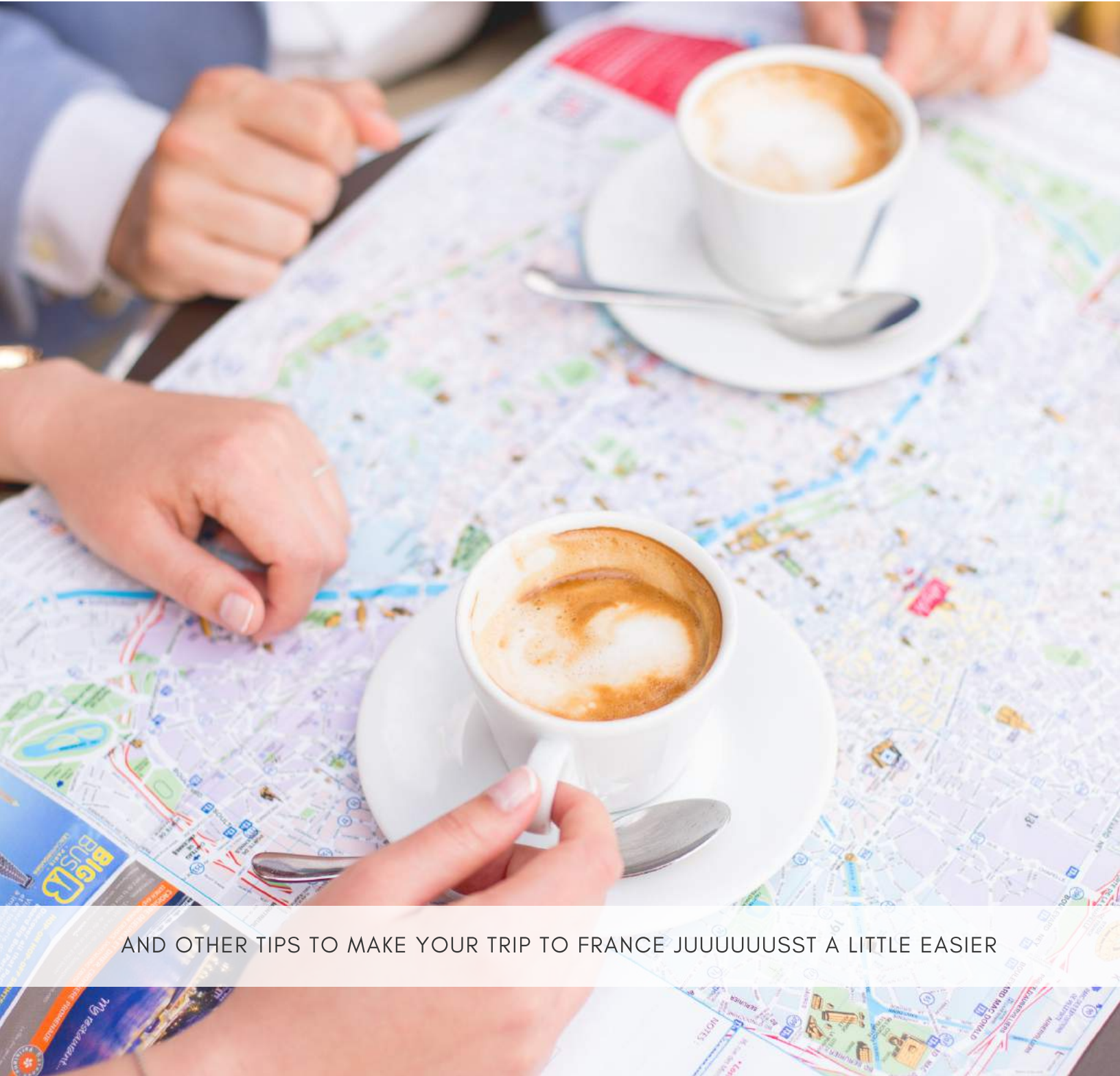


Basic French



AND OTHER TIPS TO MAKE YOUR TRIP TO FRANCE JUUUUUUSST A LITTLE EASIER

The French Language: What you Should Know

SPOILER ALERT: YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE FLUENT BEFORE YOU COME. AND THAT'S OK.

