

FRANCE: PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORT

KEY INFO IN

10

POINTS

1

▶ FRANCE, A LONGSTANDING HOST OF GLOBAL SPORTING EVENTS

In 1938 and 1998, France hosted the football World Cup, while in 2007 it organized the rugby World Cup. France has also held the Olympic Games on five occasions (Summer Games of 1900 and 1924, Winter Games of 1924, 1968 and 1992) and enjoys a special relationship with the event, given that a Frenchman, Pierre de Coubertin, was the founder of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

2

▶ FRANCE, A COUNTRY OF GREAT CHAMPIONS

The French handball team has won the World Championships five times, the European Championships three times and Olympic gold twice. Sébastien Loeb is the only driver to have won the World Rally Championship nine times.

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▶ FRANCE, A NATION OF WORLD-CLASS FOOTBALLERS

As of 2015, France has more players – 113 in total – playing club football in Europe's four major football leagues than any other country. Michel Platini, the first player to win the Ballon d'Or three years in a row, has been the President of UEFA since 2007.

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▶ FRANCE REMAINS A KEY PLAYER IN THE SPORTS WORLD

France has invested €1.7 billion in its stadiums in preparation for the 2016 European Championship, the world's third largest sporting event with a cumulative television audience of 8.1 billion. France will also host the handball and ice hockey World Championships in 2017, golf's Ryder Cup in 2018 and the women's football World Cup in 2019.

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▶ THE FRENCH POPULATION'S ENTHUSIASM FOR SPORT

Sixty-five percent of French people take part in sport at least once a week. There are more than 167,000 sports clubs in France with 15 million members. National spending on sport exceeds €36.5 billion.

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▶ FRANCE BOASTS IMMENSE EXPERTISE IN THE SECTOR

French companies, such as Bouygues Construction, Eiffage and Vinci, are renowned for their expertise in the construction of major sporting venues. France is the world's leading builder of sailing boats, three-quarters of which it exports.

7

▶ FRANCE OFFERS HIGH-QUALITY TAILORED SPORTS TRAINING

More than 3,000 sports programs are available, catering for 60,000 students. Elite sports programs are run directly by the Ministry for Urban Affairs, Youth and Sport.

8


▶ FRANCE BOASTS A WIDE VARIETY OF HIGH-QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURES

France has more than 320,000 sports facilities. The Stade de France is the largest venue by capacity (81,000 spectators), followed by the Vélodrome in Marseille.

9

▶ PRESTIGIOUS SPORTING EVENTS ACROSS FRANCE


The “Tour de France” is the most famous cycling event in the world, having taken place on an annual basis since 1903. “Roland Garros” is one of the tennis circuit’s four main tournaments and has been held in Paris every year since 1928. The legendary “Le Mans 24 Hours”, a globally renowned motor race, has been organized in France every year since 1923.





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▶ FRANCE, A LEADING DESTINATION FOR SKIERS

France is the world’s second most popular destination for skiers, with more than 55 million skiing days sold in 2014. Thirty-two percent of the clientele is foreign. Val Thorens was voted the number one ski resort at the 2014 World Travel Awards.



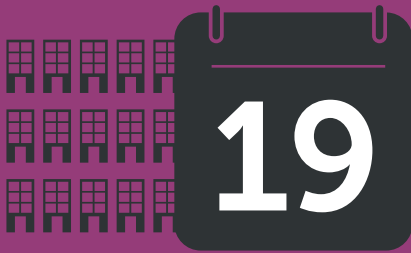
For further information, please visit:
www.businessfrance.fr





77, boulevard Saint-Jacques
75680 Paris Cedex 14 - France
Tel.: +33 1 40 73 30 00



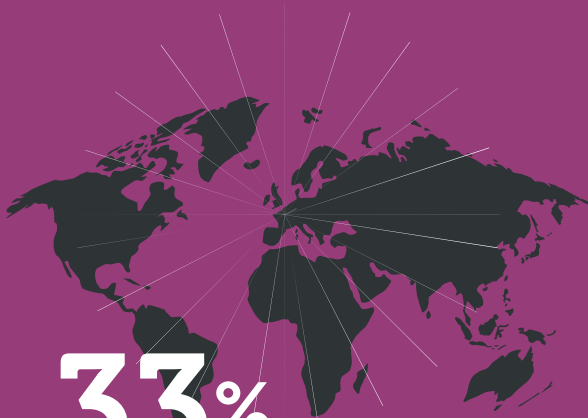


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