

By Welcom'China



SURVIVAL GUIDE in France

For Chinese Exchange Students

*Based on the experience of
Our Previous Chinese Students*

August 2009

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Before the trip

Presentation of Paris

Paris is as you know the French capital; it is also the economic and commercial capital of France. It is also the commercial crossroad between land routes and fluvial ones...

Ok! Whatever! This guide won't talk about that aspect of Paris. The historical, geographical, economical, political... Paris won't be getting onto this guide. You can find this kind of information on website of your choice, in your own languages. So let's get into the REAL subject → Paris for international students...

In this guide we will present you some nice place to visit (sometimes free), nice place to eat, nice place to have fun... well nice place to enjoy your stay here in Paris.

First of all, here is a map of Paris, it will help you a lot to distinguish the different arrondissement and to locate some monuments...



Here is a link for a real map of Paris, where you can see everything:
<http://maps.google.fr/maps> you just have to enter Paris name and you'll get everything you want.

Presentation of School

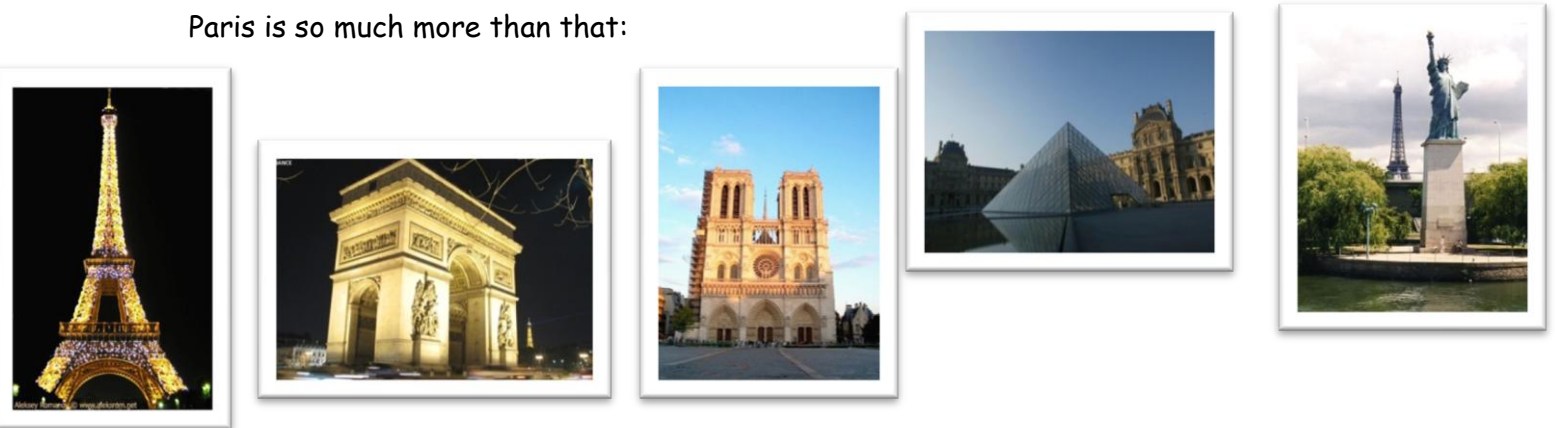
Advancia is located in the 17th district of Paris; it is very animated during days.



