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France has a current risk level of 3 out of 5, advising travelers to use some caution. For UK citizens, traveling to France is visa-free. However, non-British UK residents may need a French Short-stay visa (Schengen visa) for up to 90 days due to requirements based on their citizenship. The process involves checking if a visa is required and following the application steps. - Check if You Need a Visa: Not all travelers require a visa for France. - Requirements include being a legal resident of the UK with a non-EU passport, denied entry to France or Schengen countries without a visa, or rejected from entering visa-free as a citizen of a non-EU country with a visa liberalisation agreement. - Exemptions: - Holding a UK passport. - Being an EU member state, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, or Switzerland citizen. - Possessing a US, Canada, Australia, Japan passport with a visa liberalisation agreement. - Having a valid residence permit from any Schengen area country. - Required Documents for Entry: Check the necessary documents even if you're exempted as a precautionary measure. - Understanding Visa Types: - Short-stay Schengen Visa for trips up to 90 days, regardless of purpose. - Long-stay visa (D-type) for stays exceeding 90 days or other purposes. - A short-stay national visa is required for visits to non-European territories. French long-stay visas for stays over 90 days in France or its territories require a visa with a duration between three months and one year. This type of visa allows you to stay up to 4-6 months and is necessary for purposes like short courses, artistic activities, or visiting if financially stable. Applicants from the UK can submit their applications at the French Consulate General in London or any of the TLS Contact centres in London, Manchester, or Edinburgh. However, if your Schengen trip includes multiple countries, you must apply for a French visa through one of these UK locations only if you'll spend more days in France than elsewhere. To begin the application process, complete the online form and print it along with other required documents. Create an account to start the application and specify your visit's purpose under 'Details about your plans'. For more detailed information on choosing the right embassy or consulate for your visa application, refer to the official website of the French government. When contacting the Consulate General of France in Edinburgh, use email as it is the most efficient method. Duty officers monitor emails during office hours and will respond promptly at [email protected]. Given article text here and book an appointment to submit your application. The recommended time for scheduling a French visa appointment in the UK is at least 15 days before travel, but no more than six months beforehand. Sometimes there are waiting times for appointments, and according to the French government's website, slots are usually available within 48 working hours; however, this can vary during peak periods. In reality, booking an appointment for a French visa in the UK often takes much longer. Reports from Reddit users indicate that slots may not be available for weeks before they become accessible. To get a French Schengen visa in the UK, applicants must prepare the required documents as specified by the Schengen visa code. For short-term stays in France, applicants need to submit the following documents to the French consulate: The French Schengen visa application form and general documents needed for any Schengen visa application. A valid UK Residence permit that has been issued as a biometric card or endorsed in the passport. Travel insurance from a UK or Schengen-based company with at least €30,000 of coverage for medical emergencies and repatriation in case of death. Applicants can get travel insurance through Europ Assistance or vti.travel by comparing policies from AXA, Allianz, Europ Assistance, and Mutuaide. Insurance providers like these are accepted by French authorities in the UK, and applicants can cancel their insurance at no cost if they receive a visa rejection notice. To book a hotel, €120 (£103) per day is charged if no booking is made for the entire stay. If a partial booking is made, €65 (£56) per day for the booked period and €32.50 (£28) per day for the remaining stay are applied. Additionally, attending the scheduled French visa appointment at one of the TLS visa centres in London, Manchester, or Edinburgh takes about 20 minutes. A third party can apply on behalf if necessary, but this may still require appearing to submit biometric information. A visa application takes approximately 15 working days to process, with a maximum waiting period of up to 30 days. Tracking status is available through the official France visa website. Upon approval, travel to France is allowed within the dates specified on the visa sticker, and visa types include single, double, or multiple entries. The length of stay depends on consular authorities' decisions, which can be up to 90 days. If a visa is refused, reasons for refusal are stated in the decision letter, with options to appeal or reapply within 30 days. The French visa fee covers processing costs and cannot be refunded. Finally, passport collection varies by location, but it will be returned either personally or via courier, often at the applicant's expense. Upon entry, the Schengen Area must be entered and exited within the specified dates, while arriving travelers should carry required documents. Given text To enter France or French Overseas Territories with a valid passport and visa, present the following documents: A valid passport issued within the last 10 years, with at least three months' validity beyond your planned departure date. The passport must contain a visa sticker. Accommodation proof: A hotel reservation or a certificate of staying with a relative, validated by the town hall, covering the entire duration of your stay. Sufficient funds: Proof that you can afford your stay in France. Return ticket or proof of acquiring one at your planned return date. Business trip documents: - Your profession or capacity details - Information about organizations or establishments in France you're visiting Schengen insurance for the entire duration of your stay. Transit documents: - Proof of meeting entry conditions for the final destination country's visa requirements. - A valid onward ticket and sufficient funds. For French non-European territories, a specific short-stay national visa is required. Certain groups can enter without a visa: European Economic Area citizens, EU or Swiss nationals, some Ministerial orders holders, French residence permit holders, long-stay Schengen visa holders, and diplomatic personnel with a card from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For Indian citizens, a French Schengen visa in the UK is possible if you've been legally residing there for more than three months. Non-residents should apply in India instead. Given article text here The European Entry/Exit System (EES) is set to begin operations in October 2025 but as yet isn't running. EU officials will confirm the exact launch date before it starts up. You can find more about the EES on the EU's website. Currently, there are temporary border controls at Germany's land borders if you're planning a trip into the country. Check the entry requirements for Germany before you go. For any travel to France, make sure you know the vaccination and medical entry rules by checking out TravelHealthPro's guidelines for France. When bringing goods into or out of France, be aware that there are strict customs regulations - anything prohibited, taxable or dutiable must be declared. It's also worth noting that you can't bring meat, milk, or products containing them into EU countries unless it's powdered baby milk, special pet food, or something needed for medical reasons. If you're carrying more than 10,000 euros in cash or traveller's cheques, you'll need to declare it and get a certified document; failing to do so could result in your money being seized when you leave France.

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