A little background about me (Katie). My French adventure started in early 2013 when I moved to Paris from NYC to be with my boyfriend, now husband. I decided to take a year of French at the Sorbonne to become fluent because if I was going to live in France, damn sure I was going to speak the language. My daily schedule looked like this: 4 hours of grammar lessons, and an hour of phonetic lessons a day at the Sorbonne. Then home to my now-in-laws house where we were living at the time. At night we would spend an hour or two around the dinner table talking about the day, politics, sports.. and somehow I followed along. I can't express the frustration that comes with wanting SO HARD to understand and speak a language at the level of your mother tongue. I said it probably 726 times to my husband during that first year, "Your friends and family must think I'm an idiot, or worse, just a dry piece of toast with no personality!"

Learning another language is HARD. Over that first year I went from barely being able to say, "Bonjour", to having full blown conversations and losing *most* of my accent. After almost 5 years now, I still have my small accent, I still have occasional trouble with vocabulary, and people still don't laugh at my jokes. (They don't know what they're missing in English; ha!) **All of this is to say that no one expects you to speak French fluently before you come (most people speak English, too) but to go into another country speaking at least a very BASIC few words can make all the difference.**

Keep on reading for your basic guide and a few funky cultural things you should know about.

Got any questions? Feel free to email me at Katie@katiedonnellyphotography.com

WWW.KATIEDONNELLYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM





France, while amazing, can be a funny place. Here are some pointers to make your stay parfait.

COMMON FRENCH PHRASES

Hello = *Bonjour* (bon-jore)

Goodbye = *Au revoir* (oar-vwahr)

See you later = *A tout à l'heure*
(ah-toot-ah-lure)

The check, please = *L'addition, s'il vous plait* (lah-dission-sil-voo-play)

I'll have an espresso = *Je prends un café*
(shuh-prahn-un-cafe)

I'll have a coffee = *Je prends un café américain* (shuh-prahn-un-cafe-american)

I'll have a tea = *Je prends un thé*
(shuh-prahn-un-teh)

Excuse me = *Pardon* (like in English but with a nasal 'n')

Do you speak English? = *Parlez-vous anglais?* (Parlay-voo-ahnglay)

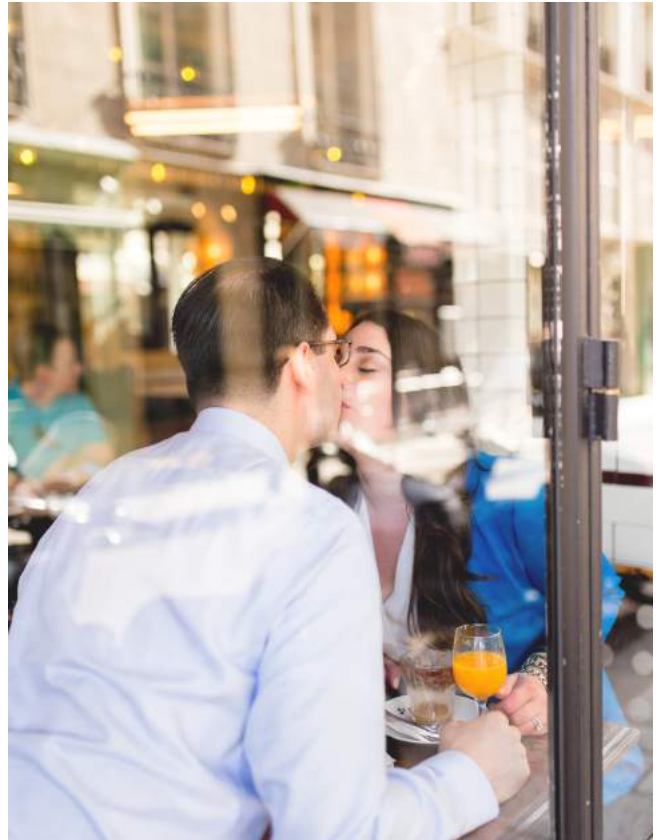
Thank you = *Merci* (mair-see)

