INFRASTRUCTURES

IN 2024, PARIS WILL HOST THE OLYMPICS FOR THE THIRD TIME
(OLYMPIC.ORG)

65% OF FRENCH PEOPLE AGED 15 AND OVER PRACTICED AT LEAST ONE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN 2020
(INJEP)

350 SKI RESORTS
(DOMAINES SKIABLES DE FRANCE)

FRANCE HAS HOSTED NEARLY 60 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS IN THE LAST 20 YEARS
THE 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

To welcome the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, France is going to make use of 95% of existing infrastructure: the Grand Palais (Fencing, Taekwondo), the Palace of Versailles (Equestrian sports, Modern pentathlon), the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Lille (Handball), etc. An Olympic and Paralympic village and a media village will be built and will become eco-districts, along with the Plaine Saulnier Aquatic Center in Saint-Denis and the Paris Arena II. (Olympic and Paralympics Paris 2024 Organizing Committee)

FRANCE, WORLD CHAMPION FOR SPORTS EVENTS

France has welcomed nearly 60 international competitions in the last two decades, including football’s Euro 2016, the 2017 World Men’s Handball Championships, the 42nd Ryder Cup in 2018 and the 2019 Women’s World Cup (Cabinet Évidence). In 2023, France will host the Rugby World Cup and the Alpine World Ski Championships.

INFRASTRUCTURE ADAPTED TO PARASPORTS

There are 161 “Label Club Handisport” accredited organizations by the French Parasport Federation, which has 1,354 affiliated bodies. This infrastructure can welcome handicapped people with support, material and adapted supervision.

REPUTABLE SKI AREAS

There are 350 ski resorts in France, split between six mountain ranges: the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Massif Central, the Jura, the Vosges and in Corsica (France Montagnes). France has the largest ski area in the world, including the Three Valleys (more than 370 miles of slopes) and the Val Thorens station was voted “the best ski resort in the world” in 2020 for the seventh time. (Montenius/World Ski Awards)

310,399 SPORTS FACILITIES

In 2020, France had 310,399 sports facilities, including 43,185 sports fields, 40,435 tennis courts, 18,184 multisports halls and 6,381 swimming pools. (Equipements.sports.gouv.fr)

BIGGER STADIA...

France has 15 stadiums that can hold more than 30,000 people. With a capacity of more than 81,000 spectators, the Stade de France is among the top 10 largest stadia in Europe. The Orange Vélodrome (67,394) and the Groupama Stadium in Lyon (59,186) are the second and third largest French stadia.

... AND GREENER!

The Océane Stadium, in Le Havre, is the first positive energy stadium in France, in that it produces more energy than it consumes. Most stadia in France, such as the Stade de France, the Groupama Stadium in Lyon and the Matmut Atlantique Stadium in Bordeaux, possess rainwater collection systems that help to water the playing field. More and more stadia are now equipped with solar panels, such as the Allianz Riviera Stadium in Nice or the Geoffroy Guichard Stadium in Saint-Étienne, which respectively boast 7,000 sq. m. and 2,600 sq. m. of panels.

FAST-GROWING SPONSORSHIP

More and more infrastructures are being sponsored by large businesses: Orange Vélodrome in Marseille, Matmut Atlantique in Bordeaux, AccorHotels Arena in Paris, Groupama Stadium in Lyon and the Allianz Riviera in Nice. In 2019, there were 16 sporting stadia with a naming contract (Center for Law and Economics of Sport). Naming is also taking place in the training centers of professional clubs, such as the AJ Auxerre Academia.

FRENCH EXPERTISE IN CONSTRUCTION

French businesses, such as Bouygues Construction, Eiffage and Vinci, have internationally recognized expertise in building major sports equipment. In 2021, Vinci delivered the Yamoussoukro stadium in Ivory Coast, which can hold 20,000 people. In 2014, Bouygues opened the Singapore Sports Hub, a huge 69-acre sports complex, including a 55,000 capacity stadium, an Olympic-sized swimming pool and six sports halls.

A PASSION FOR CYCLING

France has a National Long-Distance Cycling Route Scheme approved by the Interministerial Committee for Planning and Regional Development in 1998. Its aim is to see the opening of 25,587 km (15,899 miles) of cycling routes by 2030. As of January 1, 2021, nearly 19,000 km (11,806 miles) of cycling routes had already been opened. In 2020, exceptional growth was recorded, with 1,784 km (1,109 miles) of cycling routes being opened, after 672 km (418 miles) in 2019. (National Observatory of Long-Distance Cycling and Green Routes – ON3V)