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Teach English in France

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: Teach English in France **Trip Code:** FRTE **Duration:** From 4 weeks

Trip Highlights

- Teach English in France and share your own language and culture with a local family
- Immerse yourself fully into the real French lifestyle whilst improving your linguistic skills
- Explore the best that France has to offer during your free time

Overview

Teaching English in France is a great way to gain an insight into the French lifestyle and culture whilst improving your linguistic skills at the same time!

You'll live with a host family, who are eager to improve their English, allowing you to develop your teaching skills and grasp the French language.

This programme has a focus on European cultural exchange. It is designed for those of you wishing to experience the French culture in depth - you'll share daily life with a French family, learn their language and culture and adopt it as your own for a period of time.

You will teach English for approximately 15 hours per week to your host family. During your free time you will have free time to explore the best that France has to offer!

Teach English in France

Please note: Native English speakers are preferred for this program

Destination Info

France... famous for baguettes, chateaux, onions, great wine, berets and stripy tops. The ideal destination for anyone who likes any of the above, but also a fantastic place to learn about European culture, teach English and... eat snails! This programme will take you off the beaten track to live with and teach English to typical French families in return for your room and board. You'll have plenty of free time to see for yourself why France is the number 1 tourist destination in the world and to learn a bit of French yourself in the company of fantasticaly friendly people. Bon voyage!

Itinerary

When your placement has been confirmed, it'll be your responsibility to discuss with your host family what form the lessons will take - i.e. the number of formal lessons, dinner conversation, sharing activities with the children, playing games in English, etc. It is also important to agree a schedule so that everybody is clear about when you will be teaching and when it is your "time off".

You will help your host family with their English studies for up to 15 hours per week. Lessons can be as formal or relaxed as the family and you desire.

We suggest that you prepare teaching tools in advance using the many web resources available, as well as bringing a dictionary and a grammar book to refer to.

Accommodation

Your host family offers half board and private accommodation. Facilities are shared with the family. Each family is interviewed and carefully selected taking into account their genuine desire to learn a new language and share their culture with the participants.

Full details of your host family accommodation will be provided approximately 2 weeks prior to your programme

start date.

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

Most of the home stay accommodation will have internet access. You will be informed of this when you receive your accommodation details approximately 2 weeks before you travel. There are also numerous cyber cafes to be found around the city and in most other urban areas in the country.

Telephone

There will be phones in your accommodation but not to use for outgoing international calls. It is usually possible to receive phone calls providing you do not tie up the phone line every evening! There are also plenty of public telephones around the city and these sometimes take coins, but more usually operate with phone cards, which you can purchase from kiosks and other small shops. Make sure the phone card you buy allows international calls.

Your mobile phone may or may not work in France, depending on your network, and if it does, please be aware that in many areas you may not always get a signal and it will probably be more expensive to make and receive calls. It may be worth taking your phone with you and buying a pay-as-you-go SIM card when you arrive, or getting a Real Gap SIM before you depart, so that you can call and text cheaply. Before you depart, please ensure that your mobile is set up with international roaming and unlocked, so that you can use a pay-as-you-go SIM while you are away.

The international dialling code for France is +33. To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial +44 1892 516164 / +49 69 222226 475.

Laundry

Washing machines are normally available in most host families too. There are also launderettes in the city, and it is probably a good idea to take some travel wash just in case.

Meals

Breakfast and dinner are included and will be provided by your host family. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements.

What's Included

- Airport transfers
- Placement
- Orientation
- All accommodation
- All breakfasts and dinners, and weekend lunches
- Full support whilst in France
- 24-hour emergency contact

What's Not Included

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- Weekday lunches
- Local transport

Is This Trip For You?

Reality Check

Being part of your host family, you will be expected to keep your room tidy and clean and respect the host family's rules. You will not be requested to act as a domestic help or an au pair - namely cooking / cleaning or child-minding. However, you will be expected to take a reasonable role with day to day household chores, such as helping to prepare meals, washing up, general tidying etc.

What to Pack

Personal Admin

- Passport, insurance certificates and personal documentation
- Photocopies of all the above to be left at home with your next of kin
- Spending money
- Guidebook on country - recommended Lonely Planet or Footprints

General

- Camera / Film / Batteries
- Notebook and pen / diary
- Sunglasses
- Pocket-knife (comes in handy for general use)
- Day pack/rucksack for everyday use
- Personal enjoyment - books, cards, music, to enjoy with your fellow students etc
- Personal hygiene items (deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothbrush etc)
- French dictionary, verb book etc

Clothing

- Please be aware that it can get very cold during winter so you should bring appropriate clothes for the season(s) you are travelling in.
- Hat
- Comfortable walking shoes
- A pair of thick socks for walking
- Sandals
- Waterproof Jacket
- Fleece/pullover (for cool evenings)
- Long trousers
- Warmer clothing for winter
- Swimwear
- Towel

Medical Kit

- Personal Medication
- First Aid Kit (e.g. Antihistamines, Anti- diarrhoea tablets, headache tablets)
- Sunscreen
- Mosquito and insect repellent

It is strongly recommended that you prepare some materials in advance to teach the family. You should bring these together with any resources and all useful books to assist you in teaching such as children books, grammar books etc.