ONE THING TO NOTE:

Whenever you go into a store or a restaurant or anywhere, you always ALWAYS say *bonjour* and greet everyone.

Before you ask anything from a store salesperson you say 'Bonjour' to get their attention. If you can't get their attention you can say 's'il vous plait' or 'pardon' and then after once you have it you start with 'bonjour'. It's a big part of the French greeting culture. Same thing for when you leave a store or a restaurant, you always say 'au revoir'.

CHEERS!



CULTURAL QUIRKS AND FRENCH RESTAURANT ETIQUETTE THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:

1. **The service will be long.** Just expect it. Waiters are paid actual wages in France so there are less of them generally. It's both an up and a down. The up being:
2. **You don't tip.** Per above, the waiters make a living wage. Tips aren't expected but if you have incredible service feel free to leave a few coins. Remember a 10% service charge is already in your bill.
3. **You're going to have to call the waiter over when you need something.** Don't expect them to come to you and ask how everything is. Once they give you your meal they'll leave you in peace. This means that you will never be rushed out of a restaurant or asked if you want dessert before your meal is even done. This also means that when your water runs out, you'll have to flag the waiter down for more.
4. **Basically nothing comes iced.** Be VERY specific if you want a lot of ice in your drink. Water comes room temperature and normally they'll only put 2 or 3 ice cubes in your drink if you ask for ice.
5. **You will have to ask for the check.** Even if all of your espresso is gone and your dessert plate is empty. You can stay and chit chat for as long as you want. Just ask the waiter when you're ready to pay.



Driving Tips + weird road rules

BECAUSE ROAD TRIPS ARE THE BEST
EXCEPT WHEN YOU GET A TICKET

1. **The car entering from the right has priority unless they have a dotted or solid line in front of their entrance.** This is VERY important as people enter quite quickly when they have priority. There are A LOT of roundabouts in France. You have to yield to cars already in the roundabout before entering. **EXCEPTION:** The roundabout around the Arc de Triomphe.

2. **Everything is marked in KM not miles.** You can usually go faster here, especially on the highways. (130 KM/hr =80 mp/h)

3. **Don't go past the speed limit.** The most we would recommend is 5-8 km/hr more than the limit. On the highways there are automatic speed traps that will easily give you tickets for being only a few km over the limit.

4. **Rental cars will most likely be Diesel engines** (it will be confirmed by a sticker close to the tank). At the gas station, pick the "Gazole" or "Gasoil" dispenser (both spellings exist).
5. **Most car rentals must be returned with their tanks full.**
6. **On Highways, it is illegal (and very rude) to pass a car from the right.** Always use the left (or middle) lane to pass a car. Normally when you're driving you stick in the lane to the right.
7. **Traffic lights are positioned before the intersection, so it is fine to stop at the light rather than before it.**
8. **No right on red. Anywhere.**
9. **Most rental cars are MANUAL, so you need to ask specifically for an automatic if you don't drive one.**

I hope these tips and pointers help you have a beautiful stay in France!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH US VIA EMAIL! WE LOVE TO HELP!

KEEP A LOOKOUT IN THE KDP VIP SECTION FOR MORE HELPFUL GUIDES AND TIPS FOR VACATIONING, PORTRAIT SESSIONS, AND RESOURCES.

**A BIEN TÔT,
KATIE**

KATIE@KATIEDONNELLYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

WWW.KATIEDONNELLYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

