



RELOCATION TO FRANCE INFORMATION PACK

ÎLE DE FRANCE

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1. GEOGRAPHICAL ORIENTATION ILE DE FRANCE

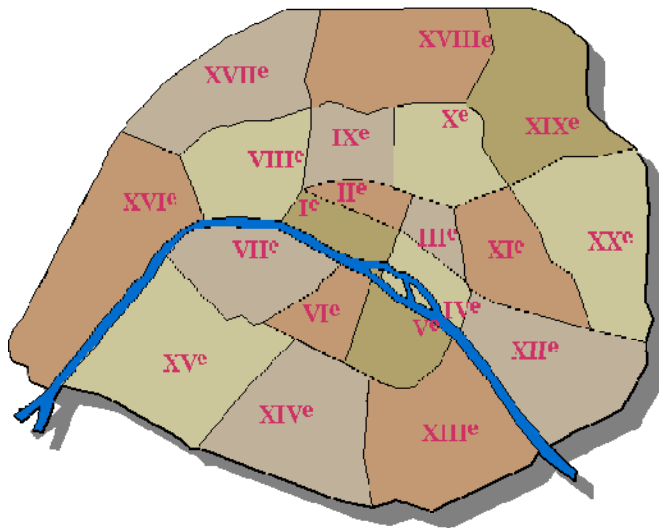
Paris and the Paris suburbs are known as the "Ile de France". Its name "Ile de France", means Island of France, and comes from the rivers that form its boundaries.

1.1 The Centre of Paris

Paris is geographically limited by the "**Périphérique**" (ring road). Inside this limit the city is divided into **20 "districts" (arrondissements)** arranged like a snail starting in the middle with the 1st and spiraling out to the 20th arrondissement.

The "périphérique" is the ring road, which runs all around Paris, but before going on it, make sure you know in advance which exit to take. The "périphérique" should be avoided between 8:00 a.m-9.30 a.m and 5:30 p.m-7:00 pm, because of traffic jams.

The Seine rivers divides Paris into two banks, the northern or "right bank" ("rive droite") and the southern or "left bank" ("rive gauche").



The arrondissements can be summarized as follows:

- I-IV:** The old Paris with tiny streets and old buildings, often constructed with wooden beams
- V-VI:** "Quartier Latin" (Latin Quarter), a district favored by young adults, students and artists, also part of the old city with some lively areas
- VII:** Prestigious district around the Eiffel Tower and Champs de Mars, one of the most expensive areas in Paris
- VIII:** Prestigious district of ministries, embassies and large office buildings, more residential in the northern part around the Parc Monceau
- IX-X:** Mainly professional districts with some residence areas, such as the St. Georges Area

- XI-XII:** District of the new opera and the renovated Bastille district, modern, new district favored by young adults
- XIII-XV:** Residential and middle-class districts with charming areas where you will find old and more recent constructions
- XVI-XVII:** Residential areas in the West of Paris with large avenues and green areas (e.g. Bois de Boulogne, Parc Monceau), very popular for clients with families, many old stone buildings of "Haussmann" style with height ceilings, wooden floor, moldings, chimney
- XVIII-XX:** Residential areas of the lower class in Paris, large part of the population is from North Africa, not frequently chosen by expatriate managers with some exceptions like Montmartre or Buttes Chaumont

