



# France Study Abroad

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# Aix-en- Provence



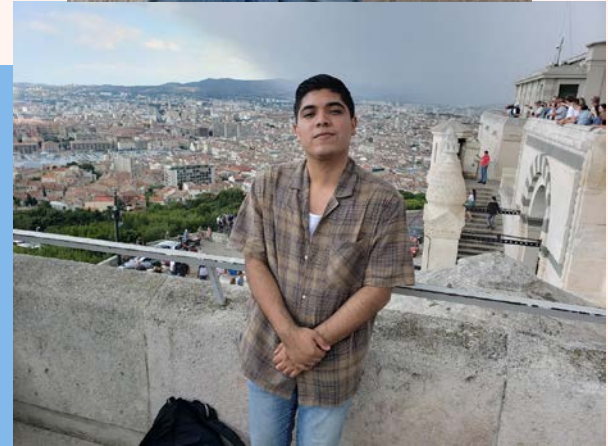
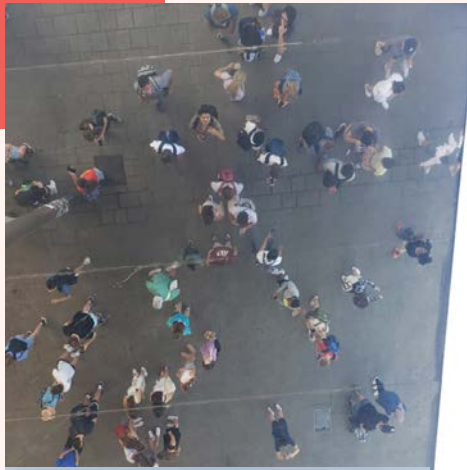
# Honest Thoughts

Since I arrived late to the France study abroad program, Aix-en-Provence was my first true French experience. At the moment of my arrival, I was overwhelmed with how different yet similar everything felt. I at first thought I had just stepped foot into a Mexican city because the buildings, traffic, and foot traffic was almost identical to that of Mexico. However, the major differences I immediately noticed were people's manner of dress, the amount of smoking, the language and the lack of A/C. On my first day here, with no one to really talk to, I felt scammed because it was not at all the France I idealized. However, as the days passed by, I ultimately found my crowd, got mostly accustomed to the way of life, and became fond of the nice, old, and simplistic nature of the city. Everything is within a 30 minute walking distance with lots of GREAT food choices.

Ultimately, the city grew on me and I would sometimes catch myself calling Aix home, and long to get back to the city after exhausting trips to other cities.



Mars eille



# Honest Thoughts

Growing up, I would watch a lot of soccer and keep up with teams from around the world. Marseille's soccer team was amongst that list. Having that said, I already knew a little bit of the city.

However, once I saw it first hand, I was both in awe and underwhelmed. I had no clue it was a port city that was recently "beautified" to become a tourist city. The history, architecture, and the cathedral and churches are what really blew me away. Each church looked as if could be considered a cathedral due to their size, detail, and beauty. There was also other noteworthy buildings that were really nice to look at, like the repurposed hospital. The only caveat with the city is that, in my opinion, the city didn't stand out as much as I thought it would.



Cannes



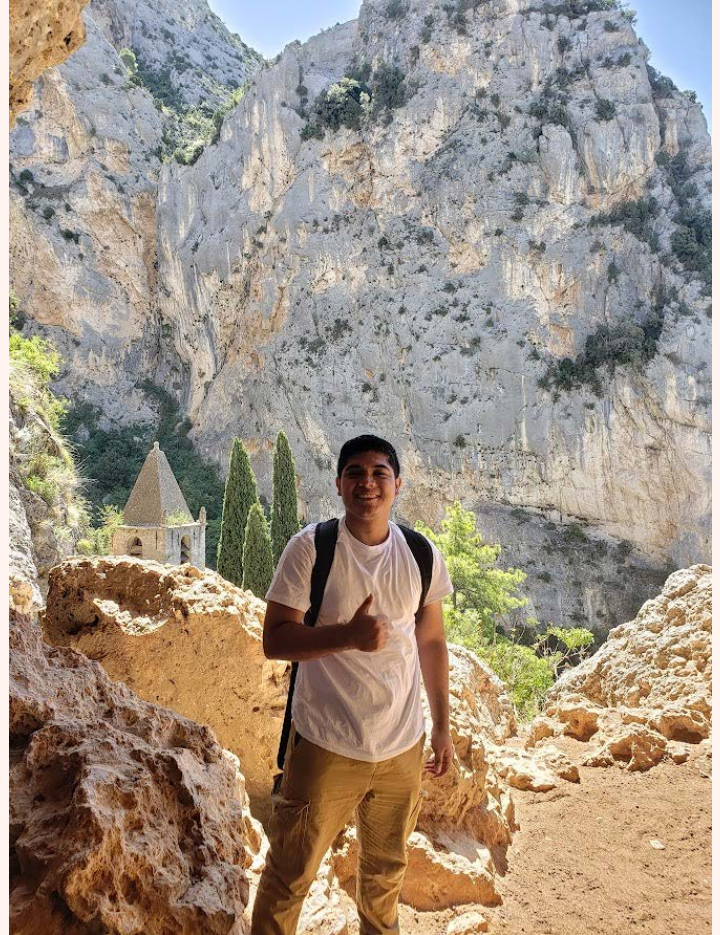
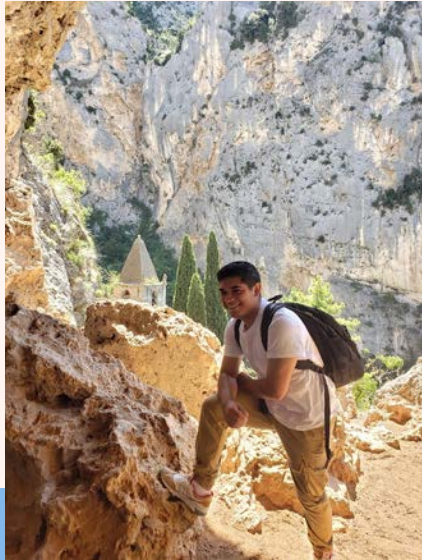


# Honest Thoughts

Compliments	Critiques
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● This was the first time I was able to really feel connected with my peers</li><li>● The city was a really nice change of pace when compared to Aix</li><li>● I really enjoyed the luxurious beach city vibe</li><li>● We coincidentally happened to go to Cannes during the famous Cannes Film Festival</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Gets really packed real easily</li><li>● High class living</li></ul>



Moustiers-  
Sainte-  
Marie/Verdo  
n Gorges



# Honest Thoughts

Compliments	Critiques
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very fun experience</li><li>• I really enjoyed the mountain side town and the people's way of life</li><li>• The Gorge was BEAUTIFUL</li><li>• It was a nice way to destress once class went fullswing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• none</li></ul>



Calanques



# Honest Thoughts

Compliments	Critiques
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● This place has really good napping spots</li><li>● So much beautiful architecture and land formations around the water</li><li>● Many hidden beaches that are really worth it</li><li>● The city had a lot of activities to offer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Locals were a bit rude</li><li>● I was a bit exhausted from the Gala the day prior</li></ul>





Switzerland

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# Honest Thoughts

Compliments	Critiques
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● This was hands down the best experience of the entire trip</li><li>● The views of the mountain, cities, trails, lakes, and nature were absolutely breathtaking</li><li>● Best bonding experience with my classmates</li><li>● This trip easily makes on my list for my top 10 moments in my life</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Expensive food</li></ul>