

SAFEABROAD



SafeAbroad Forecast Report

The 2024 Paris Summer Olympics and Paralympics

SAFETY IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Overview

SafeAbroad analysts have assessed the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics to be a moderate risk at this time. With 10,500 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees competing across 41 venues, the Games promise to attract a massive audience, with an estimated 15 million visitors expected in Paris alone. Security concerns for travelers encompass a heightened risk of terrorism, geopolitical conflicts, and local tensions.

Key Takeaways

1. **On March 26, 2024, France raised its terror alert to the maximum level.** Concerns over potential Islamic State presence and an overall increased risk of terrorism during the Games have led to tightened security measures, including limits on attendance at the opening ceremony. Despite reassurances from France's sports minister, previous IS attacks in France, coupled with a history of terror incidents in Europe, highlight ongoing security challenges, particularly regarding especially crowded public transportation hubs during the Games.
2. **Despite the IOC's goals of international peace for the duration of the Games, the Olympics have historically been used to make political statements, which may remain true this year given the current global geopolitical state.** The Russian government is already issuing political statements regarding limitations imposed on Russian and Belarussian athletes.¹ Considering the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, additional security measures may be taken against the Israeli team this year as well, particularly if civil unrest from locals puts pressure on authorities.²
3. **Tensions between French citizens and authorities are escalating due to security measures for the upcoming Games, prompting concerns about civil liberties.** Security measures to be implemented for the 2024 Paris Games include restricted transportation in Paris, QR code requirements, and the use of AI surveillance, raising concerns among Parisians about the civil liberties of citizens.³ Travelers can expect an increased number of security personnel deployed to Olympic sites and anti-drone measures.⁴ Additionally, agricultural workers across the EU have been protesting harsh regulations and cheap imports since December 2023, with actions such as blockades and manure spraying in Paris.⁵
4. **Travelers can expect increased rates of crime throughout Paris and surrounding event venues.** Paris faces heightened risks of faith-based violence amidst religious tensions,

1

<https://www.reuters.com/sports/kremlin-criticises-ioc-decision-ban-russias-athletes-olympic-parade-2024-03-20/>

2 <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/ioc-israel-palestine-olympics/>

3

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231129-qr-codes-shut-metros-police-outline-paris-olympics-security>

4 <https://www.reuters.com/sports/anti-drone-units-new-tool-keep-paris-2024-safe-2024-03-14/>

5

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/europes-restless-farmers-are-forcing-policymakers-act-2024-04-03>

exacerbated by controversial measures like mosque closures and hijab bans. The Olympic Village's location in the high-crime neighborhood of Saint-Denis raises security concerns and may heighten tensions between locals and travelers,⁶ while increased tourism for the Games amplifies risks of petty crimes like pickpocketing and fraud, necessitating heightened situational awareness.

Background

Throughout July and August of 2024, the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held across three main zones in France: the capital city of Paris, the Île-de-France region, and the French territory of Tahiti.

From July 26 to August 11, France will be hosting the 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.⁷ Within these Games, 10,500 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) will compete, and the competitions will be spread over 41 venues across France and its territories.^{8,9} Roughly 13 million tickets will be for sale for the Games, and upwards of 15 million visitors are expected in Paris during their duration.¹⁰ Of the predicted visitors, 2 million (12%) are forecasted to be from abroad, specifically the U.K. and the U.S.¹¹

The opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics will be the first of its kind, taking place completely outdoors on the Seine River. This is the first time in history that the opening ceremony will not be taking place within a stadium.¹² It is estimated that 300,000 people will be able to attend the opening ceremonies, which will begin at 8:24 PM on July 26. The ceremony will feature 104,000 paying spectators with a waterside view and 220,000 people with free tickets on the river's upper embankments. The free tickets are invitation-only and will be distributed to members of local sports federations and residents of towns hosting Olympic events.¹³

The majority of the competition venues, hosting 22 sports accounting for 85% of competing athletes, will be located within a 10-km radius of the Olympic and Paralympic village, situated in the Saint-Denis neighborhood in Paris. Events will primarily be held within Paris, at sites such as Roland-Garros, Champ-de-Mars, and Grand Palais. The broader Île-de-France region holds Stade de France, the country's largest stadium and epicenter of the Paris Games. Several stadiums throughout other regions of France will host football and shooting events and, for the first time, surfing will take place on the island of Tahiti, French Polynesia, located in the South Pacific Ocean.¹⁴ The city of Paris has provided maps of the designated traffic and security perimeters to