1.2 The Suburbs of Paris

The suburbs of Paris can be divided into

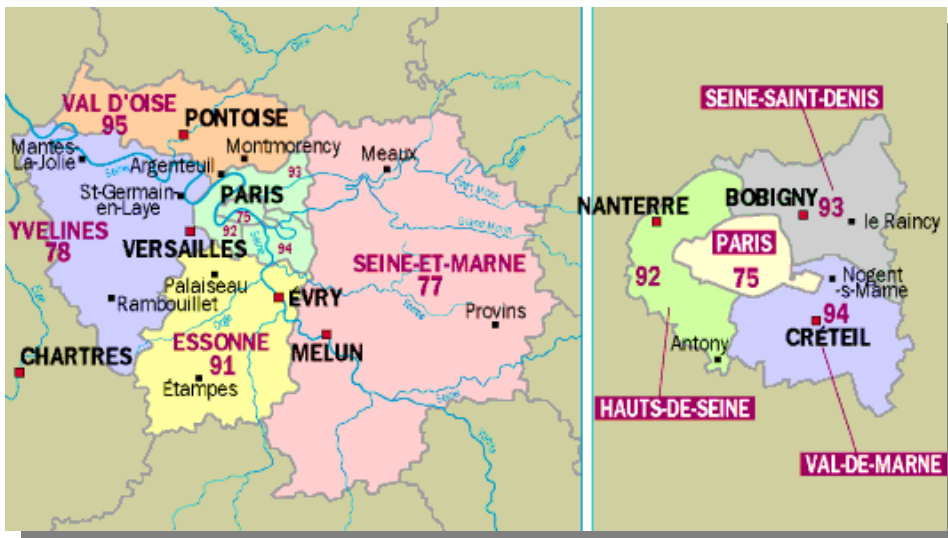
- **"la petite ceinture"** (small belt) of 3 areas immediately surrounding Paris
- **"la grande ceinture"** (large belt) consisting of 4 further areas.

"La petite ceinture" consists of the "départements" of:

- Hauts de Seine (92)
- Seine St. Denis (93)
- Val de Marne (94)

"La grande ceinture" is composed of:

- Les Yvelines (78)
- L'Essonne (91)
- La Seine et Marne (77)
- Le Val d'Oise (95)



Very popular areas for expatriates are on the west side in the "Hauts de Seine", "Val d'Oise" and "Yvelines" as there are many forest areas and a number of international schools.

1.3 Which Area to Choose?

Management Mobility Consulting has developed a detailed *check-list for the selection of an area* in France.

Some of the important points can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ Character of the community/area: Big city, small town or rural area
- ✓ Services and facilities available: Public transport, shopping facilities, culture and entertainment
- ✓ Availability of education facilities: Proximity to adequate schools or child care
- ✓ Distance to work: Physical distance and length of time taking into account the traffic problems
- ✓ Recreational areas or parks: Leisure and sports facilities
- ✓ Environmental conditions: Pollution, environmental facilities

2. THE PROPERTY MARKET

2.1 Architectural Styles

Architectural Styles largely depend on the region within France. This chapter gives you an idea about the most frequent styles in Paris and in the suburbs.

2.1.1 Paris

Most apartments available in Paris are situated in the old style "**Hausmann**" buildings.



As "Préfet de Seine" under Napoleon III, Baron Haussmann (1809-1891) transformed Paris into a prestigious city with large avenues and houses constructed with large white stones called "pierres de taille". These buildings have high ceilings, mouldings and often fireplaces. Most of them are rented without furniture.

Another important architectural style within Paris is the "**Mansart**" style.



Jules-Hardouin Mansart (1646-1708) was an architect under Louis XIV. He constructed the buildings in the area around the Place Vendôme, the Dôme des Invalides and large parts of Versailles Castle. Mansart's facades are in a classical style with colossal pilasters and frontispieces of pediments and often giant columns. Mansart buildings can be recognized by the particular angle of the Mansart roof.



Outside of Paris, Mansart houses are also available as individual houses with small gardens:

The buildings are often constructed later than in period of Jules-Hardouin Mansart, but even more recent houses often have some of the typical Mansart characteristics.

Other styles, such as very old apartments with beams, can be found in the old centre of Paris. **Modern apartments are less typical.**

Prices vary depending on the district, size and condition of the property.

2.1.2 Suburbs

In the suburbs a large number of different styles can be found: Old houses of different centuries as well as various modern styles.

- Old styles



One style which you frequently find in the Ile-de France is the "**Pierre de meulière**" style characterized by brown stones often used at the end of the 19th and in the beginning of the 20th century.



You will also find various types of the **turn of the century house** made from a white stone.

In the suburbs also the **Mansart Style** can be frequently found.

