelling.

Other travel documents

Different entry rules may apply when travelling with a temporary passport or an emergency travel document. Before you leave, verify this information with the closest foreign representative for your destination.

Useful links

- [Travel and your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics](#)
- [Foreign Representatives in Canada](#)

- Canadian passports and other travel documents

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

You need to apply for an ETA before travelling to the UK. You must travel on the passport used for your ETA application.

You do not need an ETA if:

- you are transiting through an airport in the UK without passing border control
- you are a dual national travelling on your British, Irish, or British overseas territories citizen passport
- you have a visa or permission to live, work or study in the UK
- you live in Ireland and you are travelling from Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man

[Apply for an electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\) – UK Visas and Immigration](#)

Visas

Tourist visa: not required for stays of up to 6 months

Business visa or work permit: required

Student visa: required

You may need a work permit or visa even if you plan to do:

- unpaid work
- volunteer work
- part-time work
- temporary work

A marriage visitor visa is also required if you plan to get married or register a civil partnership in the United Kingdom.

You must apply online for your visa before you travel to the UK. The High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom, in London, cannot assist you in your visa application process. Useful links

- [Check if you need a UK visa](#) - UK Government
- [UK Visas and Immigration](#) - UK Government
- [Pay for UK healthcare as part of your immigration application](#) - UK Government

Other entry requirements

UK Border officials may ask you to show them a return or onward ticket and proof that you have sufficient funds to support yourself for the duration of your stay.

If you are unable to do so, or if you seek entry as a visitor but are found with items indicating that you intend to seek any type of employment (such as curriculum vitae or educational certificates), you may be denied entry and expelled from the country.

Similarly, if you seek entry as a visitor and are suspected of planning to reside in the UK for any reason, including having a UK-based partner, you may be denied entry.

If you have previously been refused entry, contact the British High Commission in Ottawa to enquire about entry clearance before making plans to visit the UK, even if a visa is normally not required.

Transiting through a United Kingdom airport

If you plan to transit through a United Kingdom airport, make sure you comply with the entry requirements of your final destination. If you don't meet the entry requirements of your final destination, you may be

denied boarding or forced to wait in the UK to apply for a new passport, which can take several days.

Unplanned layovers could lead to substantial travel costs and delays. You should not depend on the Government of Canada for assistance related to changes to your travel plans.

Children and travel

Learn about [travelling with children](#).

Yellow fever

Learn about [potential entry requirements related to yellow fever](#) (vaccines section).

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Relevant Travel Health Notices

- [Measles: Advice for travellers](#) - 12 May, 2025
- [COVID-19 and International Travel](#) - 12 May, 2025
- [Polio: Advice for travellers](#) - 24 September, 2025

This section has information and advice about health risks you might face when travelling. Following this advice can help reduce your risk of getting sick. Not all risks are listed here.

It's best to talk to a healthcare provider or visit a travel health clinic preferably 6 weeks before your trip to get personalized health advice. Even if your travel date is coming up soon, it's still worthwhile to make an appointment.

Routine vaccines

Make sure your routine vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel, no matter where you're going.

These may include vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, varicella (chickenpox), meningococcal disease, seasonal flu, and others.

Provincial and Territorial Immunization Information

Pre-travel vaccines and medications

When travelling in this destination, you might be at risk for diseases that can be prevented with vaccines or medications. Talk to a travel health care provider about which ones are right for you based on your travel plans.

The highlights below will also tell you if your destination may require that vaccine for entering or exiting.

- ▶ Yellow Fever - Country Entry Requirements
- ▶ Rabies
- ▶ Tick-borne encephalitis
- ▶ Polio

► Measles

► Hepatitis B

► COVID-19

► Influenza

Safe food and water precautions

Eating or drinking unsafe food or water, or swimming in contaminated water can make you sick while travelling. Take precautions by following these tips:

- Boil it, cook it, peel it, or leave it (only eat food that is prepared safely)
- Avoid, if possible, getting water in your eyes, mouth, or nose when swimming in freshwater (like streams, lakes, or canals), especially after heavy rain or flooding - the water might look clean but can still be contaminated
- Don't swallow water when bathing, showering, swimming in pools, or using hot tubs

Eat and drink safely abroad

Tick and insect bite prevention

Many diseases are spread by bites from infected ticks and insects like mosquitoes, fleas, or flies. Before you travel, find out what types of ticks or insects are in the area, when they're most active, and what diseases they can spread.

