

# NEW CALEDONIA

9 DAYS | FRENCH LANGUAGE

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

New Caledonia makes for the perfect base for students to immerse themselves in the French language. With swaying palms, turquoise seas, a rich cultural heritage, and French-inspired restaurants and boutiques, New Caledonia and its capital of Noumea are like a miniature Paris in the heart of the Pacific Ocean. Students will get the opportunity to enjoy daily language lessons, gaining confidence and fluency as they embark on excursions to Amadee Island, the Tjibaou Cultural Centre and a visit to a local tribe. French influences are infused into the trip, whether it's learning to cook French pastries or enjoying French cuisine in a traditional bistro. At the end of this experience students will leave with a newfound confidence in the French language, as well as deep understanding both of Pacific and French cultures.

1

### DEPART AUSTRALIA – ARRIVE NOUMEA

Dinner at local restaurant

Today we begin our adventure to New Caledonia, a tropical island country deep in the Pacific. We will depart from Australia and fly into the capital Noumea, where students will get settled into their hotel in preparation for their first afternoon of explorations. They will immediately feel the French influence as they start to get to know Noumea, their home for the next nine days, and begin to use their French language skills. We celebrate our first day in New Caledonia with a meal at LÉAU Vive du Pacifique, part of a restaurant chain founded by Father Marcel Roussel Galle, a French priest. Managed by the Missionary Workers of the Immaculate, diners are served a delicious selection of French cuisine in a calm and serene environment.

2

**NOUMEA**

On our first full day in Noumea, we begin with a three-hour French language lesson at the CREIPAC Language School. This will be the first of several lessons which aim not just to improve student’s vocabulary and grammar, but to build their confidence in their spoken French and get them ready to converse with locals in a real-world setting. In the afternoon we will set off on the delightful Tchou Tchou train for a guided tour of Noumea. We’ll stop at the Ouen Toro lookout point where, from 128 metres high, we can gaze across one of the world’s largest barrier reef lagoons. Students can spot the two cannons installed by the Australian army in 1940 here too. The guided tour will also take in sights such as the colonial houses of Faubourg Blanchot, the city’s numerous marinas and the FOL viewpoint over the city.

Breakfast at the hotel

3

**NOUMEA**

The students will once again begin their day with a three-hour language lesson, where they will prepare for an afternoon spent with students from a local high school. The morning class will help them gain confidence in their spoken French and help them consider conversation topics and questions to ask the French-speaking students. The visit to the local school is a fun occasion, where both sets of students can interact, chat to each other, practice their language skills and learn about the differences in the school systems.

Breakfast at the hotel

4

**NOUMEA**

Students will reflect on their afternoon with the local students as they delve deeper into their French language learning this morning, adding more complex grammar into their everyday speech. In the afternoon they will set off by coach on a guided tour of Tjibaou Cultural Center, a fascinating arts centre hidden in woodland and mangroves. The unusual wooden structures which make up the main buildings rise above the canopy, and are home to sculptures, paintings and photographs depicting Kanak culture. The centre was built in honour of pro-independence Kanak leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou. Students will end their afternoon at the centre with a one hour traditional dance class –

Breakfast at the hotel

time to let their hair down and learn some new moves.

5

### NOUMEA

After their morning language lesson, where the students will by now be noticing huge advancements in their French speaking, listening and writing skills, the afternoon is one of gastronomic delights. Students will learn from a French pastry chef at Le Chef C'est Vous how to create traditional, buttery pastries to enjoy together warm from the oven.

Breakfast at the hotel

6

### NOUMEA

This morning the students will partake in the last of their French language lessons, reflecting on how far they've come on this immersive learning experience. After saying goodbye to their teacher, they will have the opportunity to spend a free afternoon in Noumea. Now familiar with this eclectic little city, students and teachers can choose to visit the Central Market or Musee de la Ville de Noumea, or simply walk the streets in search of the colourful street art.

Breakfast at the hotel

7

### NOUMEA

Today we swap the city for a tropical island in the middle of crystal clear Pacific waters. This tiny coral atoll just 40 minutes' boat ride from Noumea is a true idyll, where students can spend the day on the powder white beaches or meet the weird and wonderful marine life as they snorkel over the coral reef. For spectacular views of seascape, they can also climb the 247 steps to the top of the Amadee Lighthouse.

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch at Amadee

8

### NOUMEA

For our final day in New Caledonia we get the chance to visit a local Kanak tribe and learn about their customs and traditions. The ancient Kanak culture is based on communal principles, where everyone in the clan works together for the good of the village. Students will hear from families about their everyday lives and hear first-hand about their traditions and beliefs.

Breakfast at the hotel

**NOUMEA**

After nine busy days of language learning, sightseeing and cultural immersion it's time to say *au revoir* to New Caledonia and make our way back to Australia.

Breakfast at the hotel