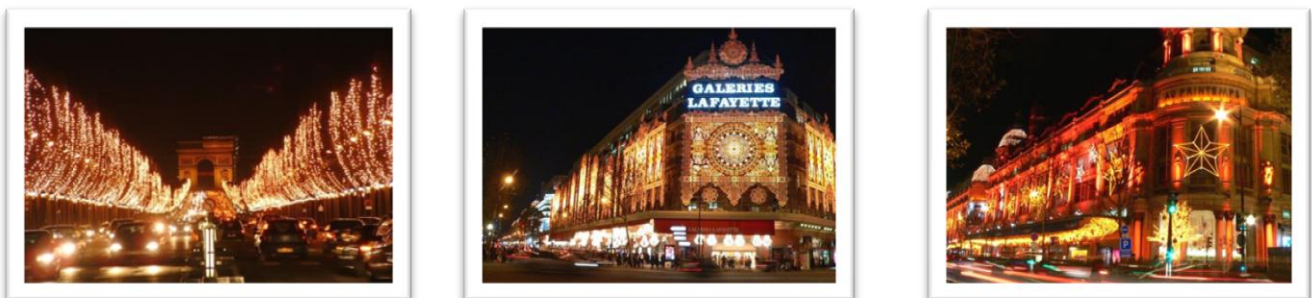
This district is well-known and famous thanks to "le Sacré Coeur" on "la Butte de Montmartre", for its typical old little streets, and also for its famous cabaret:



Paris is so much more than that:



It is also that: Paris in wintertime:



Paris in summertime:



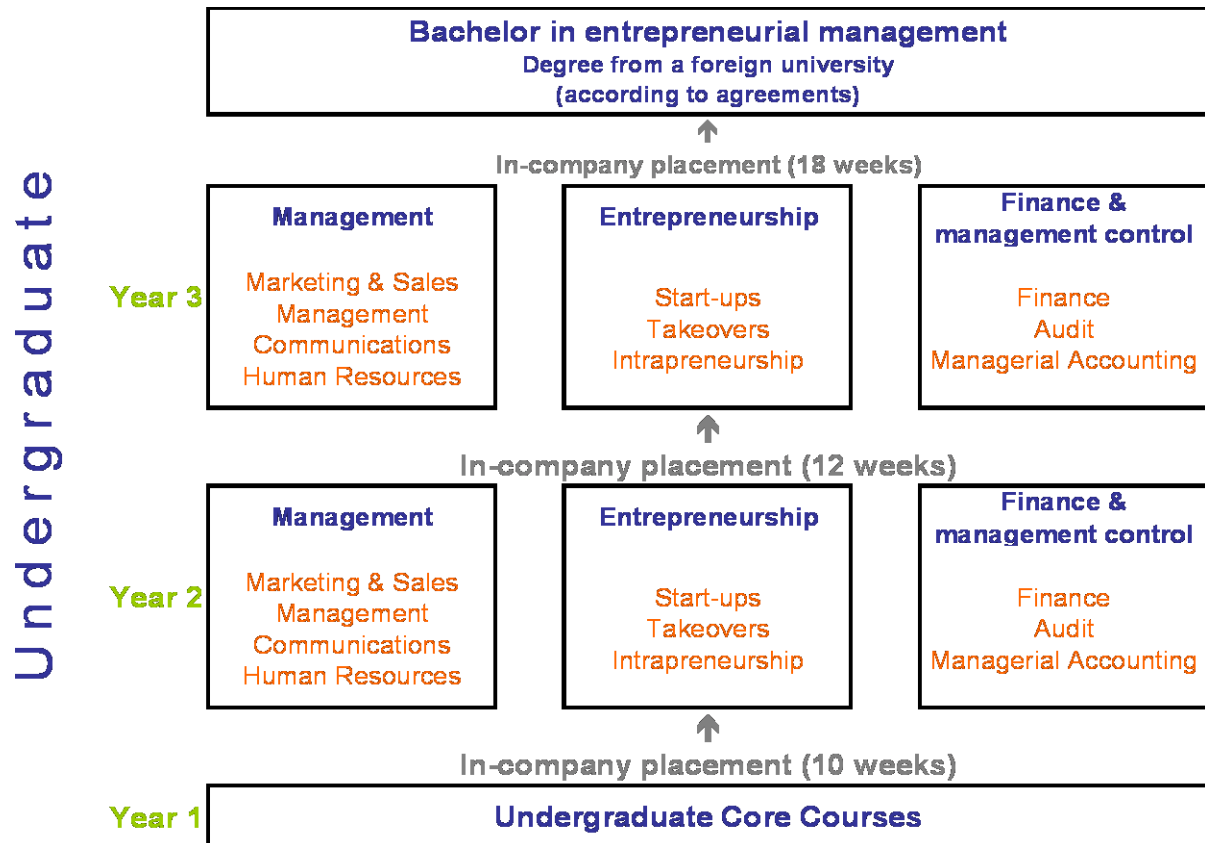
Advancia is a school of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP)

