

LA FRANCE AU PRINTEMPS 2008



This year we are adding a second Cadet trip to France from 28 February - 08 March 2008. We will be leaving Port Gibson on Friday, 28 February and returning on Saturday, 08 March. Eight Cadets and two adults will spend the week in a beautiful farmhouse in the village of Branches, just outside of the city of Auxerre. This area is the northern end of the famous Burgundy region, about 100 miles to the southeast of Paris. It is a region known for its wine, primarily, as well as for its agriculture and medieval architecture.

The cost for the trip is \$1,500 per Cadet (which includes airfare, ground transportation, accommodations and meals). The cost does not include passport or spending money. A non-refundable \$750 deposit is required to reserve your son's place on the trip and must be paid by Thursday, 10 January 2008. The balance is due by Friday, 25 January 2008.

The house in Branches will serve as home base from which we will depart on day trips to various fascinating cities in France. Cadets will learn to appreciate some of the culture and history of France. We will be visiting Perrouges, a medieval town near Lyon, and Roquamadour, an incredible town built into a cliff face. We will then head to Verdun, site of an important battle of World War One as well as a city of great significance in the early medieval period. Then comes Versailles, where Louis the Fourteenth built his breathtaking palace. Of course, we can't miss the capital of world culture: Paris! We will be spending a day in the capital, touring the center of town, the cathedral of Notre-Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre Museum, the Champs-Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe. We will have dinner near Notre Dame on the banks of the Seine River. Our final stop will be Auxerre (an old medieval town which used to be part of the kingdom of Burgundy) where we will do some sightseeing and some shopping.

Besides all the activities, part of the appeal of this trip is the house in Branches. A huge farmhouse, built in 1822, which has been restored and modernized, it is of itself one of the highlights of the trip. There is a billiards table, a table tennis table, a dartboard, a spa and a pond. Cadets will get to enjoy home cooked French food as well as sample all kinds of delicious French treats (Cadets always rave over the apples!).

The Cadets who participate in this trip will get the chance to experience France more authentically than any guided tour. I, Major Julien Jones, who grew up in France and whose family owns the house, will be leading the group. There will be a time every evening for discussion of the day's events and of the particularities of French culture.

This week is an experience no Cadet will forget.

Venez voyager en France!

