THE COMPANION GUIDE TO LYON

everything you need to know about going there this summer

SUMMER IN LYON PROGRAM
LSU PAUL M. HEBERT LAW CENTER
The Companion Guide is a how-to handbook to help you figure out how to prepare for this summer every step of the way. Please consult the other resources available at our website: http://sites.law.lsu.edu/lyonprogram. You can also contact lyonprogram@law.lsu.edu with any questions.

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making the decision to go

⇒ You’re going to have to weigh the benefits and disadvantages. There are lots of factors to keep in mind: jobs, academics, spouses and family, costs, etc.
⇒ But remember, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. It’ll be one of the last chances you have to enjoy Europe with a big group of your friends.
⇒ Plus, you’ll never stop hearing stories about European adventures when everyone else comes back.

group think

⇒ It’s always more fun to travel with other people. Get a group together and come up with places to go, ideas for weekends, etc. It’s easier to research plan with more people.
⇒ Change it up a little bit. It’s not a good idea to plan to spend your entire summer with the same small group day and night. Plus, part of the fun is getting to know people you’ve never met in your class.

advice

⇒ As with all law school advice, there will be varying opinions out there. People did different things and had different experiences in past years.
⇒ Listen and seek out advice from past students because they’ve done it before. Then figure out what suits you. You may want to do your trip a little differently.

PASSPORTS

you need one

⇒ If you already have a passport, check to see that it still valid at least through the end of the summer.
⇒ If you don’t have one, you’ll have to apply for a passport. Please consult the State Department website for up to date information on the process: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.
⇒ Generally, it takes 4-6 weeks for a passport to be issued. Expedited service is available within 3 weeks. You should get your passport ASAP.

required documents

⇒ Application for passport (D-11)- The application can be downloaded online or filled out at the appropriate location. Do not sign it until an officer instructs you to.
⇒ Proof of US citizenship- such as a previous passport, naturalization certificate, or birth certificate.
Two passport photos- Several pharmacies and photo shops offer this service. Check the website for the very specific requirements.

Application fee- As of early 2010, the fee is $100. Check with the specific locations for the accepted methods of payment.

Identification- ex. previous passport, driver’s license, or government / military ID

where to get one

Some locations require an appointment, so please call for availability.

- Baton Rouge Post Office- 8101 Bluebonnet Blvd., (225) 763-3696
- Downtown Station Main Office- 750 Florida St., (225)381-0325
- East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court- 222 St Louis St., (225) 389-3960
- EBR Parish Clerk of Court- 10500 Coursey Blvd, Ste. 200, (225) 293-2933
- USPS University Station- 110 LSU Union, (225)387-3906
- Woodlawn Station- 4700 Millwood Dr., (225) 752-7418

FLIGHTS

start looking

- Generally, the sooner you book, the cheaper it is. As the busy summer travel season gets closer, prices skyrocket. Fares change fast.
- To get the best deal, you have to put in the work. Get a group together and look at different websites. Look at the actual airline sites for deals, not just the major travel sites.
- Several sites offer travel alerts. If you start looking early enough, you will get notifications about special deals coming up.
- Experiment- While you’re on the sites, try changing the configurations to see how it affects prices. Add or take away stops and layovers. A direct flight can be cheaper than multiple flights, or vice-versa.
- Also, consider changing the flight destination to nearby cities. For example, if you’re flying to Lyon, try seeing if it would be more affordable to fly into Geneva and take the train to Lyon instead.

suggested websites

- Kayak.com
- Priceline.com
- Travelocity.com
- Statravel.com
- Orbitz.com
- Expedia.com
- Smartertravel.com
- Farecast.com
- Hotwire.com
- Ultimatefares.com
- Cheaptickets.com

be careful with cheap carriers

- You may have heard of Ryanair or other similar budget air carriers. The tickets are ultra-cheap (sometimes as low as a couple of Euros) and many students use them to travel around Europe.
- Remember to read the fine print because there are many other fees and procedures. Know what you’re getting into!
- The flights often go to smaller regional airports farther from the destination you’re trying to get to. You will have to arrange travel to the main city.
- This may be a good option for weekend travel when you just have light baggage, but probably not so good of a deal when travelling before or after Lyon with all of your bags.
travel by rail

- The rail system in Europe is a good way to travel within France and from country to country.
- The Eurail pass is optional and you should evaluate your travel plans to see if it’s right for you.
- People have mixed opinions on the Eurail pass: some think it’s a great deal, others find that it’s a headache that isn’t much of a value.
- To decide if the rail pass is good for you, think about how much travelling you want to do. Do some research to get a rough idea of how much full priced tickets would cost versus the cost of the pass.

