

HOW TO TAKE A PLANE TO FRANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Taking a plane for the first time might be challenging, as there are many things to know and to do. This guide should help you to prepare yourself in advance and to understand what is waiting for you.



BEFORE YOU GO

Prepare your suitcase :

The **number of suitcases** allowed with your reservation is written on the ticket.

Please make sure **their weight does not exceed the maximum allowed** by the flight company. This weight should be indicated on your plane ticket. It will be checked on the airport so please be careful.

Prepare your carry-on : most companies allow you to take a smaller suitcase with you on the plane. Its dimension and maximum weight will also be indicated on your plane ticket or when you'll do your check-in (see below).

Hand bag : **You will have to carry some important documents** (and other stuff like food, magazine, books, chargers, laptop etc if you want) with you in a handbag on the plane. Please make sure to have with you at least the following things as you'll need them during your trip : passport, visa, plane ticket and then boarding pass, admission letter to your university, proof of accommodation, insurance : these **might be asked to you at custom services**. Please also make sure to have some cash and/or credit card. If you can, get some euros before your departure.

**MAKE A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE
AND CARRY THEM WITH YOU AS WELL**

Forbidden items : You should check on the flight company's website what items you are not allowed to bring with you (either which can not be put in your suitcases, or which can not even be carried in your handbag). This is **no negociable with the airport's security** : in no case will a forbidden item be allowed to be taken with you on the plane.

Also, it is **forbidden to bring 100ml or more liquids with you at the security check**. Security won't bother to check what this liquid is : they will simply put it in the bin.

Electronical items are mostly allowed in planes but must be taken with you **in your handbag** or carry-on : they can not be put in suitcases.

Check-in : Before your flight, **your flight company will require you to check in online**. You'll receive an itinerary and confirmation number by email. Within 24 hours of flight time, you can check in online to get seat assignments and receive a boarding pass which is required to pass through security and board the plane. You can print your boarding pass or save it to your mobile device. Alternatively, you can check in and get a paper boarding pass at the airport ticket counter or self-service kiosk. There are generally kiosks or agents available at each airline to help you through the process. **I advise you to check in online 24 hours before your flight** : to do it, search on Google "company name + check-in" and you'll get the link to do it. It will be the most efficient way to proceed, and it will make things easier in the airport.

IN THE AIRPORT

Here is a great quote from my dad concerning long trips : « Eat when you can eat, sleep when you can sleep ». 😊

YOU SHOULD BE IN THE AIRPORT AT LEAST THREE HOURS BEFORE THE PLANE'S DEPARTURE

IN AN AIRPORT, EVERYTHING CAN TAKE TIME

Where to go ?

Airports are made of zones named « terminals ». There are two terminals in Jomo Kenyatta International Airport : after your online check-in you will know to what terminal to go.

Once you're in the terminal, you should **look on screens for the check-in desk** of your flight company. Just go to the desk and you then be able to get your boarding pass and to register and drop your luggages (which will then be handled the airport staff). **Once you get your boarding pass, keep it preciously and do not lose it.**

Once you drop your luggages and that you got your boarding pass, you must go to the boarding gate (which is where you will go on the plane). To do so, **you will have to go through a security check** : just follow the signs to get there.

This is what online check-in usually looks like. All required informations are on your ticket.



The screenshot shows the Air France website's check-in page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Air France logo and menu items: "Book a flight", "Check-in" (highlighted with a red underline), "My Bookings", "Information", and "Support". Below the navigation bar, there is a prompt: "Don't have an account? Sign up for a free account to enjoy all our benefits." with a "Sign up >" link. The main content area is titled "Enter my booking details" and contains three input fields: "Ticket number or booking reference", "Last name", and "Flight number" (with the example "e.g. AF1234"). A blue "Check in" button is located at the bottom of the form.

This is what a check-in desk looks like



After you successfully passed the security check : go to your boarding gate. It is indicated on your boarding pass with a number (and sometimes a letter and a number).