All these houses generally have their own garden. Prices range from 3.500 Euro up to 5.500 Euro per month. They depend on factors such as proximity to a town, size and general condition of the property.

- Modern Styles

A number of modern styles can also be found in the suburbs of Paris.



One example is the one-family house in the regional **style of the Ile-de-France**.

The form of the building is classical. The typical colour of the house is white or beige with white wooden shutters and a brown roof.

Other examples of modern **houses** which are recent

These Kaufman and Broad also be found as



styles are "**Kaufman and Broad**" constructions with open gardens:

houses and similar modern styles can apartment houses.

Prices for modern one-family houses range from 3.500 Euro to 5.000 Euro per month.

2.2 Equipment of Properties

2.2.1 General Conditions of Properties

Many of the properties are old buildings and have their particular charm, but they are often not in the best conditions. A large number of them need renovation. Walls are normally not newly painted by the landlord each time when the house or the apartment is rented by a new tenant.

It is not seldom the case that the heating does not work properly, the roof leaks, windows and doors do not close well, etc. Expatriates are often surprised that their landlords do not quickly repair the damage. In this context two aspects have to be taken into account: Firstly the general conditions are in average lower than in some other countries and secondly in France it is often difficult to find reliable service companies for repair or renovation at short notice.

Management Mobility Consulting offers assistance to you to find quick solutions in case of these problems.

2.2.2 Furniture and Electrical Equipment

Furniture and electrical equipment are largely different from those frequently used in other countries.

You will find more detailed information on these items in our **PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION PACK**.

2.3 Which Property to Choose?

Management Mobility Consulting has developed a ***check-list for the selection of properties*** in France. This information is available in our **PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION PACK** or from our consultants during the home-finding assignments.

3. WORK AND RESIDENT PERMITS

The procedures and the type of required documents depend on your country of origin as well as on the reason and the duration of your stay in France.

3.1 European Union Nationals

Work and Residence Permit

Since January 2004, citizens of one of the **15 member states of the European Union** (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and the **EEE countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland** are no longer required to obtain a resident permit in France. If they want, they can still obtain a resident permit, but it is no longer compulsory.

Since July 2008, citizens from the **new European countries** (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia) enjoy full freedom of movement and are allowed to work in France without any restrictions. With their passport or national identity card they can carry out any work under the same conditions as French citizens (with the exception of a few regulated professions of the public sector).

Citizens of **Cyprus and of Malta** also enjoy full freedom of movement within the European Economic Area.

Bulgarian and Rumanian citizens, however, are still bound to the formalities of the transitional period fixed by the Treaty of Membership (7 years maximum as from January 1st, 2007).

3.2 Non-European Union Nationals

Non-European Union Nationals intending to work and stay in France for an extended period of time are required to possess a work permit and a valid and appropriate visa to enter the French territory. This process has to start before moving to France.

Work Permit

The work permit is a prerequisite document for the issuance of a long-stay visa by the French Consul in the home country. To obtain a work permit, the employer must contact the Ministry of Labour who will issue an authorization to work.

Visa

Non-European Union Nationals planning to stay longer than 3 months or for purposes other than tourism must have a long-stay visa. It is not possible to come to France as a tourist and then change the status to that of a worker, a student or a resident. The French authorities will require the applicant to return to their country of residence to apply for the appropriate visa.

Resident Permit

In addition to the work visa, international assignees also need a "Carte de séjour" (resident permit). For non-European Union members the procedure to obtain a "Carte de séjour" has to be started within 8 days of arrival in France. A number of documents will be required by the local "Préfecture". Before the "Carte de séjour" is available, you will obtain a receipt ("récépissé") which will allow you to move freely in and out of France.

It is important to note that French authorities accept official documents in French only, and a number of documents will therefore need to be translated. For non-European nationals it is very important to keep all relevant papers separately (they should not be send with the shipment) as they are required during the first days of arrival in France.

Depending on your particular reason for your stay and your nationality, Management Mobility Consulting may provide you with a detailed list of documents required and assist you with the administrative formalities.

4. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

4.1 The Basics

Health care in France is excellent and provides accomplished doctors specialising in every field. EU citizens can enjoy the same health services as the French if they have the E101 and E128 forms, which may be obtained through the social security of their country. EU citizens with a French work contract can obtain the E104 form that enables them to be socially covered from their first working day.

For non-EU citizens, their country may have reciprocity agreements with France that enable them to benefit from the French Social Security.

The French health system is based on two principles:

- 1) Free choice for all medical treatment
- 2) Advance payment of the medical costs by the patient

The procedure is the following:

- 1) The patient chooses the doctor (general practitioner, specialist, dentist etc.) and pays him or her for the consultation. The doctor gives the patient a “feuille des soins” (a form for reclaiming the medical expenses) in return.
- 2) If the doctor has prescribed him/her any medication, the patient can get this from the pharmacy. The sticky labels on medication boxes should be stuck in the boxes on the “feuille des soins”, if you do not have the Carte Vitale.
- 3) The person who is insured then makes a claim for reimbursement to the Social Security: The “feuille des soins” with the medication labels have to be sent to the Social Security, if you do not have the Carte Vitale.
- 4) The Social Security reimburses him/her a percentage of the standardised fees set out by the Social Security Administration.
- 5) Whatever amount has not been covered by the Social Security is either at the expense of the patient or can be reimbursed by a complementary insurance fund (called “Mutuelle” in France) if an additional contract has been signed.

4.2 Insured Benefits

The French Social Security Insurance is compulsory for every working person in France who is on the French payroll or works as an independent freelance. The insured benefits from the following items:

- 1) Reimbursement of part of his/her medical costs and expenses incurred through illness or accident
- 2) Compensation for work-related illness or accident
- 3) Daily indemnities for lost pay due to illness, accident or maternity leave.

4.3 Social Security for Expatriates in France

Whether the French Social Security is compulsory for you as expatriate, depends on your status. If your sole source of revenue comes from a French entity, then the status is that of a "**salaré**", and you are entitled to French social security coverage.

If your salary originated from an entity outside France, then your status is most likely that of a "détaché". In this case, you should make sure that you can benefit from any reciprocal agreements which exist between France and your home country. If a reciprocal agreement exists (e.g. between all EU countries), you should request the relevant forms from your insurance in your home country (for European members E1xx). They have to be filled in and sent to the Caisse Primaire in France. You will get an "immatriculation" number. For any medical treatment you will then be partially reimbursed by the French Social Security. You can expect to pay between 18 EUR (general practitioner) and 40 EUR (specialist) for a doctor's visit, for which the average reimbursement is about 70%. Another possibility may be that your home company signs an additional health insurance for you which will reimburse you 100% of your medical costs in France.

In case the French Social Security System is applicable for you, it is your employer who is responsible for making the application ("immatriculation") but you may need to initiate the procedure. In this case, you will get the standard forms from the social security office (Caisse d'assurance maladie). When they have been completed and signed by your company, you will be given a registration card and number and be assigned to a specific office in charge of your account.

If you have a regular income, a fixed sum is automatically deducted from your salary to cover your contribution to social security insurance.

4.4 Dependants

Dependants will receive benefits, not personally but through the person to whom they are dependant. Dependants also benefit from repayments in case of illness or pregnancy. The following persons are classified as dependants:

A spouse who does not work or a spouse who is separated but not divorced and does not work, cohabitants, children who are under the charge of the insured person, of his/her spouse, or dependant. Any person, whether they are related or not, who has lived with the insured person for over one year and is their permanent dependant.

4.5 The Carte Vitale

The Carte Vitale is the size of a credit card and has an electronic chip, which contains all relevant individual information. This card is private and confidential as only health professionals have access to the information contained on it.

The aim of the card is to make reclaiming medical expenses easier and quicker. The doctor connects to the patient's health insurance office by computer and sends them information regarding his diagnosis, treatment and the amount paid by the patient.

The card has not yet become widespread because only one doctor in five has the necessary computer equipment to read the card.