misconceptions

- Many people have the wrong idea about the Eurail pass. The way that it works is rather complicated and it’s really more like a discount card.
- The pass isn’t a ticket. For most of the trains you’ll be using, you will have to make a reservation to have a seat on the train. There are a very limited number of seats per train allotted for all Eurail pass holders.
- There are a few trains that don’t require reservations, but they have limited regional routes.
- Fees - There is a fee for making reservations. The amount depends on the trip, but the most popular destinations have higher fees.
- Eurail doesn’t run the rail system. Every country has its own separate national rail agency. You will be dealing with these agents to book all your reservations and make your plans.

buying

- The Eurail pass can only be purchased in the US, so you must do this before you leave. You can get one through a travel agency, or online at www.eurail.com. They usually FedEx the pass, so remember to do it on time.
- There are several plans with different costs. The plans and their costs are based on: the time the pass is valid for, the number of travel days allowed within that time, the number of countries you’re allowed to use the pass in, and whether you buy a 1st or 2nd class seat.

HOUSING

help!

- Students are responsible for making their own accommodations for the summer, but there are plenty of resources to help. You can also contact lyonprogram@law.lsu.edu for more information and help with your search.
- Talk to students who went in past years for tips. You may even be able to get their old apartments.

know the city

- Lyon is a big city, but it doesn’t seem that way once you’re there. You’ll mainly stay in one part of the city. Get acquainted with Lyon ahead of time.
Look at a map of the city and find the two rivers that go through it, the Rhône and the Saône. You can roughly divide the city into three parts with the rivers.

- Vieux Lyon- This is the historic old quarter located to the left of the Saône.
- Presqu’île- The part located on the peninsula between the rivers.
- Part-Dieu- This is the newer part of the city located to the right of the Rhône.

**location, location**

- Most students in the past have stayed close to the school and near the rivers. You won’t want to go too far from this area.
- The Lyon public transportation system is very good and will take you everywhere you need to go. Ideally, you’ll want to live near a stop. It depends on where you’re going, but most students will use the tram most often. The metro is used less often, and you’ll rarely use the buses.
- Living in certain areas of the city will give you the feeling of ordinary life in France. You will pass quaint French stores, tasty French bakeries, old buildings, people carrying baguettes, crepe stands, etc.
- You don’t want to be late for school. Consider that you’ll be walking there, so try to find somewhere close.
- Also, consider getting home from your nighttime fun. Public transportation doesn’t run too late, so you’ll probably be walking. There’s nightlife all over the city, but students generally prefer the bars in Vieux Lyon.
- Cost- The farther you go from the Presqu’île, the cheaper the housing gets. Look around so you can balance costs and convenience. Also, the housing in Vieux Lyon is typically more pricy, but it may be worth it to you.
- Lyon is easy to get around and largely flat. The big exception to this is Vieux Lyon, which extends sharply onto Fourvière Hill. Many apartments in this part of town are located on streets closed off to traffic because of their steepness. Some of these streets aren’t streets at all, they’re long flights of steps. This is quaint for strolling through and sightseeing, but it may present problems with luggage. However, you can’t beat the view from these areas.

** european living**

- The French live differently than Americans. It’s charming, but… different. Here’s what to expect and ask about.
- Air conditioning- Most homes simply don’t have an a/c, and really, only bigger chain stores are air-conditioned. This takes some adjusting to, but it’s usually not too big of an issue. The temperature varies, and some mornings and nights can be surprisingly chilly. A few days do get miserable and hot though. Solutions are open up the windows (living by the rivers helps tremendously) and buying fans in Lyon.
- Internet- The school will have wireless access, but you will probably want it at home. You should ask to see if your accommodations have internet access. You might have internet access, but not wireless. Consider buying a wireless router there (cheap when the cost is split between roommates) so that you don’t have to take turns using one cord.
- Washer- Find out if your accommodation comes with a washing machine. If not, try to find out if there’s a nearby laundry. The French generally do not use clothes dryers. They do it the old-fashioned way: air-drying on clotheslines and racks.
- Linens and stuff- You might want to see if your accommodation will change out your sheets and towels and provide new ones for you. Also, many places will do some light cleaning once a week.
- Kitchen- Remember you’ll be living in Lyon for about six weeks. You’ll probably want to do some eating at home even if you’re not a top chef. Eating out all the time definitely starts to add up. Ask about basics like pots, pans, microwaves, coffee makers, etc.
suggested sites