- Founded in 1863
- Devoted to entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship since 2003
- A Business School with three different centers :
 - The Entrepreneurial Management Center
 - The CPA/Chartered Accountant Center
 - The Assistant Manager Center
- 2 specific curricula are devoted to entrepreneurial education for students :
 - at the undergraduate level over 3 years :
BA in entrepreneurial management - "PME"
 - at the postgraduate level over 2 years :
Postgraduate Studies in Entrepreneurship - "PSE"
- The two programs are accredited by the French Ministry of Education

Advancia is also :

- 55 permanent professors
- 400 lecturers and company practitioners
- 1 200 undergraduate and postgraduate students
(including 600 part-time students)
- 4 000 adult learners in continuing education programs

- 3 000 alumni currently in business
- 3 000 companies with which Advancia has strong links



Preparing yourself

Now it's time for preparing the trip: suitcases, last information to take before the plane...

In order to help you putting the right clothes into your luggage, here are some average temperatures in Paris during 1 year.

Weather averages for Paris, France													[hide]
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	7 (45)	8 (47)	13 (55)	16 (60)	20 (68)	23 (74)	24 (76)	25 (77)	22 (71)	16 (61)	11 (51)	8 (46)	16 (61)
Average low °C (°F)	3 (38)	4 (40)	6 (43)	8 (46)	12 (53)	14 (58)	16 (61)	17 (62)	14 (57)	11 (51)	6 (43)	4 (40)	9 (49)
Precipitation mm (inches)	55 (2.17)	45 (1.77)	52 (2.05)	50 (1.97)	62 (2.44)	53 (2.09)	58 (2.28)	46 (1.81)	53 (2.09)	55 (2.17)	57 (2.24)	55 (2.17)	642 (25.28)
Sunshine hours	59	89	134	176	203	221	240	228	183	133	79	53	1,798
Source: MSN Weather ^[48] 2009-01-06													

Thanks to the previous students that were here last year, we have solutions to some of the problem that can happen, or the answer to some questions you are asking yourself.

- Some of the Chinese said it was very complex to get a visa. But they also told us they have so French guide from their home university to help them. It took them about 2 months to get it. So please contact your own university for any problem related to the visa. Thanks.
- If you have some doubt about what to put into your suitcase for the year, because you need it to be the lightest possible of course... Please told us and we can put you in relation with some previous exchange students, or try to contact the one who went in France for 1 year, in your home university. Perhaps it will be more practical for you. We were also told some Chinese students took a lots o things that weren't really necessary since they could buy them in China Town in the 13th district of Paris.
- About the accommodation in Paris, for each student it is their home university or teachers at Advancia who fixed the problem, around July or August, for their coming in September. So try to see directly with them before coming.
- About the journey itself, the arrival at Airport Charles de Gaulle. For each student also, the teacher responsible of the Chinese students, Mr Bure, was there waiting for them. He called the taxi for them and indicated the address to the driver. Someone was also waiting for them in their accommodation to explain everything.

Advices of the previous Chinese students

"Prepare for the internship earlier and learn French before."

"Learn French before coming can help integrate more quickly and make more friends. Be more open minded, and try to integrate by yourself, don't stay with Chinese all the time."

"Better French level is useful."

"Learn more French. One of the thing you must do: Walk along the river near the Eiffel tower in the evening!"

During the trip

Everyday life in Paris

First thing to do when you will arrive in Paris: grocery shopping! You have lots of shops in all arrondissement, such as: Monoprix, Ed, Franprix, Intermarché, Champion...



