



IS IT SAFE?

Lyon

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

SAFETY GUIDE SERIES

Overall Safety Assessment

RATING: Safe — France's third-largest city with low violent crime; standard caution in La Guillotière and around Perrache after dark.

Lyon consistently ranks as a safe city both within France and globally, with moderate-to-high safety scores and violent crime that remains uncommon. Vieux Lyon, Presqu'île, and Croix-Rousse are all comfortable for solo travel during the day and evening, with excellent lighting, regular police presence, and lively pedestrian activity well into the night. World-class healthcare through the Hospices Civils de Lyon network — France's second-largest university hospital system — backs up the city's overall safety profile.

The primary risk is pickpocketing in crowded tourist zones (Vieux Lyon, Les Halles market, the Croix-Rousse Saturday market) and on public transport, plus standard nighttime caution in La Guillotière, Perrache, and around the Part-Dieu and Perrache stations after dark.

RATING SCALE

★★★★ = Very safe ★★★ = Safe ★★ = Use awareness ★ = Avoid at night = Avoid

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

Neighbourhood Safety at a Glance

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Presqu'île / Place Bellecour	★★★★	Heart of the city, excellent lighting, regular police presence.
Vieux Lyon	★★★★	UNESCO old town, generally safe but can feel quiet after tourist hours — stick to main streets late at night.
La Croix-Rousse	★★★★	Bohemian, artistic, elevated — safe for evening strolls.
Confluence / La Confluence	★★★★	Modern district, contemporary architecture, generally safe.
La Guillotière (daytime)	★★★★	Vibrant, multicultural, excellent food — fine during the day.
La Guillotière (after 10–11pm)	★★	Some streets near Place Gabriel Péri feel tense late; take direct transport back rather than walking.
Perrache (night)	★★	Reports of drug activity at night — avoid lingering, especially alone.
Metro Line D (outer stations, night)	★★	Occasional harassment reported on outer stretches late at night.

COMMON SCAMS & RISKS

Common Scams & Risks

Pickpocketing:

Concentrated in Vieux Lyon, Place Bellecour, Les Halles market, and the Saturday Croix-Rousse market, plus crowded metro/tram carriages. Standard bag-forward awareness resolves most of the risk.

Fake charity collectors:

People approach requesting donations for fabricated charities, especially in heavy-tourist zones. Decline and keep moving.

Street games / distraction scams:

Occasional shell-game-style street performances near major squares double as pickpocketing setups. Best avoided entirely rather than engaged with.

Nightlife safety:

La Guillotière and Perrache shift in character after 10–11pm — daytime charm doesn't extend to late-night solo wandering in the quieter side streets. Take the metro or a taxi rather than walking.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Health & Medical

Hospices Civils de Lyon

The region's major public hospital network; full emergency department listings at chu-lyon.fr/urgences. France's second-largest university hospital system, providing world-class emergency and general care.

Duty pharmacies (open nights, weekends, holidays)

Grande Pharmacie Lyonnaise, 22 Rue de la République, Lyon 2nd — Tel: +33(0)4 72 56 44 14. Pharmacie des Gratte-ciel, 28 Avenue Henri Barbusse, Villeurbanne — Tel: +33(0)4 78 84 71 63. Nationwide duty pharmacy line: 32 27 or 3237.fr.

Duty medical centres (GP care outside normal hours)

Available evenings, weekends, and holidays — ask your accommodation for the nearest, or check the Lyon Tourist Office's safety page for current listings.

Insurance note

EHIC/GHIC covers emergency treatment for EU/UK citizens at public facilities; travel insurance is strongly recommended for all visitors given potential costs for non-EU nationals.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Solo Women Travelers

Lyon is broadly safe for solo women, with well-policed central districts, reliable late-night public transport (metro until 2am Friday/Saturday, night buses Thursday–Saturday), and an active “Ask for Angela” network — look for “Ici demandez Angela” stickers in participating bars and shops as a discreet way to get help if a situation feels uncomfortable. Reports of street harassment vary by traveler — some solo women report Lyon as entirely comfortable, others note elevated catcalling compared to other French cities, particularly in nightlife areas. Standard precautions apply: stick to well-lit, populated streets after dark, avoid La Guillotière and Perrache late at night, and use the metro or a taxi rather than long solo walks home from nightlife districts.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency Contacts

SERVICE	CONTACT
Emergency (EU-wide)	112
Police	17 — main station at 48 Rue de la Baleine
Fire	18
Ambulance (SAMU)	15
Emergency SMS/fax (deaf/hard-of-hearing)	114
Female victims of violence (24/7, free)	3919
Lost property	+33(0)4 78 47 72 89
Duty pharmacy line	3237 or 3227