



Address:

Château de Pourtalès
161, rue Mélanie, 67000 Strasbourg - France
Tel. +33(0)3 88 45 84 64 Fax +33(0)3 88 45 84 60
www.chateau-pourtales.eu

Your Group Coordinator:

Ms. Christina Dröske
Ms. Wiltrud (Willi) Rösler

Château de Pourtalès Director:

Mrs. Uli Leibrecht
CEPA Europe Managing Director
Receptionist: Ms. Gaby Junger

1. What is the best way to get to the Château from Frankfurt Airport?

One group pick-up on August 31, 2011 at 11:00 am will be arranged for all students who arrive at Frankfurt International Airport / Germany.

Fly to Frankfurt International Airport (FRA)

Depart the US on: August 30, 2011

Arrive in Europe / Frankfurt (Germany) on: August 31, 2011 before 11:00 am

If you arrive before August 31 you should take the Lufthansa Shuttle Bus as it is the easiest, quickest and most direct way from Frankfurt to Strasbourg. Anyone can take the Lufthansa shuttle, no matter what airline you use.

Here is the link to the schedule:

http://www.lufthansa-airportbus.com/strecken_strasbourg.html

Just like you book a flight with Lufthansa, you can buy your tickets for the Lufthansa Airport Bus online at www.lufthansa.com



Reservations can also be made at any Lufthansa travel agency. As with a flight, it is also necessary that you make a reservation and purchase a ticket in advance for the Lufthansa Airport Bus.

If you want to book the bus online and pay per credit card, you have to go to www.lufthansa.com and book it as a flight, it has a flight number. Please make sure that you at least reserve a seat, at times the bus is already fully booked and we had students left behind in Frankfurt and having to take the train because they thought they would prefer not to reserve a certain bus and just take the next one departing when they would get out of the terminal.

2. Can I arrive at the Château earlier?

Yes, but space is very limited the weeks before your program starts. Please let CEPA Europe know as soon as possible if you would like to reserve a room at the Château. The special price is 25 Euro per night including breakfast. (shared room)

3. What is the Château and the surrounding area like?

The Château is situated in the Strasbourg neighborhood of Robertsau, only 3 miles from the town center of Strasbourg. It is surrounded by a beautiful park which offers miles of walking and biking paths as well as a large collection of artworks from national and international artists.

4. Is there going to be an orientation when we arrive?

Yes, there will be an orientation on Sept. 1st. Your coordinator will explain everything that you need to know about the facilities and services in the Château, the surrounding neighborhood and the city of Strasbourg. Afterwards, you will go join your group and coordinator for your welcome dinner. The orientation at the University of Strasbourg will be on Sept. 6-9.

5. What are the rooms like?

The rooms are equipped with two beds, an armoire/wardrobe and in most rooms, a desk, lamp and chair, trash can and a mirror. Every room has a window and a great view of the park.

6. How many students will be in each room?

There will be two students in each room and you will each have your own bed. A limited number of single rooms are available.

7. How often will the rooms be cleaned and sheets/towels be changed?

The cleaning staff will clean the rooms, empty dustbins, and change the sheets once a week.

Note: The cleaning staff is very cautious and will not touch or move any of your belongings, so if you leave anything on your bed, (like ipods, laptops, clothes, etc) they will not change your sheets.

Towels will be changed twice a week. If you feel that you need your towels changed more often, you can always turn them in and receive fresh ones in return. But please be kind to the environment and try to reuse your towels often.

8. Where are the bathrooms?

There are shared restroom facilities located on each floor.

9. Will I need to bring my own sheets & towels?

The Château will provide you with sheets, blankets and pillowcases for your bed, one large bath towel and one smaller hand towel. If you are planning to travel in Europe and stay in budget hotels or hostels, towels are usually not included. You may want to bring your own small towel with you.

