

13-DAY PROGRAM



GUADELOUPE: FRENCH CARIBBEAN ADVENTURE

Take your language skills to the next level on this French island, known as the "Pearl of the French Caribbean."



OVERVIEW

Guadeloupe isn't a typical study abroad destination, and that's the point. This French Caribbean archipelago sits where African, European, and Caribbean cultures meet, offering an immersion that reaches well beyond any classroom. You'll sharpen your French through real instruction and conversation, do community service alongside local residents, hike to jungle waterfalls, snorkel in a UNESCO-recognized marine reserve, and eat food that tells the island's story.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Practice French in and out of the classroom through formal instruction and real conversation with locals.
- Explore one of the Caribbean's most protected stretches of ocean up close as you snorkel a UNESCO-recognized marine reserve.
- Dive into Guadeloupean culture through hands-on activities like traditional cooking and Gwo-Ka drumming.



ITINERARY

The actual schedule of activities may vary. The information provided here reflects the typical experiences planned; however, activities and excursions are subject to change due to factors such as weather conditions, community partner availability, and other unforeseen circumstances. Adjustments may also be made to best meet the needs and interests of the student group.

<p>DAY 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive in Pointe-à-Pitre (PTP) where TEPA staff will be waiting to welcome you and then drive you an hour to the Home Base in Goyave, where you'll settle in and have your first Guadeloupean meal!
<p>DAY 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start the day with Program Orientation, then dive straight into French immersion. A placement quiz will sort your group into the right level classes, taught by experienced local instructors who bring both language and Guadeloupean culture to life. • After class, explore the town of Goyave to get familiar with your new home, including a stop at a beautiful beach. • In the evening, break into smaller groups for deeper reflection and leadership activities.
<p>DAY 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head to the town of Petit-Bourg, where you'll meet with local officials and roll up your sleeves for hands-on community beautification. Past projects have included painting, building sidewalks, installing recycling infrastructure, and beach clean-ups. • End the day with French class, reflecting on what you've learned from the people and places you encountered.

<p>DAY 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventure into the Guadeloupean jungle to Le Carbet, a series of three spectacular waterfalls with natural swimming pools carved by the falls. Hike, swim, and soak it all in. This is Guadeloupe at its most raw and beautiful!
<p>DAY 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a local restaurant where you'll learn to prepare cassava, a traditional Guadeloupean dish made from cassava root, typically sweetened and garnished with grated coconut. • Head to the Destreland Commercial Center for a different window into daily Guadeloupean life. Pick up essentials and a souvenir or two.
<p>DAY 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend the day at a summer camp for local youth, playing games and teaching English to children from the surrounding community. • Afterwards, join your new Guadeloupean peers on the beach. Practice your French with locals and learn what everyday life on this island actually looks like from the people who live it.
<p>DAY 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to the Petit-Bourg, where we'll continue to make progress on our community beautification project. • In the afternoon, stop by the beach for a dip before heading back to the Home Base for a French class.
<p>DAY 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a hands-on cooking workshop where you'll learn to make local Creole specialties from scratch, then sit down and eat the meal you prepared together. • Round out the afternoon with French vocabulary games and an evening mentor group session.



<p>DAY 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After morning language classes, visit Memorial ACTe, a contemporary museum dedicated to the history of the Caribbean slave trade and the indigenous peoples of the archipelago.
<p>DAY 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive the Route de la Traversée, the only road that cuts through the dense jungle of Guadeloupe's National Park, crossing the full width of Basse Terre. • Stop for a walk to a hidden waterfall along the way. • Arrive at the Guadeloupe Zoo, nestled in the jungle and among the top 15% of zoos recognized for animal welfare standards.
<p>DAY 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend the entire day at Malendure Beach, snorkeling through the Cousteau Reserve, named after the famous French biologist Jacques Cousteau, who championed this biodiverse site's protection. • Explore coral gardens and brightly colored fish, then relax on the black sand beach.
<p>DAY 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After your final French class, take a Gwo-Ka workshop, a traditional Guadeloupean art form combining drumming, singing, and dance that sits at the heart of Creole cultural identity. Watch a live performance, then learn some moves yourself. • Gather for a farewell dinner to celebrate two weeks of service, language, culture, and friendship. You've earned it.
<p>DAY 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After two weeks in Guadeloupe, reflect on your experiences, and learnings in Guadeloupe as TEPA staff accompany you to the airport and support your group through security. Bon voyage!



TEPA HOME BASE

Home Base is located in Goyave at a cozy hotel. Students will share rooms with roommates and have access to shared bathrooms. Meals will be served in a common area and typically consist of meats, rice, vegetables and fruit prepared Creole style.

FOOD

Guadeloupean food is a mix of French dishes with African, Asian and Caribbean influences that create what you might call Creole cuisine. Staples include spices, local fish, vegetables and tomato-based sauces. Home Base chefs will prepare many Guadeloupean options for you to sample, and are equipped to accommodate vegetarian and gluten-free diets.

CLIMATE

Guadeloupe has a tropical, hot and humid climate all year. Expect some brief, tropical rain storms between sunny days. These are no detriment to travel in Guadeloupe, as they can be cooling and refreshing!

ABOUT TERRA EDUCATION PROGRAMS ABROAD

Terra Education Programs Abroad (TEPA) partners with schools and private groups to offer pre-designed and fully custom international experiences that align with academic goals while fostering global citizenship. Building on over 20 years of youth development expertise from its parent organization, Terra Education, TEPA delivers transformative experiences for young leaders worldwide.

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