

## BAYONNE-BORDEAUX 12-23 JUILLET 2014

*Phrases in blue brackets = Themes relative to the curriculum of advance testing  
\* = meals at leisure; + = additional cost involved*

### **Samedi 12 juillet**

**Bienvenue à Bayonne!** Arrive at our hotel today and settle in. In the early evening, we'll get acquainted with this traditional city in the heart of the Basque Country during cocktails and dinner in one of Bayonne's renowned restaurants, with a gorgeous view overlooking the Adour River at sunset.

**DINNER**

### **Dimanche 13 juillet**

**La ville:** [*esthétique: le patrimoine*] To help us better understand our new city, a morning overview of the history of this complex, important region by our seminar instructor, a Basque from head to foot who knows and loves his region well. After a *déjeuner en ville*, we'll put that perspective to use in a walking tour of the city, learning a few phrases in Basque as we accompany our guide from the Bayonne Tourist Office.

**LUNCH**

### **Lundi 14 juillet**

**La scolarité en France:** [*famille & communauté*] What classroom struggles do teachers in France face? How does the French national curriculum compare to the US state-supported structures? What about French adolescents...are they any different from the ones we teach? An intimate look at the inner workings of France's educational system, with colleagues from the one of the most prestigious lycées in the Basque country to discuss this subject with us. Lunch and afternoon visit in one of the Basque coast's most magnificent towns: Biarritz, the town Napoléon III and his queen Eugénie made famous.

**LUNCH**

### **Mardi 15 juillet\***

**La politique française:** [*defies mondiaux*] How exactly is France run? What makes up la 5ème République? How is a president elected? How does France fit into the European Union? What are the inner workings of the French government and what are the particular problems which both the government and the people of France face today? Afternoon visit to a distinctly different kind of museum, the Musée Basque, right in the heart of town.

**MEALS AT LEISURE**

### **Mercredi 16\*+**

**Journée libre.** [*patrimoine*] Faites la grasse matinée and roam the city on your own today, or join us as we explore the Basque villages of the countryside, known for their picturesque views and pristine qualities: Espelette, Aïnöa, St-Jean-Pied-de-Port. We'll end with a visit to the beautifully preserved historical home and gardens of Edmond Rostand (*Cyrano de Bergerac*), and you'll be treated to a traditional *dégustation* of Basque specialties on the way home.

**MEALS AT LEISURE**

### **Jeudi 17 juillet**

**La famille française aujourd'hui:** [*famille & communauté*] Are French families any different from those in America? How/what do the French do differently with the raising of their children? What about the statute of women? *Le mariage pour tous*? What about jobs and housing, family budgets,

work security? You'll be able to draw some interesting contrasts with American society. Afternoon excursion to the exquisite port town of St-Jean-de-Luz, where Louis XIV chose to marry his Spanish wife, l'Infanta Maria-Teresa.

LUNCH

**Vendredi 18 juillet\*+**

**Journée libre:** *[defies mondiaux, patrimoine]* Your understanding of *le pays basque* is not complete until you've seen the other Basque country, *le pays basque sud*. We'll visit the vibrant city of Bilbao in Spain and the remarkable Guggenheim Museum, whose construction in 1997 completely changed the nature of this city and region. We'll stop on the way back in the historical and spiritual home of the Basques, the town of Guernica, whose vicious bombarding in 1937 by Hitler's special forces to show support for General Franco in Spain shocked the world and inspired Pablo Picasso's most beautiful and terrifying painting, *Guernica*.

MEALS AT LEISURE

**Samedi 19 juillet**

**Le Pays Basque et l'Europe : quel avenir ?** *[defies mondiaux]*: How does France, and more particularly the Basque country, view its future within the context of the European Union ? Basque customs and traditions find themselves at odds with the dictates of Bruxelles; how will this be resolved? A glimpse into the inner workings of the heart of Europe. You're free to relax this afternoon or join us as we explore San Sebastian, a coastal town on the Basque-Spanish border. We'll say goodbye to our teacher this evening in a special dinner in Bayonne.

DINNER

**Dimanche 20 juillet** *[patrimoine]*

**Getting to know you:** We'll leave the Basque Country this morning and journey north to the recently renovated city of Bordeaux, wine region par excellence and undisputed capital of the great Sud-Ouest. Lunch in town, then a walking tour to familiarize us with our new surroundings, followed by an *incontournable dégustation de vin & fromage*.

LUNCH

**Lundi 21 juillet\*+** *[patrimoine]*

You can spend time at leisure in your new town or join us as we discover the pristine village of St-Emilion, classified world heritage site by UNESCO. A guided visit of the town with its Romanesque architecture and Roman ruins stretching through its narrow streets will be complemented by a wine tasting at a private estate, leaving you with many delightful memories.

MEALS AT LEISURE

**Mardi 22 juillet**

You've worked hard for the last 10 days so you deserve a day entirely to yourselves! We have several ideas for you, should you come up with a blank: a trip to the gorgeous seaside town of Arcachon; a private cooking class; backstage visit to the *coulisses de l'Opéra*; wine tastings in town; and shopping, shopping, shopping while the sales are still on. Gala dinner in a delightful setting.

DINNER

**Mercredi 23 juillet**

**Departure** is always bittersweet. Hopefully, you can prolong your stay in the great sud-ouest or return to the Basque country. There is much to see and do to continue your *immersion complète dans la langue française*.