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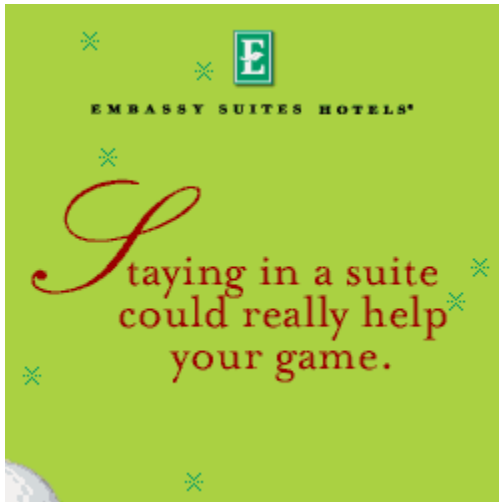
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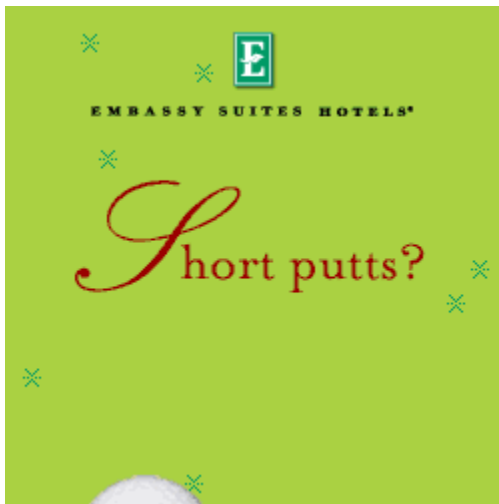


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## Travel

### Extra day in Paris

Airport &amp; Transportation

By Karen Fawcett, Sarah Gilbert Fox and Barbara Pasquet James of

[www.bonjourparis.com](http://www.bonjourparis.com) for USATODAY.com

The two main international airports are Charles de Gaulle, north of the city (also known as Roissy or CDG; all flights to and from the U.S. arrive and depart here) and Orly, the older of the two, located 12.5 miles south of Paris. Both airports are well served by taxis, commuter subway lines called the RER, **Air France buses** and public buses.

Luggage carts are free. Since Sept. 11, airport security has been greatly increased, so plan lots of extra time for your departure. For general Paris navigation information, check out:

[www.hotdoc.com/europe/france/paris/homeen.html](http://www.hotdoc.com/europe/france/paris/homeen.html)

**It's yours** — Sometimes visitors and residents are asked to produce proofs of purchase for electronic items being brought into France, such as laptops or video cameras. Bring a photocopy of your sales receipts to avoid tax and duty charges.

**Changing money** — One of the banks on the arrival level near the exit can change money for you if you need some right away. Once in the city, use ATMs for cash.

Aeroports de Paris provides a great link: [www.adp.fr](http://www.adp.fr) which you can check to see if flights are running on time, study maps of the facilities, and find lots of other useful information.

**Getting into the city** — There is a taxi line outside — no hailing taxis! When the traffic is heavy, however, the RER is the fastest means to get in and


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out of town. A normal taxi drive into central Paris without heavy traffic should cost between 25-40 Euros (slightly less in American dollars) from Charles de Gaulle and 15-25 Euros from Orly. From Charles de Gaulle, allow 45 euros if you have lots of baggage. If traffic is very heavy, plan to pay an additional 30 percent. Baggage, pets, skis, bicycles each cost extra. You may tip a bit, but don't overdo it. In the city, a Euro or so is all that is really expected. No need to calculate 15 percent. Taxis in Paris always operate with set meters.

There is now also a shuttle service into Paris operating from both airports. Count on about 13-15 Euros per person for a shared van. Also, look for large public buses that will, for a small price, take you into the center.

**Getting around the city** — The Paris Métro system map looks like Picasso took a plate of spaghetti and threw it at the wall. But despite initial appearances, it's an easy-to-learn, extremely efficient system. Buses are a well-connected option that also allows you to see the sights. For travel information about the Métro, buses and the RER go to [www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr)

**The last Métro** — Unless you want to spend the night in a disco or stalk the streets until 6 a.m., keep in mind that the last Métro usually stops around 12:50 a.m. But don't take any chances. Join the desperate scrambling into the depths, two stairs at a time, around 12:30 a.m. Be cautious of pickpockets who hang out in tourist spots and at major stops.

**Taxis** — Unlike in American cities, in Paris one cannot just wave a hand and conjure a taxi. You must telephone for one (the meter starts as soon as the driver leaves his destination) or go to a tête du taxi (taxi stand).

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