- Hotel la Residence- www.hotel-la-residence.com
- Appart’City- www.appartcity.com
- Craigslist- http://lyon.en.craigslist.org
- Chambres Lyon- www.chambreslyon.com
- Lyoncampus- www.lyoncampus.org/pagesanglais/vivre.htm
- Clévances- http://www.clevacances.com

FINANCES

costs

- This truly varies from person to person. It really depends on your spending and the extent of your travelling. Also, the euro-dollar exchange rates affect this.
- Planning ahead, doing things early, keeping to a budget, and shopping around are the best ways to reduce costs.
- Depending on what you do, expect to budget from $8,000 to $15,000.

financial aid

- Financial aid for the summer is awarded as part of your 2L year. This means that your yearly award will be divided into three parts equally for the summer, fall, and spring.
- Please check with the LSU Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Student Aid for information on deadlines, disbursement dates, and award amounts.

debit and credit

- Ask your bank or credit card company if they charge a fee for foreign transactions. If they do, consider opening up a new account with someone that doesn’t charge this fee.
- American cards work in Europe, but there will be a fee for using another bank’s ATM. Some banks have agreements with foreign banks, so you may be able to avoid this fee if you use these ATMs. Check with your bank.
- Also, European cards have a chip embedded in them American cards don’t have. You may find that some places and machines require the chip, but it shouldn’t be too much of a problem.

notify

- Make sure you tell your bank and credit card company that you will be travelling and using your debit or credit cards.
- Most institutions require you to fill out a form listing dates you will be out of the country and what countries you will be travelling to.
- Don’t forget to do this or they will deny your transaction or even prevent you from using your card anywhere.

what you should bring
The most convenient way to handle money in France is by a debit or credit card. You will frequently need cash, but you can make withdrawals at the many ATMs located around Lyon and Europe.

Traveler’s checks- This is up to you, but remember it may not be necessary if you will be using your debit card. Remember that the exchange rate that is applied is the rate on the day you cash them in. Also, the change bureaus often charge service fees, and a lot simply take a percentage of the exchanged amount.

Euros- You may want to pre-order some Euros before you leave the US. Many banks offer this service. Check with your bank for details, as you usually have to pre-order them a week in advance. These come in handy so you don’t have to worry about trying to exchange money while you’re travelling to Lyon.

over packing

Most students will over-pack, but keep some things in mind…

Fees- Over-packaging will cost you. A lot. Airline fees are steep: they charge a fixed amount per pound that your luggage is over the limit. The allowed weight for international flights is surprisingly low, and it is even lower for domestic flights.

Multiple flights- The fees vary by airlines. Most of you will be taking multiple flights to and from Lyon. Remember that if you over-pack, you will pay the weight fees every time you get on a different flight.

Convenience- European cities are different from American ones. Consider that you will probably have all of your luggage until you get to Lyon and after you leave. Imagine carrying multiple over-packed bags on public transportation, trains, and on rustic European streets.

Picture it- On that same note, think about the actual bags that you are bringing. See if that giant camping backpack or oversized duffle is comfortable once it’s packed full of stuff. Imagine yourself holding every piece at once.

Now imagine running down a platform while your train leaves. Imagine hurling those bags onto the overhead luggage racks. Also, remember your travelling buddies have the same problems with their luggage, so nobody’s going to help you carry all of your stuff.

This isn’t an exaggeration- it happens. A lot.

how to pack

One bag- This seems unreasonable and not everyone will do it. The ones that do will be happy they did though. Pick one large rolling suitcase to check in and one carry-on book sack. That’s it.

Duffel- A nice idea for weekend travelling is to pack an empty folded duffel bag in your suitcase. You could also use it as a last resort to bring extra things back with you on your return to America.

Folding- Try rolling your clothes tightly, instead of folding them. It saves space and keeps most things less creased than folding would. Be neat about your packing for best results.

Forgetting- A lot of people feel like they will forget things or need extra of something. It’s hard to anticipate what you will need, especially if you haven’t traveled before. Try making a list or just notice what you use in your daily routine and make sure to include that. Don’t worry too much though: you can find anything you need in France.

