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Don't get caught out by French Public Holidays!

In France, public holidays (fériés) are laid down in article L3133-1 of French Employment law (code du Travail). On these days the majority of administrations, banks and businesses are closed, so be careful because these Public holidays are not necessarily the same as the ones you're used to! Also in France, a public holiday can fall on a Sunday, and isn't pushed back to the following Monday like in the UK for example.

Name	Date	Meaning
► Civil holidays		
New Year's Day Jour de l'an	January 1st	First day of the year.
Labour Day Fête du travail	May 1st	Celebrates workers, this holidays exists in France since 1793.
VE Day (Victory in Europe) Victoire 1945	May 8th	Remembrance of the German surrender and the end of the Second World War in Europe (1945).
National holiday Fête Nationale	July 14th	Holiday to mark the New Order (la Fédération) of July 14th 1790, anniversary of the storming of the Bastille in 1789.
Armistice Day Armistice 1918	November 11th	Commemoration of the armistice ending the First World War in 1918.
► Religious holidays		
Easter Monday Lundi de Pâques	The Monday following Easter Sunday (Easter Sunday varies every year).	The public holiday falls on a Monday but it is the Sunday which has a specific religious meaning for Christians : Easter Day, also known as Resurrection Day (Pâques), celebrates the resurrection of Jesus on the third day after his crucifixion. It also marks the end of Lent, season of fasting, prayer and penance.
Ascension Day or Ascension Thursday Ascension	40 days after Easter Sunday	Christian holiday celebrating the ascent of Jesus to heaven.
Whitsunday or Pentecost Pentecôte	50 days after Easter Sunday	Christian remembrance of the Holy Ghost's visit to the apostles. In France, this day has been established by the government as a day of solidarity for the aged.
Assumption Assomption	August 15th	Catholic holiday celebrating the ascent of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, to heaven.
All Saints' Day Toussaint	November 1st	Holiday celebrating the Saints of the Roman Catholic Church.
Christmas Day Noël	December 25th	Christmas Day is an old pagan holiday celebrating the winter solstice. This holiday was Christianised in the Middle Ages as the day Christ was born.