



BIZ OÙ?

Living in Rural France

Your practical country-living checklist

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

Rural life in France can be wonderful, but it comes with its own practical challenges. Work through this checklist at your own pace, tick each item as you complete it, and use the Summary Findings / Notes space to record decisions, questions, useful contacts and things you still need to arrange.

1. Decide What Rural Life Means for You

- ☐ Think about what attracts you to rural France — space, community, countryside, slower living or something else.
- ☐ Decide how remote you are comfortable being.
- ☐ Consider access to shops, healthcare, schools, transport and other essential services.
- ☐ Think about mobile coverage and internet availability before choosing a property.
- ☐ Visit potential areas at different times of year if possible.
- ☐ Consider how your needs may change over time.

Summary Findings / Notes

2. Understand Your Property

- ☐ Understand the condition and age of the property.
- ☐ Identify heating, water, drainage and electrical systems.
- ☐ Check whether the property has a septic tank or other private waste system.
- ☐ Understand the boundaries, access and responsibilities associated with land.
- ☐ Make a list of planned repairs, renovations and improvements.
- ☐ Keep important property documents, guarantees and service records organised.

Summary Findings / Notes

3. Build Your Trusted Trades Network

- ☐ Identify reliable local builders and renovation specialists.
- ☐ Find electricians, plumbers and heating engineers.
- ☐ Keep details of roofers, handypersons and other specialist trades.
- ☐ Check qualifications, insurance and reputation where relevant.
- ☐ Keep several trusted contacts rather than relying on one person.
- ☐ Record emergency contacts somewhere easy to find.

Summary Findings / Notes

4. Look After Gardens, Land & Outdoor Space

- ☐ Understand the amount of garden or land maintenance required.
- ☐ Arrange regular gardening or landscaping support if needed.
- ☐ Plan tree care, fencing and land management.
- ☐ Arrange pressure washing and seasonal outdoor maintenance.
- ☐ Plan pool and hot tub maintenance where applicable.
- ☐ Budget for ongoing outdoor work.

Summary Findings / Notes

5. Deal With Rural Practicalities

- ☐ Understand how your septic tank or waste system is maintained.
- ☐ Arrange fuel or heating supplies where required.
- ☐ Plan waste removal and disposal.
- ☐ Identify reliable pest-control support.
- ☐ Arrange animal and pet services where needed.
- ☐ Consider security and property-maintenance arrangements.

Summary Findings / Notes

6. Stay Connected

- ☐ Check broadband options and availability.
- ☐ Arrange internet installation or upgrades.
- ☐ Optimise Wi-Fi coverage around the property.
- ☐ Consider smart-home systems where useful.
- ☐ Arrange technology support if you need help.
- ☐ Make sure remote working arrangements are reliable if you work from home.

Summary Findings / Notes

7. Protect Your Home & Finances

- ☐ Arrange appropriate home insurance.
- ☐ Understand any insurance considerations linked to an older or rural property.
- ☐ Keep property and insurance documents organised.
- ☐ Consider property checks if you are away for periods.
- ☐ Identify appropriate legal, financial or administrative support.
- ☐ Arrange translation support when you need help understanding important information.

Summary Findings / Notes

8. Get to Know Your Local Area

- ☐ Find your nearest shops, markets and essential services.
- ☐ Identify local doctors, pharmacies and other important facilities.
- ☐ Explore nearby towns and villages.
- ☐ Find local businesses and services you are likely to need regularly.
- ☐ Build relationships with people in your local community.
- ☐ Keep a list of useful local contacts.

Summary Findings / Notes

9. Build a Rural Community

- ☐ Look for local clubs, activities and community groups.
- ☐ Explore markets, fêtes and local events.
- ☐ Consider language lessons to help you communicate and connect.
- ☐ Find hobbies and activities that suit your interests.
- ☐ Support local businesses where possible.
- ☐ Give yourself time to settle in — community connections often grow gradually.

Summary Findings / Notes

10. Enjoy the Rural Lifestyle

- ☐ Explore local walks, countryside and places of interest.
- ☐ Discover local food, markets and experiences.
- ☐ Find wellness, beauty, leisure and hospitality services.
- ☐ Explore recommended Places to Visit in your area.
- ☐ Make time to enjoy the space and slower pace that attracted you to rural France.

Summary Findings / Notes

11. Review Your Rural Living Plan

- ☐ Review what is working well and what is proving difficult.
- ☐ Update your trusted trades and local contacts.
- ☐ Review maintenance and seasonal tasks.
- ☐ Check your insurance, property and connectivity arrangements.
- ☐ Identify improvements that would make everyday life easier.
- ☐ Write down the three most important things you need to do next.

Summary Findings / Notes

Explore Your Local Area



Rural France is about more than the property. Explore Biz OÙ?'s recommended **Places to Visit** and discover markets, vill experiences and places worth exploring.

WHAT DO I NEED?

Need a local business or service? Use **Biz OÙ? Smart Search** to tell us what you need and where you need it — from trades and septic tank services to gardening, heating and everyday support.

Your Rural France Summary

What do you love about rural life? What still worries you? Who are your trusted local contacts? What are your next three actions?

Important: This checklist is a planning aid, not legal, tax, insurance, property or professional advice. Rural property and local service requirements can vary according to your property, location and circumstances. Always check current official information and obtain appropriate professional advice where necessary.