

Summer in Provence



Barat Foundation

EXPOSURE · EXPERIENCE · EXPRESSION



" Thank you for this experience. Thank you for the excursions, and thank you for this magnificent summer. This summer was truly the best summer of my life. You have shown me a new and remarkable path. You have changed me forever, and forever I will be grateful."

Nadan Sehic, originally from Sarajevo, Bosnia

The Barat Foundation Staff

Our award winning staff is comprised of unique, talented, and young French nationals from esteemed academic institutions, prestigious contemporary art schools, and the leading edge of the European artistic community. Our acclaimed staff specializes in a range of artistic and academic disciplines including, but not limited to, modern dance choreography, film and video, photography, fashion design, European history, architecture, art history, music, and philosophy. Our past professors have been featured in magazines such as Elle, Les Inrockuptibles (the French equivalent of Rolling Stone), and have had cutting-edge exhibitions in leading capitals of the world. Our teachers are well traveled, experienced, and dedicated to the enrichment and expansion of each individual student. As our staff not only "teaches" with us, but moreover "lives" with us, learning is not limited to the classroom, but extends to the small and large aspects of everyday life. Our teachers are equally at ease teaching surrealistic art, as they are enabling students to master the art of the French Laundromat.

24-Hour Learning

In an ordinary academic environment, learning ends at the end of the lesson. The Barat Method of learning is a 24-hour process that begins with breakfast and ends with a nightly evening circle, where students and staff gather together to discuss the events of the day. Barat teachers are more than professors with a lesson plan. Our staff is dedicated to teaching by allowing students to experience the material first hand, and developing rewarding relationships that extend beyond the traditional classroom. The same professor who teaches French philosophy in the morning, may lead a workshop in photography in the afternoon, and sit with students in the evening to laugh about the events of the day. Close relationships are formed in a learning environment dedicated to individual growth based on personal experience.



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Accommodations: Your teenager will be staying at a fully equipped, beautiful country estate with outdoor swimming pool, in the heart of Provence. Lodging and three meals per day are included. Our French chef creates provencal dishes prepared with the freshly picked, local produce that makes the region a world renowned culinary center.

Who can apply?: Any student completing grades 8-12 may apply.

How to Make Your Travel Arrangements: We require that all Barat Foundation participants use our travel agent to make air travel arrangements. This is essential to a smooth and coordinated travel experience, and ensures that we are informed of all schedule changes and problems. Our travel agent finds the lowest possible fare for your teenager, arranges travel with other Barat Foundation participants whenever possible, and arranges special group fares. See the attached "Admissions Information" sheet for details.

Travel Day: We go to extreme lengths to ensure that travel is as worry free as possible, even for the teen who has not voyaged overseas before. There will be Barat Foundation representatives at the "gateway" airports, including JFK, Newark, and CDG Paris. Barat Foundation staff will accompany all group flights, and meet students upon their arrival in Provence. Lastly, a Barat Foundation bus will take students from the airport in Provence to the beautiful, fully equipped country estate that will be home for the summer.

What to Bring: In the spring, you will receive an information packet complete with a suggested packing list including clothing and personal items. We advise all participants to pack light, as you must be able to handle your own luggage.

Communication: You will receive regular updates on the programs, and might even see your teenager on an adventure amidst fields of sunflowers and lavender. Your son or daughter will also have the opportunity to call home, and have limited access to the internet. In addition, the program director and staff members have cell phones at all times, and are always accessible should an emergency arrive.

Safety: Safety is our first concern. Our staff to student ratio is approximately 1 to 3, and teachers always accompany students on excursions. There is a local doctor available in case of illness, and our facility is located within a fifteen minute drive to a hospital should an emergency arrive. The medical system in France is excellent and highly accessible. We are extremely proud of our safety record, and will continue to do everything within our means to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our participants.

Travel Insurance: Should you desire to purchase travel insurance for your teenager, we work with an insurer who specializes in student summer programs abroad. For details, please see the attached "Admissions Information" sheet.

How to Apply?: Please refer to the attached "Admissions Information" Sheet for the dates and fees of our summer programs in Provence, along with application information and forms.

"I just wanted to thank you for providing the girls with such an incredible summer. They absolutely loved Provence and loved the program. It was the best summer they've ever had. What an enriching experience! The pictures were beautiful and next summer we want to travel there with them - they can't say enough about how beautiful the entire trip was."
Simone Spiegel, Boca Raton, Florida





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WELCOME – BIENVENUE

Dear Students, Parents, and Teachers,

This will be my tenth summer in the South of France, and the ninth year of our summer program in Provence. It seems like yesterday that my husband and I decided to change our lives, sell our business, and return to our creative roots. I looked to France for inspiration, and ventured out with my family and a friend of my older daughter, to explore the possibility of creating a summer program for high school students in Provence.

That first summer we traded our NJ suburban house, pool, and car for a medieval apartment in the heart of Montpellier in Southern France. My motivation was intensely personal. I wanted my children to understand that their horizons did not end at the Short Hills shopping mall. I wanted them, and other young people, to experience the opening of mind and heart that I had experienced as a young student at the Sorbonne and the Political Science Institute in Paris, an experience that forever changed me.

As fate would have it, our apartment that first summer, described as “elegant and spacious”, turned out to be a tiny flat located directly over a Souvlaki restaurant. Despite the constant smell of roasting lamb wafting in through our open windows (we are vegetarians), and the loud noise of late night cafes, we loved our stay there. Completely immersed in French language and culture, with no safety net to soften the inevitable bumps along the way, it was sink or swim that first summer, and we all embraced the challenge. This intimate and personal experience served as the foundation for a more formal academic program which developed over the following years.

“I think about this summer all the time. Provence, your family, our teachers and friends have all been deeply engrained in my memory. They are people, places, feelings, tastes, smells, and memories that I will never forget.”

Melissa Freedman, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Today, ten years later, we have had the pleasure of working with students from countries as diverse as France, the United Kingdom, Bosnia, Czechoslovakia, Kyrgyzstan, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Trinidad, and of course, the USA. Due to our scholarship program, our student body has represented not only a wide diversity of national origins and religions, but an equal diversity of socio-economic backgrounds. What has emerged from this diversity is an extraordinary family of individuals who come to realize that there is far more that unites us, than divides us.

Our academic program has grown into a new learning method, based on direct experience, and reinforced through personal expression. The “Barat Method” including 1) exposure, 2) experience, and 3) expression, has proven to be invaluable both in the learning of a foreign language, and in the understanding of a foreign culture and its art. As Jean Xavier Brager, academic director of the Barat Foundation for a period of four years, and current university and linguistic attaché to the French Consulate states, “not only was the Foundation able to meet rigorous French expectations in terms of curriculum, academic standards and the quality of teachers, but it also gave the participants the opportunity to have an authentic insight into cross-cultural differences through a well planned calendar of artistic outings, field excursions, master classes, and workshops.”

The last ten years have been amongst the most satisfying and joyous of my life, and I am extremely grateful to be in a position of educating young adults, the leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chandri Barat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chandri Barat, Executive Director



“One thing that surprised me the most is the process of making friends. It is so important that you do different things in order to know new people. Everyone is so interesting, and I learned a great deal from everyone. This trip made me realize how many things my school has taught me, but at the same time I realize how many things there are that I know nothing about. I feel again like a small child who is curious and amazed at everything.”
Ava McAlpin, New York, NY



WELCOME TO THE BARAT FOUNDATION SUMMER PROGRAM IN PROVENCE

Bonjour!

The experience of a lifetime awaits you in Provence. The Barat Foundation Summer Program in Provence provides a unique opportunity for total immersion in French language and culture. The sun-drenched region of Provence that has inspired artists, writers, and travelers throughout the centuries, will serve as your backyard and classroom. You will explore the wonders of Provence speaking French with a talented young staff of teachers, hand-picked from both the French academic world, and the forefront of the European artistic community.

You will be living in Provence not as a tourist, but as a native as we attend the spectacular summer festivals of Avignon and Aix-en-Provence, visit Van Gogh's city of Arles, and shop at colorful open-air markets. We will travel through the vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and sun bathe along the beaches and shores of the azure Mediterranean. At the end of the day, we will linger at cafés or venture home to watch the sunset over the lavender fields in our backyard.

Your stay in Provence finds you at a fully equipped French country estate with outdoor swimming pool. Our French teachers and staff will personally introduce you to France, its language, culture, history, and art. Living in a truly international environment with students from all over the world, you will develop skills which will prepare you for life in the global marketplace of the 21st Century, where national borders and language will cease to separate one people from another, and where knowledge and understanding will be the international currency.



"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust

DAILY SCHEDULE

09:00 - 10:00	Breakfast
10:00 - 11:30	French Language Classes
11:30 - 12:30	Cultural Enrichment Classes
12:30 - 13:00	Journal
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - on	Excursions, Activities*, and Free Time
19:00 - 20:00	Dinner
20:00 - 23:00	Evening Activities
Midnight	Lights Out

*On Excursion days, we will typically leave the chateau at 2:00 p.m. and return between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m., depending on the excursion. If we are returning after the dinner hour, we will bring a package dinner along with us. As it remains light until 10:00 p.m. during the summer months in Provence, we will have plenty of time to explore the wondrous sites of the region. *We reserve our longer trips such as our excursions to the Camargue Nature Reserve, for a full day. A full day excursion will begin after an early breakfast and end between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the same day. We will not stay overnight on any of these excursions. On extended excursion days, we will pack lunch and dinner.





IMAGINE AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM.

Summer study with the Barat Foundation is an experientially based learning program, including morning instruction in French language, art, and culture; and exciting afternoon workshops covering subjects as varied as French cuisine, drawing, photography, creative writing, literature, cinema, music, dance, and theatre.

Your classroom extends to the wondrous sites, festivals and monuments of Provence, directed by a teaching staff of young, enthusiastic French nationals with expertise in French language, culture, and art. A history lesson on the powerful Roman presence in the region is reinforced as you attend a modern dance festival held in a Roman amphitheater, dating back to the 1st Century. An art history lesson on Vincent Van Gogh begins in Arles, where Van Gogh spent his most productive period; and ends in St. Remy where the artist spent his final days. A lesson on Cezanne, the father of modern art, begins in Aix-en-Provence where you can visit his atelier preserved exactly as he left it. Learning is a fully integrated experience, reinforced and combined with on site experience and individual expression.

The Barat Foundation classroom extends to all aspects of daily life as you shop at a boulangerie (bakery), visit the marché (market), linger at a café sipping a citron pressé (lemonade), and attend the internationally renown summer music and theater festivals of Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, and Vaison-la-Romaine.

Medieval cities, warm Mediterranean breezes, and castles echoing the dreams of centuries beckon. Come join us, your young French teachers, and your new friends in Provence for the best summer of your life.

ABOUT THE BARAT FOUNDATION

Founded by Chandri and Gary Barat in 1996, the Barat Foundation is a (501-C-3), not-for-profit educational corporation. It's mission is to maximize human potential and inspire learning, rejuvenation, and creativity for students of all ages and origins, through a unique experience of cultural and artistic immersion. Over the past years, the Foundation's Summer Program in Provence has welcomed students from all over the world. Students not only greatly improve their French language skills and knowledge of art and culture, but equally important learn about each other, and ultimately, learn about themselves.

"It was a really good experience to live like a family with people from all over the world and have close contact with all of them. I could confirm that everybody, without any exception, has something wonderful to teach. And in this point, I broke a barrier that existed in my mind that separated people because of different cultures. "

Julia Rettmann, Sao Paulo, Brazil



Journal - Students are required to maintain a journal documenting their stay in Provence. Time is allotted each day for journal writing. The journal is a valuable personal memoir that will become a lifetime treasure of writings, experiences, sketches, photographs, postcards, etc. We strongly urge participants to bring a camera to help document their stay.



EXCURSIONS

You will be taking frequent excursions to explore and enjoy the natural beauty, history, culture and art of Provence. Accompanied by your French teachers, you will have the opportunity to immediately apply what you learn in class as you explore ancient Roman ruins, medieval castles, cathedrals, museums, and monuments, with a personalized understanding of their significance and place in history. You will visit the lively cities, villages, festivals, cafes, beaches, nature preserves, vineyards, fields, and open air markets that have made this region a world center for art, tourism, commerce, and cuisine since the Romans first visited over 2000 years ago.

Explore the Beauty of Provence

Aix-en-Provence

Aix-en-Provence, known as the city of a thousand fountains, has been a center for learning and art since the 12th Century. The father of modern art, Paul Cezanne, was born here in 1839, and his studio is preserved as it was when he died in 1906. We will explore ancient and modern Aix during our stay, and enjoy the internationally renowned, summer music and art festivals of the city.

Les Baux-de-Provence

Les Baux, one of the most popular attractions in Provence, is a medieval citadel built into a mountain, haunted by ghosts and goblins according to legend. In the Middle Ages it was home to feudal lords, and still echoes with the music of troubadours singing the praises of courtly love. Les Baux has been completely renovated and you will explore the winding streets and stone fortresses once built for protection, now home to charming shops and cafes.

Gordes, Le Village des Bories, and the Abbaye de Sénacque

Seen from a distance, Gordes seems an impossible suspension of houses built directly into the cliffs, rising to the center of town. Today, a well-known artist haven and colony, you will visit many of its wonderful art and photo galleries. Approximately 2.5 miles outside of Gordes, lies the Village des Bories, a group of hut-like stone edifices originally dating back to Neolithic times. Also in the vicinity is the Abbaye de Senacque, one of three Cistercian monasteries in Provence, dating back to the 11th Century. The Abbey makes an unforgettable impression, rising without warning from the magnificent lavender fields that dominate the valley. You will visit the Abbey, learn about its history, and stay for evening vespers, sung as they have been performed since the early middle ages.

Fontaine-de-Vaucluse

Home to one of the most resplendent, resurgent springs in the world, Fontaine de Vaucluse is one of the great wonders of the world. You will go kayaking along the river and explore the village that was home to the Roman poet, Petarch, from 1337 to 1353.

Arles

The city of Arles blends many of the region's charms into a lively center of Provencal culture and art. Situated on the Rhone River, it is a historic gateway to the region. Roman remains dating back to the 1st Century, including an amphitheater, which still maintains its link to the past by hosting bullfights and special celebrations, are found nestled amongst the charming Provencal architecture of Arles. Van Gogh spent much of his creative life in Arles, and the city maintains several centers dedicated to his work. Moreover, you will sit at the Place du Forum at the café Van Gogh, preserved exactly as the artist painted it. Arles is also home to a most prestigious photo exhibit taking place throughout the city during the month of July, and you will have the opportunity to experience some of the best of the world's photographers during our visit.

The Camargue

The Camargue is a wetlands nature preserve on the Rhone Delta. The region is home to a breed of white Arabian-type horses, which still run free on the beaches, as well as home to flocks of wild pink flamingos. Horseback riding and bicycling bring you up close to the wild populations of birds and animals that make the Camargue beaches truly unique. Many students consider this activity to be one of the highlights of their stay in Provence.

Avignon

Avignon, the papal seat until 1377, is now home to an internationally acclaimed summer theater festival. Avignon's theater festival, the largest and most respected in the world, runs throughout the month of July, centered around the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes). You will visit Avignon frequently to enjoy the historic city, and attend both the formal theatre festival and the "off" festival, which includes street theater and music from classic to hip-hop.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Famous for its wines, the vineyards of Chateauneuf-du-Pape were first planted by the Avignon Popes in the 14th Century. From the Chateau des Papes, a castle built by Pope John XVII at the summit of the village, there are breathtaking views of endless vineyards and glorious sunsets of the Rhone valley. The basis for France's modern Appellation d'Origine, a series of quality controls for fine wines, was first established at the Chateauneuf-du-Pape in 1923. Students will have the opportunity to attend a sophisticated wine tasting while learning about the several factors that contribute to the quality of Chateauneuf-du-Pape's extraordinary wines.

