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2028

# Holidays and public holidays

## **Visiting France?**

Holiday

Exploring France by motorhome is one of the best ways to experience the country's culture, landscapes, and cuisine at your own pace. But public holidays can mean closed shops, crowded roads, and packed campsites. Our guide to France's public holidays in 2026, 2027, and 2028 helps international travellers plan ahead — showing you when to join the celebrations, and when to travel just before or after for quieter roads and easier parking.

## France Public Holidays 2026–2028 (Motorhome Travel Guide)

New Year's Day	Thu 1 Jan 2026	Fri 1 Jan 2027	Sat 1 Jan 2028
Easter Monday	Mon 6 Apr 2026	Mon 29 Mar 2027	Mon 17 Apr 2028
Labour Day	Fri 1 May 2026	Sat 1 May 2027	Mon 1 May 2028
Victory in Europe Day	Fri 8 May 2026	Sat 8 May 2027	Mon 8 May 2028
Ascension Day	Thu 14 May 2026	Thu 13 May 2027	Thu 25 May 2028
Whit Monday (Pentecost Monday)	Mon 25 May 2026	Mon 24 May 2027	Mon 5 Jun 2028
Bastille Day (National Day)	Tue 14 Jul 2026	Wed 14 Jul 2027	Fri 14 Jul 2028
Assumption of Mary	Sat 15 Aug 2026	Sun 15 Aug 2027 (obs Mon 16)	Tue 15 Aug 2028
All Saints' Day	Sun 1 Nov 2026 (obs Mon 2)	Mon 1 Nov 2027	Wed 1 Nov 2028
Armistice Day (1918)	Wed 11 Nov 2026	Thu 11 Nov 2027	Sat 11 Nov 2028 (obs Fri

2027

Christmas Day Fri 25 Dec 2026 Sat 25 Dec 2027 (obs Mon 27) Mon 25 Dec 2028

(In Alsace? Moselle, two additional holidays are observed: Good Friday and St. Stephen's Day on 26 December.)

#### **Notes for International Motorhome Travellers**

2026

- Holiday closures: On 1 May, 14 July, 15 August, and Christmas, expect supermarkets, fuel stations, and many campsites to close or run reduced hours. Always stock up the day before.
- Bridging days ("les ponts"): When a holiday falls on a Tuesday or Thursday, locals often take a long weekend. Roads, aires (motorhome stopovers), and campsites fill quickly.
- Best strategy for visitors:
  - Arrive early at popular aires before locals head out.
  - Use holidays to enjoy festivals and parades (e.g. Bastille Day fireworks in Paris or small?town celebrations).
  - Or, travel just before/after the holiday to enjoy quieter roads and easier parking.
- Peak times to avoid
  - August ? French families on holiday, coastal campsites packed.
  - Easter & Pentecost weekends ? heavy domestic travel.
- Great opportunities:
  - 14 July (Bastille Day) ? park outside Paris and take public transport in for the parade/fireworks.
  - Toussaint (1 Nov) ? quieter countryside, autumn colours in Loire Valley or Dordogne.
  - Christmas? Alsace markets (Strasbourg, Colmar) are motorhome? friendly with nearby aires.

### **Key Takeaway for International Motorhome Travellers**

- Join the holidays if you want to experience French culture at its most vibrant.
- Travel just before or after if you prefer quieter roads, easier parking, and less competition with locals.

