



Travel information sheet for France

We have introduced the information sheets in order to make our website easier to navigate by not 'over-filling' each page with information. The structure of each information sheet should make it easier for you to find exactly the information that you are looking for. The simple format without images is not a drain on printing resources and the document can either be easily forwarded or the content copied and pasted into another format for sharing with friends, family and colleagues.

If you cannot find the information that you are looking for then please get in touch via the contact page on the website and we will do our best to answer your questions and include any relevant information in an update of this sheet.

If you have not downloaded this sheet from our website then please visit www.canoecontrol.com for further information and resources.

Driving from the UK to the French Alps

Many people will take this option for convenience and pleasure.

Most of the French Auto Routes are linked to the Channel Ports and Tunnel.

From Calais take the A26 passed Reims, then direction Troyes then A5 and A31 direction Dijon. Pass Dijon and join A6 from Paris direction Lyon. If you come via Caen or La Havre take the A13 direction Paris (the route around Paris gets very congested avoid at all cost, except in the early hours of the morning) after Paris take A6 to Lyon. A little way before Lyon take A46 then A43 then A48 direction Grenoble. Pass Grenoble follow signs for Sisteron A49 then A51. If you want to get into the Alps via Briancon follow signs for Briancon just after Grenoble, N91 (Route National) (this road is not recommended for laden vehicles) A slightly longer route but easier on loaded vehicles is to stay on the A51, then onto the N75. Passing through the edges of the Vercour Mountains arrive at the junction of the D993, which takes you onto the D994 direction Gap. Through Gap onto N94 direction Embrun and Briancon. Just before Briancon you will see signs for L'Argentiere La Bessee, as the road narrows and steepens take a left into the town direction Les Vigneaux, Vallouise. Pass over a River Bridge turn immediate right. Just after a second River Bridge, the road climbs away from the town. Drive through the small village of La Batie, then after 1k look out for Canoe Control signs on the left. Drive down the track and cold beer or tea/coffee waits. If you come via Briancon, from either Grenoble or Turin. Take the N94 direction Embrun, do not turn off this road until after 15K. After a steep descent is L'Argentiere la Bessee, turn right into the town and follow directions as above.

All Autoroutes are well serviced by fuel stations about every 20 K. They will take all mainstream cards (but 24 hour pumps still not) also there are picnic sites with toilets about every 20K. If you want to catch some sleep on route avoid sleeping at night at these picnic areas. I always catch a few zzzz at a fuel station. Petrol is about the same as the UK, but diesel is still much cheaper. Normal car tolls will work out about £80 return. From Calais the distance is around 660 miles. Watch your speed as you will see few police on the Auto Route, but if needs be they can check your time via the tolls. Tolls will take all mainstream cards or cash.

Ferries

www.brittanyferries.co.uk, www.seafrance.com, www.speedferries.com
www.poferries.co.uk, www.norfolkferries.co.uk

I have always found the ferries cheaper than the tunnel? For up-to-date info on driving in France and the Continent check out <http://driving.drive-alive.co.uk/driving-in-france.htm>



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Air travel

www.google.co.uk, www.ryanair.co.uk, www.ba.com,
www.easyjet.com, www.alitalia.com

Fly to Turin (2 hrs away from our Alpine base)

Canoe Control offers a minibus transfer (Sat mid day only) awaiting your morning flight into Turin (airport £70 single supplement return to Turin mini bus transfer - discounted for groups). Alternatively you have the option of airport car rental. For flights into Turin check below for up-to-date prices etc. They can be as low as £30 return if you book early. Flying has become increasingly more popular, especially since Ryanair started carrying kayaks. There is also a train via Turin linking with a local service to Briancon at Oulx (Italy), which is just 40 minutes from us.

Directions self-drive from Turin Airport (Caselle). To our base close to Briancon. Leave the airport in the Turin direction and then after 10km follow signs for Susa/Fejus. After 15km of stressful auto strada driving continue to follow signs for Susa/Fejus, which will take you through 3 tolls and many tunnels. After toll no 3 you will pass the Town of Oulx and it is time to look out for the turn off for Sestriere/Gap and Francia. You are now on a main route heading in the direction Francia, Gap/Briancon. Once you have passed through Briancon take the N94 direction Embrun, do not turn off this road until after 15K, and after a steep descent is L'Agentiere la Bessee. Take a right into the town direction Les Vigneaux, Vallouise, over the River Bridge then immediate right. Just after second River Bridge, the road climbs away from the town. One K after the small village of La Batie look out for Canoe Control sign on the left. Drive down the track and cold beer or tea/coffee waits.

Fly and TGV to the Alps

Fly from Exeter no need to travel to London.

Great news for West Country paddlers looking to book with Canoe Control - fly from Exeter Airport to Paris (Charles De Gaul) then TGV via Paris 4 hours to Oulx in Italy. Oulx is only 40mins from our base in the French Alps. You can travel light as we have all the gear you will need. Contact www.flybe.com Flights are twice daily from Exeter prices from £70 return. Contact French Railways www.voages-sncf.com or www.raileurope.co.uk tel 087058848848 Paris to Oulx from £30 return. We offer a transfer from Oulx at £20 per person. There is also an excellent bus service to Briancon where we can meet you.

Over night travelling by Train.

France has a fantastic rail system. Leave London early evening on Friday to Paris, then catch the overnight train from Paris and we will meet you off this 08-30 at Les Ecrin l'Agentiere. This station is only 10 minutes from our location. The big advantage with the train is the ease of connections, only one change in Paris if you don't want to risk the Metro get a taxis. Also you get a whole day to relax whilst others are still traveling. Off set the fare (could be £150 return) against cost of transfers etc. When booking your ticket ask for Briancon. www.raileurope.co.uk or www.vorages-sncf.com

Coach Travel to the Alps

www.nationalexpress.com/eurolines/home/hp.cfm

You can travel to Grenoble by Euro coach, then get a train through the Mountains to us. This possibly is the most economical method for one person of traveling to the Alps. From Exeter to Grenoble £94 return. From Grenoble train station, 100m from the coach station there is a daily train service to Briancon around £27 return to Grenoble. Canoe Control can meet you off this train at L'Agentiere La Bessee.



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Fly into Nice for Provence

If you want to join us for some spring time boating on rivers like the Var Verdon and Vesubie.
Or perhaps join us in a Verdon Canyon trip. Its really easy get a flight to Nice and we will meet you at the airport. A 40 minute drive takes us away from the coast and into the Alps Maritime
Details www.easyjet.com, www.klm.com or www.ba.com
Hire a car through Easy Jet, or use our own complimentary minibus transfer.