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How can a foreigner return to France after exiting the Schengen Area?

Verified 08 mars 2022 - Legal and Administrative Information Directorate (Prime Minister)

If you are a foreigner no European, that you reside in France and wish to travel in a country outside [Schengen Area](https://www.touteurope.eu/les-pays-membres-de-l-espace-schengen.html) [↗] (<https://www.touteurope.eu/les-pays-membres-de-l-espace-schengen.html>), you must make sure that you have the right documents to return to France.

Répondez aux questions successives et les réponses s'afficheront automatiquement

You have a residence permit

You can return to France with your valid passport and residence permit.

⚠ Warning : to return to the Schengen area, regardless of whether your nationality is subject to a visa or not, you will have to prove that you meet the entry requirements (e.g.: sufficient resources).

You have a temporary residence permit

The temporary residence permit with your valid passport allows you to return.

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You have a residence card application receipt

You have a 1st request receipt

General case

Who shall I contact

Specify your city or postcode The choice of a municipality in the suggestion list will automatically trigger an update of the content

▸ [Prefecture](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures) [↗] (<http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures>)

▸ [Subprefecture](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures) [↗] (<http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Le-ministere/Prefectures>)

⚠ Warning : it is not possible to do the paperwork in some sub-prefectures. Find out more on your prefecture's website.

In Paris

Who shall I contact

▸ [Paris Police Prefecture - Service des titres de séjour](https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/titres-de-sejour-nous-contacter) [↗] (<https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/titres-de-sejour-nous-contacter>)

You have a renewal receipt

You can return with your residence permit renewal receipt, along with your expired residence permit and valid passport.

⚠ Warning : to return to the Schengen area, regardless of whether your nationality is subject to a visa or not, you will have to prove that you meet the entry requirements (example: sufficient resources).

You have a residence card application certificate

Application certificate

General case

Who shall I contact

Specify your city or postcode The choice of a municipality in the suggestion list will automatically trigger an update of the content

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Statement of Extension

The certificate of extension of the instruction of a residence permit allows you to return. It must be accompanied by your residence permit or a long-stay visa (except visa "Temporary exemption of residence card") expired and your valid passport.

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Statement of favourable decision

The certificate of approval of a residence permit application allows you to return. It must be accompanied by your valid passport.

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Statute and miscellaneous references

- Regulation of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) [↗](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0399) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0399>)
Articles 2 § 15, 5 point 1(b), 7 and 13
- Regulation of 14 November 2018 listing the third countries whose nationals are subject or not to Schengen visas [↗](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/fr/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018R1806) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/fr/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018R1806>)
- General tax code: Articles 953 to 955 [↗](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000006179981/) (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/id/LEGISCTA000006179981/>)
Rule 954
- List of documents authorising return to the Schengen area [↗](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/list-residence-permits-issued-member-states_fr) (https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/list-residence-permits-issued-member-states_fr)

For more information, please contact

- Schengen Area map [↗](https://www.touteurope.eu/les-pays-membres-de-l-espace-schengen.html) (<https://www.touteurope.eu/les-pays-membres-de-l-espace-schengen.html>)
All Europe