To protect yourself from bites:

- use an approved bug spray (insect repellent) on exposed skin

- wear light-coloured, loose clothing made of tightly woven materials like nylon or polyester
- wear socks and closed-toe shoes
- sleep under mosquito netting if you're outdoors or staying in places that aren't fully enclosed
- do a full body tick check on yourself, your children, your gear, and any pets you're travelling with when you return from outdoor activities

Insect bite and pest prevention

Personal insect repellents

Animal precautions

Some infections can spread directly from animals to people, like rabies or bird flu (avian influenza). Others don't spread directly from animals but can infect people who visit areas animals have contaminated with their droppings or body fluids.

Certain activities can increase your chances of coming into contact with animals, their droppings, or their body fluids, like:

- travelling in rural or forested areas
- camping, hiking, or visiting caves
- visiting places where live animals are sold or killed for food, like wet markets

To reduce your risk of getting sick:

- avoid contact with animals like stray dogs, livestock (such as pigs and cows), monkeys, snakes, rodents, birds, and bats.
- stay away from places where animal waste can build up, such as caves

- avoid eating undercooked meat

Make sure to closely watch children; they are more likely to try to touch animals.

► Avian Influenza

Person-to-person infections

When travelling, you can reduce your risk of getting or spreading respiratory infections, like the flu or COVID-19, by:

- staying at your accommodation and limiting contact with others if you're sick
- wearing a well-fitting mask, especially:
 - if you're sick and need to be around others
 - when you're at large indoor events or in crowded settings, like sporting events, concerts, and airports
- cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol
- covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow, not your hands

Mass gatherings (large-scale events)

Clean your hands to help reduce the spread of infectious diseases

Respiratory infectious diseases: How to reduce the spread with personal protective measures

To lower your risk of getting sexually transmissible infections (STIs), HIV, and mpox, you can:

- get vaccinated against mpox if you're eligible
- practise safer sex methods

- use barrier protection during sexual activity, like condoms and dental dams.

Mpox vaccines

Sexual health and travel

HIV and AIDS: Travel health advice

Medical services and facilities

Health care is excellent. Service is available throughout the country.

You must pay for medical services provided by the National Health Service (NHS) unless:

- you are ordinarily a resident of the United Kingdom
- you are accessing emergency services exempted from fees

Make sure you get travel insurance that includes coverage for medical evacuation and hospital stays.

Useful links

- [Accessing NHS services as a visitor](#) - National Health Service (NHS)
- [Travel health and safety](#)

Keep in Mind...

The decision to travel is the sole responsibility of the traveller. The traveller is also responsible for his or her own personal safety.

Be prepared. Do not expect medical services to be the same as in Canada. Pack a [travel health kit](#), especially if you will be travelling away from major city centres.

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Laws and culture

You must abide by local laws.

Learn about what you should do and how we can help if you are arrested or detained abroad.

Transfer to a Canadian prison

Canada and the United Kingdom are signatories to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. This enables a Canadian imprisoned in the United Kingdom to request a transfer to a Canadian prison to complete a sentence. The transfer requires the agreement of both Canadian and the United Kingdom authorities.

This process can take a long time, and there is no guarantee that the transfer will be approved by either or both sides.

Drugs

Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs, including cannabis, are severe. Convicted offenders can expect prison sentences and heavy fines.

Drugs, alcohol and travel

Banned and restricted goods

It is illegal to carry, purchase, sell or enter the country with certain types of knives.

It is also illegal to bring into the country:

- pepper spray

- personal imports of meat and dairy products from most non-European Union countries

Convicted offenders can expect heavy fines and jail sentences.

Useful links

- [Selling, buying and carrying knives](#) – UK Government
- [Bringing goods into the UK for personal use: Banned and restricted goods](#) – UK Government

Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship is legally recognized in the United Kingdom.

If you are a Canadian citizen, but also a citizen of the United Kingdom, our ability to offer you consular services may be limited while you're there. You may also be subject to different [entry/exit requirements](#).

Dual citizens

International Child Abduction

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is an international treaty. It can help parents with the return of children who have been removed to or retained in certain countries in violation of custody rights. The convention applies between Canada and the United Kingdom.

If your child was wrongfully taken to, or is being held in the United Kingdom, and if the applicable conditions are met, you may apply for the return of your child to the British court.

If you are in this situation:

- act as quickly as you can

- contact the Central Authority for your province or territory of residence for information on starting an application under The Hague Convention
- consult a lawyer in Canada and in the United Kingdom to explore all the legal options for the return of your child
- report the situation to the nearest Canadian government office abroad or to the Vulnerable Children's Consular Unit at Global Affairs Canada by calling the Emergency Watch and Response Centre

If your child was removed from a country other than Canada, consult a lawyer to determine if The Hague Convention applies.