10. Is there a washer and dryer at the Château? What does it cost to wash a load?

Yes, there are two washing machines and dryers available to use free of charge in the Château. One is located in the student kitchen on the first floor and the other one is across from the breakfast room, next to the kitchen on the ground floor. You can buy washing detergent from your coordinator during opening hours for € 1,- per scoop. Only full loads of laundry are allowed. There is also an iron and an iron board available in the washing room next to the kitchen. There is a list hanging beside each washing machine. Please plan and sign up ahead of time if you want to use the laundry facilities.

11. When are we dining out?

There are some group dinners already included in your program fee like your welcome dinner. Your coordinator will remind you when the dinners are planned. Generally, drinks and tips will cost extra and are not included. The meals will be arranged in different restaurants and at your Château's restaurant to offer you a variety of meals.

12. What other meal options are there? Can I eat at the University of Strasbourg cafeteria?

Your University of Strasbourg student ID acts as a debit card for the student cafeteria. A three course meal costs around 3 Euro and is the easiest and probably most affordable option. You can load credits onto the card on site and you will receive details at the University of Strasbourg orientation.

13. Can vegetarian and vegan diets be accommodated?

CEPA can always accommodate your dietary restrictions during group meals, as long as you have informed us about your concerns. Please let us know ahead of time about your dietary concerns, before you leave for Europe.

14. What is the proper etiquette when leaving tips in restaurants?

In France a 15 % gratuity is already added on the check, but this doesn't mean that you shouldn't leave a tip on top of that as the waiters generally don't receive the added gratuity directly. It is customary to leave 5-10 % of the total check if you had good service. For cab drivers only a euro or 2 is expected as a tip.

15. Is there a kitchen we can use and what equipment is available?

Yes, there is a student kitchen available for you to use. It is located on the first floor at the end on the left hand side. Please wash up after using anything in the kitchen, remove your waste after cooking and keep the kitchen clean. All of the basics required for cooking and eating are in the kitchen. If there is any equipment missing, please just ask Willi or the Château staff. There are also fridges and cupboards assigned to your group for storing your food.

16. What is the additional \$1,600 meal allowance?

You can request a \$1,600 meal allowance to be arranged through CEPA Europe. The charge will be made to your credit card or sent per invoice. CEPA Europe will give you the funds in cash on a weekly basis over the semester. This will help you/parents keep track of your funds, help you avoid having to bring large sums of cash with you to Strasbourg, and also prevent you from having to take out cash each week from an ATM or bank, thus avoiding high bank fees or additional fees for exchanging cash. If you are interested in this option, please contact us. There is no additional charge for this service.

17. What is the typical breakfast?

Breakfast at the Château is served daily from 7:30-10:00 am from Mon-Sat. and from 8:30-11:00 am on Sunday (these are the set time for meals unless planned otherwise for your group). The typical breakfast consists of baguette bread, cold cuts/cheeses, jams, cereals, juices, and coffee and tea. You can find the breakfast room directly off the main courtyard or by walking through the Salon Rouge on the ground floor, pass the reception office on the right, continue through the long corridor until you are near the end, the breakfast room is just off to your right.

18. Are there refrigerators available for student use in the Château?

There will be refrigerators located in the student kitchen assigned to your group. If you put anything in these shared fridges or the freezer in the student kitchen, please make sure you label it with your university and name, because the fridges are cleaned out regularly to avoid spoiled food. Please remove and dispose of your food before your departure from the Château and be kind, clean up any messes or spills.

19. Are there vending machines in the Château?

There is a vending machine and a coffee machine in the breakfast room. You can buy soft drinks and other snacks for € 1,00 each, coffee for € 0,50

20. Is there a restaurant in the Château?

There is not a restaurant inside the Château itself, but there is a small restaurant called the Jardin de Pourtalès located at the entrance gate to the Château. Please let your coordinator know in advance if you would like to eat there, so she can reserve a table for you. Lunches are offered at special rates. The restaurant is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

21. How far is the closest supermarket (supermarché) to the Château?

The nearest supermarket is only a 10 minute walk from the Château de Pourtalès. The supermarket is called SIMPLY. Open: Monday to Saturday from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Follow the driveway out of the Château. Turn right and continue along the street Mélanie. Turn left at the roundabout. Follow the street and the SIMPLY is just on your left. Again, your coordinator will take you food shopping and show you the ropes the first days that you are in Strasbourg.

