

MY FRANCE REFLECTION

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France Study Abroad 2022

REFLECTION COVERAGE

ABOUT ME

01

Introduction to who I am
and my study abroad goals

02

TRAVEL & CULTURE

Excursions that I felt
impacted by

EDUCATION

03

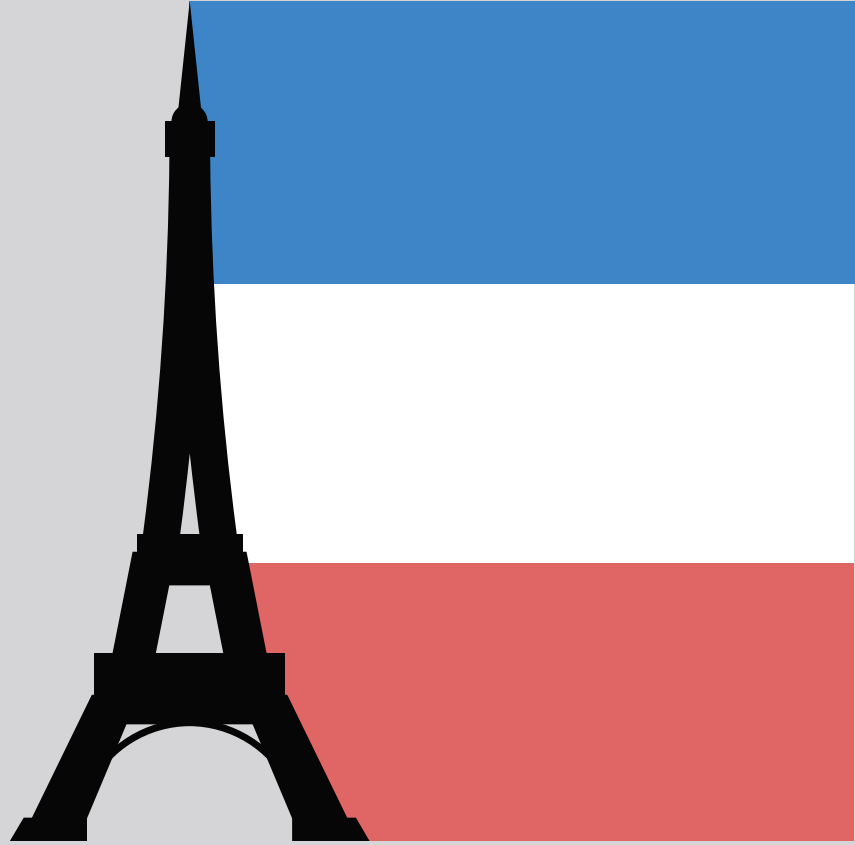
Experience with French
students & Arts et Métiers

04

IMPACT

My take-aways from the
trip

01 ABOUT ME



WHO AM I?

- I am a Senior Civil Engineering Major from Dripping Springs, TX
- I am a 4th generation Aggie
- I have been to 44 countries
- I lived in Dresden, Germany from 1-3 years old where I use to speak fluent German
- My cousins lived in Grenoble, France for 3 years where I would visit them every year
- I have wanted to study abroad since Fish Camp



Above & Right:
Pictures from Mt.
Blanc France as a kid



GOALS & EXPECTATIONS

Goals

- Embrace the French language, food, & culture
- Meet new people and learn from them
- Get comfortable doing things on my own in an area I am not familiar with
- Learn Pros and Cons from the differences in Cultures
- Reflect on how I can do better by this experience
- I wanted to see if I could recognize anything I knew in German, or French
- I wanted to find good hiking spots

Expectations

- Language barriers
- Trouble getting use to public transportation
- Getting lost
- Learning about lots of history
- Finding new foods to try
- Getting food will be expensive

REALITY

- Most people speak enough English to understand
- There is lots of free wifi to get around
- “Old” in the US is not the same “old” in France
- Coffee and pastries for breakfast is very common and inexpensive
- Coffee is so common, there are vending machines everywhere
- Expensive meals are really only dinner with are about \$20-\$22
- I was never able to go hiking in France, but I did in Switzerland
- On a short excursion to Switzerland, I recognized German words after not speaking it for 18 years.

