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Excursions!

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Morgan Scarbrough

Aix-en-Provence, France

March 14, 2017

Excursions!



Our writing class and the French 302 students at Notre-Dame de la Garde.

Since my last blog entry, a lot has happened here in the sunny south! First, and most importantly, spring has arrived in Aix, and it is beautiful! Aix is sunny almost all the time, but now it's also getting warm enough to break out the birks! The best part is that it started to get warm in February. It's nice that it's getting warmer because a part of IAU's curriculum are excursions which means getting out of the classroom and into Aix or some of the beautiful surrounding Provençal towns. I had the opportunity to go to a quiet little spot only about 10 minutes from centre ville called "*le terrain des peintres*" which is the spot where great artists like Cézanne went to paint the mountain. I went with my writing class to observe the scenery and explore the small park-like area. It was beautiful and scenic, and the best part was that it was a beautiful morning and we got to escape out of the classroom, which was exactly what we all needed at 9am! Another excursion that I went on, also with my writing class, was to Marseille.

Yes, the excursions are mandatory, but they are very fun and you have the chance to learn a lot about things that are right on your doorstep that you may not have known about. I was also on an excursion with my history class to Entremont, which is an archaeological site about 20 minutes northeast of Aix, and it was one of the first settlements in the south. If you've read or heard of Asterix, that's where his story takes place! I will also go on an excursion to Avignon with my history class to learn about its monuments and history. IAU also organizes program-wide excursions. At the beginning of the semester we went to the Luberon region where we got to see some beautiful towns and scenery. They also took us up to the Alps for the weekend to ski and get to know everyone. Almost every class has an excursion, and they either happen during the class period or on a Saturday afternoon.

One of the most important things that I have learned since being abroad is to say yes to everything. Every opportunity where I can explore or where I can try something new I say, "Of course," because you only study abroad once, and when you're in the beautiful south of France, what is there to say no to?

Morgan