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Schengen area: what are the entry and traffic conditions?

Verified 01 October 2019 - Directorate for Legal and Administrative Information (Prime Minister)

Coronavirus Covid-19: closure of the European external borders

Following the Coronavirus/Covid-19 pandemic, the external borders of the European area remain closed.

It is essential to find out before traveling.

Visit [diplomacy.gouv.fr](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/) for more information (country information (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/>) and frequently asked questions (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/le-ministere-et-son-reseau/actualites-du-ministere/informations-coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-les-reponses-a-vos-questions/article/coronavirus-les-reponses-a-vos-questions>))

The *Schengen area* is an area of free movement without internal border controls (between 2 Member States of *Schengen*) and with a common external border (between a Member State of *Schengen* and a State not part of *Schengen*). Border crossing conditions vary depending on your nationality. Member countries of *the Schengen area* are:

Member countries of *the Schengen area* are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

For a European

If you are European, the rules depend on the intended journey:

To travel within the Schengen area

You're not under control.

To enter or leave the Schengen area

You can cross the border on presentation of a valid national identity card or passport. You should not be asked about the purpose of your trip, your livelihood, etc.

Please note

Your presence must not constitute a threat to public order.

Foreign from another country

To travel within the Schengen area

You do not have a residence permit

You do not undergo any checks but if you enter another country, you must declare your entry if your nationality is subject to visa *Schengen*.

You can check if you need a visa by using the *Visa Assistant* service.

Check if you need a visa - *Visa Assistant* (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R50475>)

You must report to the border police or, failing that, to the customs or gendarmerie at the border.

You can also declare your entry immediately near the border, at a police station or a gendarmerie brigade.

Your entry declaration is stamped on your passport, with the date indicated.

You must present it at any request of the services of the order.

You have a residence permit issued by a Schengen country

If you have a residence card or a long-stay visa valid for 1 year or more, you can cross the border on presentation of a valid passport and your residence permit.

To enter or leave the Schengen area

You do not have a residence permit

Welcome Certificate

€32.50

Proof of booking a hotel room

€65

No proof of booking a hotel room

€120

You have a residence permit issued by a Schengen country

If you have a residence card (or a long-stay visa valid for 1 year or more), you are authorized to enter and transit the territory of the States of Schengen to reach the country that issued your residence card. You must have a valid passport and your residence permit. You don't have to justify your livelihood.

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>)
Articles 5 to 7, 10 and 11

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>

Convention of 19 June 1990 implementing the Schengen Agreement of 14 June 1985 ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/ALL/?uri=CELEX:42000A0922\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/ALL/?uri=CELEX:42000A0922(02)))

- [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/ALL/?uri=CELEX:42000A0922\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/ALL/?uri=CELEX:42000A0922(02))
Article 22

Code on the entry and residence of aliens and the right to asylum: Article R211-27 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180214&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>)

- <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180214&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>
Documents relating to the object and conditions of stay

Code on the entry and residence of aliens and the right to asylum: Article R211-28 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180215&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>)

- <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180215&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>
Livelihood documents

Code on the entry and residence of aliens and the right to asylum: Article R211-29 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180216&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>)

- <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180216&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>
Medical and hospital expenses

Code on the entry and residence of aliens and the right to asylum: Articles R211-30 to R211-31 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180217&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>)

- <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180217&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>
Repatriation guarantees

Code on entry and residence and the right to asylum: Articles R211-32 and R211-33 (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180218&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>)

- <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180218&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158>
Declaration of entry into French territory

Order of 9 March 1995 concerning the declaration of entry into the territory (<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000005618009>)

- <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000005618009>

Online services and forms

Calculate the maximum permitted length of short stays in Schengen countries(<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R36942?lang=en>)

- [lang=en](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R36942?lang=en)
Simulator

FAQ

Does a foreigner need a visa to come to France? ([https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F21921?](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F21921?lang=en)

- lang=en)

Additional topics

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

- schengen.html)

All of Europe

Presentation of the Schengen area (PDF - 2.5 MB) ([https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/e-](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/e-library/docs/schengen_brochure/schengen_brochure_dr3111126_fr.pdf)

- library/docs/schengen_brochure/schengen_brochure_dr3111126_fr.pdf)

European Commission