⁶ <https://www.dw.com/en/paris-olympics-fuel-gentrification-fears-in-poor-district/a-67046543>

⁷ <https://www.paris2024.org/en/the-olympic-games-paris-2024/>

⁸

<https://olympics.com/ioc/faq/competing-and-being-part-of-the-games/how-many-athletes-and-countries-take-part-in-the-olympic-games>

⁹ <https://parisjetaime.com/eng/article/paris-2024-across-france-a818>

¹⁰ <https://tickets.paris2024.org/en/>

¹¹

<https://www.barrons.com/news/olympic-numbers-counting-the-euros-the-viewers-and-the-bananas-e37d004a>

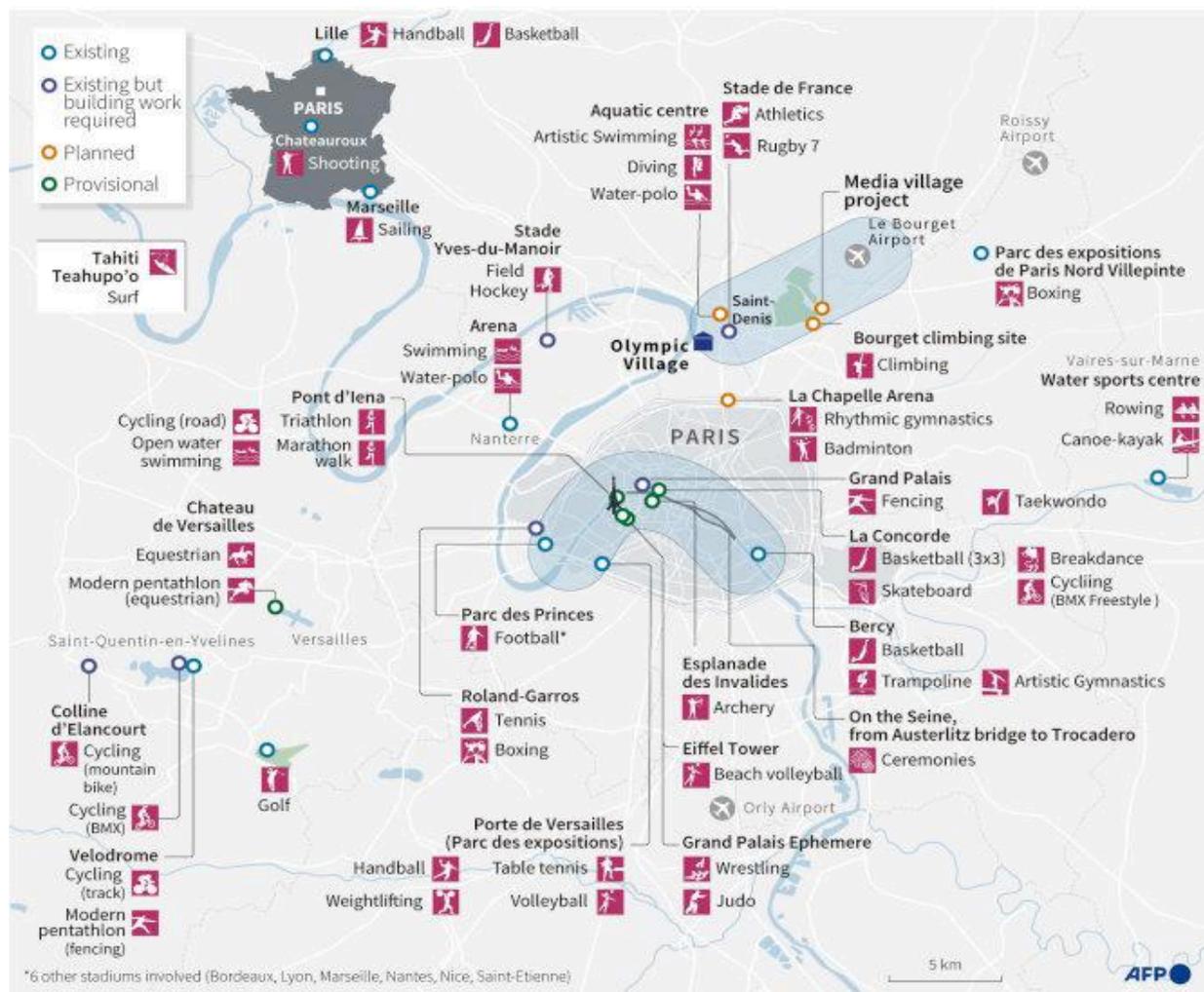
¹² <https://www.timeout.com/paris/en/things-to-do/paris-2024-olympics-opening-ceremony>