After you think you’re done- Close the suitcase and forget about it. Then come back and re-evaluate it later. See if anything really isn’t necessary and take some things out.
leave some room

➤ You’ll want to leave some space in your luggage…
➤ Les soldes- Believe it or not, the French government requires that certain retail stores have two annual sales: one in the winter and one in the summer. In 2011, the summer sales, called “les soldes,” will last from June 29 to August 2. The sales start low and increase dramatically every week until it’s all gone. You will probably do major shopping, so leave room in your bag to bring stuff home.
➤ Souvenirs- You’ll want to leave room for these, even if they’re just for you.

clothes

➤ You should generally know what you will need, but consider these things…
➤ Temperature- Check the temperatures of all of your travel destinations. In Lyon, summers are warm and often pleasant. Very few days will be uncomfortably hot. Some mornings and nights will even be a little chilly. Bring one or two light jackets or sweaters. Sundresses are popular with the ladies. Shorts and tee shirts are normal for the guys.
➤ Comfort- You will be travelling and doing a lot more daily walking than you do in Baton Rouge. Dress for comfort, especially shoes. You don’t want to slow everyone down.
➤ Activity- Where are you going on your travels? Do you need a swimsuit? Will you be doing a little hiking? You don’t have to bring special gear for a weekend in Interlaken, but you might want to bring appropriate clothes for the activities.
➤ Laundering- You should be doing laundry a little more since you’ll be travelling and sweating a lot (and bringing one bag, right?). Bring durable, washable clothes. French washing machines are half the size of American ones, and they don’t believe in dryers. Your clothes will be rather stiff after air-drying, but loosen up once you put it on.
➤ You might go out in the evening hours from time to time. You will probably want to try a nicer restaurant that offers the famous French cuisine. And, don’t forget, there will be a reception for students and faculty the first week of school. For the ladies, a couple of nicer dresses and a pair of heels. For the guys, a nice button up, slacks, maybe a tie, and don’t forget actual shoes, not just flip-flops.

booksack

➤ You do remember you’ll be in school, right?
➤ Laptop- The law student’s favorite school accessory. It’s a good idea to bring this because it will be your main contact with everyone. Download Skype if you don’t already have it for calls home and to your friends in Lyon. The school doesn’t have many plugs, so you’ll only use computers in class if your battery lasts for a while. For exams, the professors let you spread out and provide some extension cords, so don’t worry.
➤ Stick an umbrella in your bag. Don’t get caught on the street in a storm without one. Remember you’ll be doing a lot of walking.
➤ Bring your school supplies from home. French school supplies are different from the ones you’re used to. It’s not a big deal if you forget; the French products aren’t that weird.
➤ The textbooks will be shipped for you and you will get them the first week of school. Don’t worry about this.

toiletries

➤ Prescriptions- It’s important to bring enough for the whole trip. It’s also a good idea to bring a copy of your prescriptions for emergencies. Pharmacists in France are extremely knowledgeable and sometimes better than going to a doctor.
➤ Basic meds- You may want to bring a basic first aid kit to keep around the house or while travelling. Maybe throw in some aspirin, Pepto, and other over the counter medicines.
🍃 Eyewear- Bring an extra pair of glasses and contact lenses, and know these prescriptions too. Don’t forget the accessories: solution, cases, etc.
🍃 Consider bringing hand sanitizer even if you don’t have a germ phobia. Just think of all that public transportation- you’ll be in close contact with new, exciting people with new, exciting germs.
🍃 Hair electronics- Most girls bring their flat irons, but you might want to cut it off at that and buy a French hairdryer. Also, you could plan ahead to share with your roommates.
🍃 Others- Think about “your brands” and which ones you absolutely need. Bring enough of that stuff for the whole trip. Consider bringing a travel size of everything else and just buying more in France. They do have many American brands, or you could try the fun French products.

miscellaneous
🍃 Entertainment- You should definitely try out French TV and radio for cultural immersion. But you may not understand what’s going on, so you might bring your own CDs, DVDs, iPods, etc. Be aware that if you buy DVDs in France, they don’t normally work in American players and laptops.
🍃 Cameras- Document your fun and take lots of candids of your classmates.
🍃 Lock- You may want a small lock for your luggage. You may end up having to use train station lockers so you don’t have to carry around luggage.
🍃 Converters/adapters- The difference is somewhat confusing and the packaging is similar and misleading. European power outlets put out different voltage than American outlets. An adapter doesn’t change the power; it only allows you to plug your device into the wall. A converter is needed when you need to convert the French power to fit your US device, like computers, chargers, and flat irons. They are usually sold in sets so that you can use them all over Europe. Different countries have different plugs. Ask students that have gone in the past for their old ones to save a few bucks.
🍃 Phone- In the past, most students didn’t have cell phones. It requires a little more planning, but you get used to it (and better at it). Check with your cell phone company to see if your phone will work in Europe. You can also buy inexpensive phones and plans in Europe. Otherwise, download Skype and use your laptop as your phone.
🍃 Travel guide- These often come in handy. The Lonely Planet series is especially helpful and suggests many neat things to do, not just the usual museum and church tours that many guides feature.
🍃 Dictionary- You probably want a pocket size phrase book at least to help you with the basics in French.
arriving

