



Strasbourg - City Business Guide

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Overview

Strasbourg is a city of dignified elegance, professionalism and strong intellectual values. The current site of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, Strasbourg has a major role in European affairs, a result of its key location and reputation for excellence.

Strasbourg's strongly capitalistic culture has led it to develop a robust export-driven economy. Major industries in Strasbourg are high technology, electronics, automotive, engineering, textile, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and breweries.

Strasbourg also boasts an energetic cultural atmosphere, supported by the large numbers of international students who attend its university. Located in the Old Town, the Cathedral of Notre Dame embodies the city's glorious status during the Renaissance era.

Business Etiquette

* Attire for professional contexts tends to be very formal.

* In the business setting, women should be addressed as "Madame", and men as "Monsieur".

* When scheduling your meetings, remember that with five weeks of vacation entitled to them by law, many French employees take several weeks off in the summer. Some companies even close operations for the month of August.

* Wine is a customary part of meals, including at business lunches, and a lot of thought goes into pairing wine with the dishes.

* Service charges and taxes are included in restaurant prices. Though not mandatory, small tips (going up to 5% in finer establishments) are the norm.

* There is no custom of the "doggy bag" here. Do not request to have leftovers packed to take with you.

* Smoking is accepted in many places but you should always ask before lighting up.

Chamber of Commerce

Maison du Commerce International 4, quai Kléber; Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 75 42 24

Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Strasbourg et du Bas-Rhin 10, place Gutenberg; Tel.: +33 3 88 75 25 25

Embassies and Consulates

Japan 20 pl Halles 67000 Strasbourg; Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 52 85 00

Mexico 19, rue Lovisa 67000 Strasbourg; Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 45 77 11

U.K. 18, rue Gottfried; Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 35 00 78

U.S. 15, avenue d'Alsace; Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 35 31 04

Netherlands 12 rue Wimpheling 67000 Strasbourg; Tel.: 03 88 61 00 29

Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Strasbourg et du Bas-Rhin 10, place Gutenberg; Tel.: +33 3 88 75 25 25

Business Centers

Most large hotels also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.

Centre Delta bleu 9, Place Kléber; Tel.: + 33 (0)3 88 14 38 88

IB Your Office 2 rue Faisanderie 67380 Lingolsheim Tel.: 03 90 20 21 22

Telexal Buro Services 2, rue Thomas Edison 67450 Mundolsheim Tel.: 03 88 18 37 37

Athena Business Center 10, avenue Molière (entrance: 2, rue Thomas Mann); Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 27 99 50

World Trade Center Strasbourg, Maison du Commerce International 10, place Gutenberg; Tel.: + 33 (3) 88 76 42 24

Regus Strasbourg Tour Sebastopol 3 quai Kléber Strasbourg Cedex 3 67 080 Strasbourg; Tel : +33 3 88 23 70 70 Fax : +33 (0) 3 88 23 70 00

Conference and Exhibition Centers

Major hotels also offer conference and exhibition facilities.

Palais des Congres de Strasbourg (Strasbourg Music and Conference Center) Place de Bordeaux-Wacken; Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 37 67 67

Translation Offices

A Propos Traduction 4, rue La Fayette, BP 941; Tel.: +33 (0)3 88 79 89 00

Alphatrad Building Le Mathis, 204 avenue de Colmar, 67000, Strasbourg; Tel.: +33 (0)8 25 33 25 25

Courier/Messenger Services

Transalex 30, rue Tilleuls 67400 Illkirch Graffenstaden, Tel.: 03 88 67 19 82

DHL Parc Activités les Découvertes 1, rue Mickael Faraday 67450

Mundolsheim; Tel.:+33 (0)820 20 25 25 (toll-free within France)

FedEx Tel.: +33 (0)8 00 12 38 00 (toll-free within France)

UPS rue de Rochefort 67100 Strasbourg; Tel.: +33 (0)8 00 87 78 77 (toll-free within France)

Internet Connection Place

All upper-range and most medium-priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels also offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:

Cybercafé L' Utopie 21 rue Fossé des Tanneurs 67000 Strasbourg; Tel.: 03 88 23 89 21

Net sur Cour 18 quai Pêcheurs 67000 Strasbourg, Tel. : +33 3 88 35 66 76

Visas & Customs

Citizens of Brazil, Czech Republic, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the U.K., and the U.S. do not need a visa to enter France.

Citizens of the People's Republic of China must apply for a visa.

Duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 liter of spirits with an alcohol content exceeding 22% by volume or 2 liter of spirits or liquors with an alcohol content not exceeding 22% by volume; 50g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette and personal goods up to the value of 183 EUR. However, there are now no limits imposed on tobaccos and alcohol from one EU country to another.

Phone Information

The International Dialing Code for France is 33. The city code for Strasbourg is (0)3.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police 17

Fire 18

Ambulance 15

SOS Help (English-language crisis line) Tel.: +33 (0)1 46 21 46 46

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

When making calls within France, you need to add "0" in front of the area code.

