

SAAS OUTDOOR & TRAVEL

FRANCE IN A BACKPACK

June 15-29, 2025

20-24 Current 10th & 11th Graders

Cost: \$8100

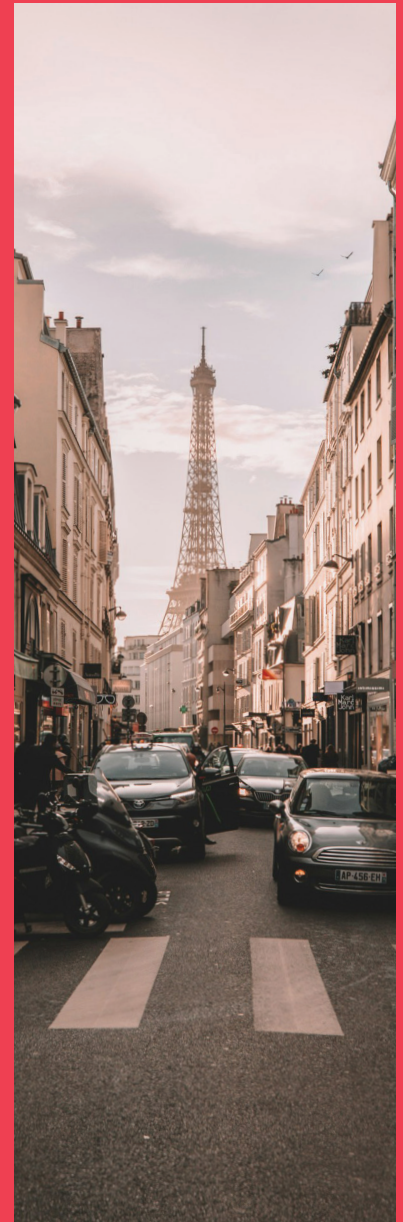
**TRIP LEADERS: Preston Albertine, Nicole Marvin,
Charlotte Horsey, Mickael Drouet**

The primary focus of the trip is to prepare students to be independent world travelers after they leave SAAS. We will rely almost entirely on public transportation as we explore France's three largest cities: Paris, Lyon, and Marseille. In order for this to be possible, students will be expected to pack light and leave the giant rolling suitcases at home—everything will go in a backpack. While not designed as a language-immersion trip, students will also have the chance to practice their French as they engage with locals and negotiate life in a foreign country.

Starting in Paris, the images that come to mind are typically those of the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the cafés of Montmartre, etc. While not overlooking these, we will also seek to broaden students' perspective on contemporary France. We will visit Versailles, of course, but also the Parisian neighborhood of Belleville, one of Fox News' infamous "No-Go Zones," which in reality is a vibrant neighborhood that has been populated by many different immigrant groups throughout the storied history of the city. We will also take time to appreciate the various artistic movements on display in the French capital.

From Paris, we will make our way south to Lyon, the capital of French cuisine. After spending the day learning to cook a traditional French dish such as ratatouille or boeuf bourguignon, we may decide to dine on French tacos, an immigrant-invented dish that, while only existing for the last 20 years or so, has already made its way to Capitol Hill. Then the next day we may visit Roman ruins of structures that were built 20 centuries ago.

Our tour ends in Marseille, France's oldest city and a major hub of Mediterranean trade and migration. We will climb the hill to visit La Cathédrale de Notre Dame de la Garde and wander the winding streets of the Panier, Marseille's oldest neighborhood now inhabited primarily by artists and artisans. We will take a day trip to the city of Arles, made famous by its connection to Vincent Van Gogh and gather our own impressions of Provence. We will also visit Marseille's islands and beaches to appreciate L'art de vivre on the Azure Coast.



Prerequisites:

Priority will be given to SAAS students in upper-level French classes.

Students will be expected to participate fully in a pre-trip curriculum that will include things like: how to feed yourself healthily, how to pack light, and how to move around safely and efficiently as a large group. Yes, we are going to make you do a complete pack check and then hike down to the Capitol Hill Light Rail Station just for the sake of practice!

A current passport is required.

Trip Goals:

This trip is primarily a cultural and historical experience. It will underline the ways in which the French Nation has evolved over the years and how it continues to change in the present day.

Students will have the opportunity to put their French skills to work as they order meals, and speak with the various guides, instructors, vendors we will meet along the way.

Students will engage in reflection each day (individual/group, verbal/visual) about their progress towards their goals for the trip, what they are seeing/feeling/learning, their wonders, and the transferability of their learning to their “real” lives.

It will also prepare students to be independent world travelers. One pre-departure meeting will be dedicated to teaching students how to safely move around on public transit, through airports, train stations, etc.



Contact Information:

For any further questions please email:

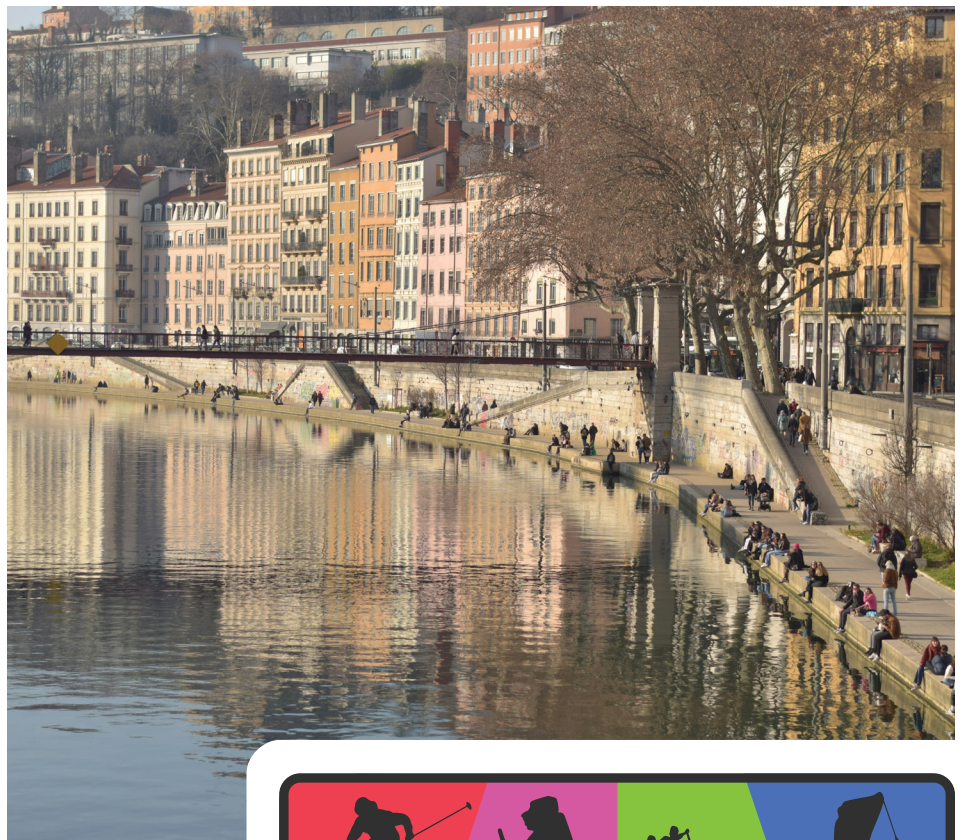
Preston Albertine

palbertine@seattleacademy.org

To register for the trip, complete any necessary trip surveys and find more information, please visit our SAAS trips page by following the link here:



www.seattleacademy.org/student-life/outdoortravel



Matt Edenfield

SAAS Outdoor & Trips Program Director

medenfield@seattleacademy.org

www.seattleacademy.org/student-life/outdoortravel

