

FRENCH IN FRANCE & AFRICA

March Edition 2023

Time Flies

When you stare down the barrel of a two month trip in another country, it can be daunting. Trying to learn a new language, make friends, navigate unknown streets, or order coffee without feeling a little silly is made much harder by the unfamiliarity of Parisian life. But learning how to wade

through an ocean of new experiences is part of the gig. Everything in life, eventually, will feel normal. We take our new sense of normal to the next place we go to, as we write new chapters and begin new journeys. Our time in Paris flew by, but that's not to say we didn't learn a lot!

Pictured below: Église Notre Dame de l'Espérance, where students attended guest-lead lectures and classes



Beyond Fruits and Vegetables

by Schuyler Dull

The Marché d'Aligre (pictured bottom left) is one of the historical open-air markets still active today. In the bustling rows of stands, you'll find all you need to cook a delicious meal. Take a walk through the fruit and vegetable stands and smell the ripe clementines from Spain, dates from Morocco, olives from Italy, and whatever else you dare to imagine.

Under a covered area, you can find any cut of meat you like, extravagant displays of sea food, and every type of cheese necessary to satisfy your inner Parisian. Towards the back of the market you'll

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find tables full of second-hand books, mostly in French, but once in a while you may find a hidden English gem. Walk further to explore stands with antiques, clothes, and jewelry. Truly, the market has it all.

While market-goers look like your everyday Parisians, striking up conversations with folks proves to be a treat in itself. You'll meet people from all over the world, going about their days buying their daily bread. Next time you find yourself in Paris, the Marché d'Aligre is a must-see!

Photo by Sara Barrish



Sunny Dispositions in the South of France

by Sadie Halvorsen

One of the greatest things about living in Paris? Leaving! In all seriousness, the Provence region of France is one of my favorite places I visited. I spent one weekend with some friends, and right away we noticed a few differences between Paris and southern France. People in the south are generally more friendly and open, smiling and saying “bonjour” to strangers on the sidewalk.

We went to the Saturday market in Arles (pictured above), which is amazing, by



Photo by Schuyler Dull

the way, and had a wonderful conversation with one of the vendors. Even after finding out that we were from the U.S., she didn't switch to English, which was refreshing. She talked to us about her artwork in French, and even showed us a photo of her working in her studio.

I also took a weekend trip to Montpellier to see some family friends. It could be the February sunshine, or the food, or even the calming small-town atmosphere, but it felt very different from Paris. I also learned that Montpellier doesn't plan on catering to tourists any time soon. So, if you plan on going, make sure to learn some French!

Finding Community on the Court

by Kevin Ruiz

Away from the tourists, along the Canal Saint-Martin, you will find the court of Jemmapes. Each day I visited, I'd see the same people playing 3 on 3 basketball, having a fun time and sharing laughs.

Finding this court as I was taking a stroll down my neighborhood elevated the rest

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of my time in Paris and helped me find a sense of community among locals. Interacting with them and learning about their daily lives was a great way for me to continue improving my French, but more than that, I got to know Paris from within.

On my last day in the city, I showed up to the court and found Junior, an open and kind regular, cleaning up the currently empty court (which was rarely void of people). When I asked him why he was cleaning, he said, “nous nettoions ce terrain comme si c’était notre maison” which translates to “we clean this court as if it were our home.” This brief interaction made me understand the value of these special community spaces, and the importance of caring for them.

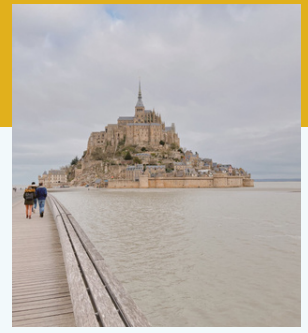
Honestly, a Review of Paris Fashion

by Evelyn Rouse

Paris, the infamous city of fashion, home to many designer brands the world has come to know and love. It is QUITE different than Seattle, but that was to be expected. For one, Parisians treat scarves like they’re a religious artifact—if you aren’t wearing a scarf, it’s very telling that you are not French. Another fashion staple: petticoats that reach your ankles with a chin-high turtleneck underneath. You would never ever go to the grocery store in sweatpants (how dare you?!), you’d get looks like you’d just punched an elderly woman.

Some practicality: Parisians don’t wear anything name brand because it makes you more susceptible to pickpocketing. Oh, and it’s not classy. And skinny jeans? If you’re a man and you’re not wearing skinny jeans, then you are WRONG! (And the tighter the better, I guess.)

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Photos by Sara Barrish

Bonjour, Yves Bourdaud



Yves Bourdaud is a practicing storyteller. Bourdaud, born and raised in the countryside between Redon and La Mée in Western France, tells folk stories in Gallo, making accessible one of the main regional languages of the Province of Bretagne (Brittany). Utilizing rich imagery, warm sounds, and excellent comedic timing, Yves paints a fantastic and often humorous world. He has been awarded numerous prizes for his work, including first place prize for Gallo storytelling at Kan ar Bobl, a Breton musical festival, and the Paul Sébillot prize at the Estourniales festival in the town of Liffré. He has led traditional storytelling workshops for children, and participated in the recording of two programs, *Écoutons ... les oiseaux* (Let’s listen to ... the birds) for Radio France. Yves continues to tell stories, and is a collector of words, proverbs, tall tales and traditional expressions that reflect and preserve the important oral heritage of the region.

Honestly, I find it boring compared to the styles in Seattle. There you would find someone wearing the most atrocious outfit and yet it somehow still works! Every time I'm on the metro, I feel like I am surrounded by European NPCs... So, my take on it all? I love the simple elegance of Parisian style, but they must spice it up!

Photo by Hannah Sutherland



Artistic Breakthroughs

by Hannah Sutherland

As an artist currently living in one of the most lively, multi-cultured cities in the world, I've been struggling to document Paris in a new and profound light. Home to some of the most beautiful streets, museums, and cafes, Paris is a photographer's dream. At first, my desire to photograph Paris and all her glory became a daunting task.

As many artists may relate, I put too much pressure on myself and fell victim to a kind of "artist's block." It wasn't until I spoke to a good friend of mine (where they called me out, fully and painfully), that I realized I was chasing the fantasy of

Pictured below (top to bottom): Evelyn at the Dior Museum in Paris, and statues of the Popes at the Palais des Papes in Avignon, Southern France



Photo by Sara Barrish

a perfect series, rather than just documenting the things in every day life that I simply found beautiful or interesting. They said to me, "Just go out and shoot."

Although the city itself is lovely, it's the people that I like to take photos of. People and their stories continues to drive my work. My photography in Paris has focused on the evidence of human existence: cigarette butts, bicycles, cracks in buildings. My time in this city has inspired me to go out and explore, bravely, unknowingly, openly, through a new lens.

Moments from Students

Pictured Below (top to bottom): Graffitied "street sign, reads: Loitering or sitting on the porch is prohibited (*or else I big slap!*)", and the top of the Sacre Coeur

Pictured Right (top to bottom): The streets of Paris at night, a view from inside the clock at the Orsay Museum, and a photo of a chapel from the rooftops of the Palace of the Popes in Avignon, Southern France



Photo by Hannah Sutherland



Photo by Lourenzo Monteiro-Clewell



Photo by Schuyler Dull



Photo by Hannah Sutherland



Photo by Sara Barrish



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