If you want to find some Chinese food you really need to go there: Frère Tang Hypermarkets, it's located in the 13th district (arrondissement) of Paris: The Chinese one, here is the complete address: 48, avenue Ivry 75013 Paris, Phone: 01 45 70 80 00.

Arrived in Paris, you'll also need to take public transportation. The previous exchange students told us that Advancia help them to get the Imagine R card, which is a card for transportation in Paris for students. It's a travel pass for student and young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years to travel in the Paris Ile-de-France region. It's valid for one year, and allows travel on public transport such as Metro, buses, or the RER. During the week, you can freely travel in the "zones" defined by your subscription; on weekends, national holidays and during the school holidays, the card "dézonée", authorize you to travel in all zones of the Paris Ile-de-France region. This card also allows you to claim various reductions on other services. For example: 10% discount in Citadium (clothes shop); Apple store Education (10% discount on some computers); Prices at "Le plan" a concert room; 20% discount on menus at Hippopotamus; discount for the "Palais de Tokyo" an art place (museum); discount in "La tête dans les nuages" an amusement arcade; 10% discount on Adidas shoes; Discount in Celio (men clothes); discount in McDonald's; discount in Movie Theater Gaumont et Pathé...

For the cost, just to give you an idea, if you take the Imagine R card just inside Paris it will be: (on the left it is for the year and on the right per month).

Zone 1 - 2	
Barème de référence	Par mensualité
295,70 E	31,96 E

Now here is the map of subway, RER:

- An interactive one: <http://www.ratp.info/orienter/cv/carteparis.php> its means you can make some itinerary just by clicking on your departure point and your arrival one. It will show you how to get there easily and the time you will take.

- A simple one:
http://www.ratp.info/orienter/f_plan.php?loc=reseaux&nompdf=metro&fm=pdf&lang=fr&partenaire=ratp that you can easily print.
- Here is the website in English of the company in charge of transportation in Paris: RATP → <http://www.ratp.info/touristes/index.php?langue=en>

One thing to know about Paris, I told it because some others international students told us it was surprising for them: SHOPS are closed on SUNDAY.

Another thing you must know is about the zip code of Paris: in order to find your way, pay attention to the zip code of each address: 75001 means it is located in the 1st district of Paris, 75014 in the 14th district of Paris...

The school

Compared to Chinese class (it's not a critic just a fact and it's better to know it now so you can adapt faster than without knowing) students told us:

French classes are: dynamics, small, interactive, many oral presentations, many group work, group discussion...

Things to do in Paris

Advancia will normally organize an afternoon in Paris for international students when you will arrive. Paris by foot: you will visit le Sacré Coeur, Montmartre, and some other place...

You can find some information on the city website in English:

http://www.paris.fr/portail/english/Portal.lut?page_id=8118

And here is a selection of things you must do. And sometimes it's free :D

- Le Louvre → The first Sunday of each month, it is free of charge. Here is the website in English (you can also chose Chinese I think) :
http://www.louvre.fr/llv/pratique/venir.jsp?CONTENT%3C%3Ecnt_id=10134198673232632&CURRENT_LL_V_FICHE_PRATIQUE%3C%3Ecnt_id=10134198673232632&FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=9852723696500898&bmLocale=en

Beat in mind that Le Louvre is a popular attraction, and lines on free day are predictably extra long.

Palais du Louvre
75001 Paris



- Le musée d'Orsay: greatest hits of Impressionism, housed in a former train station facing the Seine, free on first Sundays of the month.

Navigate the crowds to discover world-class paintings by Monet, Renoir, Pissaro, Sisley, Degas, Manet, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Seurat and Matisse.

<http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/home.html>

1 rue de la Légion d'honneur

75007 Paris

- Le Centre Pompidou: a gaudy architectural exclamation point designed to look like a building turned inside out, opened in 1977 and reopened later in 2000. Free on first Sundays of each month. It a huge collection of contemporary and modern art pieces.

