

# The Single Man's Manual Traveling In France



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## **Single Man's Manual: Traveling In France**

**Experience The Culture, Learn The  
Language, And Know How To  
Have Some Fun And Frolic In The  
Country Of Love**

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# The Single Man's Manual

## Traveling In France



### Chapter One

## The Bohemian Spirit Endures

### *A Quick Glance At France*

France has always been one of the most popular tourist destinations, and for good reason. Many people view this country as the perfect honeymoon spot, due to the romantic ambiance that resonates in a majority of its locales.

Aside from its beautiful areas, France also boasts of a worry-free lifestyle. Its people are known to live for everything that's good in life... good food, good wine, and good times. The French people love to enjoy life to the fullest, and this bodes well for the single man who wishes to journey to this land.

This enjoyment of life is what the French call the Bohemian Spirit. Though the term originated in Czechoslovakia, named after a small town in the nation of Bohemia, it pertains to an unconventional lifestyle fraught with experimentation to elevate the enjoyment of life to the next level of gratification. It was an artistic movement at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when a lot of artists who called themselves the *children of the revolution* tried a lot of new things to reach new levels of art and new ways to savor all that life has to offer.

The term Bohemian Spirit has transcended beyond a mere cultural designation and into a way of life.

Today, the Bohemian Spirit is alive and kicking in France, a fact which you, as a single man, should find very advantageous and exciting. Living in France is all about enjoying life, indeed. And when in France, might as well do what the French do!

Let us take a closer look at France.

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### 1.1 France At A Glance

France is located in Western Europe, at the crossroads of the English Channel, the Bay of Biscay, Belgium, Spain, the Mediterranean Sea, Spain, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

With all of these great locales surrounding the country of France, it's no wonder that her culture absorbed the fun loving disposition prevalent in the beautiful sights and the lush experiences presented by her environment.

France has a land area of 547,030 sq. km. France may not be the biggest European country, but it is, by far, one of the most progressive.

With a coastline that totals 3,247 km., France has enough beaches to keep sun lovers very happy.

With mild summers, this country is a popular destination for many people, come the hotter months.

During winter, France is likewise a great destination for ice sports and other related activities, with the French Alps playing the host most of the time.

With a population of 60,876,136, however, France is one of the most populous European countries.

France is a republican country composed of 22 regions, namely: Alsace, Aquitaine, Auvergne, Basse-Normandie, Bourgogne, Bretagne, Centre, Champagne-Ardenne, Corse, Franche-Comte, Haute-Normandie, Ile-de-France, Languedoc-Roussillon, Limousin, Lorraine, Midi-Pyrenees, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Pays de la Loire, Picardie, Poitou-Charentes, Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, and Rhone-Alpes.

Paris is the capital of this nation.

The currency used in its territories, much like in any other European country, is the unified monetary system called the Euro. The Euro is slightly

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higher in value than the dollar. Exchange rate hovers at an average of \$0.8041 per EUR 1.

France has close to 500 airports, and close to 7,000 hotels and accommodations across its territories. Finding a place to stay in this fabled land is not a problem.

### 1.2 Places To Visit In France

There are a lot of places to visit in France. After all, this country is ranked among the top 5 tourist destinations in the world.

As a single man, I am certain that these places of art and culture aren't as interesting as the, well, "other side" of France, nonetheless, since you'll be in her midst anyway, might as well immerse yourself with the richness of her history as well as her artistic and social contributions to the world.

Some of the most renowned points of interest are the following:

***Mont Saint Michel*** – this abbey that spirals up from a city made of stone in a solitary island between Normandy and Brittany is truly a sight to behold. Though a great part of this island city is submerged under water from time to time, the glory of the abbey atop the isle is enough to bring your heart to tears and marvel at what man can accomplish with the means he is blessed with.



