Are you going to the United Kingdom (UK) for the London Olympic Games 2012 or will you be taking part in the games?

Are you planning on transiting through France or taking this opportunity to visit France?

In order to plan for your journey well, you need to be informed. The information provided below will enlighten you on the requirements for the Schengen Visa issued by the French Consulate authorities.

The documents you may be in possession of for your visit to the London Olympic Games 2012(i.e. accreditation card, tickets allowing you to attend the games, UK Visa issued by British authorities) may not automatically allow you to enter the Schengen borders and the French territory in particular.

1. Do you need a Visa?

If you would like to visit or pass through France on the occasion of the London Olympic Games 2012 and you are required to obtain a short stay Schengen Visa by reason of your nationality, then you will need to obtain a Visa from the French Consulate before your departure. The afore-mentioned Visa will allow you to visit France as well as to enter the Schengen zone for the period indicated on the Visa label. Your visit cannot exceed 90 days within a six month period, and the Visa will be endorsed with a single or multiple entry provision as indicated on the Visa label;

In order to know if, by reason of your nationality, you would be required to obtain Schengen Visa, please consult the following websites:http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2001R0539:2011011:FR:PDF

and

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/la-france/venir-en-france/entrer-en-france/article/les-etrangers-titulaires-d-un

-If you come from a country which is not part of the Schengen zone and you will have to

transit through an airport in France (e.g. Paris-Orly or Charles de Gaulle Paris) in order to connect to your UK flight, you will need an Airport Transit Visa (ATV) which you will obtain from the French Consulate before your departure. This Visa will allow you to take your connecting flight to the UK from the specified airport in France; however, it will not allow you to leave the International Airport area. The same Visa will be required as well on your return journey from the UK for your transit through France.

In order to find out if, by reason of your nationality, you need the Airport Transit Visa, please consult the following website:

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/la-france/venir-en-france/entrer-en-france/article/quel-visa-pour-transiter-par-un

NB: The Airport Transit Visa will not allow you to leave the International Airport Zone. If you need to take your connecting flight at another airport, then you will be required to a Schengen Visa and not the Airport Transit Visa.

Exemption from Airport Transit Visa: Nationals from named third-party countries normally required to have the Airport Transit Visa by reason of their nationality are exempt from the Airport Transit Visa requirement provided that they hold a valid Visa issued out by the United Kingdom authorities for their travel to the United Kingdom.

2. How do you obtain a Visa?

If you need a short stay Visa or an Airport Transit Visa, please visit the French Consulate in your country of residence:

- begin by consulting the Embassy of France's website of your country of residence in order to find out;

  . your Consular Constituency (i.e. the Consulate where you need to apply), the address, the working hours, the conditions and hours of appointments, list of supporting documents you will need to provide etc.

  . also get the right information concerning the type of Visa you will need and the requirements for that Visa:

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/la-france/venir-en-france/entrer-en-france/

. please make sure that you follow the instructions specified on the website.

- do not leave the application for the Visa until too late; arrange for an appointment as soon as possible at your nearest French Consulate and make sure you have all the documents required which are specified on the website particularly:

  . your travel document (i.e. passport), your passport should be valid for a period of three (3) months after your return date;

  . necessary supporting documentation for your UK stay and travel **(i.e. your London Olympic Games 2012 documentation, your UK Visa and your return ticket)** and for France **(your return ticket, your travel insurance, your accommodation and your proof of funds/financial resources).**

3. What happens upon arrival at an airport in France?

NB: Holding a Visa is a preliminary requirement for entering the Schengen zone borders, however, it will not automatically give you the right to enter the Schengen zone:

- EVERY TRAVELLER REQUIRED OR NOT REQUIRED TO BE IN POSSESSION OF A VISA who wishes to enter France or transit through France must be in a position to provide all the original documents mentioned above upon request on their arrival at an airport in France.[1]

- A traveller who does not have the original documents mentioned above risks to be refused entry into the French territory and will be DEPORTED BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY.

[1] Nationals falling under certain specified categories may be exempted from presenting the documents mentioned above upon their arrival on French borders; in order to obtain more information on the above-mentioned categories please consult the following website: http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/la-france/venir-en-france/entrer-en-france/article/controle-a-l-arrivee-en-france