<http://www.centrepompidou.fr/Pompidou/Accueil.nsf/Document/HomePage?OpenDocument&L=2>

Place George Pompidou

75004 Paris

- Free Fashion Shows at Galeries Lafayette's: On Fridays at 3 p.m. on the seventh floor of this department store, from March to December; discover a team of models flaunted the latest high-

couture trends during 30 minutes. Reservation

required (e-mail welcome@galeriesslafayette.com

tel: +33 [0]1 42 82 36 40)

40 boulevard Hausmann

75009 Paris

- Le Musée Fragonard: follow the lovely aroma of handcrafted perfume do a Napoleon III townhouse that houses this museum, which chronicles the tradition-steeped history of Fragonard, one of France-most famous perfumeries. Whether you're a perfume-lover or not, the free tour is worthwhile to see the ornate décor.

http://www.fragonard.com/parfums_grasse/FR/fragonard/paris/?noredirect=1

9 rue du Scribe

75009 Paris



- Musée Dapper: offers free admission on the final Wednesday of the Month. View Sub-Saharan African carved wooden masks in this museum and other art pieces from Africa.

<http://www.dapper.com.fr/en/index.php>

35 rue Paul Valéry

75016 Paris



- Musée National du Moyen Age : National Museum of Medieval Times. This museum is housed in two Parisian monuments: the Gallo-Roman Baths and the Gothic Cluny abbey.

<http://www.musee-moyenage.fr/ang/index.html>

6, place Paul Painlevé

75005 Paris



- Scaling the Eiffel Tower, Paris' most famous icon, has a price, but the view from below is spectacular in its own right and a perfect backdrop to a leisurely picnic in the surrounding grassy area, Champs de Mars. Be sure to visit the tower at night, during summer, when it sparkles every hour during 10 minutes.

<http://www.tour-eiffel.fr/teiffel/uk/index.html>



- Viewing Paris from a different point. The midsection from the Seine River, which divides the city into the Left and Right Banks. For true romance, slowly stroll the riverbank; for quickly souvenirs, browse the book stalls that line the Left Bank on street-level.
Le Pont Neuf



- Notre Dame Cathedral is the historic heart of Paris. All distances from Paris to elsewhere can be measured from the square in front of the basilica. Snap a photo of your feet planted on the plaque at point zero before entering the cathedral, the masterpiece of French Gothic architecture and one of the most-visited in Paris (no admission charged). Be sure to walk the perimeter to glimpse the flying buttresses that support the structure as well as the famous gargoyles. On each first Sunday from October to March, there's no fee charge to climb the 387 steps of the North



Tower. "Bon courage!"

<http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/-English->

6 Parvis Notre Dame

Place Jean-Paul II



- La Sainte-Chapelle, a masterpiece of Flamboyant Gothic architecture built by Saint Louis in the heart of the Palais de la Cité on the Ile de la Cité in Paris. Discover its unique stained glass windows rendering the air iridescent with light and color.

<http://sainte-chapelle.monuments-nationaux.fr/en/>

4 boulevard du Palais

75001 Paris



- Visit the Place du Tertre, in the shadow of the Sacré-cœur basilica, Montmartre's Place du Tertre square. It's a lively spectacle teeming with artists selling souvenir-ready artwork and drawing tourist's portraits.

Place du Tertre

75018



- Criss-cross the Seine River on all the bridges (wooden, metal and stone ones). It's a nice
- The Hotel de Ville, in the Marais district, worth the glance. It's just a nice place to see, and inside you can find some information about exhibits.

City Hall

29 rue de Rivoli

75004



- Promenade Plantée. It's a cool walk to do when it's sunny, it goes through the entire 12th district and is based on an ancient railway, it is a 4,5 km long elevated park .

