



## USEFUL WEBSITES ON FRANCE

compiled by Edwin Hong

Note: Websites exclusively in French are marked as “(F)”.

### Planning

[www.usfranceguide.com](http://www.usfranceguide.com)

Official French tourism website

[www.gofrance.about.com](http://www.gofrance.about.com)

Online travel newsletter on travel in France

[www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)

Practical info for budget travelers

[www.eurocheapo.com](http://www.eurocheapo.com)

Budget advice for Paris and Nice

[www.budgettravel.about.com](http://www.budgettravel.about.com)

Online budget travel newsletter

[www.virtualtourist.com](http://www.virtualtourist.com)

Reader-generated travel guide

[www.bugeurope.com](http://www.bugeurope.com)

Backpacker travel guide

[www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)

Reader-generated travel guide

[www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)

“Thorn Tree Forum” for all types of travelers.

### Transport

[www.adp.fr](http://www.adp.fr)

Airports of Paris

[www.nice.aeroport.fr](http://www.nice.aeroport.fr)

Nice Airport

[www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com)

SNCF train promotions

[www.sncf.fr](http://www.sncf.fr)

SNCF French Railway

[www.idtgv.com](http://www.idtgv.com)

Low-cost high-speed trains between Paris and southern France. Online booking only

[www.himinnesota.org](http://www.himinnesota.org)

Hostelling International-Minnesota. Buy your France Railpasses here. No service fees & no shipping fees! Located in the St. Paul office.

[www.railsaver.com](http://www.railsaver.com)

Evaluates rail passes that fit your needs

[www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com)

France Rail Pass Information

[www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)

Rail Pass Information

[www.tgv.com](http://www.tgv.com)

TGV high-speed trains (F)

[www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)

Eurostar trains between Paris and London

[www.thalys.com](http://www.thalys.com)

Thalys high-speed trains from Paris to Belgium, Netherlands, Germany

[www.ze-bus.com](http://www.ze-bus.com)

Ze Bus (Hop-on-hop-off coaches)

[www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr)

RATP (Parisian public transport system)

[www.batobus.com](http://www.batobus.com)

Batobus of Paris (hop-on-hop-off river boats)

[www.velib.paris.fr](http://www.velib.paris.fr)

Vélib' (Paris's new public bike rental service)

[www.rca.tm.fr](http://www.rca.tm.fr)

Rapides Côte d'Azur regional bus. Flat fare of 1,30 € one-way along the Riviera (from Cannes to Menton). (F)

[www.mappy.com](http://www.mappy.com)

Toll costs, driving times in France

[www.sncm.fr](http://www.sncm.fr)

SNCM ferries to Corsica

[www.corsicaferries.com](http://www.corsicaferries.com)

Corsica Ferries

[www.cmn.fr](http://www.cmn.fr)

Ferries between Marseille and Corsica

[www.allostop.net](http://www.allostop.net)

Matches people up with drivers in France going to the same place (F)

## Lodging

[www.joomla.servas.org](http://www.joomla.servas.org)

SERVAS

[www.hqp.fr](http://www.hqp.fr)

Paris listings of locals with spare rooms

[www.francehotelreservation.com](http://www.francehotelreservation.com)

Smaller cheaper hotels

[www.logis-de-france.fr](http://www.logis-de-france.fr)

Hotel-restaurants in rural/scenic areas

[www.citotel.com](http://www.citotel.com)

Hotels of character and quality

[www.gites-de-france.fr/eng](http://www.gites-de-france.fr/eng)

Gîtes (rural vacation houses), B&B's, camping, gîtes for families with little children.

