



Short Term Missions Trips

Strasbourg, France

Église de la Gare

Located in the heart of Europe, Strasbourg is a city of influence—yet it remains spiritually dry. Today, less than 2% of the population identifies as evangelical. Our partnership with **Église de la Gare** in Strasbourg places us at a unique modern crossroads. Because the church is located near the city's main station, it serves as a lighthouse for a diverse population, including a significant number of Muslim refugees and migrants. We join our partners in their daily mission: building bridges through French language classes and coffee shop ministry, ensuring that the hope of Jesus is available to those who have lived in Strasbourg for generations or those who have just arrived!

Onboarding Process

1. Apply through the Restoration Short Term Missions Application found on the Restoration Website. Applications due December 1st.
2. Meet with Restoration's Missions Minister for a Follow Up Meeting.
3. Receive trip or waitlist placements by December 31st.

Requirements

- Must have a passport with at least six months of validity remaining, starting from the day of departure, to be accepted to the trip.
- Must attend Pre-Trip Trainings.
- Must follow the prescribed support raising deadlines for trip.

Pre-Trip Trainings

Preparation is vital to ministry impact. Our time in country is short, and we want to be as helpful and effective as we can. Pre Trip Trainings are designed to equip every team member with the practical skills and spiritual preparation necessary for their specific ministry context. In the Pre-Trip Trainings, we will cover the following:

- Meeting #1
 - Support raising
 - Gospel for all people
 - Team Building
 - Prayer
- Meeting #2
 - How to Share my Testimony
 - Culture Crash Course
 - Team Building
- Meeting #3
 - Fellowship
 - Team Building
 - Prayer
- Meeting #4
 - Pre Departure Meeting
 - Safety
 - Expectations
 - Logistics
 - Final Questions

Details & Logistics

Trip Cost

Total: \$3000

Includes airfare, visa, supplies, transportation, lodging meals, and fees/administrative costs. We recommend you bring some money for souvenirs.

All trip goers are expected to complete the payment deadlines found in the application and discussed at the first Pre-Trip Training.

A \$200 deposit is due 48 hours upon acceptance to the trip (nonrefundable).

We will use Managed Mission for payment collection and support raising. You will have your own personalized link to use. Any checks written to the trip must be made out to "Restoration Church Bryan" and have "France Mission Trip: FirstInitial LastName" written in the memo.

Luggage & Packing

Everyone will get two bags to bring on the plane. Any combination of below:

- x1 checked bag (must be less than 50lbs)
- x1 carry-on
- x1 personal item (i.e. backpack. Must fit under the seat below)

Carry on + personal item must be less than 25lbs . Please do not back your largest suitcase, as there is limited space while traveling via trains.

We will discuss a more thorough packing list at the third Pre-Trip Training, but here is a loose idea of what you will need. ****Do not bring anything you are worried about getting dirty, dusty, broken, or lost****

- Bible & notebook with pen
- Water bottle
- Camera (again, don't bring anything you're worried about losing)
- Electrical Converter (specifically for France)
- Backpack
- Rain gear
- Light jacket
- COMFORTABLE shoes for walking

- Toiletries
- AirBNB will provide you with one towel, washcloth, and all necessary bedding

General Trip Itinerary

Included below is a general itinerary. We are still working to solidify details of what we will be doing on the trip, so here is a small glimpse of what you can expect.

- Day 1 - Depart & Travel
- Day 2 - Arrive & Orientation
 - Airport/Gare pickup, settle into lodging, etc.
 - Late-Afternoon: Cultural Orientation → Theology of Mission
 - Evening: Welcome Dinner With Team Members
- Day 3 - Attend Local Church
- Day 4 - Le Quai 67
 - Morning - Observe café and language ministries, Q&A w/ a French language partner, & missionaries share vision & stories.
 - Afternoon - Guided Reformation Scavenger Hunt + Sightseeing
- Days 5 - Outreach & Cultural Immersion
- Day 6 - Worker Care & Outreach
 - Morning - VBS for long-term workers kids.
 - Afternoon - Preparation and setup for evening event.
 - Evening - Texas Cultural Night (food, music, cultural storytelling)
- Day 12 - Migrant Culture Immersion
 - Morning - Prayer walk through migrant-majority areas.
 - Afternoon - Time of learning with Iranian church
 - Evening - Reflection & prayer for the nations.
- Day 13 - Sightseeing & Service Project
 - Café Cleaning/Service Project
- Day 14 - Departure & Return home

Cultural Norms & Expectations

France is primarily a guilt/innocence culture, shaped historically by Christianity—particularly Roman Catholicism—but today is one of the most secular countries in the world. Strasbourg, located in the Alsace region near the German border, carries a stronger historical and cultural connection to Christianity than much of France. While religious institutions are more visible here, the majority of people are still not actively practicing, and many approach faith with caution or skepticism.

French society tends to be individualistic rather than group-oriented. Personal autonomy, privacy, and intellectual independence are highly valued. People often feel free to express differing opinions and may engage in debate more openly than what you're used to. This directness is cultural and not intended to be rude.

The French place a strong value on logic, reason, and intellectual discussion. Faith is often viewed as a private matter, and public expressions of religion can be met with skepticism. Many people carry historical or personal wounds connected to the Church, so conversations about faith often require patience, humility, and genuine listening.

Some helpful books and resources are:

- 3D Gospel by Jayson Georges
- Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong by Jean-Benoît Nadeau and Julie Barlow

Language

French is the official language of France, and language plays a significant role in expressing respect and social awareness. Formal and informal speech matter greatly. Using “vous” (formal “you”) instead of “tu” (informal “you”) is important when speaking with strangers, elders, or in professional settings. Switching too quickly to informal language can be seen as disrespectful.

French communication is generally more direct and precise, especially compared to cultures that avoid confrontation. That said, courtesy phrases are expected and help smooth interactions.

Below are some phrases that you can expect to hear and use:

- Bonjour = Hello / Good day
- Bonsoir = Good evening

- Excusez-moi = Excuse me
- Je m'appelle (name) = My name is (name)
- Merci beaucoup = Thank you very much
- De rien / Je vous en prie = You're welcome

Frequently Asked Questions

Travel

- What airline will be used?
 - We typically fly United, but it is subject to the best cost. We use Highpoint Travel to help us book.
- What transportation is used once in country (bus, train, other)?
 - We depart from College Station as a team, carpooling to the airport.
 - We typically take one flight to get to either Paris or Frankfurt. Once in Europe, we take a train from the airport to Strasbourg. Strasbourg is a very walkable city, so throughout the trip we tend to walk everywhere.

Accommodations/Food

- What are the accommodations during all phases of the trip? (Hotels, hostels, other?)
 - We normally stay in either an AirBnB or a hotel depending on team size.
- Will there be separate sleeping areas?
 - Yes, unless married, men and women will always have separate hotel rooms.

Emergency Protocols

- What are the crisis response plans for medical emergencies, political/civil unrest, terrorism, or natural disasters? Emergency evacuation plans? Is there a designated contact person at home to relay info to families?
 - Please refer to our document on [Safety and Security on Short-Term Missions Trips](#)
 - Trip Leaders, Hannah Davin (Missions Mobilization Minister), and Matt Ullrich (Executive Pastor) are the designated people of contact in the event of crises on a Short Term Trip with Restoration.
 - Hannah Davin (hdavin@restorationbryan.com)
 - Matt Ullrich, (matt@restorationbryan.com)

Insurance

- What insurance coverage is there?
 - We use Faith Ventures Basic Plan. Learn more [here](#).

Local Resources

- What is the location and contact information for the nearest hospital and U.S. Embassy?
 - Hospital - [Rhena Clinic](#) (Private Hospital)
 - U.S. Embassy in France
 - 2 Av. Gabriel, 75008 Paris, France
 - [Website](#)

Documentation

- Will there be a "master folder" containing photocopies of all required documentation?
 - Yes, there is a digital master folder that will be kept by the trip leader. However, trip participants are responsible to keep up with their own documentation (i.e. passport, trip visas, proof of trip insurance, etc.)
- Are medical release forms required?
 - No.

Communication

- Will there be reliable Wi-Fi or cellular access to allow contact in case of emergency? Will those in the US be able to contact in case of family emergency?
 - Yes, there is Wifi available at the hotel.