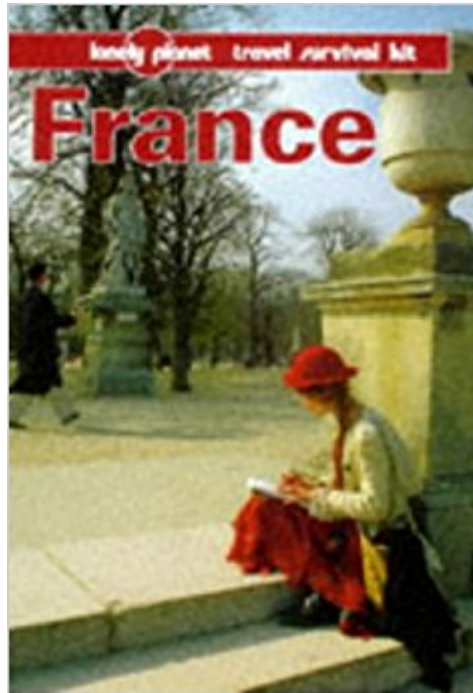




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# Lonely Planet France (2nd Ed)



## Synopsis

A detailed travel guide to France which also includes a section on Andorra. The book provides information on museums, galleries, cathedrals, outdoor activities, eating and accommodation. Background essays cover the country's history, politics, and culture. A language section, food glossary and 143 updated maps are also featured.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nobody covers the world like Lonely Planet.' --New York Post, May 2004 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travellers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do \* We offer travellers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages. \* We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are. \* When we update our guidebooks, we check every listing, in person, every time. \* We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent. \* We challenge our growing community of travellers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. \* We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travellers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

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This travel volume, by the folks at Lonely Planet, is well done! It begins with the authors listing their favorite places, with nice color photos to illustrate--from # 1, Avenue Champs-Elysees to # 16 Annecy. The book begins with an exhortation to prepare for a trip to France well in advance: "Some parts of France are tried-and-true, bona fide 'dream destinations' and as such require planning weeks, if not months, in advance in order to snag the best room in the house. . . ." (page 18). Introductory materials include a series of travel itineraries, such as Paris to Provence. There follows a brief but useful history of France--from prehistory to the present. Then, of course, a brief treatise on French culture with nice boxed features (e.g., dos & don'ts) and mention of such issues as sports, religion, the arts, and architecture, among other subjects. After that, a section on France's obsession with food, with some nice slick color photos. Nice coverage of both food and drink. The heart of the book, though, is its discussion of France, district by district. Here, we get a brief introduction to attractions in communities, where to eat, where to stay, sites to see, and so on. Sometimes, I think, the coverage is a bit thin, but the book is already over 1000 pages long, so more coverage might make this simply too much of a good thing! Paris, of course, needs to be mentioned. There are maps of the major regions of Paris. The section on sights to see begins with the Louvre (what a museum!), Jardin des Tuileries, Palais Royal, Centre Pompidou, Place des Vosges, Notre Dame and Sainte Chapelle (the latter a small gem), the Sorbonne, the Eiffel Tower, Bois de Boulognes, and so on. No great detail on any of these, but enough to get a flavor of the various attractions, so that one might wisely choose which would be priorities for visiting. There are sections on recommended places to stay and to eat. Too, there are sections on entertainment and the arts. In the hinterlands? One example: Beaune. Once, I flew into Paris and was then driven to Lake Geneva, going through the Jura Mountains--and then returned on a parallel route. My driver stopped at a wonderful restaurant in Beaune. One of the most delicious meals that I have ever eaten! Beaune was charming. The description here helps revive those pleasant memories. The writeup notes that wine tasting is a favorite activity, and describes the bounty available at Beaune. And on it goes. . . . Anyhow, a useful companion were one to contemplate a trip to France.

This is, and will most likely stay, my first Kindle book. I have been a fan of guidebooks since the India Travel Survival Kit still carried funny drawings. Since then, I bought good ones, not so good ones and so-so ones, but all on paper. Of course, the quality went down after the original owners sold out, but a LP guidebook is still a good standard. Now I buy the Kindle version of a

guidebook.Hm... Text seems to be all there. Check.So are the maps. Tiny, tiny maps. Unreadable maps. Unzoomable maps.Search? No search. (Okay, might be added at another revision of Kindle for Android, or not.)But the layout? Horrible. In the parts where places are mentioned with addresses and details, these are spread over multiple pages. Per location mentioned. An interesting method to reach an impressive page count.Sure. It might be the Android reader. At least when it comes to some of the problems.But whoever sits in Kindle software/ebook quality control should offer a replacement ASAP.

I am a fan of the Lonely Planet series because they cater to the serious traveler. If you are a budget to mid-range traveler, these books are for you, though they do include a few "splurge" hotels here and there. The book is thorough and covers a number of smaller towns and more out-of-the-way places, rather than just highlighting a few popular tourist destinations as it seems too many books do now. If you are going to France for a week or more, I highly recommend this book, as it is better than those from other publishers for such a trip. If you are just going to one city for a weekend or a few days, it is still a good guide. However, where it really shines in comparison to other guides is on extended visits.

What I liked best about this book was the overview of the country. It gave history of the country and then also gave ideas on what to see and do if you want to enjoy learning the history of the country. If you aren't into that sort of thing this book offers the traveler ideas of places to go and things to see that are more modern and not necessarily educational/historic. This book also offers time and money saving tips and off the beaten path places to see and experience while you travel. If one is interested in doing specific tours or seeing certain things the book offers different tour packages in terms of what one might want to see or experience while in France. It is a great way to help narrow down and/or increase the amount of things to do or see when you visit France.

I like the Lonely Planet Series very much. It is candid, charming, lotsa tidbits and enjoyable read. I am going to Paris and bought this and the Paris one. My only criticism is that some of the hotels are on the low end, I not sure I would stay in. This series takes a fresh look at Europe and is very up to date economically, socially and politically. I found other travel books like reading those translators of literature using British accents for all novels regardless if they are French or Russian or whatever!

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