

FRANCE

17 DAYS | LANGUAGE

PROGRAM ITINERARY

France's long artistic heritage is brought to life on this immersive tour of some of the country's most beautiful towns and iconic cities. From Van Gogh's Provence to Paris' Louvre Museum, the landscape unfurls in a swirl of vineyards, olive groves, Renaissance cities and stunning architecture. Students will get the opportunity to improve upon their existing French language foundation, putting it into practice as they immerse themselves in everyday life. From cooking classes, to guided tours, World War I memorials to cruises along the Seine, this is a journey of inspiration and heritage. Our trip will take us from Lyon to Avignon, Montpellier to Toulouse, with many stops in between. We end our trip in France's tantalizing capital city.

1

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Our journey begins as we depart from Australia.

2

ARRIVE LYON

We touch down in Lyon, France's third largest city and one of the oldest in the country, ready to be immersed in its rich heritage and modern culture. We'll spend the afternoon getting a whistle stop tour of the city on a hop-on, hop-off bus, passing iconic sights such as the 2,000 year old Roman Amphithéâtre des Trois Gaules and the UNESCO designated Vieux (Old) Lyon, home to the largest collection of Renaissance buildings in Europe. Located on the confluence of the Rhône and the Saône Rivers, Lyon is a fascinating and beautiful first stop on our tour.

3

LYON – AVIGNON

Dominated by the vast, medieval Palais des Papes (Popes' Palace) the city of Avignon is our destination today. We'll travel by train, soaking up the lush Provence countryside which has inspired artists such as Van Gogh, Cézanne and Picasso throughout history.

Breakfast at the hotel

4

AVIGNON – ARLES – ST RÉMY DE PROVENCE – AVIGNON

Today we dive into Provence's rich artistic heritage with a full day Van Gogh tour. A guide will escort us as we see for ourselves how the region's unique light affected Van Gogh's famous works. Our first stop will be the ancient town of Arles, where Van Gogh drew inspiration for *Starry Night Over the Rhone* and *Café Terrace*, and from there we'll head to Saint Rémy de Provence for a deeper insight into the artist's personal life. It was here that Van Gogh spent a year in a psychiatric institution, during which time he drew upon Arles' beauty to paint iconic works such as *The Road Meanders* and *Wheatfield after a Storm*. We end our day with a visit to *Carrières de Lumières*, a multimedia art installation created within a disused quarry.

Breakfast at the hotel

5

AVIGNON – MONTPELLIER

This morning we make our way by coach to Montpellier, a picturesque medieval city nestled between mountains, vineyards and the nearby Mediterranean Sea. Once settled, we'll enjoy a guided tour of the city, taking in iconic sights such as the Gothic *Cathédrale Saint-Pierre*, the Antigone district, and the *Place de la Comédie*, Montpellier's central square. We will also get our first glimpse of painting by French and European masters at the *Musée Fabre*.

Breakfast at the hotel

6

MONTPELLIER

On their first full day in Montpellier, students will enjoy a three-hour French language lesson, helping them improve their fluency and speaking and listening skills. In the afternoon, it's time to treat our taste buds sampling melt-in-the-mouth, locally-produced cheeses and chocolates.

Breakfast at the hotel

7

MONTPELLIER

The morning begins with the students gaining confidence in their spoken French with an immersive language lesson, before heading off to visit a local French high school. They will get the opportunity to put their language skills to the test as they interact with French students and understand the differences between the French and Australian school systems.

Breakfast at the hotel

8

MONTPELLIER – SAINT GUILHEM-LE-DÉSER – MONTPELLIER

Students will once again start their day improving their French fluency with a language lesson, before setting off on an excursion to Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert. Located in the stunning Hérault Valley, where deep gorges are carved by meandering rivers, the pretty town is tucked in between vineyards and olive groves. Students can explore the narrow, cobbled streets, the 8th century Gellone Abbey and the quaint markets.

Breakfast at the hotel

9

MONTPELLIER – CARCASSONNE

We say goodbye to Montpellier today and make our way by train to the hilltop town of Carcassonne, whose imposing medieval citadel, La Cité, dates back to Roman times. In the afternoon students and teachers can explore the citadel and its sturdy ramparts, discovering its turbulent history.

Breakfast at the hotel

10

CARCASSONNE – TOULOUSE

Today the group will travel by train to Toulouse where, after settling in, we enjoy a three-hour guided tour of the city centre. Cosmopolitan and historic in equal measures Toulouse provides a wonderful insight into modern-day France and is a great place for students to practice their language skills. Known as the La Ville Rose (The Pink City) thanks to its pink-hued buildings, Toulouse offers Roman basilicas, Renaissance mansions, bustling waterways, and a delightful Vieux Quartier (Old Quarter).

Breakfast at the hotel

11

TOULOUSE

A morning of leisure time allows students and teachers to explore Toulouse’s art, history and architecture under their own steam. We will convene at Atelier des Chefs for lunch where students will cook up a storm, learning new culinary techniques from a French chef as they create a mouth-watering meal which they will sit down to enjoy together.

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch at Atelier des Chefs

12

TOULOUSE – PARIS

We bid *au revoir* to Toulouse today, making our way by train to Paris. We’ll dive right into exploring France’s fascinating capital as we begin in Montmartre and the Sacre Coeur. For an exhilarating and unique view of Paris, students will get to experience a Fly View of Paris in the afternoon. Using the latest in virtual-reality technology, students will strap on jet packs and soar over the rooftops of the city’s iconic buildings, from the Notre Dame to the Eiffel Tower.

Breakfast at the hotel

13

PARIS

No trip to Paris is complete without a visit to the famous Louvre Museum. Home to 35,000 priceless masterpieces and antiques, it is the largest art museum in the world. From there students will walk down the Champs Elysee, the historic two kilometre-long avenue which stretches from Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe. The iconic monument has been witness to many of Paris’ most poignant events, and it is here that everything from Charles de Gaulle’s liberation march in 1994, to the end of the Tour de France have been celebrated.

Breakfast at the hotel

14

PARIS

We begin our day delving underground into the eerie tunnels of the Catacombs, a vast 18th century ossuary which contains the remains of over six million Parisians. We lighten the mood with a leisurely Seine River cruise, ending our day at the Eiffel Tower. It will cameras at the ready for panoramic views of Paris’ rooftops.

Breakfast at the hotel

15

PARIS

Our last full day is spent embarking on an excursion to Villers Bretonneux, where students will learn about the crucial role of Australian Allied troops during the First and Second World Wars. They'll visit the Australian Memorial, the Adelaide cemetery and the Franco Australian Museum before enjoying a workshop at the Sir John Monash Centre, which tells Australia's story of the Western Front from the viewpoint of the soldiers who fought there.

Breakfast at the hotel

16

DEPART PARIS

After 15 days of immersive language practice and exploring France's rich artistic heritage it's time to head home back to Australia.

Breakfast at the hotel

17

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA