



Money Matters

Currency:

- **England's currency is the pound sterling.** The pound's value relative to the US dollar fluctuates, of course, but the rate is approximately 1 pound to 1.15-1.30 USD (meaning that if you spend 1 pound, you'll have spent the equivalent of \$1.15-\$1.30).
- Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 pence; 1 pound; and 2 pounds. Bills begin at 5 pounds.
- **France's currency is the euro.** Its value relative to the US dollar fluctuates, of course, but the rate is approximately 1 euro to 1.00-1.15 USD (meaning that if you spend 1 euro, you'll have spent the equivalent of \$1.00-\$1.15).
- Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 euro-cents; 1 euro; and 2 euros. Bills begin at 5 euros.
- Generally, a better exchange rate is obtained through ATMs in Europe rather than a currency-exchange office. While it's reasonable to bring a modest quantity of US currency with you (to exchange in the event of a bank card problem arising that requires a day or two to resolve), we do NOT recommend carrying large amounts of US cash in Europe.



Getting and Spending:

- Before departure, notify your bank(s) that you may be using their debit/credit cards in England and France (and any other countries in which you might use a card at an airport layover) in order to help avoid having your cards being locked for fraud alerts when you start using them in Europe.
- Your debit and/or credit cards may charge a Foreign Transaction Fee; check with your bank(s) before departure to learn of their policies and fees for foreign transactions.
- ATMs can be found in airport terminals upon arrival in Europe, and are plentiful in London and Paris (ATM menus allow you to conduct transactions easily in English).
- Credit cards are accepted at most businesses. You may encounter businesses that do not accept cash, but only card payments. Visa and Mastercard are reliable forms of payment, but fewer places accept American Express or Discover.
- In almost all cases, the price you see listed for purchase (clothes in shops, food in restaurants, etc) includes all taxes; the price listed will be exactly the price you pay!