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Paris

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Our study abroad started in Paris, France.

This was my first time traveling to Europe and I was so excited to meet the other students participating in the program.

While in Paris we got see the beauty of the city. Led by our tour guide Patrick, we visited the Eiffel Tower, the Versaille Palace, the Louvre, and other famous locations around Paris. Interacting and making great friends for the short time we were here made it even more amazing. Even if we had no sleep!

Normandy/St. Malo

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After we left Paris, we traveled to the Normandy region. There we visited the D-Day memorial and participated in a wreath laying ceremony. Being able to see the location that such a huge historical event happened was a highlight of the trip.

We stayed in St. Malo, which is a beautiful coast town. The weather was nice and the food was delicious.

The bus rides were long but allowed us to get to know each other better.

Mont. St. Michelle

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Mont. St. Michelle was a bucket list item to see on this trip. The church built on top of this tall hill surrounded by ocean was amazing. Learning the history behind this wonder made it all the better.



Aix-en-Provence

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Next, we traveled to Aix-en-Provence, the city where we would be stay for the rest of the study abroad. Being able to travel around France and sightsee was fun but being able to settle in was nice.

This is where all of those small memories happened. Walking to class, playing sports, even doing laundry there were always laughs. In Aix-en-Provence we got to learn more about French culture and language.



Marseille

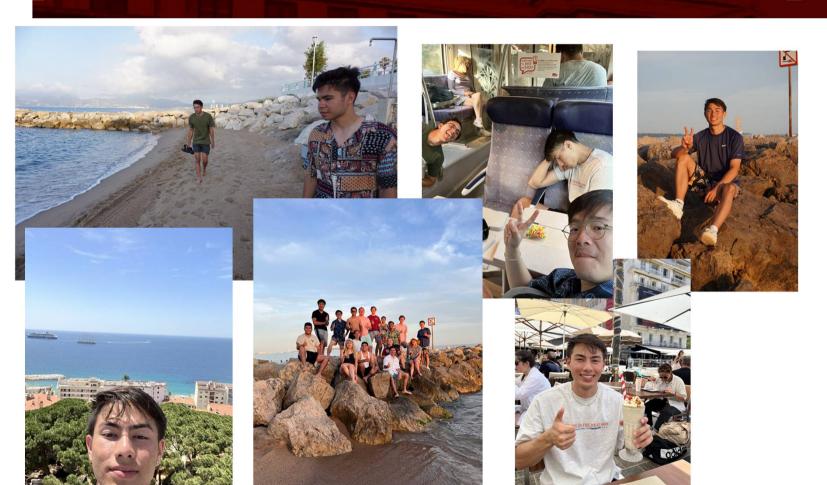




As a group we traveled to Marseille and learned about the history there. There was a beautiful chapel on top of a very steep hill. I learned to never doubt the bus drivers here because they can get to anywhere.

Cannes

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For our 3-day weekend a group and I decided to go to Cannes, France. Here there was the Cannes Film Festival with a red carpet.

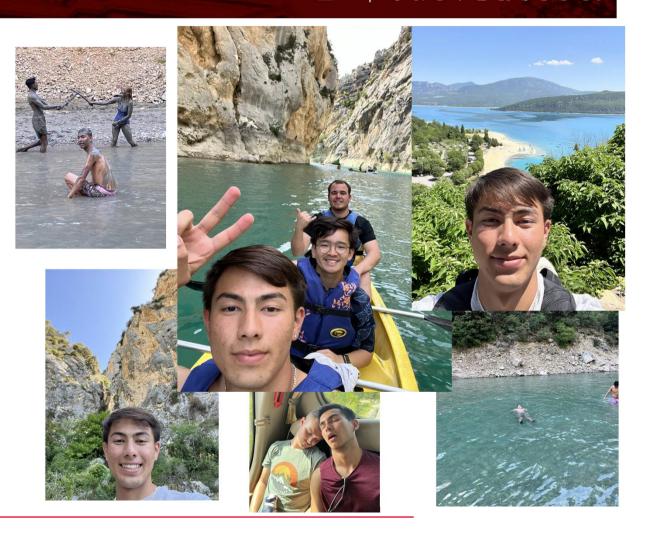
This trip was a nice break from classes. Here we spent time and the beach and rode a ferry to a close by island.