22. Is there internet access (WiFi), cable TV, and a phone line?

Yes, the Château has WiFi access. There is also a satellite TV and a DVD player in the student lounge behind the breakfast room. Please do not use it when there is a lecture going on in the classroom next to it.

23. Does the internet access work in rooms or just in common areas?

The WiFi access is set up to work throughout the Château and the surfing fee is already included in your program fee. The access code is posted on the pinboard near the breakfast room on the ground floor.

24. Is there a computer lab available or should you bring a laptop?

Yes, there are two computer labs in the Château, one is on the ground floor in the library, next to the reception (will be closed during receptions, dinners and other festivities in the neighbouring ballrooms) the other one is across from the student kitchen on the first floor (Open daily 24 hours). They are for academic use and study, student projects and internet research, therefore it is not possible to install any software on the computers. There are laptop jacks for your computers and the Château is equipped with WiFi internet access.

25. Will there be a printer or copy machine that we can use at the Château?

There is a printer available in the library and computer lab for student use. If you need to make some copies, you can do this at the University of Strasbourg when you are on campus or in the city at a copy shop.

26. What are the reception hours?

The reception desk is open every day from 7:30 am to 10:00 pm. Your coordinator, as well as the Château de Pourtalès staff will also be available to assist you. If the reception desk is not occupied, please ring the door bell on the front door “Château de Pourtalès” and someone will come to assist you as soon as possible.

27. Can I have friends and family visit me at the Château?

If you have visitors or guests, please note that they have to be registered with Gaby at the reception. You will be charged € 10 per person and night if they stay in your room, including breakfast and will need to be booked and paid for in advance at the reception or in the coordinator’s office. Booking an extra room for your guests is also possible. Please check with Gaby about the room rates and availability.

28. Is there a dress code at the Château of for my excursions?

Yes, we expect that students present themselves in an appropriate manner for all occasions, whether at the Château or on official excursions. Please plan on bringing a mix of clothes with you – smart, casual business and dress up, as well as casual wear of course. Most important to note is that there will be other students and guests staying at the Château, so it is a requirement that appropriate clothing is worn during breakfast and in public rooms of the Château. (no flip flops, pajamas, swimming suits, or going barefoot) Please be respectful of other guests.

FAQ's - Practical information:

1. What clothes should I pack and other necessities?

Winter: Strasbourg is known for having mild winters (they are mild, but it depends on what you compare them with). So make sure that you pack a lot of warm clothes. The weather pattern is relatively unstable and it may rain at any moment. So, make sure that you pack a rain jacket or an umbrella. A more detailed packing list will be provided separately.

2. How should I plan to dress?

We want you to feel at home during your stay at the Château. However, it is important for you to realize that Europeans generally consider it very important to always dress appropriately when in public areas. We would ask that you show respect by not coming to meals, class and excursions in your “comfy” clothing. (ex- no pajamas or sweatpants at breakfast or flip flops during company/professional visits like at the EU Parliament)

As the saying goes – *“When in Rome, do as the Romans.”*

3. Where is the tourist information office?

The Tourist Office is located in Muenster Square (near the cathedral) in Strasbourg city. Current information and leaflets about sites to see and current events in Strasbourg are available there. Open daily from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, phone: 03 88 52 28 28. You will find small city pocket maps in your welcome packages in your room.

4. What kind of adapter do I need to bring for electronic devices (e.g. hair dryers?)

Europe, including France, uses European-style round two-pin plugs and a different, higher voltage of 220 volts AC, 50Hz than what is used in the USA (110 V) So, you will need to bring an adapter for the outlet plugs and also a transformer for your electrical devices. Laptop computers and many chargers for cameras and other devices already have a converter included (the little black box in the middle of the cable. There are also adapters available at the Château for purchase.

5. Do I have travel and health insurance during the program?

You should have already applied for insurance through your home university and you will also have health coverage under the **French Social Security**. Anyone living in France for more than three months must join the Social Security system. This takes place and is required when you register at the University of Strasbourg during the orientation.

