



# France Study Abroad! **FR**

- Summer 2022 -

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- First day in France! I was exhausted after the long flight from Dallas, but I was excited to finally be here.
- Unfortunately, getting a taxi for four people at the airport is surprisingly hard. We had to wait an hour to get one, and not even 5-minutes into the ride, the driver almost hit a motorcycle. Let's just say the ride was quite a frightening experience.
- After the quick group meeting, we walked around the 11ème area to try our very first *croissant et Orangina*, a classic French snack!
- We also had pizza for dinner, and, I know, we're in France, not Italy, but it was so good! (Probably one of the best pizzas I've ever had 🍕)



## - Paris, France, Day #2 -

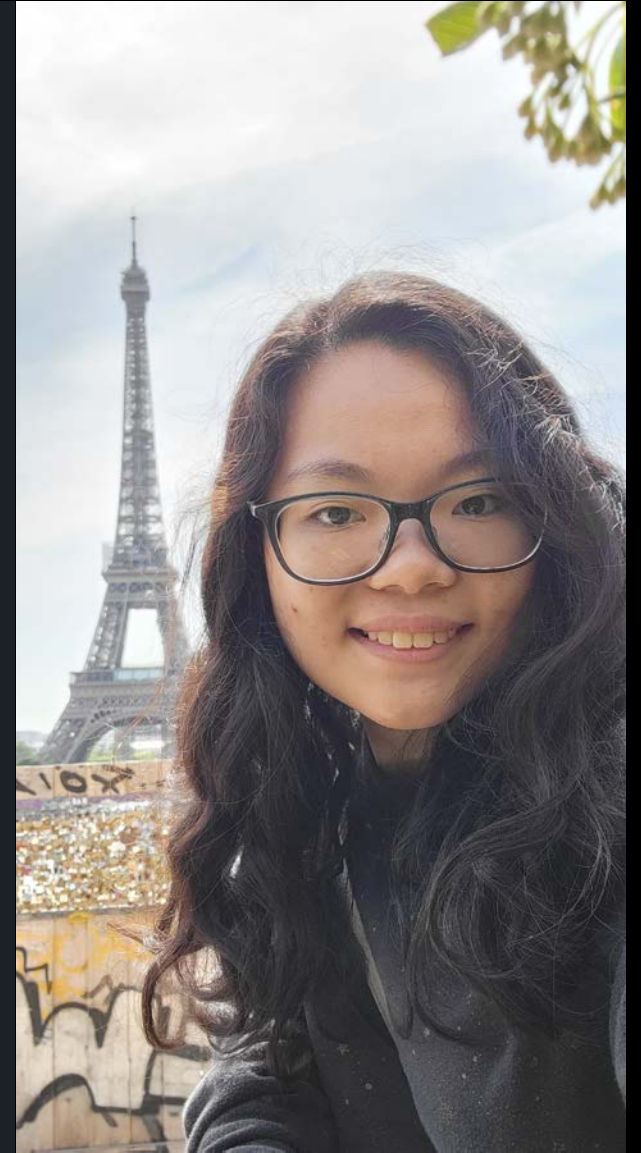


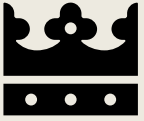
Patrick, our tour guide, took us on a bus tour in Paris. Though I didn't manage to get a lot of pictures because I was too distracted staring at the scenery (the word "distracted" will keep on appearing throughout this presentation), it was still mesmerizing to see the stunning architecture, including this opera house called Palais Garnier.



## - Eiffel Tower -

Perhaps one of the most popular places to visit in Paris and one that I'm most excited about. It was a bit difficult to take pictures because of the number of people there, but I managed to get these two pictures. From what I've learned, the people in Paris used to dislike this landmark. However, now, the tower symbolizes peace for the *#jesuisparis* movement, which I cherish





## - A Visit to the Palace of Versailles -



- During the trip to Versailles, I got to explore the inside of the palace and the gardens there.
- One thought that kept coming to my mind was: “how in the world did they manage to build this?” I mean, the place is massive.
- This place is also one of those places where you keep staring at the ceiling because of how beautifully detailed they are (distracted #?)



