



Strike action in France – Information

Angoulême – 27th March 2018

The French Government wishes to reform Public Services and as a consequence unfortunately many of the public companies have announced strike action on the following dates:

SNCF Rail : the 2nd (from 7.00 pm), 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th April 2018

Air France : the 3rd and the 7th April 2018

Up till now Air Traffic Controllers and the RATP (Paris Metro trains) have not announced any strike action in April.

Having made extensive enquiries this is the information we have and our recommendations:

👉 **Where possible we strongly recommend that you try to arrive in Angoulême on the 2nd April 2018!**

You can visit our lovely town OR we have space available for you to work here at the CEPE in Angouleme.

👉 **AIR FRANCE:**

If you are travelling with Air France on either the 3rd or the 7th April 2018, we recommend that you check the time of your flight the evening before as well as on the date of departure:

<https://www.airfrance.fr/FR/en/local/resainfovol/infovols/actualiteDesVols.do>

👉 **SNCF RAIL:**

Arrival at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Orly Airports on the 2nd (evening), 3rd and 4th April:

The SNCF trains (RER B) which run from the airports into the centre of Paris are likely to be affected by the strike action. However, the SNCF is obliged to maintain a « minimum service » generally with at least one train per hour. Please consult the SNCF information display boards in the RER stations at the airports.

➔ To travel into Paris from the airports you can use the buses from the « Le Bus Direct » company. We would recommend reserving your ticket in advance: <https://www.lebusdirect.com/en/>

Travelling by train between Paris (Gare Paris Montparnasse) and Angoulême, 3 scenarios:

→ **If you have already booked your train ticket to travel on the 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th April 2018:**

The SNCF trains (TGV and OUIGO) which enable you to travel between Paris and Angoulême will be affected by the strike action. However, SNCF are obliged to maintain a « minimum service » and from 2nd April onwards they recommend that you go on to their website and especially the evening before your departure from 5.30 onwards to consult the « Plan de transport »: <https://be.oui.sncf/en/train/strike>

It is important to note that if you have a valid train ticket and your train is late or cancelled you can take any train that is stopping at Angoulême station, however without the guarantee of having a seat. In this situation it is unnecessary to change your ticket, the SNCF ticket collectors (contrôleurs) are more tolerant during the days of strike action.

In the case of long delays or cancellations you can demand a reimbursement of your ticket from the SNCF company, but you will need your train ticket, therefore it is important to retain your ticket even after your date of travel.

→ **If you have not booked your train ticket to travel on the 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th April 2018:**

Very recently, the SNCF closed all booking services for travel by train (TGV and OUIGO) on the 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th April 2018. That is why you may find that all the trains are displayed as « full ». This situation is new in France and therefore completely unexpected!

SNCF have announced that train booking services will soon reopen. In order to check whether booking services are once again available we recommend that you check the SNCF website regularly from 2nd April onwards: <https://en.oui.sncf/en/> and particularly that you consult the « Plan de transport » after 5.30 the evening before your departure date: <https://be.oui.sncf/en/train/strke>

****ATTENTION:** you are not allowed to board a train without a valid ticket!

→ **If you have not booked your train ticket to travel on the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th April 2018:**

Outside of the strike dates we recommend that you reserve your tickets as soon as possible: <https://en.oui.sncf/en/>

ALTERNATIVES TO TRAVELLING BY TRAIN:

BlaBlaCar: Car sharing works very well in France. You will need to create your personal account and prepare your journey in advance: <https://www.blablacar.fr/> or <https://www.blablacar.co.uk/>

OUIBUS: The OUIBUS company offers the possibility of travelling by coach in France and in Europe. You will need to create your personal account and prepare your journey in advance: <https://fr.ouibus.com/> ou <https://www.ouibus.com/>

→ For both of these options on their websites you can select your country and therefore your own language.

Flights: For your information, the closest airports to Angoulême are Bordeaux-Mérignac, Poitiers-Biard, La Rochelle-Ile de Ré. From these towns you can get to Angoulême using local trains (TER Région

Nouvelle-Aquitaine) as the SNCF are obliged to maintain a « minimum service » during strike days. There is also the possibility of a car share using BlaBlaCar.

It is also possible to arrive at Limoges-Bellegarde airport but here you would be obliged to organise a car share as the local train service is currently suspended due to construction work.

 **VIDEO-CONFERENCE:**

Regrettably we must advise you that video-conferences will not be possible during the CTC 2018 Conference.