

## *GW YOUNG AMBASSADORS TO FRANCE & SPAIN*

**Our 2008 Spring Break & Summer Tours**    March 22-29    June 21 – July 4

Our travel philosophy is to select and focus on certain outstanding regions and get to know those regions well. We do not see any value in trying to visit too many places in a short time. These trips will focus on the **Paris Region and the Basque coast of France and Spain**. We only have to unpack once or twice, depending on which tour you take. On these tours you will learn about language, history, culture, art and cuisine – but it will also be a vacation. You will have your own time to go to cafés, enjoy the beaches, shop in boutiques & open air markets and meet the wonderful local people. We will get to know Paris first and then (summer tour) take a train down to the seaside resort of Biarritz to visit picturesque villages and beaches. We will sample the best of everything that the French, Spanish and Basque cultures offer. **It is not a requirement to be a French or Spanish language student, only to be interested in learning about culture and history!**

### **PARIS – THE CITY OF LIGHT**

**“If you were lucky enough to have been in Paris when you were young then wherever you go it stays with you. For Paris is a moveable feast.”**

*Ernest Hemingway*

What other city in the world can you think of where so many famous landmarks come to mind? The Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Arc de Triumph, the super boutique Avenue of the Champs Elysées. How about the countless enticing Parisian cafés, the smell of fresh baguettes? From the Gauls to the Romans to the French revolution, it is all here and everyone should visit Paris at least once in their life.

Our *Discover Paris* program comprises our spring break tour and is part of our summer trip. It does not put you in Paris for the usual 48 hours and then whisk you off on a bus to another city when you were just getting a feel for the place. Our group will learn what it is like to live in Paris. We will be picked up at Charles de Gaulle international airport by private bus and stay for 6 days at an exclusive residence with its own chef. We will use the famous metros extensively to get around just as the Parisians do. You will never get lost in Paris after this trip, and you will have seen much more than any tourist.

Our visit starts out by checking into the **Résidence Saint Denis**, an exclusive château that is usually reserved for visiting groups of French students from around the country. (See the “About Us” section for an explanation of our relationship with the French Ministry of Education). The residence has its own chef and is located in a clean, quiet part of the city. A direct Metro line goes into the center of historical Paris.

Our *Discover Paris* program is coordinated by the highly capable guides of our associates

who are affiliated with the French Ministry of Education. For instance we just don't go and look at the Notre Dame Cathedral. We learn about how and when it was constructed and are taken into restricted areas like the archeological crypts and learn what the gargoyles meant during the Middle Ages. We don't just take the metro. We will learn about the history of this famous system and get to know the metro stations.

We will go to King Louis the XIV first Palace, which is now the famous Louvre Museum, and then to his next even bigger one – the Palace of Versailles and its famous gardens. We will visit the Musée d'Orsay and stroll along the Seine River into the L'Ile de la Cité, where Paris first began. At the Conciergerie we will see where Marie Antoinette was held prisoner in a special cell before the beheadings of the French revolution. She and King Louis the XVI were among the first to experience the newly invented guillotine.



**Marie Antoinette**

**Queen of France 1755 - 1793**

**“Courage! I have shown it for years; think you I shall lose it at the moment when my sufferings are to end?”**

Marie Antoinette

We will see the best view possible of Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower, and do some unique shopping on one of the most famous streets in the world – the Avenue of the Champs Elysées. Then it's on to the Arc de Triomphe for some photos. Our boat cruise on the Seine will take us into the oldest parts of Paris. When we leave Paris by train down

to Biarritz, our group will know quite a few things about this outstanding city and will also know how to take a train to other parts of France.

## **THE BASQUE COAST OF FRANCE AND SPAIN     June 27 – July 4**

This is one of the most beautiful and culturally rich regions of France – **the Aquitaine region** bordered by Atlantic beaches and the Pyrenees Mountains.

We will be using the beautiful seaside resort of Saint Jean de Luz as our base, your home away from home, and structure our excursions from there. **Saint Jean is a charming historical harbor where Louis XIV got married and is famous for its beaches, cuisine, shopping and Basque culture.** There we have a private residence reserved right on the beach with our own chef. We will get to know the Basque people, their ancient language and rich heritage. We will visit the world famous **Biarritz resort** and descend the coast to **San Sebastian in Spain** to enjoy tapas, the stunning aquarium and the chateaux and cuisine of both France and Spain.

Our private residence is located in between two beaches, across the bay from the main beach of Saint Jean de Luz. There is a shuttle boat that goes there and back every 45 minutes. We will also have use of catamaran sailing boats in the bay for our own sailing class! **We intend to have some serious beach time!**

We will get to know the seaside resort and historical harbor of **Saint Jean de Luz**, the Basque tuna capital. You will see first hand the fishing boats coming in with their fresh catch. We will take a look at the incredible church where King Louis XIV (yes, the same one who built the Louvre and the Versailles palaces you saw in Paris) got married. **But Saint Jean is not only a beautiful historical resort, it is now one of the most popular destinations in southern France for Europeans** - like the town of Aspen in the Rocky Mountains.