[www.gite.com](http://www.gite.com)

Gîtes

[www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com](http://www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com)

Farm B & B's, Rural camping

[www.abritel.fr](http://www.abritel.fr)

Apartment and house vacation rentals

[www.afje-paris.org](http://www.afje-paris.org)

Parisian Homestays for young people

<a href="http://www.apartments-in-paris.com">www.apartments-in-paris.com</a>	Parisian apartment rentals, B&B's
<a href="http://www.fleursdesoleil.fr">www.fleursdesoleil.fr</a>	B & B's
<a href="http://www.bbfrance.com">www.bbfrance.com</a>	B & B's, gîtes
<a href="http://www.paris.org">www.paris.org</a>	B & B's and hotels in Paris
<a href="http://www.psryourhomeinparis.com">www.psryourhomeinparis.com</a>	Apartment and vacation rentals in Paris
<a href="http://www.welcome2france.com">www.welcome2france.com</a>	Paris apartment rentals
<a href="http://www.destinationslocappart.com">www.destinationslocappart.com</a>	Paris apartment rentals
<a href="http://www.goodmorningparis.fr">www.goodmorningparis.fr</a>	B&B's in Paris
<a href="http://www.bed-and-breakfast-in-paris.com">www.bed-and-breakfast-in-paris.com</a>	B&B's in Paris
<a href="http://www.trading-homes.com">www.trading-homes.com</a>	Home exchange
<a href="http://www.fuaj.org">www.fuaj.org</a>	Hostels and travel packages (Hostelling Int'l)
<a href="http://www.HIhostels.com">www.HIhostels.com</a>	Hostelling International reservations via internet
<a href="http://www.hostelworld.com">www.hostelworld.com</a>	Hostels
<a href="http://www.auberges-de-jeunesse.com">www.auberges-de-jeunesse.com</a>	Another network of hostels in France
<a href="http://www.hostelz.com">www.hostelz.com</a>	Hostel reviews worldwide
<a href="http://www.destinationslocappart.com">www.destinationslocappart.com</a>	Paris apartment rentals
<a href="http://www.francelodge.fr">www.francelodge.fr</a>	Paris apartment rentals
<a href="http://www.tourismebretagne.com/eng/youth/pass-bretagne.cfm">www.tourismebretagne.com/eng/youth/pass-bretagne.cfm</a>	Brittany Hostel Specials
<a href="http://www.rentvillas.com">www.rentvillas.com</a>	Villa rentals
<a href="http://www.parisinfo.com">www.parisinfo.com</a>	Special offers on Parisian hotels
<b>Sightseeing</b>	
<a href="http://www.parisinfo.com">www.parisinfo.com</a>	Paris Tourism Office
<a href="http://www.parisbalades.com">www.parisbalades.com</a>	Interactive guide on walks in Paris (F)
<a href="http://www.passagesetgaleries.org">www.passagesetgaleries.org</a>	"Passages" and "galeries" of Paris (F)
<a href="http://www.paris-opentour.com">http://www.paris-opentour.com</a>	Hop-on-hop-off bus tours of Paris
<a href="http://www.parismuseumpass.fr">www.parismuseumpass.fr</a>	Paris Museum Pass
<a href="http://www.chateauversailles.fr">www.chateauversailles.fr</a>	Versailles One-Day Pass

[www.tourevasion.com](http://www.tourevasion.com)

Touraine Evasion (châteaux excursions)

[www.accodispo-tours.com](http://www.accodispo-tours.com)

Acco-Dispo (excursions to the châteaux)

[www.quartdetours.com](http://www.quartdetours.com)

Quart de Tours (châteaux excursions)

[www.alsace-travel.com](http://www.alsace-travel.com)

Minivan tours of the Route du Vin of Alsace

[www.regioscope.com](http://www.regioscope.com)

Minivan tours of the Route du Vin of Alsace

## Lycées hôteliers (Hotel School Training Restaurants)

[http://maitrequeux.free.fr/lycee%20hotelier\\_fichiers/lyceehotelierr.htm](http://maitrequeux.free.fr/lycee%20hotelier_fichiers/lyceehotelierr.htm)

[www.ajconseil.fr/asso/ajasso.htm](http://www.ajconseil.fr/asso/ajasso.htm)

List of some Lycées hôteliers in France

## Entertainment

[www.figaroscope.fr](http://www.figaroscope.fr)

Cultural events in Paris (F)