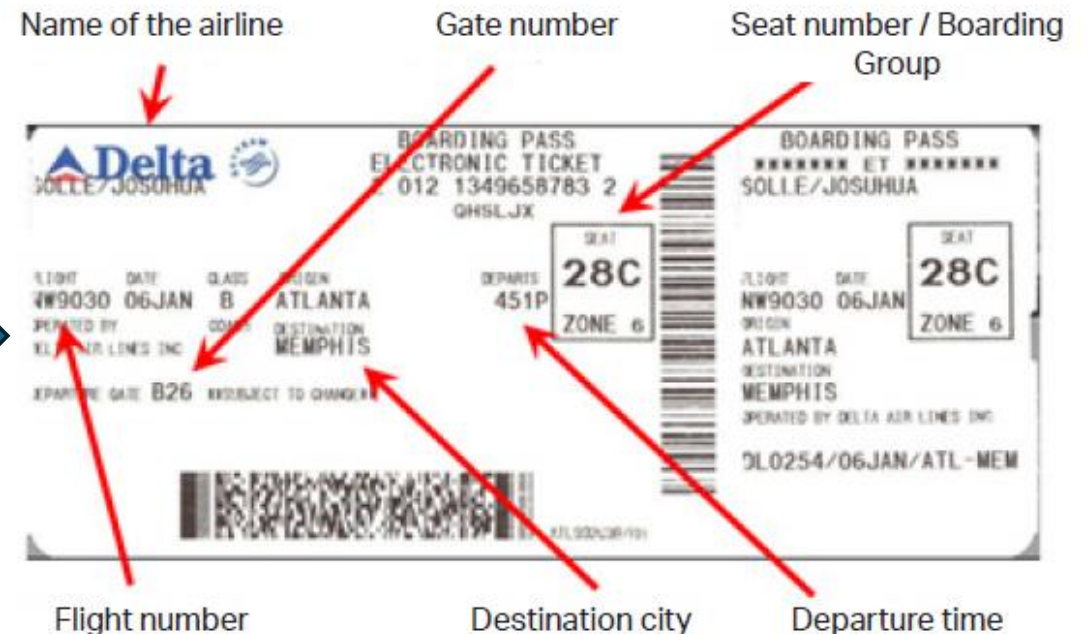
In many cases, your gate number will already be printed on your boarding pass. However, both the gate number and terminal can change, so it's important that you **constantly check flight departure screens for updates.**

With time to spare, grab something to eat and drink but remember:

- **Always find your gate first** – the airport may be bigger than expected!
- Check flight monitors regularly
- **Be at your gate for boarding time, NOT departure time! → The gate closes way before the departure time, be careful**
- Don't hesitate to ask airport staff for directions if needed

Boarding : Planes generally board in groups, so check on your boarding pass what group you are in and wait for it to be called.

This is what a boarding pass usually looks like



AT YOUR ARRIVAL

Deboarding : The plane deboards from front to back, so take your time and gather your things once the plane has taxied and is stationary. **Make sure you don't forget anything on the plane.**

Once you're out of the plane, you have to follow the signs to go to custom services : It can take a while, especially as you will arrive during Olympic Games in France so the airport might be crowded ! No worries, just make sure to have all documents with you (passport, proof of accommodation, insurance, proof of admission letter to a French university, etc).



Once you successfully passed the custom services, you have to get your luggages : follow the signs. To pick them up, here is how it's organized : when a plane lands, the luggages it carried are put on a conveyor belt in a big room. There are many conveyor belts, for many flights. Find the one of your flight (each conveyor belt has number, and there will be a screen in a room telling on which carpet your flight's luggages were put on).



