

Frenchly webinar

How to prepare your
relocation to Paris

November 8th 2023
6pm CET / 12pm ET

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Menu

- FIRST STEPS
- HOUSING IN PARIS
- OPENING A FRENCH BANK ACCOUNT
- HOW MYPARISTOUCH CAN HELP

First steps : immigration

Immigration formalities are not my area of expertise, but I recommend the following websites that might help you better understand French Visas and the Visa application process. It's important to get a head start on this as the visa application process is lengthy and detailed.

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/your-arrival-in-france>

<https://expat-in-france.com/category/immigration>

Be aware that some relocation agencies will offer help attaining your visa, but they are not always up to date on current visa requirements.

Better to seek out someone who is knowledgeable in French visas and/ or contract an immigration attorney.

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First steps : Learn some French

Living in Paris without speaking French is possible, but life won't be easy every day. Paris is a cosmopolitan city, while more and more French people speak the language of Shakespeare, it's still far from the majority, especially in public services. Once you move away from the tourist areas, it can be difficult to make yourself understood if you don't have some knowledge of the French language.

I talk a little more about this on the following blogposts on my website:

<https://myparistouch.com/learning-french-in-paris-5-essential-tips-to-consider/4391/>

<https://myparistouch.com/learning-french/144/>

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Housing in Paris

The rental market in Paris has always been very tight because supply always has exceeded demand, but this year it's gone up a notch in difficulty!

Some estate agents have told me that they have only 50% of the usual inventory.

Hopefully, this situation will be temporary.

How to prepare for your home search

- Calculate your budget: your rent can't exceed 1/3 of your income
- Check the market and start research the current rental market on site like : [SeLoger](#)
- Exploration trip: if possible, plan a trip to Paris and stay in different neighborhoods to find the one you like best.
- Prepare your apartment file.

Two resources to help you understand the rental market and give you tips to start your housing search:

1- <https://myparistouch.com/renting-a-flat-in-paris-region/4605/>

2- <https://myparistouch.com/fr/renting-a-flat-in-paris/4363/>

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Housing in Paris

Tips to enhance your chances of obtaining an apartment

- Focused on both furnished and unfurnished apartments
- Attain a private guarantor like Garantme/smartgarant or a physical guarantor it must be a French tax resident that income are 3 times the amount of your rent
- Have your application file up to date and ready to send off and don't hesitate to use storytelling to reassure the landlord that you will be able to pay your rent
- Tell your network about your housing search

Opening a French bank account

Eventually, opening a French bank account will become essential.

And if you are an American citizen, opening a bank account can be very complicated.

The first difficulty is to open a bank account, you need an address in Paris. Some bank branches might accept the address of your hotel or Airbnb.

Secondly, many bank branches simply refuse to open a bank account for American citizen due to overly restrictive administrative procedures.

In this case, opening an account through an online Neobank, before or when you first arrive in France is a good short-term solution until you get your apartment.

I recommend **wise**, a Belgian IBAN, which you can use in virtually all establishments, with a few exceptions (Internet operators).

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How MyParisTouch can help you in your relocation Project



MyParisTouch takes care of your home search



MyParisTouch takes care of all your administrative needs



MyParisTouch makes everyday life easier

www.myparistouch.com

MyParisTouch offers you a free 15-20 minutes consultation call or visio

delphine@myparistouch.com

+33 6 09 73 33 91

www.myparistouch.com