FAQ's – Money Matters:

1. How much money will I need for day to day expenses after the cost of the program and the airfare?

This depends on your budget, plans as well as your eating habits and personal preferences. You can estimate around 25 - 30 USD per day (about 20-25 EUR), but if you plan to travel extensively while in France or Europe, you should consider budgeting for more.

2. What is the currency?

1 Euro (EUR) is divided into 100 cents.



3. What is the exchange rate?

1 USD = 0.70-0.80 EUR

However, exchange rates are constantly changing, so please make sure you check the current rates daily if you want to exchange larger amounts of cash or charge items to your credit card. www.xe.com is a commonly used website where you can check exchange rates.

>> The chart on the right is an approximated cheat sheet which you can cut out and keep in your wallet. It is nice to have a rough idea and feel for the approximate costs/value of things compared to the USD, esp. when you just have arrived in a foreign country, and are buying a snack from a street vendor and don't want to whip out your calculator or end up paying too much for something.

1 USD	=	0.8 EUR
2 USD	=	1.5 EUR
5 USD	=	4 EUR
10 USD	=	8 EUR
15 USD	=	11 EUR
20 USD	=	15 EUR
25 USD	=	19 EUR
30 USD	=	23 EUR
40 USD	=	30 EUR
50 USD	=	38 EUR
75 USD	=	57 EUR
100 USD	=	75 EUR

4. Where can I exchange money?

Banks in France do not exchange cash anymore unless you have an account with them. You can exchange cash at the central post office in Strasbourg (located next to the cathedral).



Since they charge you a fee of 5 EUR for each transaction, make sure you exchange your cash wisely and effectively – meaning, do not exchange small amounts many times since you will be charged the fee each time.

5. Where can I get cash from an ATM?

TIP - Bank of America has an agreement with the French bank BNP Paribas which enables you to withdraw money without having to pay fees. We recommend that you check with your own bank before you leave home to find out if your card will be compatible or if such agreements exist overseas.

ATMs are widely available and can be found in Robertsau on the main street Rue Boecklin. You can use your American credit/debit card to get cash but be prepared for bank fees in both Strasbourg and at your home bank.

6. Can I use traveler's checks?

Traveler' checks are not accepted in establishments and very difficult to cash in so we do not recommend bringing or using them at all.

7. Can I use my credit card?

Credit cards are accepted in the city. Visa and MasterCard are more widely accepted than American Express, which might not be accepted in some small restaurants and shops. Many credit card companies charge additional fees or poor exchange rates for international use. Check with your company before you leave home so that you know what to expect ahead of time. Also ask about PIN codes required to draw cash from overseas ATM machines.

>> Hint - It's worth giving your credit card company a ring anyway before you leave to let them know that you'll be using your card in France. This helps them not to panic if they spot transactions suddenly appearing in France and prevents them from putting a block on your card.

8. What are the extra costs that I need to budget for?

- Optional meal allowance at the Château 1,600 USD
- Use of the university's sports facilities..... 15 Euro / semester
- Books and supplieswill vary

FAQ's - Public Transportation:

1. Is a public transportation pass included in my program fee?

Yes it is. Once you arrive in Strasbourg, your coordinator will help you obtain your public transportation pass. The passes are non-refundable so please make sure that once you receive yours, you keep it with you at all times during your stay in Strasbourg. You will need to bring a passport sized photo of yourself, your student ID and your passport with you to get the public transportation pass.

2. What is the walking distance from the housing to public transportation?

The closest bus-stop is "Lamproie", which is about a 10 min walk from the Château. Directions to the bus-stop "Lamproie": Follow the driveway out of the Château. Turn right and continue along the street Mélanie. Turn left at the roundabout. The bus-stop is on the right side of the road. You can request a time schedule from the coordinator's office. Your coordinator will explain this during your orientation.

3. What kind of public transportation is available?

Bus and Trams: The bus and tram system in Strasbourg is the easiest way to get around. Bus number 15a to "République" or 15 to "Observatoire". From "Observatoire" change to tram line C or B to Place de l'Homme de Fer will take you downtown.