## Sports

[www.parisrandovelo.com](http://www.parisrandovelo.com)

Organized bike trips in Paris on Friday evenings and on the 3rd Sunday of each month. (F)

[www.rollernet.com](http://www.rollernet.com)

Group rollerblading in Paris. Meets at 10 pm on Fridays between Montparnasse Station and Montparnasse Tower. Course  $\cong$  25 km long. (F)

[www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr)

Swimming pools in Paris

[www.ffck.org](http://www.ffck.org)

Canoeing and kayaking (F)

[www.skifrance.fr](http://www.skifrance.fr)

Skiing in France

[www.ffrp.asso.fr](http://www.ffrp.asso.fr)

Hiking (F)

[www.ffcam.fr](http://www.ffcam.fr)

Hiking (F)

## Festivals

[www.feteducitron.com](http://www.feteducitron.com)

Lemon festival of Menton (F)

[www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr)

Festivals operated by the city of Paris

[www.nicecarnaval.com](http://www.nicecarnaval.com)

Carnaval de Nice

[www.carnaval-pantruche.org](http://www.carnaval-pantruche.org)

Carnaval de Paris (F)

[www.feriaarles.com](http://www.feriaarles.com)

Feria Pascale (Arles)(F)

[www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr](http://www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr)

Fête de la Musique (Paris)(F)

[www.letour.fr](http://www.letour.fr)

[www.gitans.fr](http://www.gitans.fr)

[www.festival-aix.com](http://www.festival-aix.com)

[www.festival-avignon.com](http://www.festival-avignon.com)

[www.fetes-de-bayonne.com](http://www.fetes-de-bayonne.com)

[www.nicejazzfest.com](http://www.nicejazzfest.com)

[www.fetes-arvor.org](http://www.fetes-arvor.org)

[www.festival-interceltique.com](http://www.festival-interceltique.com)

[www.nuits-de-fourviere.org](http://www.nuits-de-fourviere.org)

[www.festival-colmar.com](http://www.festival-colmar.com)

## Age-related discounts

[www.myisic.com](http://www.myisic.com)

[www.enfantplus-sncf.com](http://www.enfantplus-sncf.com)

[www.senior-sncf.com](http://www.senior-sncf.com)

## Travel packages

[www.gate1travel.com](http://www.gate1travel.com)

[www.airfranceholidays.com](http://www.airfranceholidays.com)

[www.europeasap.com](http://www.europeasap.com)

[www.go-today.com](http://www.go-today.com)

[www.offpeaktraveler.com](http://www.offpeaktraveler.com)

[www.frenchexperience.com](http://www.frenchexperience.com)

[www.francevacations.net](http://www.francevacations.net)

[www.nwaworldvacations.com](http://www.nwaworldvacations.com)

[www.icelandair.com/packages/](http://www.icelandair.com/packages/)

Tour de France

Pèlerinage des Gitans (F)

Festival d'Aix-en-Provence

Festival d'Avignon

Fêtes de Bayonne

Nice Jazz Festival

Fêtes d'Arvor (Breton folk festival)(F)

Festival Interceltique de Lorient

Nuits de fourvière (Lyon)

International Music Festival (Colmar)

Discount cards for students, teachers, young adults. Lists discounts for each city.

SNCF discounts for children and accompanying adults (F)

SNCF discounts for seniors (F)

Gate 1 Travel

Air France Holidays

Europe ASAP

Go-Today.com

Off Peak Traveler

French Experience

France Vacations

Northwest World Vacations

Icelandair Vacation Packages

# USEFUL ARTICLES ON FRANCE

Note: The New York Times usually has a special travel feature on “Affordable Europe” on the second to last Sunday of April each year. There is almost always at least one article on traveling to France.

Pierce, Ellise. “Paris’s Top Baguettes.” [Arthur Frommer’s Budget Travel](#) Nov. 2006.