travelling
- Make sure to have your tickets, passport, and cash available at all times while travelling.
- Once you land, be prepared to go through customs and cooperate fully with them.
- Keep an eye on your bags at all times and never leave them unattended.

by air
- If you fly into Lyon, the airport that services the city is the Lyon Saint-Exupéry Airport. It is located outside the city, so you’ll have to arrange transportation into the city.
- Taxis are available, as well as a thirty-minute bus shuttle from the airport to Lyon’s main train station, Part-Dieu. The bus leaves at regular intervals throughout the day. Consult the shuttle website for schedules and fares: http://www.satobus.com/welcome.html.

by train
- If you are taking a train into Lyon, you will arrive at either of the two train stations in the city, Part-Dieu and Perrache.
- All trains stop at Part-Dieu and some continue on to Perrache. Check to see if your train goes to Perrache, if it’s closer to where you live.
- At both stations, you can catch a taxi, buses, the metro, and a tram to where you need to go.

getting around

mind your manners
- You have to realize that the French do almost everything differently than what you’re probably used to. Remember that you are a guest in France, and the best way to get around is to do things the French way.
- Even though the French might not seem like the warmest people to strangers, politeness is a much bigger deal to them. If they consider you rude, they get aggravated very quickly and might even just ignore you.
- When you enter a store or restaurant always say hello (bonjour) to the person at the front with a polite smile. When you leave say a simple thank you, goodbye (merci, au revoir) on the way out.
Similarly, always say please (s’il vous plait) and thank you (merci) when asking for something or someone hands you something.

Generally, French people expect you to attempt to speak a few words of their language. In the bigger cities like Lyon, most people speak English and once they hear you try out a few French phrases, they’ll help you out with whatever you need.

Remember most French people speak better English than you speak French. It’s easy to forget when you’re talking with your friends that they can in fact understand what you’re saying.

Watch your volume, especially when you’re travelling in groups. The French aren’t loud people and tend to look down on loud Americans.

Just remember to be as polite as possible because there’s a heavier emphasis on social manners in France. Don’t complete the stereotypes of American tourists.

### Public Transportation

Lyon has a very good public transportation system run by TCL. It has several metro and tramlines and many more buses that go all over the city. There are also two funiculars that take passengers up and down Fourvière Hill in Vieux Lyon.

Tickets can be purchased from automated machines at most stops, from train stations, TCL offices all over the city, and at virtually every tobacco shop (tabacs). The automated machines have menus for English speakers and sell ticket options that are valid for different amounts of time.

Individual tickets are good for up to one hour for one trip, one way. Look for the stamping machines onboard because you have to validate the pass or ticket when you enter the transport.

The system depends on the honor system for its passengers, and it may be tempting to cheat the system. Apart from getting looks from angry French people, you may also be caught by the TCL employees that make checks at random. If you are caught without a valid ticket, you will incur a heavy fine.

For more information, including maps, timetables, and other information, contact TCL via telephone 04.78.71.00 or online at www.tcl.fr.

### Stores

- **FNAC** - This is roughly the equivalent of a Best Buy with plenty of music and electronics available. It also strangely branches into other areas, including being a travel agency and selling tickets for concerts in the city. It’s located just above Place Bellecour on Rue de la République.

- **Carrefour** - Students refer to this as the “French Wal-Mart” because of its relative cheapness and variety of products. You can find school supplies, get new toiletries, replace a broken camera, and buy groceries. It’s in the large mall, the Centre Commercial Part-Dieu, right across from the main train station.

- **Groceries** - Chain grocery stores are catching on in France and they work mostly like the ones you’re used to in the US. One big difference is that when you bag your produce you have to weigh and label your produce yourself. Also, you have to request and pay for plastic bags when you check out to bag your groceries. Consider buying the reusable...
bags available in every grocery. Remember you do your own bagging, so don’t hold up the line.

