

Fact Sheet

France



Welcome



Where is France?

France is in Western Europe and extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the English Channel and the North Sea. France is bordered by Andorra, Monaco, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.



Time difference

South Africa is one hour ahead of France.



Population

There are about 64-million people living in France.



Language

French



Economy

France is the eighth-largest economy in the world in terms of GDP. By the fourth quarter of 2013, the economy was growing at 0.3%.

Its main economic sectors include telecommunications, aerodynamics, chemicals and textiles. France is also a world leader in nuclear energy.



Trade statistics on French travellers to South Africa

The majority of French travellers visit South Africa for holidays, with business travel being the next most common, and the fastest-growing, purpose of visit.

France is the fifth-largest long-haul market for South Africa in terms of the number of arrivals, despite fewer than 0.5% of French outbound travellers visiting South Africa.

French travellers are the fifth-largest contributors to the South African tourism economy.

Nearly half of French travellers to South Africa are professionals.

French travellers usually visit South Africa with their spouse/partner or alone. However, tour groups have also become popular.

The majority of French travellers stay for 10 days in South Africa.

Visiting natural attractions and watching wildlife are the most common activities for French travellers to South Africa.

The average contribution by a business traveller is higher than by other visitors.

The Western Cape is the most widely visited South African province by French leisure travellers.



Manners

Restaurants

French people enjoy Pernod, kir, champagne or vermouth before dinner. Wine is served with dinner and liqueurs are served after dinner.

Professionalism

French people are direct in meetings and expect you to state your business intentions up front.



How to make a French person's day

Wildlife/game-park experiences and scenic beauty are the most common reasons for satisfaction among French travellers to South Africa – do your best to make sure they experience these.