Grescoe, Taras. “Très Cheap, So Chic.” [National Geographic Traveler](#) Mar. 2001. (Budget Hotels in Paris)

Sciolino, Elaine. “Paris Chic, on the Cheap.” [New York Times](#) 22 Apr. 2007. (This article deals with budget hotel recommendations in Paris.)

Sciolino, Elaine. “Affordable Europe: Paris.” [New York Times](#) 22 Apr. 2007.  
<<http://travel.nytimes.com/2007/04/22/travel/22parisweb.html>>

Hennechart, Marie. “My Paris Is Better Than Yours.” [Arthur Frommer’s Budget Travel](#) May 2005.

Rynn, Margie. “Secret Hotels of the French Riviera.” [Arthur Frommer’s Budget Travel](#) June 2006.

Burbank, Linda. “Smart Traveler: Affording Europe.” [National Geographic Traveler](#) May/June 2005.

Bittman, Mark. “Does the Affordable Paris Bistro Still Exist? Oui.” [New York Times](#) 13 Mar. 2005.

Friedrich, Jacqueline. “Comfort Food at Comforting Prices in Paris.” [New York Times](#) 18 Jan. 2004.

Grescoe, Taras. “Insider’s Paris.” [National Geographic Traveler](#), Mar. 2003.

Morrison, Ann M. “Museums by Day, Hospital (With Hotel Rooms) by Night.” [New York Times](#) 10 Apr. 2005.

Fuchs, Dale. “The Left Bank, For Less.” [New York Times](#) 29 Aug. 2004.

Friedrich, Jacqueline. “Beachcombing on the Right Bank.” [New York Times](#) 29 Aug. 2004.

Fitzpatrick, Siobhan, and Rynn, Margie. “Fifty-Five Tips for Planning an Affordable Trip to Paris on \$80 a Day.” 31 Jan. 2003 <[www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com)>.

Glusker, Anne. “Paris With Kids: A Survival Guide.” 14 May 2006 <[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)>.

“Ten Commandments of Paris Dining.” <[www.fodors.com](http://www.fodors.com)>

Carr, Kelby. “Top 10 Budget Paris Hotels--Cheap Places to Stay in Paris.” <[www.gofrance.about.com](http://www.gofrance.about.com)>.

Cartman, Gareth. “Paris on a Shoestring: Dining on a Budget.” 3 May 2006 <[www.theshoestring.com](http://www.theshoestring.com)>.

Kahler, Mark. “Top 10 Budget Tips for Planning Your First Trip to Europe.”  
<[www.budgettravel.about.com/od/planningtoolsstrategies/tp/tips\\_europe.htm](http://www.budgettravel.about.com/od/planningtoolsstrategies/tp/tips_europe.htm)>.

Kahler, Mark. “Five Chances to Save on Food When Traveling.”  
<[www.budgettravel.about.com/b/a/257828.htm](http://www.budgettravel.about.com/b/a/257828.htm)>.

Carr, Kelby Hartson. "France on a Budget."

[www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/travel/articles/budget\\_travel\\_in\\_france.shtml](http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/travel/articles/budget_travel_in_france.shtml)>.

Ascher-Walsh, Rebecca. "The French Riviera Sans All That Fabulousness." Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Sept. 2005.

O'Brien Blondes, Casey. "France's Isle of Salt." National Geographic Traveler May/June 2006.

Richardson, Jim. "Place of a Lifetime." National Geographic Traveler Oct. 2003.

Rynn, Margie. "The Trouble with Gascony." Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Oct. 2005.

Kosofsky Glassberg, Brooke. "Everything You Know about Backpacking in Europe Is Outdated." Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel May 2005.

Solomon, Christopher. "Frugal Traveler; Counting Euros, Not Calories, On a Sojourn in Strasbourg." New York Times 30 May 2004.

Mueller, Tom. "Insider's Provence." National Geographic Traveler Apr. 2006.

Morgan, James. "Chasing Matisse." National Geographic Traveler Mar. 2005.

Apple, Jr., RW. "Taste of Travel--Europe: Lyon's Most Artfully Humble Fare." National Geographic Traveler May/June 2003.

