



France on a budget

By: Eman Baha



Getting there

- If possible, go off-season. It is cheaper and less crowded
- Flights, accommodation, and many other things will be cheaper
- France is most crowded during summer (June to August) and international holidays
- December to March is off-peak season; everything is cheaper and it's less crowded
- Helpful resource on when to go: [THE SAVVY BACKPACKER](#)
- To give you perspective, a round-trip flight from LAX to Paris costs roughly \$2K in high season (summer) while low season is only \$1K.



What to take with you

- Bare-bone essentials. You will regret excess while you are struggling to lug your bags around the streets of France.
- One big luggage (a suitcase or a backpacking-style backpack) and one small carry-on for essentials
- Leave room to buy other goods, clothes, and souvenirs you want
- France by Lonely Planet: [LONELY PLANET FRANCE \(TRAVEL GUIDE\)](#)
 - Why get it? Basic travel information and recommendations by experts on stay, food, places to see, safety, transport, etc.
- [“FRENCH PHRASEBOOK & DICTIONARY BY LONELY PLANET”](#)
Why get it? Most useful phrases for all situations



Online resources on France/Paris

- www.google.com
- www.thesavvybackpacker.com
- www.nomadicmatt.com
- www.lonelyplanet.com
- There are plenty more you can find if you just Google “things to do in [insert place]”



Accommodation/Stay

- www.hostelworld.com
- www.hostelbookers.com
- Why stay in a hostel?
 - Much cheaper than hotels, more social atmosphere, you make friends with fellow travelers such as yourself
- France guide by Lonely Planet
 - No internet? This book has recommended places to stay with general pricing and addresses

A decorative header featuring a bright yellow sun with a blue circle in the center, partially obscured by stylized white and light blue clouds against a blue gradient background.

Make a budget

- You should seldom dine out at fancy restaurants (a few times a week is okay)
- Buy food from the grocery store or buy street food (ex: crepes), which are cheap and delicious
- If you are going out, buy some wine or liquor and pre-game
- Do not use taxi unless necessary. Use public transport like buses, metro, train, etc.
- Avoid tours if possible. Do it yourself to save money.

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The big question

- How much will I need for a two-week trip to Paris or France?
- \$2K round-trip flight (high season) or \$1K flight (off-season)
- Hostel accommodation: \$20-40 depending on quality of hostel and which city/area you are in (Paris is most expensive)
- Food: \$20-30 if you buy street food and don't fine dine
- Transport: \$5-10 a day, depending on activity
- Tourist activities/Sightseeing: Varies
- Realistically, France/Paris COULD be done on \$50-60 a day but it would have to be strict. \$80 a day is a safer estimate to go by when budgeting for trip.

A stylized illustration of a bright yellow sun with a blue circle in the center, partially obscured by blue and white clouds. The background is a solid blue color.

How the hell will I afford this?

- If you go off-season, you could spend 2 weeks in Paris/France for around \$2K
 - Set aside \$175 a month for 12 months, and you have your trip
- If you save up \$3K, you could very comfortably stay in the nicest hostels, essentially eat what you want and dine out often, enjoy sightseeing, etc. during OFF-SEASON
- Set aside \$250 a month for 12 months, and you have your trip
- If you decide to go during HIGH-SEASON, add an extra \$1K to your budget
- Think about how much money you spend on a daily basis that you could be saving by cooking and preparing your own meals instead of buying food at cafes and restaurants, by not buying those clothes you don't need, by watching a movie at home with friends instead of going to the local bar/club, by cutting down on buying weed and drinking, etc.



Questions?

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