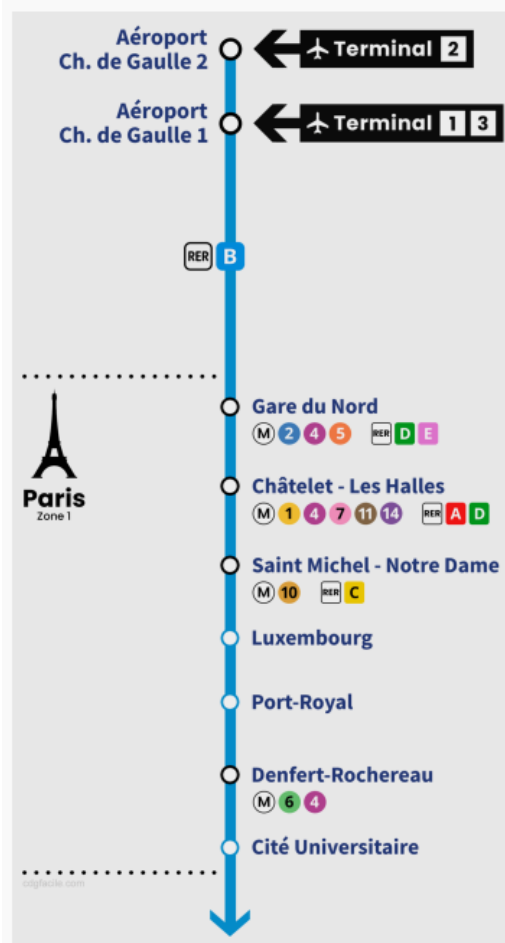
How to get to your accommodation ?

- **If you go to Paris or near Paris** : Before your trip, see in advance what subway lines you will have to take ! You will not have internet when you arrive. **You can download on your phone City Mapper or MAPS.ME**

From CDG to Paris inner city : take the subway RER B (it costs 10€ : **make sure to have cash and a credit card**)

<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport/>

This is the subway line



If you don't study in or near Paris, two possibilities :

1) Your train leaves from CDG Airport to your city : there is a **train station inside CDG Airport** (inside terminal 2 : follow the signs and ask airport staff to be guided properly to the station). Once you're near the rails, find the proper track on the panels : same, you can ask the staff to be guided.

More informations about the airport train station here :

<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/train>

2) Your train leaves from Paris to your city : in this case you have to **take subway RER B** from the airport to get to Paris, and then take subways in Paris to get to your train station (there a 6 train stations in Paris so you have to go to the right one !).

It can be tricky ! Before your trip, **see in advance what subway lines you will have to take** ! You will not have internet when you arrive. **You can download City Mapper or MAPS.ME**

From CDG to Paris inner city : take the subway RER B (make sure to have cash and a credit card)

<https://www.parisaeroport.fr/en/passengers/access/paris-charles-de-gaulle/public-transport/>

Citymapper helps you preparing your journey with public transports (tells you what subway/bus to take)



MAPS.ME

With MAPS.ME you can download maps of whole cities and region, and then access them even when you don't have internet connexion.



Citymapper

Train stations in France

Once you are in a train station, the next step is to find the track of your train's departure. It will be written on a **blue screen** like this one. The number (or letter) of the way is written on the right.

There are also green screens : don't look at them, they only announce arrivals.

The **panels only write the name of the final destination** of the train : to be sure you're going in the right one, **check the train number and departure's time**.

If you have a change to make, be sure to leave the first train in the proper station (and prepare your stuff in advance as a train doesn't stop for a long time), and then find the track of your 2nd train.

Train n°	heure	destination	Track
TGV in'OUI 7283	17h52	Dunkerque	12
Arras • Lille Europe • Dunkerque			
TGV in'OUI 7183	17h52	Valenciennes	12
Arras • Douai • Valenciennes			
TER SNCF 848577	18h04	Amiens	8
Creil • Clermont de l'Oise • Saint Just			
TER SNCF 847439	18h08	Beauvais	17
Persan Beaumont • Chambly • Borre			
TER SNCF 849941	18h31	Laon	
Guilly-St Mard • Crepy en Valois • Villers C			

Labels below the board:

- Train's number
- Final destination
- Track's number