

Overview of French Guiana

Nestled between the Brazilian Amazon and the Atlantic Ocean, French Guiana is a lush land of glorious sunshine and intriguing cultures. Popular stops in this remote French territory include the picturesque capital, Cayenne, and the Center Spatial Guyanais (Space Centre) in the city of Kourou.

Dense rainforests cover much of the small territory, making it a fantastic eco-tourism destination. Nature lovers will certainly appreciate seeing leatherback turtles lay eggs at Awala-Yalimpopo, spotting exotic birds on the Kaw savannah and watching capuchin monkeys lying along the Sentier Molokoi de Cacao trail. The lovely Salvation Islands (Îles du Salut) lie just off the coast and make for wonderful excursions.

Regarding its history, French Guiana was originally inhabited by indigenous Americans and settled by the French in the 17th century. Today, a French representative in Cayenne administers the region. French Guiana uses the Euro currency, as it is part of the European Union, and its main industries are fishing, timber, and gold mining. Various ethnicities make up the small population, with the majority being Guianese Creole, Maroon, French and Amerindian. French is the official language, though Creole is widely spoken; Roman Catholicism is the main faith.

Key Facts

Language:

The official language is French, and Guianese Creole is widely spoken.

Passport/Visa:

All visitors to French Guiana must hold an onward or return ticket and valid travel documentation for their next destination. They must also have sufficient funds to cover their stay in the country, or a lodging certificate. Schengen Visas are valid for French Guiana, provided they are endorsed 'also valid for French Guiana', and a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required to enter the territory. It is highly recommended that visitors' passports have at least six months' validity remaining after their intended dates of departure, as immigration officials often apply different rules to those stated by travel agents and official sources.

Currency:

French Guiana uses the Euro (EUR).

Electricity:

The electric current is 220 volts, 50Hz. Round two or three-prong plugs are used.

Travel to French Guiana

Health Notes when travelling to French Guiana

A yellow fever vaccination is necessary when visiting French Guiana.

Customs in French Guiana

Local customs in French Guiana reflect its colonial history. European values permeate the country and western travellers, if they ignore the heat, should feel very much at home.

Duty Free in French Guiana

Visitors to French Guiana who arrive from within the EU may import the following without incurring duty: 800 cigarettes, 10 litres of spirits, and 90 litres of wine. Travellers from outside the EU may bring in 200 cigarettes, one litre of spirits and four litres of wine.

Communication in French Guiana

The international access code for French Guiana is +594. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom).

Passport/Visa Note

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Entry Requirements

Entry requirements for Americans:

US citizens must have a passport that is valid for the period of intended stay in French Guiana. No visa is required for stays up to 90 days.

Entry requirements for Canadians:

Canadian citizens must have a passport that is valid for the period of intended stay in French Guiana. No visa is required for stays for a maximum stay of 90 days.

Entry requirements for UK nationals:

British citizens must have a passport valid for the period of intended stay in French Guiana. A visa is not required for passports endorsed British Citizen. No visa is required for holders of passports endorsed British National (overseas), British Overseas Territories Citizen (containing a Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode issued by the United Kingdom), and British Subject (containing a Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode issued by the United Kingdom) for 90 days.

Entry requirements for Australians:

Australian citizens must have a passport that is valid for the period of intended stay in French Guiana. No visa is required for stays up to 90 days.

Entry requirements for Irish nationals:

Irish citizens must have a passport that is valid for the period of intended stay in French Guiana. No visa is required for nationals of Ireland.

Entry requirements for New Zealanders:

New Zealand citizens must have a passport that is valid for the period of intended stay in French Guiana. No visa is required for 90 days.

Entry requirements for South Africans:

South Africans require a passport that is valid for the period of intended stay, and a Schengen visa, to enter French Guiana.

Travel guide by Travel Market. By its very nature, much of the information in this travel guide is subject to change at short notice and travellers are urged to verify information on which they're relying with the relevant authorities. Travmarket cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or inconvenience to any person as a result of information contained above. Event details can change. Please check with the organizers that an event is happening before making travel arrangements. We cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or inconvenience to any person as a result of information contained above.

Tourist Offices

French Guiana Tourist Office in Cayenne, +33 594 39 6883 or tourisme@ville-cayenne.fr

French Guiana Embassies

In the United States:

French Guiana Embassy, Washington, United States: +1 202 944 6000 or info@ambafrance-us.org

In Canada:

French Guiana Embassy, Ontario, Canada: +1 613 789 1795.

In the United Kingdom:

French Guiana Embassy, London, United Kingdom: +44 207 073 1000.

In Australia:

French Guiana Embassy, Canberra, Australia: +61 2 621 160100

In Ireland:

French Guiana Embassy, Dublin, Ireland: +353 1 277 5000.

In New Zealand:

French Guiana Embassy, Wellington, New Zealand: +64 4 384 2555.

In South Africa:

French Guiana Embassy, Pretoria, South Africa: +27 12 425 1600.

Foreign Embassies in French Guiana

Canadian Embassy

Canada Embassy, Georgetown, Guyana (also responsible for French Guinea): +592 227 2081.