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Promenade_plant%C3%A9e





- Located in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the domed Panthéon was commissioned as a church, but it was converted into a secular mausoleum dedicated to all the great men of the French liberation. Admissions are free on first

Sundays from October to March.

http://pantheon.monuments-nationaux.fr/en/?fl_r=4

Place du Panthéon

75005 Paris



- Parc de la Villette, it's a 35 hectare park, the largest open green space of the city. A lot of animations are organized in this park, especially during summer: open space Movie Theater...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parc_de_la_Villette

211 avenue Jean Jaurès

75019 Paris



- Père Lachaise Cemetery, the most famous cemetery of Paris, visit it and pass through the graveyard's celebrity residents, from Oscar Wilde's to Jim Morrison's.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P%C3%A8re_Lachaise_Cemetery

8 boulevard de Ménilmontant

16 rue du Repos

75020 PARIS



- Cool Events to do in group ^^ :

- Paris Rando Vélo: free Friday night bikes tours of the city, meeting at 9.30 p.m. in front of the Hotel de Ville. Each ride lasts from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. The group also hosts similar rides on the third Sunday of the month at 10.30 a.m.
- Paris Rando Roller: Friday Night Fever skates tours of the city, starting at 10 p.m. at Place Raoul Dautry (75015). The route for the 3 hour ride changes each week but is always 30 kilometres long.



- Carte Vélo à Paris: free copy of bicycling map of Paris at any tourism office. Now with the Velib' rental service, it's even more practical. You can find on the internet all the Velib' station.

<http://www.en.velib.paris.fr/>

- Seasonal events :

- Paris Plage: From July to August, sand is dumped onto the banks of the Seine River to create this summer atmosphere. A makeshift beach for lounging, picnicking and meeting other beachgoers is installed for the joy of everyone.

- Ice-skating rings are set up temporary at the Hotel de Ville and at the Gare Montparnasse each winter. (fee for skate rentals)

Things to do in France

- In the suburb of Paris

- Versailles Castle: Royal castle and a garden full of wonderful fountains.

<http://en.chateauversailles.fr/homepage>

Château de Versailles

Place d'Armes

78000 Paris

Access by Rer C stop: Versailles-Rive Gauche

- Fontainebleau castle: Royal castle and beautiful garden (free)

<http://en.chateaudefontainebleau.net/accueil-eng.php>

Château de Fontainebleau

77300 Fontainebleau

Access by SNCF train from Gare de Lyon to Avon, then bus from Avon to the center of Fontainebleau

- Fontainebleau Forest:

<http://www.uk.fontainebleau-tourisme.com/>



- Disneyland Paris attraction Park: located in Marne-la-Vallée, discover 2 entertaining parks: Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney Studio.

<http://www.disneylandparis.com/uk/>

Place des Passagers des Vents

77700 Chessy - Marne-la-Vallée

Access by RER A stop: Marne la Vallée



- Asterix attraction Park: it is based on French characters of a cartoon. There are a lot of sensational attractions (water ones so better to go during summer so you can dry with the sun :D), more than in Disneyland.

Unfortunately the website with all the information is only in French, and since the data are changing all the time please tries to have a French friend helping you.

Prices are from 25€ to 39€ (since there are also a lot of offers changing have a French friend helping you)

2 ways of getting there:

* By "private" bus from Asterix: from the metro station Palais Royal, access by the entrance of le Carroussel of the Louvre (rue de Rivoli) or by the Pyramid. Take the escalator located in Charles V Hall (near the shops).

Daily: departure at 8:30 a.m. and return at 06.30 p.m. (from the Park).

Price round-trip : 20€

* By RER: take the B3 line (blue one) till Aéroport Charles De Gaulle 1, then take navette Cif, bus Asterix in the bus station at quay A3

Departure every 30 minutes: from 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Price round-trip: 7,50€



- In all France

The South of France, with the Mediterranean Sea for spring and summer season with cities such as:

- Monaco: well ok, it's not really France, but it really worth the price.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monaco>

<http://www.visitmonaco.com/>

- Nice: the official website is in French, so have a look on it with a French friend of yours.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nice>

<http://www.nice.fr/>

- Cannes, famous for its movie festival and all the celebrities coming:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannes>

http://www.cannes.com/index.php?lang=en_EN

- Marseille

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marseille>

http://www.marseille.fr/sitevdm/jsp/site/Portal.jsp?page_id=687

- Nîmes, the official website of the city is also in French, you know what to do now...