4.6 Hospitalisation

You can choose the establishment in which you are to be hospitalized, but you must realize that they are not all linked to the Social security by an agreement. If the hospital is approved and has an agreement with the Social Security (hôpital public), you will only have to pay that portion of the cost of medical treatment that is not reimbursed by the Social Security and/or any supplements (daily lump-sum catering payment, private room, surcharges, telephone, etc.).

If the hospital establishment is only approved, and does not have an agreement with the Social Security, you will have to pay all costs in advance and the reimbursement rate will be very low.

4.7 Private Health Insurance

As mentioned above, the "Sécurité Sociale" only reimburses a part of the medical costs. For a more complete coverage, you may need a complementary private health insurance called "**Mutuelle**" in France. Most companies in France provide coverage through a "Mutuelle" as part of the employment contract.

4.8 Vaccinations

For enrolment in schools and kindergardens, the following vaccinations are compulsory:

- **Tuberculosis (BGC)**
- **Diphtheria-Tetanos-Polio (DTP)**

The corresponding vaccination certificates should be brought with you.

For further information on Health Care, you can purchase the Health Care Resources in Paris book, by contacting the Women Institute for Continuing Education (WICE), 20, bd du Monparnasse, 75015 Paris, tel. 01 45 66 75 50.

5. SCHOOLING

5.1 The School System in France

Choosing the right school for your children is essential for their integration in France. In France, you can choose a state-run or a private school:

State-run schools are free (but you have to pay for the school fees and for the school materials i.e. books, writings supplies...).

When selecting a state-run school, generally you have to send your children to the school nearest your home. It is occasionally possible to place your children in a state-run school outside your home area, but authorization has to be obtained from the Town Hall ("Mairie").

Private (or public) schools are fee-paying. Some of the French private schools offer a large number of options and have got a very good reputation. The private schools are usually catholic.

French schooling is divided into the following sections:

TYPE OF SCHOOL (French names)	FORMS	AGE OF CHILD (in years)
CRÈCHE, HALTE-GARDERIE, NOURRICE (optional)	Pre-school nursery	3 months-3 years
ÉCOLE MATERNELLE (optional)	Kindergarden / Nursery school Pré-élémentaire	3-6
ÉCOLE PRIMAIRE	- CP - Cours Préparatoire - CE1 - Cours Elémentaire 1 st year - CE2 - Cours Elémentaire 2 nd year - CM1 - Cours Moyen 1 st year - CM2 - Cours Moyen 2 nd year	6-7 7-8 8-9 9-10 10-11
COLLÈGE	- 6e - Sixième (6 th) - 5e - Cinquième (5 th) - 4e - Quatrième (4 th) - 3e - Troisième (3 rd)	11-12 12-13 13-14 14-15
LYCÉE	- 2nde - Seconde (2 nd) - 1ère - Première (1 st) - Terminale <u>Final exam: Baccalaureat</u>	15-16 16-17 17-18

5.1.1 Pre-School Nursery

For pre-school toddlers you have three main options in France:

A **"Crèche" system**: Priority is usually given to working parents who enroll their children either full or part-time. "Crèches" are located in almost all areas.

The **"Halte-Garderie"** is a day care centre where our children can be looked after for a few hours a week. These are small centers where your children are in contact with other children and can learn to make friends easier.

An **"Assistante Maternelle Agréée"** or a **"Nourrice"** is a nanny looking after your child (and 1-3 other children) on a full or part-time basis.

5.1.2 Nursery School ("Ecole Maternelle")

The French "École Maternelle" corresponds roughly to a nursery school. Although this school is optional, it gives your children a good impression of what the French school environment is like. They can acquire a practical experience of living in a small community. This experience may make their contact with others and their integration easier. Children often learn how to write their name during the first year of "Ecole Maternelle". In France children go to school full days. On Wednesday there is no school.

5.1.3 Elementary School ("*École Primaire*")

Elementary School starts at the age of 6 years and is compulsory in France. It lasts 5 years. This stage focuses heavily on reading, writing and arithmetic skills. From the second year on (CE1) in some schools children are taught a little English or German.