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- Another guided tour in Paris, but this time, the group walked instead of using the bus. We saw a lot of famous buildings, including the Notre Dame Cathedral, that's still in construction because of the fire, *Place des Vosges*, and the structure above called *Jardin de l'Hôtel de Sully*. Later on, I learned that the word "hotel" in Paris doesn't necessarily mean an actual hotel; it just means a big building ( ✨ the more you know ✨ ).
- During the walk, I also got to try the so-called "best ice cream in the entire France, and possibly, the world." Was it the best? 🤔

I don't know, I haven't tried every single ice cream in the



# - Louvre Museum -

- One thing about me: I'm a big museum nerd, so visiting the Louvre was absolutely a magical experience.
- "Who knew that paintings could get THAT big??"
- Louvre is also one of those places where you get distracted easily because of how complex it is. Look up, down, left, or right – every side is interesting (distracted #3).
- And, of course, I had to take a picture by the iconic glass pyramids, though it is smaller than I thought it would be.
- Fun fact: I went on a solo trip after visiting the Louvre to see the area around it. Because I didn't know how to use the underground train (and was too lazy to learn), I ended up walking the whole time. I reached a record of 22,351 steps, which I thought would be the longest walk I would ever do in my entire life, but boy was I





## - Paris, France, Day #4-

- I finally learned how to use the underground train to go to the Arts et Métiers campus branch in Paris.
- I also almost got on the wrong side of the train, so I guess I didn't really learn how to use the train "properly."
- Visited the *Galeries Lafayette*, a mall filled with fancy and expensive items. And no, I didn't get anything, however, it is a great place to find branded items.
- The view on the rooftop is absolutely gorgeous though.





# - Normandy & Saint Malo -

- Leaving Paris, the group headed towards Normandy, where we visited Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, and the American Cemetery.
- We got McDonald's for lunch, and I definitely wasn't expecting to spend €11 on a small burger, small fries, and a small drink. Fast food here is so expensive \$\$\$
- These sites are very significant to American history, and though I'm not American, I got to broaden my knowledge of American history and pay my respect to the soldiers who fought during the war.
- After a full day, I ended the day with the best crepes I've ever tasted in my entire life. I can assure you that every crepe tastes mediocre after trying this one.



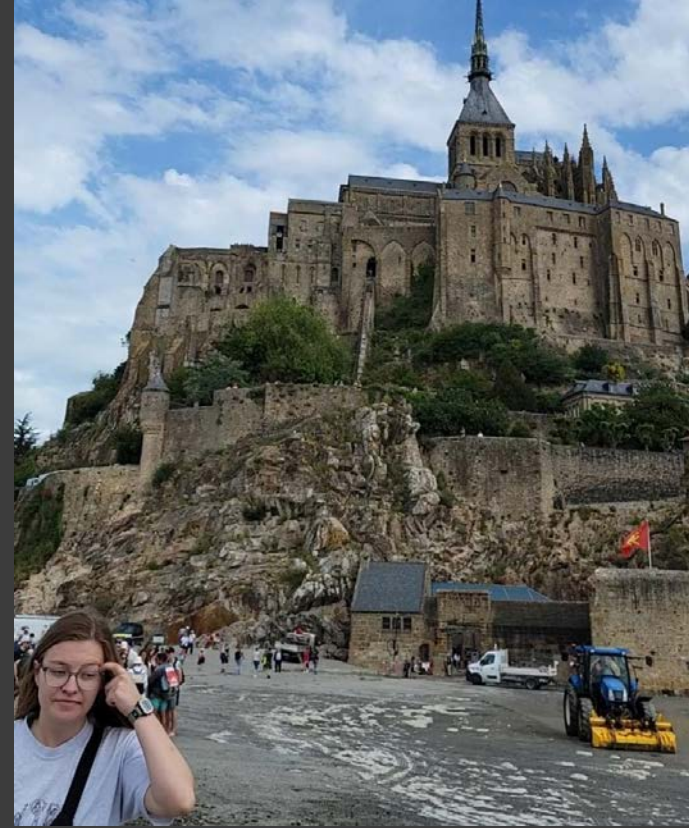
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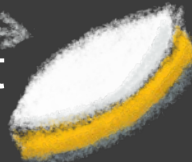
- Breathtaking is how I would describe Mont Saint-Michel. Being inside the structure made me feel like I was in a different era.
- Tried their famous 2-Michelin star omelet that cost more than €30 each. The omelet was delicious! Though, it is a bit funny how all of the people who ate here, including me, thought the bread and butter were more amazing than the actual dish.
- Patrick saw that we were indulging in the bread and butter, so he asked the waiter to bring out a second basket filled with the goods.



