

# FRANCE

Travel • Food & Wine • Culture • Holidays

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## Island Hopping

Discover the stunning Atlantic coast

### PARTY IN PARIS

30 amazing things to do in the French capital

### GET SÈTE

A vibrant Mediterranean port with an artistic vibe

### MULL IT OVER

Enjoy a weekend in marvelous Mulhouse

### VA VA VOOM

Why the Renault Clio is a true French icon

14.23



## Quick guide to **TARBES**

The capital of the Bigorre province marks the gateway to the Pyrenees, where tourists are lured by the many ski resorts and spa towns of the mountains.

But this market town has plenty going for it – and great airport connections – to make it an exciting jet off-the-radar weekend break destination for British visitors.

### WHAT SHOULD I SEE AND DO?

Set amid a lovely landscape, the Musée Miquette de France is leading visitors dedicated to the country's flowers. (musee-miquette.com) It houses a collection of 17,000 items, including well-preserved antique seed and vegetable collections. (musee-miquette.com) The surrounding landscape is suitable for hiking and cycling.

The local municipal gardens in France – it also has its own resident zoo. (gardens-tarbes.com) Equipped with food plants for arroy in Tarbes, with its cat square history, the state-owned and National Natural History is housed there, where its resident animals range from local Minnie horses and Pyrenean ibexes to the critically endangered Laysan duck.

July and August become like the France and London. If you're visiting in July, be sure to pay a visit to the long-running Festival Espagnol de Tarbes (festival-espagnol.com).

### WHERE SHOULD I EAT AND DRINK?

Popular L'Espresso offers fresh and local dishes such as the famous pork and the region's many other dishes from 121. (espresso.com)

For something a little different, try L'Asphale for organic French cuisine. (asphale.com) menu include yellowtail, knight, tomato in blue and white in blue grey. (asphale.com)

Take home some of the town's famous white bread, known as Tarbes, in a croissant.

### WHERE SHOULD I STAY?

The historic Hotel de la Marine is conveniently located near the main square and offers comfortable, reasonably priced accommodation. (hotel-marine.com)

### GET NEAR THERE!

Fly to Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées airport from London Gatwick with Ryanair; the town offers a 20-minute bus ride away.

For more information, visit tarbes-tourisme.fr

## TRAVEL NEWS

### PICKPOCKET RISE

Reports of pickpocketing on the Paris Métro have skyrocketed by 74% in the last year, new statistics have revealed. Paris public transport authority's security director, Stéphane Goussard, told Le Parisien that the rise was 'unprecedented'. The news follows the arrest of a prolific Métro pickpocketing gang in October 2018, who were sentenced to a total of 113 years in prison.



### GARE DE CONTROVERSY

Europe's busiest station, the Gare d'Orléans in Paris, is at the centre of a tug-of-war over plans to develop it into a super shopping centre in time for the 2024 Olympic Games. Developers are keen to get the project, estimated to cost around €100 million, off the ground. But its many detractors include environmentalists, architects and locals. Now a consultation has been opened to allow users of the station and local residents to have their say on the controversial plans.

### BIOMETRIC BOARDING

For France and airports in Paris have joined forces to roll out a Biometric Boarding scheme this year in order to speed up processing times for boarding and baggage drop-off, according to Elaparis. The scheme will use facial recognition to improve the flying experience and will first be trialled at Paris Orly airport.