

ARDECHE - FRANCE

AN IDYLIC SETTING ON THE BANKS OF A STUNNING RIVER GORGE WITH GLORIOUS SUNSHINE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

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What a wonderful location for a summer camp – a spectacular gorge in the heart of the Ardèche Nature Park in the sunny climate of southern France! we are privileged to own and manage one of the few Ardèche campsites with a riverside position. The comfortable campsite here caters for about 50 international campers from all over the world. Life is friendly and relaxed on the river bank with mountains and forests all around and warm sunshine almost guaranteed. French is taught at camp but the day-to-day official language at camp is English. At nearby Vallon, apart from ancient caves that we explore, there are cafés, a night market and traditional local shops.

ARDECHE
AGES 11-17



We made it!

SPECIALITY PROGRAMMES ON THE ARDECHE

A carefully integrated programme for both adventure and language camps.

A fully supervised schedule is organised for each age-group. This varied schedule includes several periods where all campers choose from a selection of activities. And everyone at camp, whether on the Adventure or French language programmes, receives comprehensive canoeing instruction for the camp highlight, the 2-day thrilling descent of the river. The whole camp enjoys an unforgettable canyoning experience – all under the close supervision.

French language programmes & river camp



ARDECHE RIVER CAMP

- Accommodation is in modern, all-weather tents with sprung beds, mattresses, tables, chairs and ground cover
- Shower facilities, a comfortable outside seating area for meals and well-equipped classrooms
- Spacious common areas and excellent quality specialist equipment and canoes
- Each camper is assigned to a tent according to age and gender and an experienced counsellor is responsible for taking special care of the campers in each tent
- The central building houses a reception and activity area, a dining room, nurse's office and multi-purpose common room.
- Sweeping terrace overlooking the river serves as a dining and barbecue area.



LANGUAGES

FRENCH

We have developed a completely new and ingeniously crafted language-learning programme designed to fully engage the campers. An exciting range of projects, tasks and games will attract the interest and ensure the involvement of every camper. They are having fun together in small groups and will soon be using the words and phrases that they have been learning each day.

A NEW AND COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAY TO TEACH LANGUAGES

- Campers really enjoy learning to speak the target language together
- New tasks, games and interesting projects are arranged throughout the course
- Groups of students help choose preferred lively projects
- Emphasis is on gaining confidence and improving vocabulary

CHOOSING THE PROJECTS AND TOPICS

- We encourage the campers to choose projects in discussion groups which make language-learning more interesting and personal
- Other times the Language Coordinator and the teaching team prepare projects from an innovative selection designed for the campers to enjoy
- Campers often choose something that simply interests them, a topic of the day or some element of the culture of the country.

SOME TYPICAL PROJECTS

The following are used as a guide and may vary from country to country. Each project has different levels of difficulty and appropriate vocabulary.

- 'Personality poster' - on the first morning the campers make up a 'personality poster' about themselves and use adjectives that they think describes their personality. A great way to get to know new friends and to take the first steps in language learning.
- 'The Great Survival Debate' is an imaginary debate on the camping equipment and other items necessary for survival in the desert. Everyone has to discuss the issues and learn the vocabulary.
- 'The Food Tasting Festival' encourages campers to learn words to describe food smell, texture and flavours. The reward for learning the vocabulary is to taste some delicious traditional dishes of the country bought by the teachers! They love it!

MAKING THE PROJECTS WORK

- Every morning starts with a warm-up in the language with teachers and campers talking together – and a song in the target language playing in the background. The teachers introduce the campers to ‘tongue-twisters’ and word games such as Scrabble. Teachers start conversations in groups about what they liked about the previous day, their favourite music and the activities to which they are looking forward.
- Learning vocabulary in an ‘inter-group’ way – using new words talking as a group about past and future projects and later working on projects in groups, or on their own as they gain confidence
- At the end of all projects the groups present their results often presenting one of their ‘products’ (e.g. the film, travel brochure or a song).

LANGUAGE LESSONS - INFORMATION

- On the first morning of camp students are carefully assessed and placed into groups of about 7-10 campers according to ability and then age
- There are 4 ability levels:
 - beginner/elementary
 - pre-intermediate
 - intermediate
 - upper intermediate/advanced
- We operate a ‘continuous assessment’ system at our language camps, consequently students may be upgraded at any time as they progress
- Lessons are Monday to Friday for 3 hours from 09.00 to 12.00 with a short mid-morning break of about 10 minutes
- At the end of camp, certificates are awarded to each student and a full progress report sent independently to each family.



MEALS

- Campers enjoy their meals in a great setting overlooking the river
- Healthy, varied dishes are prepared by our resident French chef
- Most diets can be catered for with prior notice.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions may vary according to local events, weather and the group composition:

- Avignon Water Park
- Vallon Pont d'Arc on market day
- Chauvet Pont-d'Arc cave replica museum

CAMP & PROGRAMME FACILITIES

- Volleyball court
- Table tennis tables
- Petanque
- Football pitches
- Teaching areas

OPTIONAL AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

- Abseiling
- Archery
- Arts and crafts
- Basketball
- Bouldering
- Canoeing
- Canyoning
- Caving
- Football
- Gorge walk
- Kayaking
- Mountain biking
- Rock climbing
- Ropes course

- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Tetherball
- Trekking
- Volleyball

EVENING ACTIVITIES

- Talent night
- Campfire
- Sports tournament
- Visit to a local night market
- Egg shoot
- Mini Olympics
- Capture the flag
- Video night
- Super team challenge



After fun on the river, time to relax!



Aerial view showing the outstanding location of the Ardèche Camp. On the left in the shade of trees the comfortable tents - the central Pavilion in the middle - all adjacent to the banks of the river.