¹³

<https://swimswam.com/paris-2024-olympic-opening-ceremony-attendance-estimate-cut-in-half-due-to-security-reasons/>

¹⁴ <https://www.paris2024.org/en/competition-venue-concept/>

be enacted within the city during the Games. Construction for the physical perimeter borders began in March 2024.¹⁵



Map of the 2024 Paris Games venues.¹⁶

Implications for Travelers Around the 2024 Olympic Games

Travelers to France should remain cautious through the summer, particularly in the Île-de-France region and the capital of Paris, due to security concerns raised by the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

While Paris is typically a safe city for tourists, a significantly heightened security presence will be expected throughout the 2024 Olympic Games. Various factors such as ongoing global geopolitical tensions, the locations of and attendance at venues, and the staging of the Opening Ceremony contribute to the most pertinent security concerns to travelers, including a heightened risk of terrorism and targeted crime, travel disruptions, and civil unrest.

¹⁵ <https://parisjetaime.com/eng/article/2024-summer-olympics-how-to-get-around-in-paris-a1573>

¹⁶ <https://www.parisdigest.com/sports/paris-olympics-2024.htm>

Staging of the Opening Ceremony | The Opening Ceremony has raised considerable security concerns, given its open-air environment. For the first time in the history of the Olympic Summer Games, the Opening Ceremony will not take place in a stadium, and will instead be staged along the Seine. France's Minister of the Interior has cited multiple possible threats to the Opening Ceremony, including Islamic extremist groups, violent environmental activists, and far-right groups. Organizers of the Paris Games have confirmed that a large number of security personnel will be present during the Opening Ceremony—roughly 47,000 forces both in and around the seating venues along the Seine.¹⁷ The open-air environment of the ceremony would be an easier target for terrorism, hence the drastic security presence.

Heightened Risk of Terrorism | On March 26, France increased its national security terror alert level to its maximum level, following an IS attack in Moscow, Russia.¹⁸ On March 22, the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group attacked a Moscow, Russia concert hall with firearms, killing 137 people. The massacre was Europe's deadliest terrorist attack claimed by IS to date. In response, the French government raised the country's terror alert warning to its highest level, just months before the Games begin in July.¹⁹ France's terror alert system has three levels, with the highest level generally activated following a major terror attack or when the threat of one is considered imminent. Amid fear of terror attacks, officials have also limited the number of people allowed at the opening ceremony of the Olympics.²⁰ The recent increase in IS activity within Russia raises concerns about their potential presence at the Olympics. Despite these developments, France's sports minister has stated that there is no specific terror threat to the Paris Olympics,²¹ however, given the international attention on the event, the potential for IS actively during the Olympics should not be discounted.

France has experienced deadly Islamic State attacks in the past, including the series of terror attacks in Paris in November 2015, which left a total of 130 people dead and more than 350 injured. Extremists targeted locations such as the **Stade de France**, popular nighttime hotspots in Paris's 10th and 11th arrondissements, and the Bataclan theater, where the attackers claimed the most casualties. Since 2020, there have been 16 terrorist attacks in France, ranging in severity from stabbings to beheadings. The most recent instance was in December 2023, when a Franco-Iranian man stabbed three people in Paris, killing one.²² In October 2023, a teacher was stabbed and killed at Gambetta High School,²³ and the Louvre and Palace of Versailles were evacuated due to bomb threats.²⁴