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*The Eiffel Tower* – perhaps the monument that best represents France, the Eiffel tower was built in 1889, primarily to be the centerpiece of the World's Fair, which France was hosting at that time. In 1920, the Eiffel Tower formally took the title as France's symbol for elegance and an avant garde lifestyle. Standing 300 meters tall, the Eiffel Tower offers a breathtaking view of the entire city of Paris. It is said that this structure is seen from every corner of Paris, which further establishes it as the true heart of the city.

The Louvre. The Louvre is undoubtedly the Mecca of each and every museum in the world. Indeed, if museums have a king, then that king should be the Louvre. The Louvre houses the world's most valuable works of art. From Da Vinci's works like The Last Supper and the Mona Lisa to works by masters like Rembrandt, Raphael, Gainsborough, Vermeer, Delacroix, Géricault, and many others, the Louvre is home to 65,300 masterpieces. It would take you 5 weeks to savor and enjoy each and every work of art, and that is if you spent just 5 minutes at each stop! Thousands of people line up for the chance to enter the Louvre during peak season, so prepare to spend a great number of hours in the queue.



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*The Cathédrale de Notre-Dame, Sainte-Chapelle* and the *Palais du Louvre* are noteworthy destinations to experience France's religious side. The architectural designs of these places of worship have withstood the test of time. They are testaments to France's religious roots and how the country has preserved her history well. The territories surrounding Paris, collectively known as the *Île de France*, are also populated by cathedrals, which, though smaller in scale, are never wanting in grandeur.

Towards France's *Atlantic coast* can be found the great outdoors that the country can also boast of. We're talking about forests, hiking trails, towns that have preserved their culture from the days of yore, and of course, beaches – nude beaches to be exact! We'll discuss the latter group in full detail in succeeding chapters.



*The French Alps* is likewise a great destination for nature trippers. During winter, it's a famous skiing destination, as the smooth, snowy slopes it offers can only be described as perfect. During summer, the destination is perfect for hiking expeditions.

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If you want some young, um, company... then do pay a visit to the city of *Toulouse*. It's hailed as a student town, since French youths enroll in the university that can be found here and the entire population is almost exclusively composed of enrollees.



*Provence* and *Cote d'Azur* are for people who want to enjoy a Mediterranean lifestyle. The towns are built on elevated limestone cliffs, and dining or savoring a cup of coffee is made even more memorable by outdoor diners and cafes. And of course, these places are also known for their fabulous beaches.

Again, these are just some of the more popular destinations in France.

Enumerating all of the marvelous sights that the country has to offer would take volumes upon volumes of written work.

## 1.3 The Regions Of France

France is not limited to Paris, though Paris, admittedly, is its number one city. There are other cities and provinces in France that deserve special mention, as well:

- *Avignon*, which is also called the Great City of the Popes, having been the homeland of many holy men who ascended into the highest

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- level of the Christian Church's hierarchy, and is hailed as one of France's primary centers for the arts.
- **Bordeaux**, also called the "river city", as a riverside entrance reveals a breathtaking view of the place, is one of France's most populated areas.
  - **Cannes**, best known for the film festival it hosts every year, is not a commercial spot. Rather, it's a coastal area that stays true to its roots.
  - **Dijon**, at the foot of the French Alps, is a place that British travelers would love, owing to its rich Celtic heritage.
  - **Lyon** is France's second biggest city, which can actually give Paris a run for its money.
  - **Marseille**, which is next only to Paris as France's most heralded city, has a rich history of recovering from challenging times. So many times has this territory been invaded and ransacked, yet time and time again, it comes back stronger than ever before.
  - The **Riviera** can be called the Beverly Hills of France. In its capital of Nice, property values have soared to very high levels. It is a place for the rich and the famous.
  - **Strasbourg** offers a great immersion into the history of European travel. Situated at the base of the Rhine, it stands proud, having been France's primary merchant spot during the time when the main transport system on the European continent was the Rhine river.
  - **Toulouse** is another city that can rival Paris as France's primary business district.



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## End of Chapter 1

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