Vaison-la-Romaine

For 2400 years, inhabitants of Vaison-la-Romaine have shifted from bank to bank of the unpredictable River Ouveze, leaving behind a host of ancient Roman treasures and monuments. Students will have the opportunity to visit Vaison-la-Romaine, attend its famous dance festival in its magnificent Roman amphitheatre, and witness first hand the rich history that permeates this beautiful region.

St. Remy

Enclosed by boulevards lined with trees, St. Remy-de-Provence, one of Provence's most beautiful towns, was once the inspiration of Provencal poets, as well as Gertrude Stein, the mother of modernism. With a notable history, St-Remy is the birthplace of Nostradamus, and the city where Van Gogh spent his tragic final year in an asylum. Today, St. Remy is a center for art, cuisine, music, and of course, an open air market, offering everything from fine brocaded silk to fresh brie and wine.

L'isle-sur-la-Sorgue

L'isle-sur-la-Sorgue is an amazing town, divided by the River Sorgue, that begins at Fontaine-de-Vaucluse and travels all the way to Avignon. The beauty of this quaint village lies in strolling through the picturesque streets, and watching the river run under ironwork bridges while listening to the steady rhythm of ancient paddlewheels. Famous as the antique capital of Southern France, L'isle-sur-la-Sorgue is home to an open market held every Sunday since 1967, featuring over 200 permanent bric-a-brac and antique dealers.

Cassis and the Calanques

Nestled in a small bay between the Cap Canaille and the Gardiole, Cassis is a picturesque fishing village that was the inspiration of the Fauve painters. A highlight for many students is sunbathing on the beautiful beaches of Cassis, with views of white limestone cliffs called calanques, and the azure blue Mediterranean sea. With cafes and shops overlooking the clear waters of the Mediterranean, Cassis is a fun, sun-filled, awe-inspiring visit.

Rousillon

The fascinating landscape of Rousillon is naturally colored with 17 different shades of ocher, from golden yellow to blood red, as if carefully blended on an artist's palette. Students will journey along the vibrant Sentier des Ogres (Ocher Trail) passing through cavernous old mines and quarries of Rousillon's famous historical mining industry. Known as the Colorado of France, students can explore an intricate network of trails winding through the fantastic hills and towering red pillars.

"It changed me. I loved every moment of it" Julia Sortwell, Camden, Maine



"I dream my paintings, then I paint my dreams." Vincent VanGogh

THE BARAT METHOD

The Barat Foundation course curriculum featuring French language and culture immersion is taught within the context of a three-fold learning method, including 1) Exposure; 2) Experience; and 3) Expression.

Exposure:

First, the student is "exposed" to new material in classes and workshops including French conversation and literature, writing, art, cuisine, photography, cinema, movement, music and theatre.

Experience:

Second, the student "experiences" the material, tangibly, on site, in person, in the form of field excursions, accompanied by teachers and staff. Visits to monuments, churches, nature preserves, museums, the Mediterranean sea, medieval villages, ancient and modern cities, businesses, vineyards, and theatrical events reinforce the initial exposure to the new material, and make it personal and alive.

Expression:

Third, each student creates his or her own individual "expression" of the new material, by articulating the learning in his or her own voice. This opportunity for self-expression takes place in a series of "ateliers" or workshops, based on artistic exploration including subjects as diverse as "drawing", "photography", "nature and movement", "fashion photo and film", "architecture of the natural world", "history of the Middle Ages", "surrealist poetry, walks, and writing", "French cuisine", "theatre", and "music". Each year, new and exciting workshops are created providing each student the opportunity to pursue and develop his or her particular interests.

"The Barat Method" expands formal academic study to include personal and cultural exchange and communication through artistic expression. Each student becomes empowered with a more profound sense of self, an ability to break "comfort zone" barriers, and the capacity to interact within a group as both an individual and a team member. Our unique staff, hand picked from both academic and artistic disciplines, work together with students, both in and out of "class" time, to create a fully rounded language and culture immersion program.

STUDENT ART GALLERY



STUDENT PHOTO GALLERY



"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up." Pablo Picasso