5.1.4 Secondary School ("*Collège*")

The 4 years of secondary school emphasize developing logical and critical thought and powers of observation, while continuing to master the French language and new languages. Enormous importance is also placed on mathematics and sciences.

In the first year of the Secondary School ("6e") you have to select the first foreign language your children will study. Facultative options such as Greek and Latin are usually possible. In the "4e" (13 years old), your children will have to choose a second language.

5.1.5 High School ("Lycée")

High school leads to the "**Baccalauréat**" (or simple 'le bac') which is the prerequisite for higher education in France.

The curriculum of the "Lycée" is a continuation of and expansion on the subjects taught at the College level, but with an increased emphasis on personal work habits, rational thinking, judgment and communication skills, etc.

In the "1ère" children will have to specialize and to choose one section corresponding to their interests and skills:

- "**1ère SCIENTIFIQUE**": the programme is general but emphasizes scientific subjects such as: Physics, Biology, Math...
- "**1ère LITTÉRAIRE**" : Languages, French, History
- "**1ère STT**" : Communication, Law, Economy and Management.
- "**1ère ES**" : Economy and Social issues in France

At the end of the "Terminale" the children sit their final exam, the French "Baccalauréat".

5.2 Schooling Options for Expatriate Children

The choice of your children's type of school is an essential factor to take into account in order to help them adapt emotionally, socially and educationally to the new country. There are several schooling options for expatriate children.

You have three different **types of schools**:

- National schools (such as American, British, German, Japanese schools) in France
- Bilingual schools
- French schools with international options
- French schools

These four types of schools are described in our **PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION PACK**. This will also provide you

- a **map** indicating you the locations of selected schools in the Ile-de-France Region
- **a list of schools with addresses and profiles** of these institutions
- **a check-list of criteria** to be taken into consideration when choosing a school in France

We assist you to select an adequate type of school, to identify schools in your region, to visit selected schools and to prepare the enrolment.

5.2.1 Types of Schools

5.2.1.1 International Schools

The international and bilingual schools prepare students either to the International baccalaureate (IB), or to the American high school diploma (AHS diploma), or to the British GCSE A levels, or to the French baccalaureate International Option (FB International option).

These schools are often chosen by expatriates who will only stay for a short period in France or parents who want their children to keep on being taught in their mother tongue.

5.2.1.2 Bilingual Schools

This option offers a balance between your children's mother tongue and French. Actually, being taught the different subjects both in their mother tongue and in French, enables expatriate children to make quick progress not only in their mother tongue but also in French. Most of the subjects will be taught in French even if some subjects can be chosen in English. The purpose of the Bilingual school is to allow your children to integrate as fast and as easily as possible in France. These schools usually follow the French curriculum.

On choosing a bilingual school, it is important to make sure that the diploma your children pass will be recognized in the country where and if they plan to study in the future.

5.2.1.3 French Schools with International Sections

These schools follow the French curriculum but have several private sections (British, American, German, Spanish, etc.) which follow the corresponding curriculum. The international sections are taught in the mother tongue. French schools with International sections usually offer the International Baccalaureate.

5.2.1.4 French Schools

The French school may be the most difficult but also a very efficient way for your children to integrate. Obviously, this depends on your children's emotional, social and affective state as well as on their adaptation capacity. It should also be taken into account that integration into the school system of their home country afterwards may become difficult after their expatriation.

N.B.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this Information Pack, but we cannot guarantee the correctness of the information and we cannot accept any financial responsibility for errors, omissions or changes in the information contained in this documentation.

Names, addresses and rules may change and there may be exceptions applying to your particular case. If you find any error in this Information Pack, we would appreciate if you could inform us so that we can make corrections.

Before you take any irreversible decision which may affect your or your family's safety or your finances, we strongly recommend you to get a confirmation of our advice by a specialist (lawyer, accountant, electrician, etc.).

Our Information Pack is updated every year in July.