Marot, François. "My Wild French Secret." National Geographic Traveler July/Aug. 2002.

"Bistro Behavior," Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Nov. 2005.

# SIGHTSEEING & TRANSPORT PASSES IN FRANCE

compiled by Edwin Hong

## Paris

Paris Museum Pass

[www.parismuseumpass.fr](http://www.parismuseumpass.fr)

Unlimited access to > 60 museums and monuments in the Paris region for either 2/4/6 consecutive days

Carte Mobilis ["mohbeeLEESS"]

Unlimited public transport for 1 day

Carte Orange

Unlimited public transport from Monday to the following Sunday. Must provide passport photo to have the card assembled.

Carnet ["karNEH"]

Group of 10 individual public transport tickets. Cost=10,90 € instead of 14 €, thus a saving of 22%

## Versailles

Le Passport (Versailles One-Day Pass)

[www.chateauversailles.fr](http://www.chateauversailles.fr)

No lines. Covers almost everything at the palace grounds. Includes train ticket cost from Paris

## Lille

Lille Métropole Pass

[www.destination-lille-metropole.eu](http://www.destination-lille-metropole.eu)

Unlimited public transport and most museum admissions for 1/2/3 days.

## Reims

Pass Découverte

Covers four city-run museums and the Chapelle Foujita

## Strasbourg

Strasbourg-Pass

[www.ot-strasbourg.com](http://www.ot-strasbourg.com)

Admission to museums for 3 days

## Nancy

Nancy City Pass

[www.ot-nancy.fr](http://www.ot-nancy.fr)

Reduced admission to 6 museums + an audioguide tour + RT public transport ticket + 1 movie ticket + a "baba au rhum" dessert

## Dijon

All city museums are free.

## Lyon

Lyon City Card

[www.en.lyon-france.com](http://www.en.lyon-france.com)

Unlimited public transport + admission to all museums + panoramas from the top of the Basilique Notre Dame de Fourvière + audioguide tour of Lyon + a riverboat trip + discounts on bike rental. comes in 1/2/3 day versions.

## Grenoble

City Pass Grenoble

[www.grenoble-isere-tourisme.com](http://www.grenoble-isere-tourisme.com)

RT cable car ride + guided tour + discounts on museums, restaurants, stores.

**Nantes**

Pass Nantes

[www.nantes-tourisme.com](http://www.nantes-tourisme.com)

Unlimited public transport + unlimited museum admission + free hot chocolate at La Cigale

**Bordeaux**

All museums are free (permanent collections)

**Dordogne**

Le Pass'Périg'Or

Admission to ≈ 30 tourist attractions plus discounts at various establishments

**Toulouse**

Toulouse en Liberté

[www.toulouse-tourisme.com](http://www.toulouse-tourisme.com)

Reduced admission on certain attractions.

**Albi**

Albi Pass

[www.albi-tourisme.com](http://www.albi-tourisme.com)

Admission to the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum + Grand chœur of the Cathédrale Ste-Cécile + discounts at various establishments

**Montpellier**

Montpellier City Pass

[www.ot-montpellier.fr/en/montpellier-city-card](http://www.ot-montpellier.fr/en/montpellier-city-card)

Comes in 1/2/3-day versions + admission to various attractions + unlimited use of public transport + guided walking tour.

**Marseille**

Marseille City Pass

[www.marseille-tourisme.com](http://www.marseille-tourisme.com)

Admission to city museums + unlimited use of public transport + trip on the little train + boat trip to either Île d'If or to Îles du Frioul + discount on Le Grand Tour tourist bus. Comes in 1 and 2 day versions.