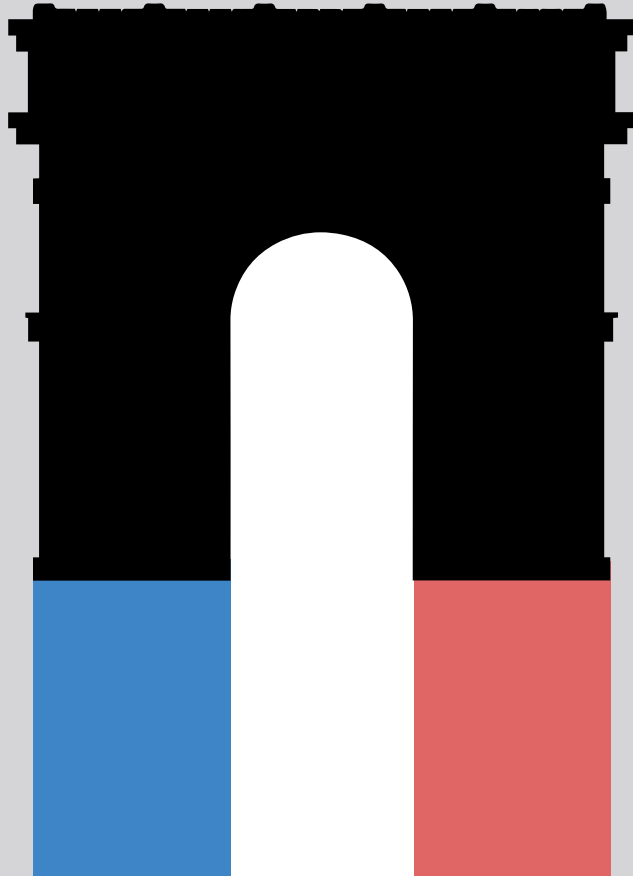
REALITY - FOOD EXAMPLES



With one of my goals wanting to be embrace the food and culture. I tried a variety of foods, like sausage, salmon, duck, lamb, coffee, varieties of pasta, and dessert options like madeleines.



02 TRAVEL & CULTURE



DESTINATIONS

Paris: (1)

- Notre-Dame de Paris
- Louvre
- Versailles
- Eiffel Tower
- Les Invalides
- Luxemburg Gardens
- Opera
- Charles de Gaullé
- Square Louise Michel

Normandy: (2)

- The Pointe Du Hoc
- Omaha Beach

Le Mont-Saint-Michel: (3)

Aix-en-Provence (4)

- Art et Métiers
- The Gala

Marseille (5)

- Cathédrale Sainte Marie Majeure
- Notre Dame de la Garde
- Beach!

Cannes (6)

- 75th Annual Film Festival

Gorges du Verdon (7)

- Kayaking!

Cassis (8)

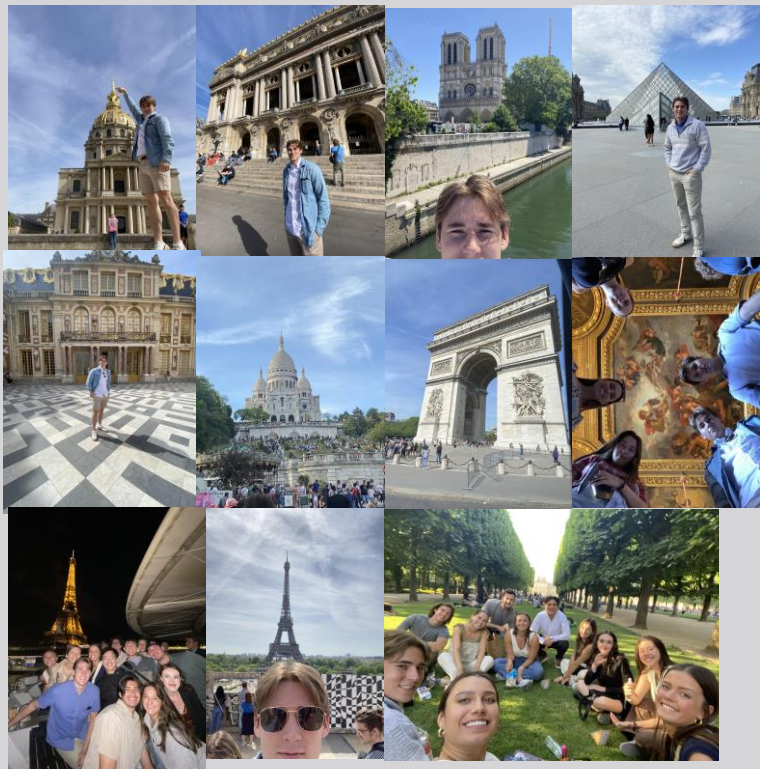
- 8 Calanques by boat

Interlaken, Switzerland (9)

- Lake Brienz (swim and boat)
- Harderbahn
- Harder Kulm
- Hiking!