Minimum Age

Minimum 18 years, maximum decided on potential participants' health.

Flights

Your flight to France should arrive in the nearest airport to your host family on the Sunday before your programme start date on the Monday, and your return flight should be arranged for the Saturday after your programme end date on the Friday.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day. Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

FAQs

1. **Do I need to be able to speak French?**
   Yes, you should have basic to intermediate French speaking ability.

2. **Will I be placed with other volunteers?**
   Only one volunteer is placed with each host family. You may be able to socialize with other volunteers in your free time if you are placed close together.

3. **Can I take French lessons whilst on the programme**
   Depending on your host family and location you may be able to take French classes at the local school.

Police Check

This trip requires a Police Check to be carried out - please contact us for further information on how to do this.

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

The currency in France is the Euro (EUR; symbol €), which is subdivided into 100 Cents. Coins come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Cents and 1 and 2 Euros. Notes come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Euros.

Most major credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted. ATMs can be found throughout the country though may charge a transactional fee for using an international card.

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 11.00 €

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 4.33 €
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 2.29 €
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 1.70 €

(Prices quoted in Euro)

Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

For stays of up to 90 days, citizens of the European Union, the USA, Australia and New Zealand are not required to hold a visa. For the most up to date information on passports, visa requirements, please visit http://france.embassyhomepage.com/

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

No matter where you travel, it is always important to be safety minded. Nearly all larger cities have a safety problem, and the cities of France are no exception. However, if you keep safety in mind, then you won't have an episode that will prevent you from enjoying your stay in beautiful France. Keep your handbags and wallets secured and hidden from would-be robbers. Hold bags and purses close to your body, and be careful to speak to or accept anything from a complete stranger. Just act as you would in any city in the world, where you would be careful what you do and who you speak with, and your visit to Italy will be a safe and enjoyable one.

The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- Do not pick up hitchhikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

Language Guide

Although accents and variations are found between regions, the main French language is used and understood throughout the country. Here are are a few useful words. We also suggest you obtain a Lonely Planet or language guide for the destination(s) you are travelling to.

English - *French*
Hello - *Bonjour*
Good - *Evening Bonsoir*
Goodbye - *Au Revoir*
Yes - *Oui*
No - *Non*
Excuse me - *Excusez moi*
Can you help me please? - *Aidez moi, s'il vous plaît*
How much is it? - *Combien ca coûte?*
I don't speak French - *Je ne parle pas français*
I don't understand - *Je ne comprends pas*
Nice to meet you - *Enchanté*
See you tomorrow / soon - *À demain / a bientôt*
Thank you - *Merci*
You're welcome - *Je vous en prie*

Food & Drink

France boasts one of the most varied and developed cuisines in the world. It is renowned as being a gourmet destination and you'll be fascinated by the richness of the different specialities in each region.

Most restaurants will offer two choices for your meal. Either:

- à la carte (extensive choice for each course and tends to be more expensive)
- le menu (a set meal at a fixed price with dishes selected from the full à la carte menu).

You will find that the cuisine varies from place to place but some national favourites to look out for are:

Provence

- Ratatouille (courgettes, tomatoes and aubergines stew)
- Bouillabaisse (fish stew)
- Tapenade (olive paste)
- Aioli (cod and vegetables served cold with a garlic mayonnaise)
- Salade niçoise (tuna, anchovies, capers, boiled eggs, green beans, black olives, tomatoes and potatoes)

Alsace and Lorraine

- Choucroute (sauerkraut)
- Kugelhof (a special cake)
- Quiche lorraine
- Tarte flambée (onion tart)

Lyon

- Quenelles de brochet (pounded pike formed into sausage shapes and usually served with a rich crayfish sauce)

Desserts found all over the country include:

- Soufflé grand-marnie ile flottante (meringue floating on custard)
- Mille feuilles (layers of flaky pastry and custard cream)
- Ganache (chocolate cream biscuit)

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for Fracnce, please see the link below:
www.timeanddate.com/holidays/france/

Weather

As France is such a big country, the weather conditions do vary depending on where you are. The climate in the north and western coastal areas is temperate while the north eastern areas experience a more continental climate with warmer summers and colder winters. Northern areas have some rainfall throughout the year and often experience snow fall in the winter months but the heaviest snow fall and coolest weather usually stays in mountainous areas. The southern and Riviera regions have a Mediterranean climate, ideal at any time of year.

Time

France is 1 hour ahead of GMT.

Electricity

In France the electric system is 230 Volts and frequency 50 Hertz. If your device does not accept this voltage you will need a converter. Outlets in France generally accept 1 type of plug:

Two round pins

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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