**take advantage!**

- Just like everything in else in law school, things go by faster than you think. Take advantage of this opportunity and have fun.
- Many people look forward to doing things during weekend trips, but don’t realize there’s stuff to do in Lyon. Remember you’ll be living in France, so try living like the locals and try doing French things!

**the obvious**

- **Sightseeing** - There’s a lot to see in Lyon and so there’s a whole other section called SEE, located below, that details sights and tours. Also, consult the Lyon Tourism Office for very helpful information. It’s centrally located in Place Bellecour and on the web at [http://www.en.lyon-france.com](http://www.en.lyon-france.com).
- **Dining out** - Lyon is the considered the food capital of France. See the EAT section below for more.
- **Group dinners** - Eating out is fun and all, but it can get expensive fast. A good way to save money is to have group dinners, actually easier and more fun than you’d think. There are always people who like to show off their cooking ability.
- **Nightlife** - Europe isn’t all clubbing to techno music. Do some exploring because there are many areas and places people never go out to. The Smoking Dog, Irish Corner, The Beers, and St. James Pub are some bars that are American friendly, speak English, and were popular with LSU Law students in past years.
- **Shop** - If you’re interested and can afford it, there’s a lot of shopping to do in Lyon, especially on the Presqu’île. Even if your budget doesn’t allow for a shopping spree, you might like to look around. Look for higher end shopping and big names around Rue de la République. For local stores and antiques, go down Rue Victor Hugo and its side streets. The Centre Commercial La Part-Dieu is an American-style mall with several stories of stores and restaurants located near the main train station.

**a little different**

- **Wine by the river** - On summer nights, crowds go out to the east bank of the Rhône, not far from school. People of all ages and backgrounds sit on the steps and watch the sunset over the river. Grab a bottle of wine, a corkscrew, and some plastic cups from the corner store on your way there.
- **Movies** - This is something you can do in America, but it’s still interesting to see the French take on it. For example, instead of selling overpriced boxes of candy, they have a whole self-service candy section so you can choose which overpriced candies to put into your custom bag. Unless you’re fluent in French, look for un-dubbed movies in English.
Stay for a weekend- There’s so much to do in Lyon and it’s completely different than during the week. Consider staying in town for a weekend, especially if you need a break from all that travelling. You can also take a few day trips to nearby towns.

Swim- There’s a public pool very close to the school. You might try it out and do some swimming or laying out on a hot afternoon. Apparently, boys must wear Speedos not swim trunks.

random events

Keep your eyes open when you’re walking around town. There are a lot of cool little events that will pop up. Usually, large groups of flyers go up all over the city right before. Maybe you’ll find something you’re interested in. Sometimes on Saturdays, there are street markets, old book sales, and flea markets.

Nuits de Fourvière- These are a series of concerts, theater, movie, and dance performances on certain summer nights on the Fourvière Hill. You’ll literally be sitting under the stars in an ancient amphitheater. The selection of bands and artists is surprising. Look for posters or check out the website: http://www.nuitsdefourviere.fr/.

White Night- This is a European tradition that’s even spread to Baton Rouge. Basically, certain stores and museums stay open into the night, offer specials, and sometimes wine. On this night, literally everyone is out on the street- families, teens, even old folks.

Fête de la Musique- Usually, it’s held on June 21. The whole day, bands set up on street corners and perform all over Lyon. Some businesses also blare music outside in a rare display of French loudness. In the past, there were also lots of drinking specials in cafés and bars to help you enjoy some of the more “interesting” music.

feeling bored?

Parks- There are small green spaces all over the city. Find a bench and have breakfast one morning before class. Go read a little on a breezy afternoon. Study, people-watch, or just be outside.

Cafés - You can’t pass up doing something as French as this. Many students in the past went out and found “their” café. The owners and servers took a liking to them, snuck them free stuff, and waited on them hand and foot for finals. Go study or read a book while you enjoy an espresso or get a bite to eat. They also serve adult beverages.

Walkabout- Grab your iPod and go for a walk. When you have your own soundtrack playing in the background, it’s surprisingly easy to walk far, even a big city like Lyon. Consider bringing your camera too.

museums

If you have time to spare and you’re looking to get a little culture in your trip, try checking out one of the 20 museums in Lyon. They’re interesting, they have unique souvenirs, and the admission costs are very low with any student ID.
**Institut Lumière**- This large complex that includes a villa, park, warehouse, cinema, and museum is dedicated to the art and science of films. It was named after the Lumière brothers, the Lyon natives who invented the cinematograph and started making motion pictures in the 1890s. www.institut-lumiere.org.

