



# Tour Information



## Metz and Luxembourg





## Travel

### Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

### Visas

You do not need a visa for short trips to France and Luxembourg. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

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

**The tour manager will distribute Eurostar tickets at St Pancras. Please meet at the statue underneath the big clock on the first-floor 1½ - 2 hours prior to departure time.**

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.

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 **thebaggage**, 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.thebaggage.com>

### 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.

### Border Control

You may have to show your return ticket and money. At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

### Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



## 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.

Please note twin bedded rooms at the hotel consist of a double bed and a pull-out sofa bed.

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 local restaurants



## 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 Prof. 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 included in your tour:

#### 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, please visit:*  
<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 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building houses the emperor's apartments and reception halls.

#### “La Grande Place” Saint-Louis Crystal Museum

Long before the name Saint-Louis became established glass had already held sway in the Bitche region. Born in 1586, the Müntzthal glassworks became Verrerie Royale in 1767 through Louis XV's royal seal of approval. The master glassmakers, proud and secretive, blew engraved and cut glass without respite in their endeavour to produce the finest and most transparent glass possible. By this time Italy and Bohemia were already producing crystalline, but it was the Englishman George Ravenscroft who perfected the technique for making genuine crystal. In 1781, experts at Saint-Louis

solved the mystery themselves and in 1829 the factory was renamed as Cristallerie Royale de Saint Louis. In the wave of creativity that swept through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century where Art Nouveau and Art Deco were born, lots of external designers brought their talents to Saint-Louis including Paul Nicolas, Jean Sala, Jean Luce, Michel Colle and Maurice Dufrene.

The prestigious Saint-Louis crystal factory and museum is located in the heart of the Cristallerie, in Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche, Moselle. 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, please visit:*  
<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, please visit:* <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 18<sup>th</sup> 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, please visit:*  
<http://www.lcto.lu/en>

## Your lecturer / guide

Prof. Anne Anderson author, broadcaster 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'*

## 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.

## Grading

This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.

## Reading suggestions

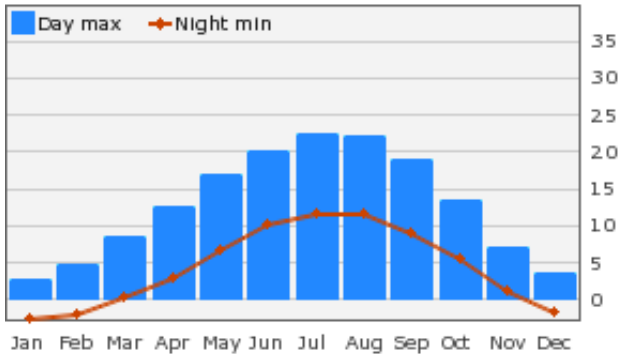
**Graham Robb, *The Discovery of France.***

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



## 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. The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

**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](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### 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.

### Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

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

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



## 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 7841 023807 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](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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