

SWITZERLAND

14 DAYS | **FRENCH LANGUAGE IMMERSION**

PROGRAM ITINERARY

This program immerses students in the French language, giving them the confidence to communicate in a real-world setting. Beautiful Switzerland is the perfect base in which to enjoy French language lessons and be fully enveloped in the language. Students will embark on many adventures during this trip, exploring the lakeside towns and cities of Montreux, Lucerne and Lausanne, setting sail on Lake Geneva, and visiting cheese and chocolate factories. The trip begins and ends in Geneva, where students will gain an understanding of the important global work being done by the many organizations based there.

1

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Today our learning adventure begins as we set off from Australia bound for Geneva.

2

ARRIVE GENEVA – MONTREUX

After our long flight we'll hop straight onto our waiting coach and make our way through the beautiful Swiss countryside to the town of Montreux. Nestled on the shores of Lake Geneva, Montreux has attracted artists and writers for decades, inspired by the beauty of the lake, vineyards and mountains. It makes for the perfect base to improve our French – 75% of the town speaks French as their first language.

3

MONTREUX

We dive right in with our first French language lesson where we meet our teacher and receive our study materials. With renewed confidence it's off to put our studies into practice as we

Breakfast at the hotel

begin exploring Montreux. As part of our guided tour of the town we'll take a cruise on Lake Geneva, soaking up the classic architecture and distant rolling mountains along the Montreux Riviera.

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MONTREUX

We begin today with another immersive French language lesson, where we further improve our speaking and listening skills. In the afternoon students will be challenged to a treasure hunt around the streets of Montreux – all in French of course. Once completed we'll head over to the Queen Studio Experience. It was here in Montreux that legendary singer Freddie Mercury settled and recorded Queen's last record Made in Heaven. Housed in the Montreux Mountain Studios, the Queen Studio Experience is a fascinating insight into one of the world's most famous rock bands.

Breakfast at the hotel

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MONTREUX

Our daily French language lesson is the perfect way to start the morning in Montreux. Students will be quickly gaining confidence in their language skills and feeling more comfortable putting it into a real-world context. In the afternoon we set off for more cultural explorations, and what could be more Swiss than a trip to a Cheese Museum? Students will learn all about the production of cheese on this guided tour.

Breakfast at the hotel

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MONTREUX

Following our French language lesson today we set off to explore the imposing medieval fortress of Chillon Castle, which rises off the shores of Lake Geneva like a fairy tale castle. The earliest parts of the castle date back to the twelfth century and the Court of the Savoy, and it was later used by the Bernese. Students will get a fascinating insight into the daily life of those who lived in the castle, from the grand halls, to the vaulted underground chambers, bedrooms and weapons room.

Breakfast at the hotel

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MONTREUX – LUCERNE

Today we bid farewell to our French study programme in Montreux and make our way to the lakeside city of Lucerne. We'll enjoy a leisurely walking tour of this compact city, taking in the historic architecture, pretty Old Town and grand churches. The Chapel Bridge is Lucerne's most famous monument, believed to be one of the oldest, covered wooden bridges in Europe. We'll also admire the grandeur of the Musegg Wall, a vast fortification of nine towers, and walk past the 17th century Jesuit Church, Switzerland's first ecclesiastical Baroque building.

Breakfast at the hotel

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LUCERNE – MOUNT PILATUS – LUCERNE

It's off to the mountains today on a full day trip to Mont Pilatus, the jagged mountain peak which overlooks Lucerne. Students will spend the day in the fresh Swiss air, enjoying photo-worthy views and a stomach-lurching trip on the Cogwheel Railway. With a 48 percent gradient it is the steepest cogwheel railway in the world and a true feat of engineering.

Breakfast at the hotel

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LUCERNE – LAUSANNE

We head back to Lake Geneva today, but this time to the alluring city of Lausanne. With its Gothic Old Town, and far-reaching lake and mountain views it is both culture-filled and beautiful. We'll enjoy an afternoon guided tour, including a visit to the vast gothic Cathedral of Lausanne which stands in the heart of the city as the spiritual capital of French-speaking Switzerland. In the late afternoon we'll try our hand at the art of French cuisine with a cooking lesson.

Breakfast at the hotel

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LAUSANNE

Switzerland is famous for many things, but none more so perhaps than cheese, chocolate and mountains. So today we embark on a full day guided tour to enjoy all three. We'll delve into the Swiss countryside on a culinary tour, visiting the Maison Cailler Chocolaterie in Broc, as well as the cheese factory in Gruyere. A truly delicious day of cultural adventures.

Breakfast at the hotel

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LAUSANNE – CERN – GENEVA

Breakfast at the hotel

We'll make our way to Geneva today, stopping in Cern to visit the European Organization of Nuclear Research, where students will gain a fascinating insight into the work being done to further our understanding of the universe. We'll spend the afternoon getting to know Geneva on a walking tour, wandering past the buildings of some of the world's largest international organizations, from the World Trade Organization to the World Health Organization.

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GENEVA

Breakfast at the hotel

Geneva, Switzerland's second largest city, is home to more than 200 organizations, a bustling hub of business mingled with boutique shopping, luxury hotels and staggering views. On our last full day in Switzerland we'll visit the Red Cross Museum, a state-of-the-art museum depicting the invaluable work done by the Red Cross in defending human dignity, restoring family links and reducing natural risks. Students will also visit the United Nations Office where they'll see the Human Rights Room, the Assembly Hall and the Council Chamber.

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DEPART GENEVA

Breakfast at the hotel

After 13 action-packed days it's time to bid *au revoir* to Switzerland and head back home to Australia.

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ARRIVE AUSTRALIA