We will be taking tours by private bus to see beautiful and picturesque **Basque villages** in the rolling foothills of the **Pyrenees Mountains**. An informative presentation on the Basque culture will be a part of this unique experience. See how the centerpiece of these villages features a court for the Basque sport Pelote and shop in their unique specialty shops. Lunch in a charming restaurant in a Basque village. **Get a feeling for the lay of the land where Europe's oldest culture has thrived.**

We visit the famous Chateau Abbadia on the Spanish border, then take a boat across the small bay from Hendaye in France to Fuenterrabia inside Spain. Enjoy a Spanish lunch of Tapas and walk off the lunch with a tour of the ancient old town. Return by boat and car to St. Jean for a relaxing dinner in the residence where **our chef will give us a lesson on French and Basque cuisine.** We will take a look up North to Biarritz and Bayonne, where the first **cocoa beans from the new world arrived in France to make the first chocolate** (not to mention the first corn, potatoes and chili peppers). **Biarritz** is called the

Monte Carlo of the Atlantic and is situated on one of the most spectacular stretches of coastline in Europe.

In 1854 the Empress Eugénie and Napoleon III arrived with their court and transformed this lovely fishing town into "the queen of beaches, and the beach of kings." Though Biarritz' reputation as an aristocratic city has been surpassed by its fame as the **capital of European surfing**, the grand hotels, villas and casinos of the Belle Époque continue to add a sophisticated air to its natural beauty. At the beautiful medieval capital of **Bayonne** we will visit the Cathedral and explore the ancient streets of old town for shopping, photos and sample some of the famous chocolates of France.

We will go into Spain to the old town of historic **San Sebastian**, founded in 1534 and **Fuentarabia**, across the river from the French town of **Hendaye**. San Sebastian looks like a small Rio de Janeiro. The city's Aquarium of the Sea, in the old town "Parte Vieja" is one of the best in Europe. **This is two weeks that you will never forget.**

## ABOUT US

**"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of." Ben Franklin, United States Ambassador to France, 1776**



**THE COLORADO YOUNG AMBASSADORS TO FRANCE PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE OUR ASSOCIATION WITH AFFILIATES OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF FRANCE.**

Our French affiliates provide exceptional educational tours and top certified guides to French school groups for their own students who normally would not have an opportunity to see other regions of France. They have been educating French students about their own country since 1915 and have developed exciting agendas that American tour operators do not offer. We have reached an agreement to enable our Colorado students to enjoy the same outstanding programs offered to the French students. No other American group has established this relationship before. Our Colorado Young Ambassador group was received in the Basque seaside resort of Saint Jean de Luz last summer and was the subject of a prominent news article in the Sud-Ouest newspaper (attached). In it there is a large photo of our group at the French beach having a great time!

## Why take the Colorado Young Ambassadors tour to France and Spain?

\*Our 14 day trip - June 21st – July 4<sup>th</sup>, is especially customized for Colorado students to get to know **Paris, Versailles and the exciting Basque coast and beaches of France and Spain**. It is not a whirlwind bus tour offered nationally, as done by the large student group tour companies. Our group will get to know what it is like to actually live in Paris for a whole week before heading for the beach.

\*This is a unique opportunity to expand your cultural awareness and meet fellow French students who can be your lifelong friends. This is the only tour that makes an effort to

have our participants meet French students who want to speak English and have American friends. You can communicate by email and visit each other in the future.

- \*Your grades will improve as you study French, history, geography, literature or art since you will have seen first hand what most students can only read about. Cuisine too!
- \*Universities are putting a greater emphasis on international travel and study abroad experience, and this tour will augment your college prospects. You will have a Colorado *Young Ambassador* tour completion certificate to attaché to your resume portfolio.
- \*Share an extraordinary adventure with fellow Colorado students from other high schools- come back with new friends, a sun tan and photos that will be priceless.
- \*And finally, life is not complete without a visit to Paris, the City of Light, and the famous French beaches! This may be your only chance for a long time, so don't miss out; it may change your life!

**"Students with international exposure come to understand the value of dialogue between people from different cultures and between people with different points of view. They also gain an understanding of the importance of relationships. Relationships are the foundation for meaning and success in life. They are also the foundation for strong businesses, especially businesses that care about creating mutual benefit."**

*-Douglass H. Daft, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Coca Cola Company*

## **About the tour organizers**

**Catherine Bédard** is a long standing and very popular French language teacher with over 20 years of teaching experience at the University of Colorado/Denver and Denver Public Schools including the new DPS Online High School. She broadcasts her own television programs on French language and Culture with the DPS Distance Learning Network Channels 22 and 48 in Denver. Catherine was raised in the Basque country in Southwest France and has led many educational tours to France and Spain for High School and University students. She is on the board of directors of the Alliance Française and the Colorado International School. In addition to English and French, Catherine also speaks fluent Spanish.

**Robert Bayne** is a graduate of CU Boulder in international business where he participated in the CU student exchange program to Bordeaux, France. He can testify first hand how a student trip abroad can change the direction of your life. He met Catherine Bédard there and went on to live and work in France, Asia and the former Soviet Union. He helped create and direct the Colorado International Trade Office where he organized and led trade missions worldwide and later developed a sister-state relationship between Colorado and Taiwan, Republic of China. Robert recently produced an historical documentary film shot in Minsk, Belarus, and speaks fluent French.

**Ms Liz Ward** – is an experienced group leader and French teacher at the George Washington High School International Baccalaureate Program in Denver. She was co-leader of our very successful trip to Béarn and the Basque country in June 2007.

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**Visit our website and see our photos!** [voyager-france.com](http://voyager-france.com)