**Musée d’Art Contemporain de Lyon**- This is dedicated to showcasing modern art collections of living artists. www.mac-lyon.com.

**Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon**- Another art museum displaying more traditional European Renaissance artwork, but also including ancient artifacts and sarcophaguses. See works by Veronese, Rubens, Monet, Picasso, Degas, and Rodin among others. www.mba-lyon.fr.

**Musées Gallo-Romains**- One of the two museums is located on Fourvière Hill and the other actually outside the city limits. The old Roman ruins and theater are part of the Fourvière site, along with a museum displaying artifacts dug up from Roman times. Roaming the ruins is a fun and free way to get great views of the city. www.musees-gallo-romains.com.

**Centre d’Histoire de la Résistance et de la Déportation**- This museum remembers tragic events that happened in Lyon during World War II. Art and historic exhibits relate to the Nazi occupation, resistance fighters like Jean Moulin, and the persecution of French Jews. www.chrd.lyon.fr.

**Soierie Vivant**- Learn more about Lyon’s famous silk industry and watch artisans weave beautiful fabrics using traditional techniques. www.soierie-vivante.asso.fr

**Musées des Tissus et des Arts décoratifs de Lyon**- It features collections of very old and valuable textiles from all over the world. The collection includes cloth from Egypt, Persia, Europe, and the Far East dating centuries back. www.musee-des-tissus.com.

**Musée des Miniatures et Décors de Cinéma**- Located in Vieux Lyon, the museum features a wide variety of miniature sets built painstakingly to scale for movies that you’ve probably seen. www.mim lyon.com.

**Musées Gadagne**- This is actually three separate museums dedicated to different purposes: the history of Lyon, a restored Renaissance building, and puppets from around the world. www.gadagne.musees.lyon.fr.

### Other sites of interest

- **Basilique de Notre Dame de Fourvière**- One of the most beautiful and ornate churches in all of France, this is something you don’t want to miss. Its architecture has a slightly modern twist and intricate mosaics cover the inside of church on two levels. www.fourviere.org.

- **Cathédrale Saint-Jean**- This medieval church definitely shows its age and features a famous astronomical clock inside. http://cathedrale-lyon.cef.fr.

- **Parc de la Tête d’Or**- This very large public park is a little out of the way, but worth it. It includes a zoo, horse riding area, several monuments, a botanical garden, and tree lined paths for joggers and cyclists by a lake.
Traboules- These are the pathways tunneling through buildings in Vieux Lyon and the Croix-Rousse district. You may want to wander around and see architecture and take some pictures, but remember they are essentially the entrances to someone’s apartment. Most are open to the public during the day, but look for signs posted at the private ones. www.lyontraboules.net.

restaurants

Lyon is considered the food capital of France. To the French, that means that Lyon is the center of the world when it comes to food.

There are different types of restaurants in France that offer different kinds of foods and service. Most of them put out a menu card on the outside of the door so you can check out what they offer and how much they charge.

Café- A café offers coffee and adult beverages of course. Usually there is also a limited menu of sandwiches, quiches, salads, etc.

Bistro- Usually a small restaurant offering moderately priced simple meals in an informal setting.

Bouchons- These are bistros found only in Lyon that specialize in the local food typical of the Rhône region. Some bouchon dishes are a little different. Remember, bouchons originally provided hearty meals for the city’s working class. Be adventurous and try out these French delicacies.

Tourist traps- Many places bill themselves as a typical Lyon bouchon but locals avoid the overpriced and mediocre food. Consult guidebooks and get recommendations for an authentic bouchon experience.

Brasserie- Even though this means brewery in French, the places using that name may not really brew beer anymore. They offer more attentive service and more menu selections but in a relaxed setting.

Restaurant- If it’s called a restaurant, it’s probably going to be a little more expensive than other options. Try authentic French food, but also experience the French take on sushi, Mexican, etc.

Bocuse- This is a very big name in French cuisine. His flagship restaurant, called Paul Bocuse, is quite pricey. He also runs four brasseries that are more affordable: le Nord, le Sud, l'Ouest, and l'Est. These brasseries are themed, so not all offer French food. Check out the website for menus, directions, and to make reservations: www.nordsudbrasseries.com.

dining tips

Tipping- A service charge is usually included in the bill or is built in to the price of the food. You don’t have to tip as much in France, but if you’ve had good service, you should leave one or two €1 coins on the table.

