

Tour
Information



Metz and Luxembourg





Passports

Please ensure your 10 year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full three months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to France.

Visas

British and EU passport holders are not required to have a visa.

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

French consulate: PO Box 57, 6A Cromwell Place, London SW7 2EW; Tel (020) 7838 2000/1. Information Service: Tel (0891) 887 733, Fax: (020) 7838 2046. Opening hours: 0900-1130 (and 1600-1630 for visa collection only) Mon-Fri (except British and French national holidays).



Tickets

You will be issued with return train tickets.

Please take care not to lose your tickets and please check that the details on your tickets are accurate. Your ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.

Standard Premier on Eurostar tickets is indicated by two asterisks in the class type section in the top right hand corner. A light meal will be served to passengers travelling Standard Premier on Eurostar. Standard class Eurostar tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although there is a buffet car serving drinks and snacks.

TGV tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although a buffet car is available.

Train Seats

On all legs of the journey you have reserved seat and carriage numbers which are shown clearly on your ticket.



Baggage

As with most trains, passengers are responsible for carrying baggage onto and off the train. Baggage can be stored on overhead shelves or at the entrance to the carriages. Trolleys are available at St Pancras and Paris, but bags do need to be carried on to the platform. Porters are sometimes but not always available at St Pancras.

Travel Editions recommends a luggage delivery service called **thebaggageman**, where your suitcase can be picked up from your home before departure and delivered straight to your hotel; therefore removing the worry about carrying your cases onto and off the trains.

For further information:

<http://www.thebaggageman.com>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Transfers

On arrival in Metz, transfer to Hotel Novotel Centre for a three-night stay.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Novotel Metz Centre, Metz

The four-star Novotel Metz Centre is perfectly located in the heart of Metz. The hotel's decor is modern and stylish with a range of facilities - fitness centre, restaurant and relaxed bar. Rooms are contemporary and airy with en-suite bathroom, hairdryer, air-conditioning, TV, telephone, wi-fi, and coffee/tea making facilities. A safe is available at reception.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:
<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-0589-novotel-metz-centre/index.shtml>



Food

Located on the north-eastern border of France, the Lorraine region's cuisine is inspired by neighbouring Germany – popular dishes include *Quiche Lorraine*, *Bouchée à la reine* (vol-au-vent garnished with savoury filling and thick creamy sauce), *potée lorraine* (pork, potatoes, beans, cabbage, carrot and leak stew), and *choucroute Lorraine* (sauerkraut with *saucisson de Lorraine* and frankfurter sausage). Other traditional dishes from Metz include *omelette Lorraine* (made with *Boudin de Nancy* and herbs), *Soupe Lorraine au lard* (smoked bacon and vegetable soup), *salade de pissenlits* (dandelion salad), and *porc en civet roti aux mirabelles* (roast pork with Mirabelle plums).

For typical sweets try *Madeleine Lorraine*, *Gâteau au chocolat de Metz*, and the many tarts and desserts made with locally grown fruits such as mirabelle and damson plums, apricots, and cherries. Coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *café au lait* (or *crème*) is requested. A speciality of the area is the *brûlot*, a sweetened coffee imbibed with Mirabelle eau-de-vie and flamed.

Almost all restaurants offer two types of meals: *a la carte* (extensive choice for each course, generally more expensive) and *le menu* (a set meal at a fixed price).

The bill (*l'addition*) will not be presented until it is asked for, even if clients sit and talk for half an hour after finishing their meal. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in France are strictly observed. Lunch is as a rule served from noon to 1330, dinner usually from 2000-2130, but the larger the city, the later the dining hour.



Drink

Wine is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in France, and the choice will vary according to region. After a phylloxera infestation in the late 1800s, which destroyed much of the vines, the Lorraine is now one of the smallest French vineyards. It still manages to produce two original wines – a grey Gamay wine (*Toul de Gris*) and the white *Auxerrois* wines, as well as Pinot noirs and Pinot gris. Along with Côtes de Toul AOC, Moselle AOC and Côtes de Meuse are the main vineyards.

Excellent mirabelle, damson, pear, raspberry, cherry and bilberry eau-de-vie and liqueurs are also produced in the region.

In elegant restaurants the wine list will be separate from the main menu, but in less opulent establishments will be printed on the back or along the side of the *carte*. The waiter will usually be glad to advise an appropriate choice. If in doubt, try the house wine; this will usually be less expensive and will always be the owner's pride.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner is included on two nights at the atmospheric Relais d'Alsace and Brasserie Flo.



Destination

It was in Meisenthal that École de Nancy founder Émile Gallé first learnt the craft of glass blowing and decorating, which he used to great effect in his interpretation of Art Nouveau. Now home of the International Glass Centre, the whole region is famed for both its glass craft and pottery and from your base in the dignified city of Metz, expert Dr Anne Anderson will guide you through the wonderful works by Gallé, Daum, Lalique and Saint-Louis and how they, and others, used these traditional crafts to promote the principles of their artistic philosophies.