British Embassy

British Embassy, Paris (also responsible for French Guinea): +33 1 4451 3100

Australian Embassy

Australia Mission, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (also responsible for French Guinea): +1 868 822 5450.

Currency

French Guiana uses the Euro (EUR).

Exchange rate for 1 EUR - Euro

0.00 BMD Bermudan Dollar	1.07 USD U.S. Dollar	0.86 GBP U.K. Pound Sterling	164.39 JPY Japanese Yen	1.47 CAD Canadian Dollar	0.97 CHF Swiss Franc
1.63 AUD Australian Dollar	42.33 UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia	476.99 KZT Kazakhstani Tenge	100,010.53 LBP Lebanese Pound	5.22 LYD Libyan Dinar	7.37 BOB Bolivian Boliviano
0.00 NPR Nepalese Rupee	0.00 OMR Omani Rial	0.00 QAR Qatari Rial	1.45 SGD Singapore Dollar	11.63 SEK Swedish Krona	0.00 TTD Trinidad Tobago Dollar
0.00 VEF Venezuelan Bolivar	62.44 DOP Dominican Peso	0.00 HRK Croatian Kuna	18.22 MXN Mexican Peso	656.03 XOF West African CFA Franc	0.00 PGK Papua New Guinean kina
0.00 BSD Bahamian Dollar	0.00 FJD Fiji Dollar	0.00 HNL Honduran Lempira	143.84 DZD Algerian Dinar	0.00 MMK Myanma Kyat	0.00 BWP Botswana Pula
4.00 PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol	1,008.37 CLP Chilean Peso	415.67 AMD Armenia Dram	25.03 CZK Czech Koruna	18.94 MDL Moldova Lei	150.32 ISK Icelandic Krona
13,519.98 UZS Uzbekistan Sum	4.00 ILS Israeli New Sheqel	0.76 JOD Jordanian Dinar	0.00 KWD Kuwaiti Dinar	41.00 UYU Uruguayan Peso	0.00 MUR Mauritian Rupee
0.00 NIO Nicaraguan Córdoba	11.69 NOK Norwegian Krone	4.33 PLN Polish Zloty	4.03 SAR Saudi Riyal	0.00 LKR Sri Lanka Rupee	39.53 THB Thai Baht
3.94 AED U.A.E Dirham	5.47 BRL Brazilian Real	4.98 RON Romanian New Leu	8.40 HKD Hong Kong Dollar	656.03 XAF Central African CFA Franc	27,298.82 VND Vietnamese Dong
943.81 ARS Argentine Peso	0.00 XCD East Caribbean Dollar	0.00 GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal	10.81 MAD Moroccan Dirham	0.00 BHD Bahrain Dinar	1.07 PAB Panamanian Balboa
1.83 AZN Azerbaijan Manat	4,212.10 COP Colombian Peso	95.01 KGS Kyrgyzstan Som	388.98 HUF Hungarian Forint	11.70 TJS Tajikistan Ruble	17,271.44 IDR Indonesian Rupiah
51.52 EGP Egyptian Pound	1,460.09 KRW South Korean Won	8,012.15 PYG Paraguayan Guaraní	5.09 MYR Malaysian Ringgit	546.19 CRC Costa Rican Colón	1.79 NZD New Zealand Dollar
298.58 PKR Pakistani Rupee	98.20 RUB Russian Rouble	19.89 ZAR South African Rand	3.37 TND Tunisian Dinar	0.00 BBD Barbadian Dollar	1.96 BGN Bulgarian Lev
34.74 TRY Turkish Lira	61.55 PHP Philippine Peso	34.72 TWD New Taiwan Dollar	1,251.64 NGN Nigerian Naira	0.00 XPF CFP Franc	0.00 GHS Ghanaian Cedi
0.00 JMD Jamaican Dollar	0.00 ANG Neth. Antillean Guilder	0.00 BND Brunei Dollar	117.02 RSD Serbian Dinar	7.78 CNY Chinese Yuan	7.46 DKK Danish Krone
3.75 TMT New Turkmenistan Manat	89.63 INR Indian Rupee				

Overview of the Attractions in French Guiana

Public Holidays in French Guiana

	2020	2021
New Year's Day	Mon. January 1	Mon. January 1
Ash Wednesday	Mon. February 26	Sat. February 17
Easter Monday	Sat. April 13	Fri. April 5
Labour Day	Wed. May 1	Wed. May 1
Victory Day	Wed. May 8	Wed. May 8
Ascension Day	Tue. May 21	Mon. May 13
Whit Monday	Sat. June 1	Fri. May 24
Abolition of Slavery	Mon. June 10	Mon. June 10
Bastille Day	Sun. July 14	Sun. July 14
Assumption	Thu. August 15	Thu. August 15
All Saints' Day	Fri. November 1	Fri. November 1
Armistice Day	Mon. November 11	Mon. November 11
Christmas Day	Wed. December 25	Wed. December 25
Good Friday	Wed. April 10	Tue. April 2