



There are 11 public holidays in France

- Le Jour de l'An (New Year's Day)
- Lundi de Pâques (Easter Monday)
- La fête du travail (May Day)
- Victoire 1945 (Victory in WW2)
- Ascension
- Lundi de Pentecôte (Whit Monday)
- La Fête Nationale (Bastille Day)
- Assomption (Assumption)
- Toussaint (All Saint's Day)
- Armistice 1918 (Armistice Day)
- Noël (Christmas)

Le jour de l'An (New Year's Day)

- As in England and in most part of the world, this festival is dedicated to the coming year. After having celebrating New Year's Eve, the first of January is a day off.
- In France, the most popular place to spend New Year's Eve is the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Each year, thousand and thousand of people gather around it to celebrate this day. To this extent, the Eiffel Tower usually uses giant fireworks and change colours for a moment.



Lundi de Pâques (Easter Monday)

- Easter Monday is the day after Easter Sunday and is celebrated as a holiday in some largely Christian cultures. Religiously, this festival celebrates the resurrection of Jesus-Christ.
- What is specific on this day is that, when you are young, children usually receive chocolate. Parents also usually hide the chocolate eggs in the garden or in the house, and in the morning the children have to find all of them.



La fête du travail (May Day)

Date : May 1st

- May Day mainly celebrate the achievements of workers.
- In France, it became a custom for workers to demonstrate on that very day. Each year, millions of people gather in the street. It is usually a protest march leading by activists in order to show their dissatisfaction.
- This is also the day when people give flowers to each other.



Victoire 1945 (Victory in Europe Day)

Date : May 8th

- « Victoire 1945 » marks the date when the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich, thus ending the war in Europe.



L'Ascension (Ascension Day)

- Ascension Day commemorates the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven. It is a moveable date, because it depends on the date of Easter. It has to take place on a Thursday, 39 days after Easter.



Lundi de Pentecôte (Whit Monday)

- As for the Ascension Day, the « Lundi de Pentecôte » is a moveable date because it is determined by the date of Easter. It takes place 50 days after Easter.
- In France, it is also the « Jour de solidarité » (Day of solidarity) created to support the elderly and persons with disabilities.



La fête Nationale (Bastille Day)

Date : July 14th

- It is the National Day in France which is celebrated on the 14th of July each year.
- The main event takes place on the Champs-Élysées avenue. The traffic is stopped and instead is a military parade.



Assomption (Assumption of Mary to Heaven)

Date : August 15th

- This festival celebrates the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life.



La Toussaint (All Saints' Day)

Date : November 1st

- The religious meaning is an honour of all the saints, known and unknown.
- In France, people usually take flowers to the graves of dead relatives, or light candles.



Armistice 1918 (Armistice Day)

Date : November 11th

- It commemorates the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning.
- In France, there are people and sometimes pupils in school who observe two consecutive minutes of silence at 11:00 a.m as a sign of respect : the first minute is for the roughly 20 million people who died in the war, and the second minute is dedicated to the living left behind, generally understood to be wives, children and families left behind but deeply affected by the conflict.

Noël (Christmas)

- It is the last public holiday of the year in France. As in many countries, the tradition is to eat turkey during Christmas Eve.
- What differ from one family to the other is when parents give the presents to the children. Some families give them on Christmas Eve, but others give them in the morning of the 25th of December.