Details of places of interest:

Metz

Settled about 3,000 years ago by a Celtic tribe, later becoming a major Gallo-Roman city, a religious and cultural capital in the Middle Ages, and more recently moving between France and Germany, Metz has a long and fascinating history. The charming medieval old town boasts a host of sights, including an impressive *cathedral*, one of the tallest Gothic buildings in Europe, the oldest working classical opera-theatre in France, and the contrasting *Temple Neuf*.

For more information about Metz:
<http://www.tourisme-metz.com/en/home.html>

Gare de Metz-Ville

Located in the Germanic Imperial District, the train station was commissioned by the Kaiser Wilhelm II and designed by architect Jürgen Kröger in the early 20th century. The building houses the Emperor's apartments and reception halls.

Centre Pompidou Metz

A satellite site of the National Collection of Modern Art in Paris, this incredible building is a masterpiece of contemporary architecture. Hosting various temporary exhibitions, it offers the very best of modern and contemporary art. Note that entrance is not included on the tour but you will have time to visit at your leisure on Monday.

For more information about the Centre Pompidou Metz:
<http://www.centrepompidou-metz.fr/>

“La Grande Place” Saint-Louis Crystal Museum

Located in the heart of the prestigious Saint-Louis factory and housed in a former Royal Factory, this superb museum displays over 2000 crystal glass items and retraces the history of Saint-Louis crystal and the technique of the master craftsmen.

For more information about Saint-Louis crystal:
<https://www.saint-louis.com/en/>

Musée Lalique, Wingen-sur-Moder

Concentrating on glass and crystal items created by René Lalique in Wingen-sur-Moder, this museum's splendid collection includes jewellery, crystal, glass, perfume bottles and drawings. A particular focus is placed on the techniques used by Lalique to achieve effects in glass.

For more information about the Musée Lalique:
<http://www.musee-lalique.com/en>

Luxembourg

The old city of Luxembourg is an outstanding mixture of historic sites and contemporary architecture, its fortress has long been a UNESCO world heritage site. The National Museum of History and Art has a large archaeological section along with a wide range of Luxembourg art dating back to the 18th century and an impressive collection of contemporary art. The railway station district on the plateau Bourbon is notable for its many art deco and art nouveau style buildings.

For more information about Luxembourg:
<http://www.lcto.lu/en>

Your lecturer / guide

Prof. Anne Anderson author, broadcaster, international NADFAS lecturer and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, was a senior lecturer at Southampton Solent University for 14 years, specialising in the Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau and Modernism; she currently teaches at Kingston University. Anne's career as an international speaker has taken her all over the world and her TV credits include the BBC's *Flog it!* Anne has received a rapturous response from our customers at the many Travel Editions UK lectures and tours she has hosted and is excited at the prospect of sharing her knowledge with our clients further afield.

During your trip enjoy two evening lectures:

'Playing with Fire: the Glass of Gallé and Lalique'

'Art Nouveau in Metz and Luxembourg'

Reading suggestions

Graham Robb, *The Discovery of France*.

A general introduction to French culture, landscape and history, it also features an excellent insight into the distinctive character of France's regions.

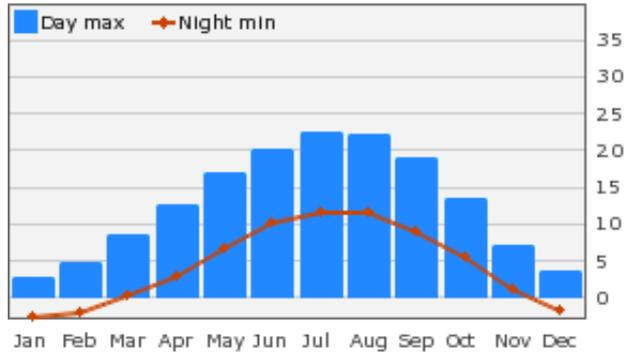
Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Metz at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – French.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Victory in Europe day (08 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; National day (14 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Department stores are open 0900-1830 Monday to Saturday. Most shops are closed between 1200-1430. Some food shops (particularly bakers) are open Sunday mornings, in which case they will probably close Monday. Many shops close all day or half-day Monday. Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700),

Outside office hours, please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7899 796542 or

00 44 7831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

Consular services Paris

16 rue d'Anjou

75008 Paris

France

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00

Fax: +33 (0)1 44 51 31 27

Open Mon-Fri 0930-1230. Outside these hours a consular Emergency Service is in operation and can be contacted on +33 (0)1 44 51 31 00.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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