



Kayla Conforti

Fall 2016

Rennes, France

“The first few days of Orientation were held in Paris. I traveled all over la Bretagne (Brittany) with my host program as well as my host parents. My host program also had excursions to Normandy and to Nantes. I also took a day trip to Claude Monet’s home and gardens in Giverny and another to Disneyland Paris. Over Fall Break, I traveled to London with another student and ended up meeting up with a friend from high school that I haven’t seen since graduation.”

Highlights of my trip:

“I got to go to Claude Monet’s home and gardens in Giverny.

One evening on a whim, my new friends and I went to a professional soccer match. It marked the first time I really felt myself adjusting to life in France and embracing the spontaneity of it all.”

More about Kayla:

Triple major in International Studies, Economics, and French

What academic opportunities did you have while abroad?

Besides the required French language courses and corresponding phonetic lab, I took courses on French Civilization, Cinema, Intercultural Communication & Leadership, and the Francophone World. I was able to fine-tune some of the more difficult aspects of French grammar. Thanks to how immersive the program was, my oral expression and comprehension were also greatly improved, and I can definitely see, in this case, hear, progress in communication with others.

Favorite food/drink item you had abroad?

This may sound very stereotypical, but I really did enjoy French wine. One of the orientation sessions at the beginning of the semester was a mini lecture and wine-tasting event with a sommelier, a trained wine steward, during which the other students and I learned about how wine is made, how they are named in France versus in the US, and about the different grapes involved. La Bretagne is also known for its cider, so it was also a must-have while I was in Rennes. My favorite pastry was the tartelette aux framboises (raspberry tart).

More about Kayla's experience...



ADVICE TO STUDENTS CONTEMPLATING GOING ABROAD

I would recommend just going for it and to not let the fear of the unknown keep you from experiencing all that life has to offer... I would also recommend to be mindful of stereotyping. Yes, there were occasions when some of what I heard about the French turned out to be true. However, I was struck by the kindness offered to me whenever I needed help, like when I got lost on my first day alone in Rennes. I know one of the stereotypes of the French is that they are rude, but I honestly never really saw that unless someone was being rude to them first.



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