

# The Rugby World Cup.

France 2023



Your guide to  
the tournament

## Citations

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Travelex

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This September sees the kick-off of the 10th Rugby World Cup, being hosted for the second time with France as the sole host.

Our quick guide will tell you everything you need to know about the matches, teams, and locations, together with a few tips for those travelling to see a match.



- The World Cup has been held every 4 years since 1987
- France last hosted the event in 2007. It also co-hosted the 1991 competition with the UK and Ireland and several matches in 1999, when Wales was the overall host
- 20 teams are competing, all aiming to beat last time's winners: South Africa
- The Springboks won the 2019 final beating England 32-12
- South Africa and New Zealand have both lifted the cup three times
- Australia last won the World Cup in 1999
- The first ever winners were New Zealand, beating France 29-9 in the inaugural final
- The iconic trophy is named after William Webb Ellis, the Rugby School pupil believed to have invented the sport in 1823
- The same whistle is used at every opening game of the World Cup – it was first used in 1905

# The Teams<sup>2</sup>

Country	Nickname	World Ranking	Fascinating Fact
<b>Australia</b>	Wallabies	7th	Has faced rivals New Zealand three times in a final or semi-final, winning twice
<b>Argentina</b>	Los Pumas	8th	In its best performance, Argentina gained third place in 2007
<b>Chile</b>	Los Condores	22nd	Chile's first time at the World Cup, having won a one-point aggregate over the USA
<b>England</b>	-	6th	The only Northern Hemisphere team to win the tournament
<b>France</b>	Les Bleus	2nd	Has yet to win the tournament - but is the 2023 favourite
<b>Fiji</b>	The Flying Fijians	13th	Exceptional skills and agility make Fiji a fan favourite at the World Cup
<b>Italy</b>	Gli Azzurri - after the azure jersey colour	14th	Has played every tournament but never yet made it to the quarter finals
<b>Ireland</b>	-	1st	Winners of the 2023 Six Nations title
<b>Japan</b>	The Brave Blossoms	10th	Caused upset in 2015 by beating South Africa 34-32
<b>Georgia</b>	The Lelos - Lelo is the Georgian word for 'try'	11th	Has participated in every tournament since 2003
<b>Namibia</b>	-	21st	Lost a record-breaking 142-0 to Australia in 2003
<b>New Zealand</b>	The All Blacks	3rd	Has never lost a pool stage match in the history of the World Cup

Country	Nickname	World Ranking	Fascinating Fact
<b>Portugal</b>	Os Lobos - the wolves	16th	Has not qualified since 2007, where it lost every match
<b>Romania</b>	Oaks, after their emblem	19th	Has participated in all World Cup events except 2019, after fielding an ineligible player
<b>Samoa</b>	-	12th	Has played in every World Cup since 1991
<b>Scotland</b>	-	5th	Has not reached the semi-finals since 1991
<b>South Africa</b>	The Springboks	4th	Beat England to win the tournament in both 2007 and 2019
<b>Tonga</b>	Ikale Tahi - Sea Eagles	15th	Like New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji, the Tongan team performs a war dance before play: the Sipi Tau
<b>Uruguay</b>	Los Teros	17th	Uruguay's fourth time in the tournament
<b>Wales</b>	The Red Dragons	9th	Wales has reached the semi-finals twice, in 1987 and 2011

## The Groups<sup>3</sup>

POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D
France	Ireland	Australia	Argentina
Italy	Romania	Fiji	Chile
Namibia	Scotland	Georgia	England
New Zealand	South Africa	Portugal	Japan
Uruguay	Tonga	Wales	Samoa

## Quarters, Semis and Final Dates<sup>4</sup>

Match	Date	UK Time	Location
<b>Quarter final 1</b>	14th October	16:00	Marseille
<b>Quarter final 2</b>	14th October	20:00	Paris Saint-Denis
<b>Quarter final 3</b>	15th October	16:00	Marseille
<b>Quarter final 4</b>	15th October	20:00	Paris Saint-Denis
<b>Semi final 1</b>	20th October	20:00	Paris Saint-Denis
<b>Semi final 2</b>	21st October	20:00	Paris Saint-Denis
<b>Runners up final</b>	27th October	20:00	Paris Saint-Denis
<b>FINAL</b>	28th October	20:00	Paris Saint-Denis

## Match locations - a pocket travel guide<sup>5</sup>

### Lille

**Stadium:** Stade Pierre Mauroy

**Area of France:** North, bordering Belgium

**Famous for:**  
Flemish architecture and vibrant cultural scene.

**Things to do and see:**  
Visit Annual Braderie de Lille, one of Europe's largest flea markets. Explore picturesque cobblestone streets, the Palais des Beaux-Arts (Fine Arts Museum), WW1 Battlefields.

**Local dish:** Moules-frites (mussels and fries).



## Match locations - a pocket travel guide<sup>5</sup>



### Bordeaux

**Stadium:** Stade de Bordeaux

**Area of France:** South-west

**Famous for:** Wine and vineyards.

**Things to do and see:**

Elegant architecture, including the iconic Place de la Bourse and the Grand Théâtre. Take guided tours of the region's vineyards and enjoy a wine tasting.

**Local dish:**

Entrecôte à la Bordelaise; rib steak cooked in a rich gravy made from Bordeaux wine, butter, shallots, herbs and bone marrow.

### Lyon

**Stadium:** OL Stadium

**Area of France:** East

**Famous for:**

Renaissance architecture and gastronomy. Was once a global centre of silk production.