Pots- These (pronounced “po” and rhyming with “go”) are basically carafes of wine cheaper than getting a whole bottle. Usually, the wine is local from the Rhône region.
and pretty good. It also lets you sample different kinds of wine at once, especially when dining in a group setting.

- **Beverages** -Apparently, the French don’t drink as much liquids as Americans during dinner, so don’t be surprised if you get a smaller serving size than you’re used to. They don’t refill unless you ask and charge for it. Also, many touristy places charge unreasonable soft drink prices.

- **Specials** - Most places have a fixed special of the day that will be cheaper but still very good. The specials are usually written on a chalkboard or your waiter will tell you about them.

### Street Food

- **There are a lot of quick, on-the-go options that are sold on the street. Usually, the food is good and, more importantly, cheap.**

- **Kebab** - The French refer to what we think as Greek/Lebanese chicken shawarma or gyros as “kebabs.” These stands are everywhere. Basically, you get a thick pita topped with meat, lettuce, French fries (put inside the sandwich), and a sauce of your choosing. The most popular is sauce blanche, but also try harissa, a delicious spicy tomato paste.

- **Kebab, again** - Usually, the kebab stands also bizarrely offer pizza and what the French call tacos. These are, in reality, just a sandwich version of the kebab on different bread.

- **Sandwiches** - These range from mediocre to great, but most aren’t typical American combinations. For some reason, the French use butter as a condiment on sandwiches where Americans would use mayo or ketchup. Don’t be surprised if you’re sandwich comes with an egg or is filled with French fries.

- **Bakery** - Many bakeries offer quiches, sandwiches, prepackaged food, and of course lots of pastries. Look for Paul, a chain bakery popular with students in the past.

- **Crêpes** - These stands aren’t as widespread, but there are a few, especially in Vieux Lyon. You should definitely try them- they’re quite cheap and very filling. Try sweet varieties with chocolate, Nutella, and fruit jellies, as well as savory crêpes with eggs, ham, and cheese.

- **American** - Lyon has McDonald’s, Subway, and other American chains. It doesn’t taste exactly the same (some would say it’s better in France). Since this isn’t really French, you may want to save these for emergencies to cure homesickness.

### Popular Destinations

- **This study abroad program is perfect for travelling on the weekend given Lyon’s central location and the class schedule. You can normally be on the train by early Thursday afternoon for a long weekend of travel.**

- **In the past students, have gone to the following places for long weekend travel:** Amsterdam, Barcelona, Florence, French Riviera (Marseilles, Nice, Monaco, etc.), Geneva, Interlaken, Munich, Paris, Rome, San Fermin (Running of the Bulls).
Some daytrip destinations around Lyon include: Annecy, Avignon, Chambéry, Chamonix, Grenoble, Pérouges, Samoëns, and Vienne.

Lyon is also perfect base for exploring many of France’s best known wine countries. Create your custom daytrip experience by making arrangements with local wineries for tours and tastings. Beaujolais and Côtes du Rhône are the closest areas to Lyon.

You may also want to take advantage of being in Europe and visit other countries before or after Lyon. Students in the past have gone all over from Ireland and the UK to Greece and Italy.

**using the rail system**

Be aware that most stations have only one agent that can speak English on duty at one time, and the line for that agent is always long.

In France (other countries vary), you have to get your ticket validated by getting it stamped through automatic machines located near the train platforms. You’ll see other travelers passing their tickets through the machines.

When you get to the platform, make sure you get on the correct side. There are often two trains parked on either side of the platform going to different destinations. Make sure you get to where you want to go!

Pay close attention to your ticket and all the information on it. It will tell you whether you are in first or second class, what car your seat is in, and your actual seat number.

If you’re using a Eurail pass, you must have it stamped to validate it before your first use. You can get the stamp at the ticket counter inside any train station, but you must do it before you board the train.

Before every use after this, you must write in the date in the space provided on the Eurail pass. This validates the pass for that entire day. You’re supposed to do this before you board the train for every day you travel. Don’t get caught doing it at the last minute by the conductors (enforcement varies from inspector to inspector).

If you’re not using your rail pass, make sure you have your ticket out ready to be hole punched by the conductor.

Remember that even with a Eurail pass you will still need to make a reservation to book a seat on a train. The reservation will look like a regular train ticket, and will give you your car and seat number. The conductor will ask for your reservation as well.