**Arles**

Pass Monuments

Admission to 6 monuments and 3 museums

**Avignon**

Avignon *Passion* Pass

[www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr](http://www.tourisme.ville-arles.fr)

20% to 50% discount on admission to all museums after the first one + discount on guided walking tours

**Nice**

Carte Musées Ville de Nice

Admission to all museums except the Musée National Message Biblique Marc Chagall

**Côte d'Azur/French Riviera**

Carte Musées Côte d'Azur

Allows entry to 62 museums along the French Riviera

**Fréjus**

Le Fréjus Pass

Admission to Roman ruins and (for an extra price) to additional local attractions

# SNCF FRENCH RAILWAY DISCOUNTS

compiled by Edwin Hong

Note: 1 € = 1.38 US dollars. Therefore, multiply prices listed below by 1.38 to obtain approximate prices in dollars.

**Périodes blanches:** (“White Periods”) Busy times. Usually Mondays 5 am to 10 am, Fridays 3 pm to 8 pm, Sundays 3 pm to 8 pm. Also around national holidays. Therefore, few fare reductions.

**Périodes bleues:** (“Blue Periods”) Less busy times. Thus, discount fares apply.

If you book very early and if you go b/w southern France and Paris:	conditions:	discount:
<b>iDTGV</b> <i>(pronounced “eedaytayzhayvay”)</i>	online booking only. geared towards younger travelers but for all ages. TGV’s to 12 destinations in <u>southern France</u> only.  <a href="http://www.idtgv.com">www.idtgv.com</a>	Fares start at 19 €!

If you book ahead of time	conditions:	discount:
<b>PREM’S</b>	buy ticket b/w 2 wks & 3 months in advance	amt. depends on type of train and on reservation conditions.  2nd Class fares start at:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ≥ 25 € on TGV’s</li> <li>• ≥ 20 € on all Corail day and night trains (seats only)</li> <li>• ≥ 35 € on Corail Lunéa night trains (couchettes)</li> </ul>

# SNCF FRENCH RAILWAY DISCOUNTS

For last minute travel in France	conditions:	discount:
<b>OFFRES DERNIÈRE MINUTE</b> ("Last minute" fares) for TGV and Corail trains <i>Note: these fares are nonrefundable and unexchangeable.</i>	Go to <a href="http://www.voyages-sncf.com">www.voyages-sncf.com</a> on Tuesday the week before for 50 destinations on sale. Click on "Promos." Not available on English language version of website.	-50%

For last minute travel on Thalys trains	conditions:	discount:
<b>OFFRES DERNIÈRE MINUTE</b> For high-speed trains from Paris to Belgium, Netherlands and Germany	go to either <a href="http://www.thalys.com">www.thalys.com</a> or to <a href="http://www.voyages-sncf.com">www.voyages-sncf.com</a> on Tuesdays for travel the following week.	????

If you travel from time to time		conditions:	discount:
<b>DÉCOUVERTES</b> ("Discovery" fares) <i>Note: these are always 25% off if your departure coincides with the "Périodes bleues."</i>	Découverte Enfant Plus	children ≤ 11 yrs accompanied by ≤ 4 people ≥ 12 yrs	-25%
	Découverte 12-25	ages ≥ 12 yrs to ≤ 25 yrs	-25%
	Découverte Senior	ages ≥ 60 yrs	-25%
	Découverte à Deux	RT for 2-9 people traveling together + overnight stay	-25%
	Découverte Séjour	Weekend getaways. RT's ≥ 200 km with minimum Sat. night stay	-25%

# SNCF FRENCH RAILWAY DISCOUNTS

If you travel frequently		conditions:	discount:
<b>CARTES</b> (“Discount card fares”)  <i>Must buy the card first. Each card allows unlimited discounted train trips for one year.</i>	Carte Enfant Plus Cost of card: 65 €	1 child $\leq$ 11 yrs accompanied by $\leq$ 4 people $\geq$ 12 yrs old	between -25% and -50%
	Carte 12-25 Cost of card: 49 €	$\geq$ 12 yrs and $\leq$ 25 yrs	between -25% and -50%
	Carte Senior Cost of card: 50 €	$\geq$ 60 yrs	between -25% and -50%
	Carte Escapades Cost of card: 99 €	$\geq$ 26 yrs and $\leq$ 59 yrs; must travel RT $\geq$ 200 km with minimum Sat. night stay	-25%