**Things to do and see:**

Museums, boat rides on the Rhône and Saône rivers and panoramic views from Fourvière Hill.

**Local dishes:**

Lyonnais cuisine, including dishes like quenelles (a meat or fish dumpling), sausages and tarte aux pralines.





## Match locations - a pocket travel guide<sup>5</sup>



### Marseille

**Stadium:** Stade Vélodrome, Marseille

**Area of France:**  
South-east, on the Mediterranean coast

**Famous for:**  
France's oldest city is renowned for its vibrant multicultural atmosphere. The city has a rich history and features a picturesque Old Port.

**Things to do and see:**  
Maritime history and ambiance. Visit the iconic Notre-Dame de la Garde basilica, the historic Le Panier district, and the Mucem (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations). The stunning Calanques National Park is known for breathtaking coastal cliffs and crystal-clear waters.

**Local dishes:** Bouillabaisse, a seafood stew.

### Nantes

**Stadium:** Stade de la Beaujoire

**Area of France:** Central West

**Famous for:**  
Situated on the Loire River in western France, Nantes is renowned for Les Machines de l'Île, an artistic showcase of mechanical creatures, including a giant elephant that visitors can ride.

**Things to do and see:**  
The Château des Ducs de Bretagne, a former ducal castle, and the striking contemporary art museum, the Musée d'Art de Nantes. The city also offers beautiful parks and lively markets.

**Local dishes:**  
Gâteau Nantais, a buttery cake with almonds and rum.



## Match locations - a pocket travel guide<sup>5</sup>



### Nice

**Stadium:** Stade de Nice

**Area of France:**  
South-east, near the Italian border

**Famous for:**  
Nice is on the French Riviera, renowned for its stunning coastline, picturesque landscapes and glamorous atmosphere.

**Things to do and see:**  
The city offers beautiful beaches, the vibrant Promenade des Anglais, and a charming old town, Vieux Nice. World-class museums include the Musée Matisse and the Musée Marc Chagall.

**Local dishes:**  
Salad Niçoise, the famous tuna salad with tomatoes, olives, anchovies and hard-boiled eggs.

### Paris

**Stadium:** Stade de France

**Area of France:** North Central

**Famous for:**  
The capital of France is famous for its iconic landmarks including the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and Sacre Coeur.

**Things to do and see:**  
Take a boat trip on the Seine River, climb the Eiffel Tower, shop on the Champs Élysées and see the Mona Lisa at the Louvre.

**Local dishes:**  
Steak tartare, the famous raw steak dish.





### Saint-Étienne

**Stadium:** Stade Geoffroy Guichard

**Area of France:** Central

**Famous for:**

An industrial heritage and a real passion for football.

**Things to do and see:**

Stroll around the city's charming squares, including Place Jean Jaurès, and explore a lively cultural scene with theatres, art galleries and music.

**Local dish:** Barboton, a fricasseed lamb stew.

### Toulouse

**Stadium:** Stadium de Toulouse

**Area of France:** South-west

**Famous for:**

Known as 'La Ville Rose' (the pink city) because of its distinctive pink-hued architecture. Toulouse is also a hub of aerospace and aviation.

**Things to do and see:**

Take a boat along the UNESCO-listed Canal du Midi, a historic waterway. Explore the picturesque Old Town and visit the magnificent Basilica of Saint-Sernin.

**Local dishes:**

Cassoulet, a slow-cooked stew made with pork, goose, duck and mutton with white haricot beans.





## French rugby terms and phrases<sup>6</sup>

Get a handle on what your fellow spectators are saying: some key French rugby terms to learn:

Try	<b>Une essai</b>	Offside	<b>Hors-jeu</b>
Tackle	<b>Un plaquage</b>	Penalty	<b>Une pénalité</b>
Lineout	<b>Une touche</b>	Scrum half	<b>Un demi de mêlée</b>
Scrum	<b>Une mêlée</b>	A forward	<b>Un avant</b>
Conversion	<b>Une transformation</b>	A back	<b>Un arrière</b>
Knock on	<b>En avant</b>	A winger	<b>Un ailie</b>

A few choice phrases will help you express your joy (or frustration):

That was a forward pass	<b>c'était une passe en avant</b>
Great game	<b>Bon jeu</b>
What a superb try	<b>Quel superbe essai</b>
He really needs to convert this	<b>Il a vraiment besoin de transformer ça</b>
That was a high tackle	<b>c'était un plaquage haut</b>



## Spending guide<sup>7</sup>

People often ask us what things cost in France and how much money to take with them on their trip. Here are some prices to expect in France:

Inexpensive meal for one e.g. fast food	<b>€10-15</b>	Cappuccino	<b>€2.70-3.50</b>
Meal in a mid-range restaurant, per head	<b>€20-30</b>	A beer (500ml)	<b>€4-5</b>
Bottle of water	<b>€1.60-1.90</b>	Local bus ticket	<b>€1.70-3</b>

Note: Prices are a guideline only and will vary by region. Costs are likely to be highest in Paris.

How to save money on your trip to France  
A few ways to keep your spending on track include:

- Book your accommodation in advance, as prices escalate during sporting events
- Buy snacks and basic meals in a supermarket rather than always eating out
- Use local transport instead of taxis
- Find out what your card issuer will charge you for using your card abroad
- Look out for free tourist attractions or discount cards like the Paris Pass
- Minimise your spending at a stadium as prices are often inflated