Be aware that Canadian consular officials cannot interfere in private legal matters or in another country's judicial affairs.

Useful links

- [List of Canadian Central Authorities for the Hague Convention](#)
- [International Child Abductions: A guide for affected parents](#)
- [Children and travel](#)
- [The Hague Convention – Hague Conference on Private International Law](#)
- [Canadian embassies and consulates by destination](#)
- [Request emergency assistance](#)

Driving

Traffic drives on the left.

Parking in London and other major city centres is limited and expensive.

Driver's licence

You can drive with a valid Canadian licence for up to 12 months from your date of entry.

Car rental companies may require an international driving permit, especially if your licence is not in English. Check with your car rental agency in advance.

Congestion Charge

If you drive into central London, you will be required to pay a daily congestion charge. The Congestion Charge zone is indicated by a large "C" painted on the roads and by signs.

You can pay the fee by phone, online or at selected shops and gas stations.

Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)

All boroughs in London are part of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). If you drive in London, your vehicle must meet the ULEZ emission standards. If it does not, you must pay a daily charge to drive within the ULEZ.

Useful links

- [More about the International Driving Permit](#)
- [Congestion Charge](#) - Transport for London
- [Ultra Low Emission Zone](#) – Transport for London

Money

The currency of the United Kingdom is the pound sterling (GBP).

If you are carrying £10,000 or more, or the equivalent in other currencies, you must make a declaration to customs when you enter or leave the United Kingdom.

It includes sums in:

- banknotes and coins
- bearer bonds
- travellers' cheques
- cheques that are signed but not made out to a person or organization
- money orders (Northern Ireland only)
- gold coins, bullion or nuggets (Northern Ireland only)
- prepaid cards (Northern Ireland only)

[Take cash in and out of the UK - Government of the United Kingdom](#)

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Natural disasters and climate

Climate change

Climate change is affecting the United Kingdom. Extreme and unusual weather events are becoming more frequent and may affect your travel plans. Monitor local news to stay informed on the current situation.

Severe weather

The United Kingdom is subject to severe storms that can cause death and injury and severely damage commercial, residential and natural areas.

High winds, fog, and snow can also have widespread impacts, including transportation disruptions.

- Keep informed of regional weather forecasts
- Stay away from disaster-affected areas
- Follow the instructions of local authorities, including evacuation orders

Storm forecast - Met Office

Flooding and landslides

Heavy rains can cause severe flooding, mudslides and landslides, particularly in certain coastal and riverside areas. Roads may become impassable and infrastructure damaged.

- Exercise caution, particularly in coastal areas and around major rivers
- Stay informed of the latest regional weather forecasts
- Follow the advice of local authorities, including evacuation orders

Useful links

- [Flooding risks in England](#) - UK Government
- [Flood forecasting](#) - Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Heat waves

Heat waves are becoming more common in the United Kingdom, and most houses and public places are not designed or equipped to provide shelter from high heat.

High temperatures can be dangerous. Know the symptoms of dehydration and heatstroke, which can both be fatal.

If you are in the United Kingdom during a summer heat wave:

- stay indoors or in the shade during midday hours
- stay hydrated and carry a sufficient water supply
- monitor local media for information on heat warnings

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Need help?

Local services

- ▶ Emergency services

Consular assistance

- ▶ **London** - High Commission of Canada
- ▶ **Belfast** - Honorary consul of Canada
- ▶ **Edinburgh** - Honorary consul of Canada
- ▶ **Wales** - Honorary consul of Canada

For emergency consular assistance, call the High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom, in London, and follow the instructions. At any time, you may also contact the [Emergency Watch and Response Centre](#) in Ottawa.



Useful links

- [Register as a Canadian abroad](#)
- [View travel insurance information](#)
- [Read our Traveller's Checklist](#)
- [Advice for different types of travellers](#)
- [What to do if things go wrong](#)

Disclaimer

The decision to travel is your choice and you are responsible for your personal safety abroad. We take the safety and security of Canadians abroad very seriously and provide credible and timely information in our Travel Advice to enable you to make well-informed decisions regarding your travel abroad.

The content on this page is provided for information only. While we make every effort to give you correct information, it is provided on an "as is" basis without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied. The Government of Canada does not assume responsibility and will not be liable for any damages in connection to the information provided.

If you need consular assistance while abroad, we will make every effort to help you. However, there may be constraints that will limit the ability of the Government of Canada to provide services.

Learn more about [consular services](#).