Incidents throughout Europe such as the bombings of the London, UK transit system in 2005 and the Saint Petersburg, Russia Metro in 2017 in Russia demonstrate that highly populated public

¹⁷ <https://theathletic.com/5327992/2024/03/09/paris-olympics-opening-ceremony-security-concerns/>

¹⁸

https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2024/03/26/france-faces-a-growing-multi-faceted-terrorist-threat_6654847_7.html

¹⁹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-raises-terror-alert-level-shooting-attack-moscow/>

²⁰ <https://theathletic.com/5327992/2024/03/09/paris-olympics-opening-ceremony-security-concerns/>

²¹ <https://www.barrons.com/news/no-specific-terror-threat-to-paris-olympics-minister-a3af63d4>

²²

https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2023/12/02/attaque-a-paris-une-personne-tuee-et-une-autre-blesee-l-assaillant-interpelle_6203579_3224.html

²³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-67101089>

²⁴

<https://apnews.com/article/france-louvre-versailles-evacuated-threats-859227d963367d7601575e4a8e1d2d4a>

transport is an attractive target for terrorists.^{25, 26} Nearly 70% of people living in Paris use public transportation for daily travel, and the public transport system will be especially strained with the influx of travelers surrounding the Games.²⁷ Public transport hubs during an event such as the Olympics would be an ideal target for terrorists—easier to access and less secure than venues.

To maintain safety for Olympic athletes, access to multiple metro, RER, tram, streetcar, and Transilien lines will be limited or closed for the duration of the Games.²⁸ The Gare du Nord and Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre metro stations should be avoided due to significant wait times. The Tuileries, Concorde, and Champs-Élysées-Clemenceau metro stations will be closed. Tramway stops, including Colette Besson (T3b), Porte de Versailles (T2 and T3a), and Porte d'Issy (T2), will be closed. A complete list of affected transportation lines with an interactive map can be found on the French Ministry of Transportation's website.²⁹

Anti-Drone Security | Given the weaponization of drones in recent years, anti-drone units will be utilized to protect the airspace above the 2024 Olympics. Drones can be used to carry out protests or acts of terrorism. A military base just outside of Paris will be an anti-drone center for the duration of the Olympics to proactively intercept this type of threat. Given that drones are used for media coverage of the Olympic Games, they cannot be banned altogether; however, security forces intend to intercept any drone that poses a threat.³⁰ In 2019, France's Anti-Terrorism Coordination Unit (UCLAT) released a confidential report alerting about a possible terrorist attack on a football stadium by means of a drone that they suspected was equipped with biological warfare agents.³¹ The warning was reiterated by the European Commissioner for the Security Union, but no physical attack came from the threat. At the time of writing, France has not been subject to a drone-led attack, but with the state of the country's terror alert level and the expected turnout of the Games, security forces equipped with radars, cameras, jamming antennas, and anti-drone rifles that can neutralize a drone kilometers away.

Post-COVID Crowds | The 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the first to take place post-COVID. After the two past Olympic Games (Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022) were overshadowed by the COVID-19 virus, the Paris Games will be the first to allow spectators since the Winter Games in Pyeongchang in 2018; therefore, travelers should expect large crowds in public transportation hubs and surrounding event venues, longer than usual wait times for services and in retail establishments, and difficulty finding available accommodations in regions associated with the Games. The Olympic Committee is following COVID-19 regulations and rules provided by the French Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories; however, this is unlikely to hinder spectator turnout.³²

Civil Unrest Among Locals | The tensions rising between French citizens and authorities could lead to political protests surrounding the Games. Concerns about Parisian civil liberties have been raised as QR codes will be required to pass through restricted areas. Residents near Olympic

²⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/event/London-bombings-of-2005>

²⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2017/04/04/europe/st-petersburg-russia-explosion/index.html>

²⁷ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/612773/paris-public-transport-users-by-transit-type/>

²⁸

<https://www.sortiraparis.com/en/news/olympic-games-paris-2024/articles/296469-paris-2024-olympics-transport-lines-and-metro-stations-to-avoid>

²⁹ <https://anticiperlesjeux.gouv.fr/je-minforme/carte-interactive-impacts-routes-transport-paris-ile-france>

³⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/sports/anti-drone-units-new-tool-keep-paris-2024-safe-2024-03-14/>