This trip I got to bond with some people I had not talked to as much and swim a lot.

Verdon Gorge

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At the Verdon Gorge we got to go kayaking. It was a great experience to row down the stream to to look but a the huge gorge. Swimming in the water was quite cold but I had fun. This trip exhausted everyone as we all fell asleep on the bus ride back.



Gala

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The Gala was a huge party at campus. It was a long night but fun.



Calanques



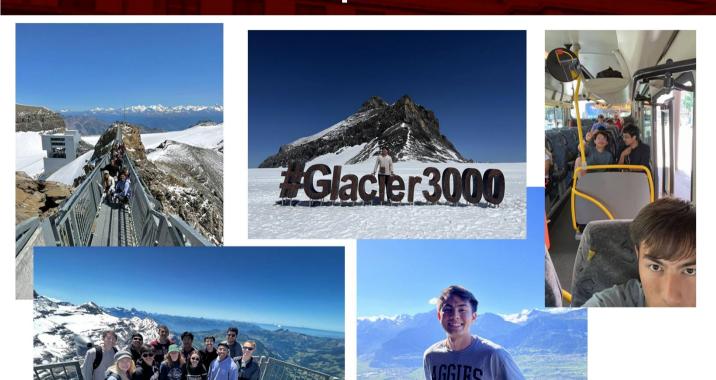


The day after the Gala, we visited the Calanques. Here we took a boat tour of the Calanques which were one of the most beautiful things I saw on the trip.

During the free time we had we went to a pebble beach which I would say is not my favorite. The last thing we did here was group meal.

Switzerland pt. 1

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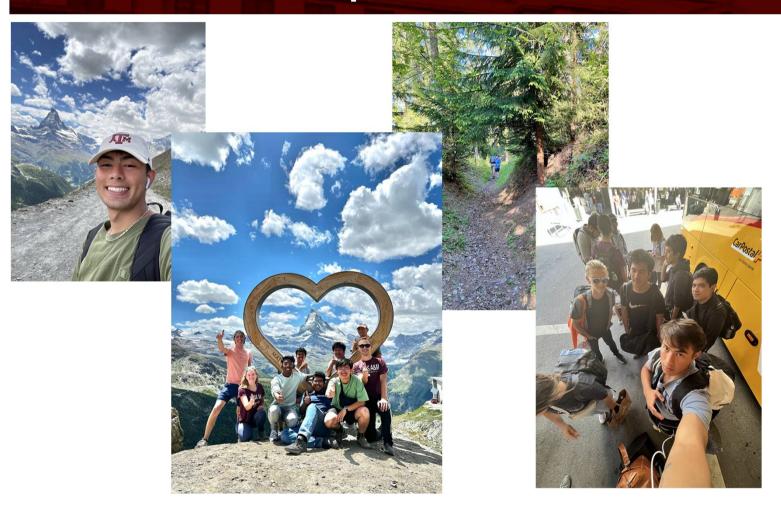
For the 4-day weekend a group and I decided to visit Switzerland. I loved traveling here. Everyone was so kind and the views were beautiful.

The trip consisted of a lot of early mornings, late nights, and train rides.

We went to Galcier3000 where you got to walk across a long bridge connecting two mountain peaks. A lot of us got sunburnt but the view was worth it.

Switzerland pt. 2





On the second day of the Switzerland trip we visited Zermatt and got to see the Matterhorn! I think it was coolest looking mountain I have ever seen.

Here we took a very long hike and found a heart to take pictures at.

Wrapping Up



Deciding to participate in this education abroad program has been on the best decision I have made. Here I have made so many great friends and have experienced things that are hard to come by.

I came into this program a bit shy but have learn to be more

outgoing and to go outside of my comfort zone!