## - Aix-en-Provence Day#1 -

- Unpopular opinion of mine (or popular?), I love staying in Aix better than in Paris. The place is just so unique and full of history.
- One story I enjoyed during the guided tour was the origin of *Calissons*, the famous candy here in Aix; I think it's very wholesome :)
- I guess another wholesome event that happened during the tour was how a wedding was happening in one of the churches. You can hear the church's bell ringing loud and clear.
- Aix is also known for its drinkable water fountains (however, drink at your own risk ☺)

Calisson

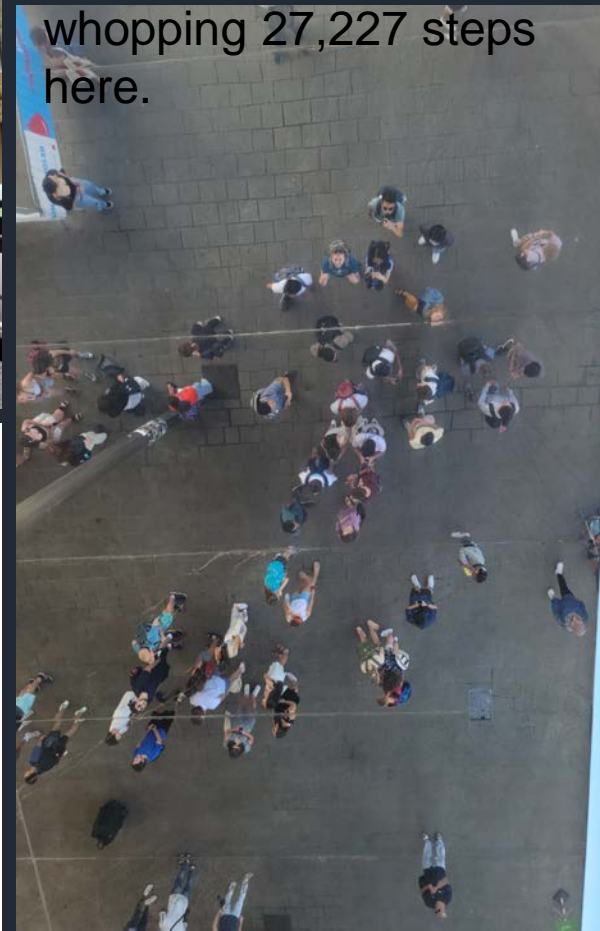




# - Marseille -



A silly picture that I took. I just thought it's interesting how they have a giant mirror in the center of the old port. Also, remember when I had 22,351 steps in Paris? Well, I had a whopping 27,227 steps here.




Marseille was a place that I misjudged. I thought it was going to be an old place with no attractions. Well, I was wrong. The tour guide explained how Marseilles is pretty fancy, especially after

I took a picture in front of the *Cathédrale La Major*. I do think this church is unique and different from the ones in Paris, especially after looking at those



- Verdon Gorges #1 -



- This place is a go-to hiking spot, and although I'm not a big fan of hiking, the view here is too incredible for me to miss. I did, however, almost slip when trying to climb up the rocks.
- Will come back with better shoes. 



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Verdon Gorge was a place that I didn't think I would enjoy. In fact, I almost didn't go kayaking at first because:

- 1) I was scared because it was my first time kayaking
- 2) I knew I was going to get sick (spoilers: I did end up getting sick)

Was it worth it? Absolutely. Being sick was awful, but I think I would've regretted it more if I didn't go. I managed to get out of my comfort zone, and I was very proud of myself.



## - Arts et Métiers Gala -

- Officially my very first part ever, and it was awesome!
- My advice: have fun, but drink responsibly people (the drinking age here is 18).





## - Cassis and Les Calanques -

- "The trip was great!" is something I'd say if I'm lying. Unfortunately, I got seasick during the boat ride, and I couldn't enjoy it a single bit. These are the only pictures I have from the trip to this place. At least the views were fantastic, or so I've been told.
- I also forgot to bring my wallet during this trip (such a double whammy). Thankfully, the study abroad faculty arranged a free dinner (what a coincidence).







# - Solo Trip in Aix -

- I decided on the 4-day weekend that I should explore Aix-en-Provence and visit their museums. I went to *Musée Granet*, where they showcase the work of Paul Cézanne, one of the pioneers in Aix. I also went to *Granet XXe*, where they showcase some of Picasso's work.
- And the best part is, both tickets are free if you're a student.
- I ended the day by having a nice refreshing (non-alcoholic) 😊 drink at a restaurant.





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Though the places I've visited have been excellent, I think I'm more glad that I managed to meet new people and be friends with them during the program. I signed up for this program knowing no one, and I was scared that I would be alone throughout the trip. However, that was not the case, and I'm very grateful for these wonderful people. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything in the world.