³¹ <https://www.unaoc.org/wp-content/uploads/GUIDE-on-MSE-Security-with-Annex-Final.pdf>

³² <https://olympics.com/en/news/before-you-travel>

venues must apply for a QR code and provide a valid reason to be allowed past the security perimeter. Those to be affected by this rule have expressed disdain about needing permission to leave or go home. French government officials across the political spectrum have also criticized the move, promoting it as an attack on liberties. While there have yet to be protests surrounding the implementation of QR codes, it is plausible that, as the Games draw closer, locals will become increasingly discontent with the routine monitoring. As such, protests against restrictions and underlying hostilities towards travelers attending the Games could present themselves.

Additionally, security measures for the Games will include a large amount of AI surveillance, which has prompted an outcry from French civil liberties groups that claim this will create a precedent for unwarranted AI surveillance in the future globally.³³ Activists note that the laws allowing for AI surveillance ensure that the technology will remain in Paris until March 2025, well after the conclusion of the Games.³⁴ Rising tensions between French citizens and authorities could lead to political protests both leading up to and during the Games.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict | Athletes from Russia and Belarus will be allowed to participate in the 2024 Olympic Games despite the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022; prompting unrest. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is allowing athletes from these two countries to participate in the Games without flags, emblems, or anthems.³⁵ Ukraine has not decided to send athletes to the Games, and in early February, the Ukrainian Olympic Committee asked the IOC to investigate the Russian and Belarusian athletes, claiming breaches of neutrality.³⁶ Russian and Belarusian athletes will not be allowed to participate in the Opening Ceremony of the Paris Games; however, they may be able to watch as spectators.³⁷ The allowance of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Games could result in protests both from those opposing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and others denouncing restrictions on Russian and Belarusian athletes. There have already been protests on the strict participation rules for these athletes, which may increase closer to the Games.³⁸

Israel-Hamas Conflict | France, and especially Paris, has seen a sharp increase in antisemitism following the beginning of the conflict between Israel and Hamas. France has the largest population of Jewish people in Europe, around 500,000, and is the third largest Jewish population

³³

https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/law/academics/sportslaw/commentary/mslj_blog/2023/PrivacyinParisWillthe2024OlympicsbetheGoldStandard.html

³⁴ <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/surveillance-paris-olympics-artificial-intelligence/>

³⁵

<https://www.reuters.com/sports/olympics-paris-faces-major-security-challenges-first-post-covid-Games-2023-12-21/>

³⁶

<https://www.reuters.com/sports/ukraine-asks-ioc-investigate-russian-belarusian-Games-participation-2024-02-07/>

³⁷

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/03/20/sport/russian-belarusian-athletes-opening-ceremony-paris-2024-spt-intl/index.html>

³⁸

<https://www.reuters.com/sports/putin-says-russians-should-go-2024-olympics-conditions-must-be-assessed-2023-12-14/>

after Israel and the United States.³⁹ The Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) recorded 1,676 acts of antisemitism in the country in 2023, a drastic increase from the 436 acts recorded in 2022. 60% of these acts involved physical violence or threats.⁴⁰ The number of antisemitic acts has quadrupled since October 2023.⁴¹

The IOC has confirmed that Israeli athletes will be allowed to participate in the Paris Games, along with Palestinian athletes; however, concerns have risen regarding the interactions between the two countries' athletes.⁴² Given the international platform of the Olympics, antisemitic groups could exploit the event to spread their message as has been the case in the past, potentially utilizing physical violence and threats.⁴³ In 1972, two members of the Israeli Olympic team were killed, and nine others were taken hostage to bargain for the release of Palestinian hostages.⁴⁴ The current conflict in Gaza has already killed members of both the Israeli and Palestinian Olympic teams, creating tensions between the two teams leading up to this year's Olympics.⁴⁵ As such, the possibility of protests fueled by the ongoing Israeli-Hamas conflict presents a significant security concern.