You do not need to dial "0" when calling Strasbourg from abroad. Directory assistance is 12. Toll-free numbers begin with "800," while premium numbers begin with "08". Public phones are widely available, and most public phones accept only calling cards.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

Cellular numbers start with "06". GSM is the cellular standard in France. SFR, Orange France, and Bouygues Telecom are the main cellular providers. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into France, be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

As of January 1, 2002, Euro became the official currency. Euro notes are available in denominations of 5 EUR, 10 EUR, 20 EUR, 50 EUR, 100 EUR, 200 EUR, and 500 EUR, while coins are in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents, and 1 EUR and 2 EUR. The euro is divided into 100 cents. Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks, hotels, airports, train stations, and authorized foreign currency exchange offices. ATMs are available throughout the country.

Traveler's checks are accepted widely. Most businesses accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Diners Club is less common. You may be required to enter your four-digit PIN number, so you should be sure to have this information.

Tiping

Restaurants A 15 percent service charge is usually added to the bill, unless the menu says service non compris or service en sus when you should add your own 15 percent; an additional small tip for good service is always welcome

Bars Service is usually included, but it's customary to leave a euro or two or just round up the charge

Airport skycap/porter 1 EUR to 1.5 EUR per piece of luggage

Taxis 10 percent of the fare

Hotel bell desk 1.5 EUR per piece of luggage

Hotel housekeeping 1.5 EUR per night

Hotel room service Service charge is usually included, but round it up or leave another 1 EUR

Parking attendant/valet 1 EUR to 1.5 EUR

Haircare/personal services 10 percent of the charge

Time Difference

France is in the Western European Time Zone, which is Greenwich Mean Time plus one hour. It observes Daylight Savings Time from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.





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VAT & Taxes

VAT is 19.6% and is always included in the posted price.

Voltage

Electricity is 220-240V AC, 50Hz. Plugs are round with either two or three pins.

Local Transportation

Strasbourg has an efficient public transportation network, and there is no need to rent a car. In particular, its high tech tram system is clean, reliable, and convenient. CTS is the main public bus service provider. Réseau 67 serves areas north, west and south of Strasbourg, but Sunday and holiday service is quite limited. Taxis can be best found at taxi stands or ordered by phone.

Health Info

France requires no special immunizations or health precautions. France has one of world's top healthcare systems, and the emergency rooms are well equipped. Pharmacies in Strasbourg take turns staying open after hours - lists are posted in the pharmacy windows. Access to prescription and over-the-counter drugs in France are excellent.

Climate

Strasbourg is generally dry, warm and sunny. In July the average temperature is around 19 degrees Celsius (67 degrees Fahrenheit) and the average amount of precipitation is 76 mm. In January the average temperature is 1 degree Celsius (35 degrees Fahrenheit) and the average precipitation is 35 mm.

Public Holidays

- * **New Year's Day** January 1
- * **Good Friday** Friday before Easter (not official but widely observed)
- * **Easter** Sunday in mid-March or early April
- * **Easter Monday** Monday after Easter
- * **Ascension Day** Sixth Thursday after Easter
- * **Labor Day** May 1
- * **1945 Victory Day** May 8
- * **Bastille Day** July 14
- * **Assumption** August 15
- * **All Saints Day** November 1
- * **Remembrance Day** November 11
- * **Christmas** December 25

Where to Eat

Chef Emile Jung combines his love of haute cuisine and regional cooking at his top Strasbourg restaurant, **Au Crocodile**, blessed with two Michelin stars. **Le P'ti Max**, a Strasbourg institution, specializes in traditional Alsatian flavors. **Julien** offers sumptuous French dishes and impeccable service, as well as a stunning view on the Ill River. Popular among Strasbourg's power players, the Chef Antoine Westermann's restaurant, **Buerhiesel**, situated in l'Orangerie, serves refined and regional modern cuisine. Particularly popular with businesspeople, **L'Ami Schutz** is one of Strasbourg's most picturesque Bierstubs, with a wooden beamed interior. At **Zimmer Sengel**, fusion is defined by a skilful blending of Alsatian and Southeast Asian influences. Favourite with Strasbourg's jet set and business community **Le Pont des Vosges** is a trendy Parisian-style brasserie with a menu based on the region's best seasonal produce.

Local Gift Ideas

Strasbourg is a great place to shop for antique objects, in particular Louis XV and Louis XVI period furniture and decorative items and 18th and 19th century tureens and other ceramics. For more moderately priced gifts, the region is known for Soufflenheim tureens and dinnerware and a range of textile goods such as tablecloths, napkins and aprons. Beer is also a popular local gift.

Leisure Time

Dating from the Middle Ages, the Cathedral of Notre Dame is one of Strasbourg's most prominent monuments. Strasbourg's many cultural institutions include the Historical Museum, Beaux Arts Museum, Modern Arts Museum and Decorative Arts Museum. UNESCO counts the city's Petite France district, with its striking specimens of medieval architecture, among its World Heritage Sites. Structures built in the German neo-Gothic style can be seen at the Place de la République.

Among Europe's most distinguished intellectual centers, the University of Strasbourg is the alma mater of such historical heavyweights as Napoleon, Goethe and Pasteur. This area is also home to the European Parliament, the Palais de l'Europe, and Europe's Court of Human Rights.

L'Orangerie is a park that also hosts exhibitions and concerts. To know more about Strasbourg's beer-related history, take a day trip to Schiltigheim.

