

A photograph of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, taken from a low angle. The tower's intricate iron lattice structure is the central focus, extending from the bottom of the frame towards the top. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is visible, some walking and some standing. A tall, dark pole is on the left side of the frame. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

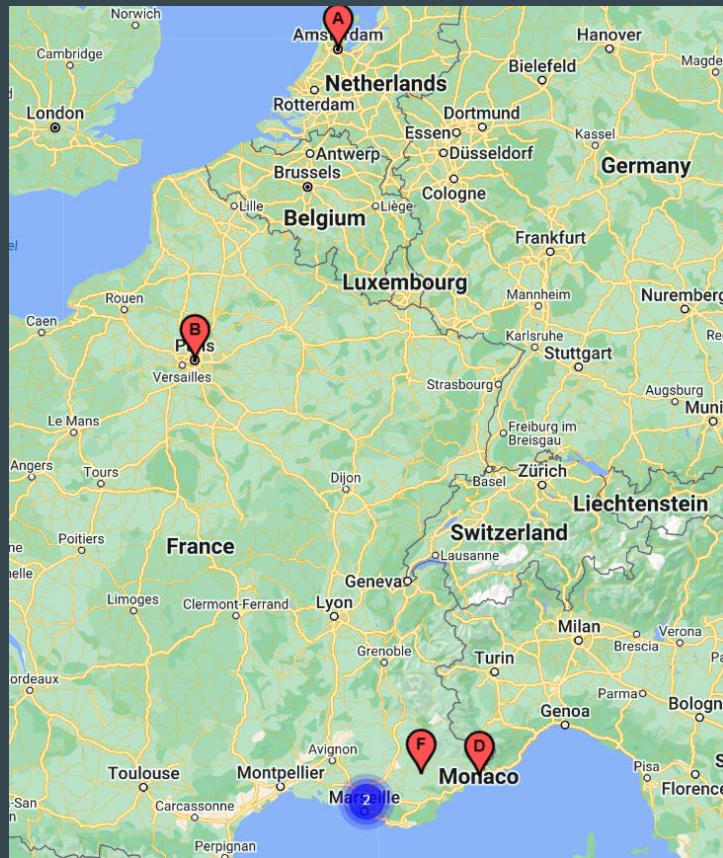
# My Travel Abroad Experience

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# Where I went

- Paris
- Monaco
- Aix En Provence
- Amsterdam
- Verdon Gorge
- Marseille



# Day One

On the night before the trip, I was so nervous I could not sleep. I was worried about meeting people and how the next month would all fold out. The suspense and the unknown was nerve racking. However, all of these doubts were proven wrong on the first day. By the end of the first day, I had met great people and friends I would hang out with throughout out the trip. What worries I had disappeared by the end of the first day. Realizing, the majority of students on the trip had the same fears as me, made me feel more comfortable.

# Paris



# Paris

The first five days of the trip took place in Paris. I had always seen Paris in movies and pictures and it was surreal seeing it in person. Seeing landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre was unreal. My favorite place in Paris was the Palace of Versailles. The paintings and the detail that was involved in the palace was jaw dropping. The Garden of Versailles was right out of a movie and was an amazing sight to see. Another thing I like about Paris was there was a restaurant or market on every street corner which made eating and shopping convenient. Overall, Paris had much to offer and exceeded my expectations.

# Monaco



# Monico

Overall, Monico was a great experience. A couple other students and I took a Blablacar to Monico. It was a cheap and fast way to get there. I would highly recommend this service to others that are planning on traveling to Europe. At the time we were in Monico, The Monaco Grand Prix was going on. This is the biggest F1 race in the World, and it was a once in a lifetime experience to be able to see it in person. In my opinion, Monico was a beautiful place, the city was surrounded by mountains and water which made city look straight out of the movies. Lastly, a couple student and I visited the Monte Carlo Casino, which is one of the most historical and beautiful casinos in the world. Overall, I would recommend Monico for a quick weekend trip.

# Aix En Provence





# Aix En Provence

Out of all the places I traveled to in Europe, Aix En Provence was my favorite city. I spent most of my time here and really got to immerse myself in all the city had to offer. Between getting to interact with French students at the university or just living day to day life in the city Aix En Provence was a great experience. I really enjoyed the daily markets. This was a way to get involved in the community. At the Markets there was live music, dancing, food and shops. Furthermore, Aix En Provence was very condensed which made it easy to get around to go eat to shop. This city was full of life with many plazas od restaurants, pubs and shops. Some of my favorite restaurants included Pimp my Burger, the many pizza stands and Peta Pit. Aix En Provence is a must when visiting France.

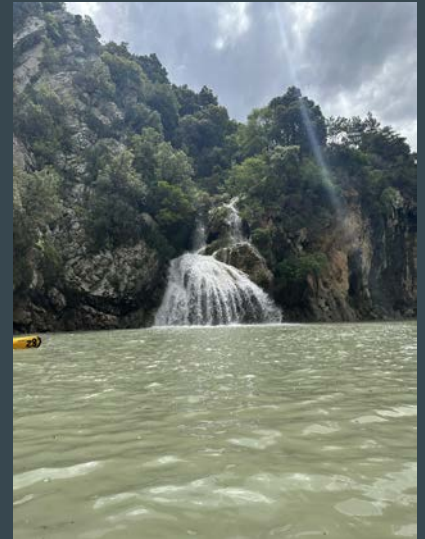
# Amsterdam



# Amsterdam

Amsterdam in my opinion was one of the best designed cities I have traveled to. The public transportation was very cheap and accessible making it easy to get around the city. The cities architecture was extremely beautiful and with canals going through out the city, the city has an overall homey feel. While in Amsterdam me and a couple other student took a boat tour of the city, this allowed us to experience the entire city and learn the history of the city. We also enjoyed the European version of Kentucky Fried Chicken, which was better than the American version in my opinion. Overall, I would recommend Amsterdam to anyone visiting Europe.

# Verdon Gorge



# Verdon Gorge

The Verdon Gorge was my favorite activity we did as a class. When I first arrived at the Verdon Gorge, I was in shock by how unreal the surrounding landscape looked. I really enjoyed kayaking with the other students. I thought it was the best way to take in the views of the Gorge. My favorite part was going under a waterfall, even though the water was freezing. The Ice cream shop at the Verdon Gorge was also one the best parts of the of this mini excursion.

# Marseille



# Marseille

Even though I only spent a couple days in Marseille I really enjoyed my time there. My favorite part of the city was the beach. The beach was full of attractions and restaurants. Going to the beach with several other students was enjoyable and a great memory of the trip. At the beach other students and I explored the shops, restaurants and even rode the ferris wheel. I also enjoyed how Marseille was very diverse with all kinds of different people, this gave the city a great culture. Lastly, I enjoyed the tour of the city. I was able to see the pier/docks, the different monuments and I even got to see the cities soccer stadium.

# Takeaways

Traveling abroad is an experience everyone should do at least once in their life. I gained so much from this experience. I was able to learn about European culture. I was able to see the different kinds of lifestyles Europeans live compared to Americans. Furthermore, I was able to get out of my comfort zone, traveling abroad alone forces you to become more outgoing and get out of your comfort zone. This is a skill I can use later in life that can help in almost any field. Overall, I am glad I took this experience and this trip is a memory that I will never forget.