Faith-Based Violence | There is an increased risk of attacks on places of worship and other religion-fueled violence. Paris has approximately 197 churches,⁴⁶ over 75 mosques,⁴⁷ and over 100 synagogues.⁴⁸ Paris has faced religious unrest of late, particularly involving antisemitism.⁴⁹ Additionally, recent controversial closures of mosques and the banning of French athletes from wearing hijabs in the 2024 Olympics underscore concerns about religious discrimination.^{50, 51} As such, the Olympics present a tempting target for a variety of religious extremism. The dense presence of diverse places of worship also increases the potential for religiously-motivated violence. Moreover, with the influx of visitors during the Olympics, there's concern about the capacity to adequately monitor these places of worship, posing a security issue.⁵²

39

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/06/antisemitic-acts-have-exploded-in-france-since-7-october-interior-minister-says>

40

<https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20240125-anti-semitic-acts-nearly-quadrupled-last-year-in-france-says-jewish-organisation>

41 <https://www.politico.eu/article/hate-crimes-racial-tension-booming-france/>

42 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/how-the-israel-hamas-conflict-could-disrupt-the-paris-olympic-games/>

43 <https://www.politico.eu/article/hate-crimes-racial-tension-booming-france/>

44 <https://www.ctvnews.ca/sports/the-olympics-have-always-been-political-a-timeline-1.5698672>

45 <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/surveillance-paris-olympics-artificial-intelligence/>

46 <https://www.dabblinginjetlag.com/how-many-churches-in-france/>

47

https://www.halaltrip.com/other/blog/finding-mosques-and-places-to-pray-in-paris/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1710888134941363&usg=AOvVaw1b_PwVUo4qIPpndv1k2Erj

48 <https://jewish-paris-tours.com/jewish-sites-in-paris/>

49

<https://thecatholicspirit.com/news/nation-and-world/as-france-protests-rising-antisemitism-catholic-leaders-encourage-dialogue/>

50

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/what-drives-frances-sinister-obsession-with-shutting-down-mosques-12784055>

51 <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/26/europe/un-hijab-olympics-intl/index.html>

52 <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/paris-threat-outlook-amid-2024-summer-olympic-games-part-2>

Saint-Denis Crime Rates | 14,500 people will be residing in the Olympic Village for the 2024 Paris Games, located in a high-crime area of Paris. The commune of Saint-Denis located just north of central Paris will host this year's Olympic Village. Saint-Denis is known for its violent history, with 14,000 crimes per 11,000 residents recorded in 2022.⁵³ Being one of the poorest and most multicultural parts of France, Saint-Denis is considered by locals as a ghetto and is well known for its history of prostitution.^{54, 55} Locals are referring to the development of the Olympic Village in the neighborhood as gentrification, which will only add to mounting tensions between citizens and individuals associated with the Games.⁵⁶

Security will be heightened in areas such as Saint-Denis, as 10,000 French troops will be deployed to various venue locations within the city during the Games.⁵⁷ Travelers are recommended to avoid Saint-Denis at night due to especially high rates of petty crimes such as pickpocketing and drug trafficking.⁵⁸

Increased Petty Crime | The surge in travelers creates more chances for opportunistic crimes, involving pickpocketing, ticket scams, and hospitality fraud. As the Olympics near, Paris has established 23 free fan zones across the city, including iconic sites like the Hotel de Ville and Quartier Jeunes.⁵⁹ These zones will likely attract larger crowds of travelers, increasing the risk of pickpocketing and counterfeit merchandise. With Olympic ticket sales being in considerable demand, ticket sales pose a significant risk to travelers, particularly for specific event tickets. Shortly after the initial ticket sales opened, 44 fraudulent sites selling discounted counterfeit tickets were identified.⁶⁰ As the Olympics approach, counterfeit ticket operations will probably expand to exploit desperate buyers, both online and in-person. Additionally, the official hospitality service provider of Paris 2024, has warned of fraudulent companies posing as authorized representatives to scam travelers for hospitality services.⁶¹ While a hotline to identify these businesses has been established, its effectiveness is limited, particularly if fraudulent companies promote their packages in person.