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%C3%AEmes>

<http://www.nimes.fr/>

The West coast of France is also very nice to go during spring and summer; the Atlantic Ocean is more dynamic, with waves:

- Arcachon

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcachon>

http://www.arcachon.com/default.asp?langue=2&IDPAGE=1&part=tourisme&sX_Menu_selectedID=left_8020508A

- L'île d'Oléron

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ol%C3%A9ron>

<http://www.oleron-island.com/>

- Le Mont St Michel

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont_Saint-Michel

http://www.ot-montsaintmichel.com/accueil_gb.htm

Big cities to visit in France:

- Lyon

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyon>

<http://www.lyon.fr/vdl/sections/en/>

- Toulouse, the Pink city (the official website is in French :s)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toulouse>

<http://www.toulouse.fr/web/guest/accueil>

http://www.uk.toulouse-tourisme.com/accueil/index_en.php (unofficial but in English :D, even in Chinese :D)

- Nantes

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nantes>

<http://www.nantes-tourisme.com/en/index.htm>

- Strasbourg

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strasbourg>

<http://www.strasbourg.eu/en/index.htm>

<http://www.otstrasbourg.fr/?lang=en>

- Montpellier

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montpellier>

<http://www.ot-montpellier.fr/en/>

...

This list is not exhaustive; it is just a little preview of French culture.

I hope you'll find your happiness in it

Things to do in Europe

Since you'll be in France, why not having a look abroad, in Geographical European countries? You have plenty of choice:

- United Kingdom: Have a look at the Queen, at London, the famous guards, the London eye, Big Ben...
- Spain: the "Fiesta" country, enjoy yourself with the sun, the beautiful place to visit, the attraction park (Isla Magica and Port Aventura), the student nightlife...
- Germany: Admire the beautiful architecture, their beer culture, the beautiful places to walk...
- Finland, Sweden and Norway: Have a nice trip in Scandinavian countries.
- Belgium: Discover Brussels, its Cathedral, its folklore... and its delicious waffles!
- Luxembourg: Have a look at the wonderful streets, the beautiful buildings...
- Netherlands: Visit the extraordinary city of Amsterdam, its red quarter, its tulips, the well-known mills...
- Denmark: Discover Copenhagen with its huge number of bikes, its beautiful streets...
- The East Europe: discover this culture, these wonderful landscapes, its typical food...

After the trip

After your journey, even if it's for one semester or one year, you'll have to say goodbye. It can be sad only if you want to. In the opposite way, make that moment a really great souvenir of everything. Try to have a book with all your fiends writing some things in it about your staying, collect all your photos and good souvenirs to keep the greatest moment inside it. Or let your mark in Advancia by doing some special commission during

the year so that the school, the students and the administration will even more remember you.

The most important of all → make a farewell party! Try to organize it with your French friends and perhaps the administration of Advancia, with some teachers.

For the important things to do before your leaving:

- Registering your plane ticket
- Closing your bank account
- Giving back all your reports
- Trying to see your friends
- Making your suitcase
- Making your "goodbye" or "see you soon" to your friends (students from Advancia, roommates in your accommodation, teachers, administration, colleagues in the internship)
- Also make your goodbye to your place: before you leave make sure you'll stay at least for 15 minutes in your favorite place, and think about all you stay there. All the good moments, even the bad one. Make a little point in your head, so you'll be able to leave peacefully and begin again your previous life in your home country.

Last tip for you: the way back to the airport from Paris!

Take the RER B direction Aéroport (Airport) Charles de Gaulle, your plane will surely be on terminal 1, so you'll need to take the Shuffle. But for more information here is the website of the airport:

<http://www.easycdg.com/pages/indexpag.html>

Well now I hope all those information will help you during your stay!

I also hope that your semester or your year will be awesome!

Hope you'll find wonderful friendship, and discover a new culture!

ENJOY YOUR TRIP!



Laureen Kritter

Welcome to Paris