DESTINATIONS

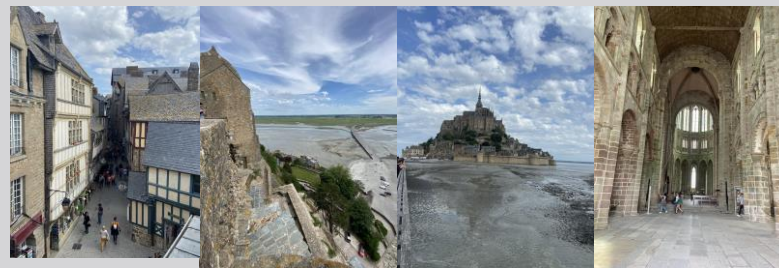
1:



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DESTINATIONS

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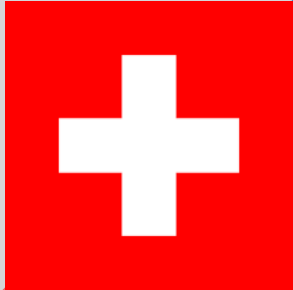
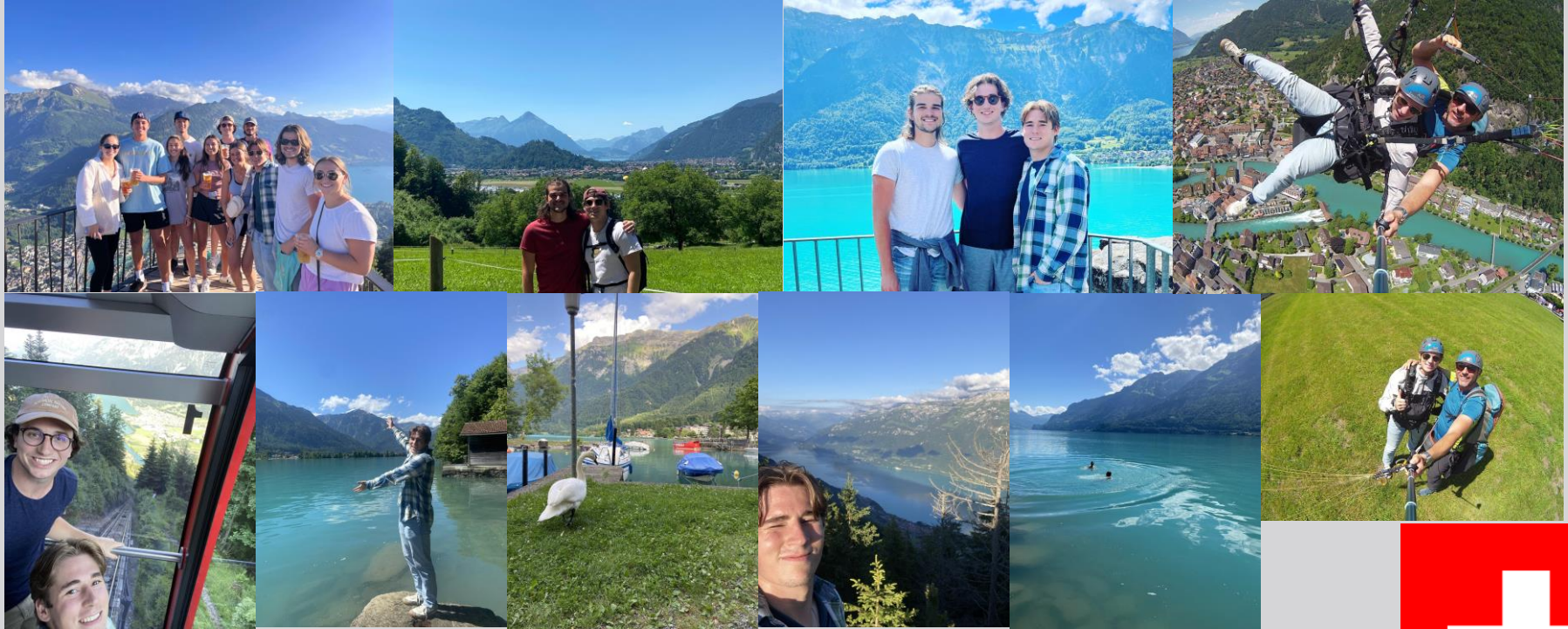
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DESTINATIONS - INTERLAKEN, 9: SWITZERLAND