Ongoing Farmer Protests | European agricultural workers have been protesting since December 2023, with no signs of slowing down. The European Union introduced harsh agricultural regulations in late 2023, and tens of thousands of farmers across the EU have begun protesting in big cities and capitals against domestic regulations and cheap imports.⁶² In Paris, farmers have blockaded parts of the city with tractors and sprayed manure on government buildings.⁶³ The

⁵³ <https://www.thelocal.fr/20220602/reader-question-is-the-paris-suburb-of-saint-denis-really-a-no-go-zone>

⁵⁴

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/glistening-buildings-crisp-bed-sheets-security-worries-paris-olympic-p-rcna142199>

⁵⁵ <https://medium.com/vantage/the-pied-piper-of-rue-saint-denis-92b6e0bd7e36>

⁵⁶

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/glistening-buildings-crisp-bed-sheets-security-worries-paris-olympic-p-rcna142199>

⁵⁷

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/massive-security-operation-for-paris-olympics-will-include-15000-french-soldiers>

⁵⁸ <https://www.france-hotel-guide.com/en/blog/districts-to-avoid-paris/>

⁵⁹ <https://parisjetaime.com/eng/article/how-to-enjoy-the-paris-2024-olympics-for-free-a028>

⁶⁰ https://ground.news/article/olympic-2024-tickets-already-sold-illegally-on-the-internet-44-fraudulent-sites-identified_c7e1df

⁶¹ <https://www.paris2024.org/en/fraud-against-restaurant-professionals/>

⁶² <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/02/20/europe-farmers-protests-climate-eu-green-deal/>

⁶³ <https://www.vox.com/2024/2/3/24059767/french-farmers-protests-eu-brussels>

aggressive nature of these protests could become a security concern for the upcoming Games if they continue to occur in this fashion, especially given the publicity the Games offer; however, it is unclear if these protests will continue long term.

List of Densely Populated Spectator Venues

The specific turnout for each event is unavailable, and the turnout of each event will likely vary significantly based on the popularity of the sport and each venue's capacity.

Listed below are the venues with the highest expected turnouts, the events they will host, and the capacity.

Venue	Capacity/Expected Turnout	Most Attended Event(s)
Stade de France	With a capacity of 77,083, it is likely to host a significant number of spectators.	Rugby sevens and track and field activities
Paris La Defense Arena	With a capacity of 15,220, the arena is hosting a majority of the aquatics.	Swimming and water polo finals
Parc des Princes	With a capacity of 48,583, the venue is expected to be a major hub for spectators.	Football Preliminaries and Finals
Roland-Garros Stadium	Maximum capacity of 34,000.	Tennis
Grand Palais	Maximum capacity of 30,000.	Basketball
Marseille Stadium	With a capacity of 67,394, Marseille Stadium is France's second largest, but it resides outside the traditional 10-km radius of the Olympic Village, so may experience comparatively fewer visitors.	Men's and Women's football matches
Nice Stadium	With a capacity of 36,178, this venue is smaller in stature than other stadium venues; however, Nice Stadium is located near the Mediterranean, attracting spectators arriving by ship.	Men's and Women's football matches

List of High-Capacity Tourist Areas

Already one of the most visited cities in the world, travelers in Paris should expect an influx of tourists throughout the 2024 Olympic Games.

Listed below are some of the most popular tourist attractions in Paris, their proximity to the Games, and the usual visitor count. Note that more tourists will be in these areas during the summer months, especially with the Paris Games happening simultaneously.

Venue/Tourist Attraction	Usual Turnout	Proximity to the Games
Eiffel Tower	Approximately 25,000 persons per day ⁶⁴	Host venue for Beach Volleyball
Louvre Museum	Approximately 30,000 persons per day ⁶⁵	About 14 km from the Olympic Village
Arc de Triomphe	4,700 persons a day on average ⁶⁶	About 12 km from the Olympic Village
Champs-Elysees	Nearly 300,000 people per day ⁶⁷	About 12 km from the Olympic Village
Notre-Dame Cathedral	Approximately 30,000 people per day ⁶⁸	About 10 km from the Olympic Village
Versailles Palace	Approximately 27,000 visitors per day ⁶⁹	Host venue for Equestrian and Modern Pentathlon (equestrian)
Disneyland Paris	Between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors per day ⁷⁰	About 44 km from the Olympic Village
Musee d'Orsay	Approximately 9,000 visitors per day ⁷¹	About 14 km from the Olympic Village
Sainte-Chapelle	Nearly 2,500 visitors per day (on average) ⁷²	About 9 km from the Olympic Village

⁶⁴ <https://www.eiffeltickets.com/plan-your-visit-eiffel-tower/>

⁶⁵ <https://www.afar.com/magazine/pariss-louvre-museum-will-limit-the-number-of-daily-visitors>

⁶⁶ <https://www.sortiraparis.com/en/news/in-paris/articles/287612-paris-here-are-2022-s-most-visited-national-monuments>

⁶⁷ <https://parisjetaime.com/eng/article/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-champs-elysees-a708>

⁶⁸ https://www.eutouring.com/facts_notre_dame_cathedral.html

⁶⁹ <https://parispass.com/en/blog/know-before-you-go-palace-of-versailles>

⁷⁰ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/639475/disneyland-paris-theme-park-visitor-numbers/>

⁷¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/03/arts/paris-musee-dorsay.html>

⁷² <https://frenchmoments.eu/sainte-chapelle-paris/>

Timeline of Important Events leading up to the 2024 Paris Games

French Preparation for the 2024 Paris Games		
May 2023	The French government, along with other officials, signed an 11-page document outlining planned security measures for the Paris Olympics. Some notable additions to the document include requiring spectators to pre-register for tickets and increasing security presence to an unheard-of level. ⁷³	Security
November 2023	The French military began plans for 15,000 soldiers to contribute to the massive security operations for the Paris Olympics. The new legislation also allowed the temporary use of cameras combined with artificial intelligence to scan for security threats. ⁷⁴	Security
November 2023	Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo warned that current work to improve metro and rail networks in the city will not be ready in time for the upcoming Olympics, and the city's infrastructure will not be able to support the expected demand. ⁷⁵	Transportation
January 2024	Hundreds of French police officers protest to demand higher salaries for the upcoming Paris Olympics. Protesters warned that these demonstrations are "only just beginning," reflecting the high risk of protest activity occurring during the Games. ⁷⁶ Most recently as of January 30, France has offered € 1,900 to officers as a bonus for providing security during the Olympics. ⁷⁷	Protest
March 2024	On March 9, 2024, the French government offered to give bonus pay to civil servants in Paris during the Olympics to prevent	Protest

⁷³

<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/sports/france-details-huge-security-for-paris-massive-2024-olympic-opening-ceremony-plans/3037008/>

⁷⁴

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/massive-security-operation-for-paris-olympics-will-include-15000-french-soldiers>

⁷⁵

<https://www.france24.com/en/sport/20240126-with-six-months-to-go-before-the-2024-olympic-games-will-paris-be-ready>

⁷⁶

<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20240118-french-police-protest-highlights-threat-of-strike-action-during-paris-olympics>

⁷⁷

<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20240130-france-offers-police-%E2%82%AC1-900-olympics-bonus-to-stave-off-strike-action>

	strikes throughout the duration of the Games. ⁷⁸	
March 2024	On March 14, 2024, France announced their plans to employ anti-drone units to counter threats posed by drones. The Villacoublay military base will act as an anti-drone coordination center. ⁷⁹	Security
March 2024	French officials test AI video surveillance technology, which will be used during the Games to detect abnormal events and human behavior. ⁸⁰	Security
March 2024	While Russian and Belarusian athletes will be allowed to compete in the Games as neutrals, as of March 19, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) banned these athletes from participating in opening ceremonies. ⁸¹	N/A
March 2024	Following an IS attack in Moscow, Russia, France raises their terror alert to the highest level. ⁸²	Security
<i>Not an exhaustive list.</i>		

⁷⁸

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/ap-top-news/2024/03/09/to-avoid-strike-s-at-paris-olympics-french-government-to-pay-bonuses-to-civil-servants&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1710888134946068&usg=AOvVaw2dr90Hp6Xx3P5RJVc0kIfI>

⁷⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/sports/anti-drone-units-new-tool-keep-paris-2024-safe-2024-03-14/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/sports/olympics-how-france-plans-use-ai-keep-paris-2024-safe-2024-03-08/>

⁸¹

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russian-belarusian-athletes-barred-opening-ceremonies-paris-olympics-rcna144142>

⁸² <https://www.dw.com/en/france-raises-terror-alert-after-moscow-theater-attack/a-68657082>