CULTURE IMPACT FROM DESTINATIONS

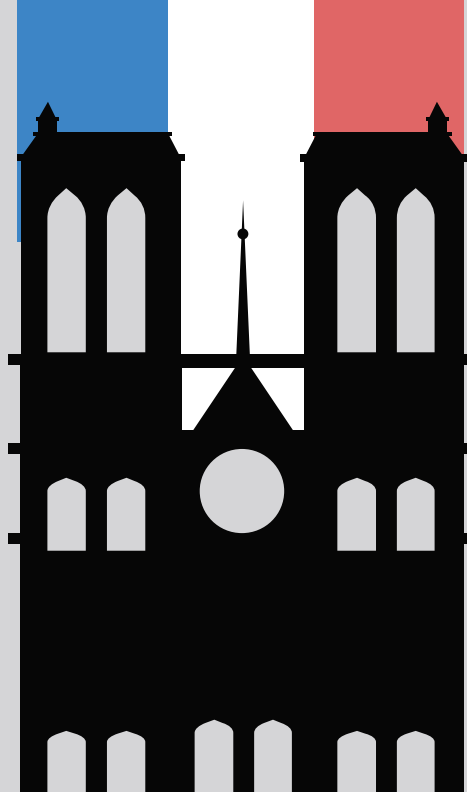
With the wide variety of excursions I had the opportunity to go on. The biggest thing I learned was: **It is impossible to understand and see all the things you wish you could.** This is because of how much history I have missed, how many cultures I have yet to understand, and my lack of experience outside of just education. For example, actually seeing the beaches of Normandy and even just attempting to understand. I know I will never come close to truly understanding how it felt to be there on D-Day.

Aside from just seeing cool places, I was also able to immerse myself into them and enjoy my presence in whole. For example, kayaking through the Gorges du Verdon and feeling the silky water. Or sleeping on the smooth pebble beaches in Cassis.

While peering into the culture, I did a lot of “people watching”. One thing I noticed right away was that the French love to do that as well. Especially when sitting for drinks outside. I looked around at the locals every chance I got and tried to see life through their eyes. Places such as at Luxembourg Gardens, or even at the Gala.

03

EDUCATION



ART ET MÉTIERS



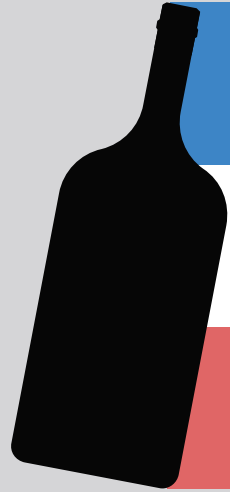
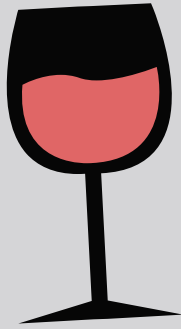
The school is not geared towards Civil Engineering, however staying optimistic, I was able to see their lab and contemplate how the niches could be applied. The more outstanding thought of application was water resources/ fluid dynamics which is what the class being taught is.

Education / Labs



The Gala





04 IMPACT

MY TAKE-AWAYS

- Through the study abroad, I have learned how to be **confident** in myself whilst being in situations I am unfamiliar with.
- I have also learned that **it is okay to ask for help** from friends or others
- I learned that there is still **more I need to see** and **I will be back**
- Making **connecting trains** with less than 10 minutes is not that hard
- When you feel lost, **strangers are willing to help** if you just ask
- I also learned some **cultural differences** such as restaurant and store etiquette, or other differences such as that “to go” is the same as “take-away”

Overall, this study abroad was one of the best decisions I have made whilst being in College. I met French students and learned about their culture and heritage. I also learned more about myself and who I want to be / want to do in life. In the end, this trip makes me want to travel more and see the world.



THANK YOU

France Study Abroad 2022