Taxis: A taxi ride from downtown to the Château costs approximately € 15-20.

Tel. **03 88 75 19 19** (Taxi 13) or 03 88 36 13 13.

Trains: You can take the train to destinations such as Metz, Paris, Basel, and Frankfurt. Usually for trips lasting around 2 hours you can get a ticket for € 20. You can purchase tickets at an SNCF boutique or online with your credit card.

You can access information on trains at this website: http://www.sncf.com/en_EN/html/

Student fares (decouverte) are available depending on the type of trains you choose and your age. Just check their website for more details or ask Willi to help you book a ticket.

4. Can I rent bikes from the Château and what does it cost to rent a bike?

There are bikes available for use at the Château during daylight hours. You must also leave a refundable deposit of 50 EUR, which you will get back, at the end of your stay, assuming that the bikes are returned without any damage. Contact the reception if you would like to rent a bike.

Please note: You will be held responsible for any loss or damage to the bikes. Bikes must be returned as they were taken - if not, you must pay for the damage. You must also pay to replace lost or stolen bikes. For your own safety, bikes must be returned in the evening before it gets dark.

FAQ's - Communication:

1. How can I call home without a cell phone (calling cards)?

The best way to call home without a cell phone is to use the public telephone in the castle near the reception for use with calling cards. You can buy the telephone cards at the reception.

Then you dial the individual country codes for calling to: USA/Canada – 001; Germany – 0049; Switzerland – 0041; Belgium – 0032

The country code for France is 0033; Calling from USA/Canada it is 01133.

There is a phone in the library on which you can be called at any time. The number you can give to your parents is 01133 3 88 45 84 68. Please schedule a time with your parents to make sure others can use the phone as well.

2. Can I use Skype at the Château?

Yes, if you already have a skype account and have a headset, then this is probably the easiest and cheapest way to communicate with friends and family back home. There is wireless Internet connection throughout the Château, so connecting with everyone should not be a problem.

3. Where is the post office?

You can buy stamps and leave your postcards at the reception desk at the Château since the post is delivered and picked up daily. There is a post office located in Robertsau and in Strasbourg city where you can buy stamps and mail packages. Post offices are recognizable by a blue and yellow sign. Just ask your coordinator for directions.

4. How much is postage to send a letter to North America?

Postage for a postcard or letter to the USA/Canada costs 0.85 EUR.

5. Can students receive faxes at the Château?

Yes, students may receive faxes at the Château. The fax number for someone from the USA/Canada to send a fax to the Château is: 011 33 388 45 84 60.

Faxes sent to you should include a cover letter which clearly indicates your name and your university name.

6. What are the post office hours?

The normal hours are Mon-Fri: 9 am-6 pm, and on Sat: 9 am -1 pm. The central post office in Strasbourg does not close for lunch, but the one in Robertsau does.



FAQ's - Health, Safety and Emergency

1. Is there a residential staff member who lives in the Chateau with the students?

Yes, we have 4 residential staff members at the Château, plus 10-12 additional staff members who are at the Château on a daily basis.

2. Is the Chateau locked at certain hours? Do students have a key to get in or is it electronic?

Yes, the Château is locked with an electric digit door code on the entrances, so it is essentially always locked. The students will receive the door codes at their orientation session.

3. Do the bedrooms lock and how, with a key or electronic security?

Yes, the bedrooms are locked manually with keys and deadbolts. Please remember to lock your door when you leave your room. The doors in the Château do not lock automatically.

4. Is there access to medical facilities?

Medical care is widely available in France and comparable to what you find in the U.S. You will be able to see a doctor if you need one in any situation and both the TW Lord insurance and French Social Security insurance will cover most of the costs. You will need to pay in cash for the treatment upfront and then file for a reimbursement. For this reason, be sure to save all receipts. Please ask Willi for any help or advice needed.

5. Are there any particular health risks?

There are really no major known health risks of which to be concerned. Gastric and Diarrheic diseases are common for those who are not accustomed to local food or who do not take precautions. It is recommended to bring anti-diarrhea medication with you. Wash your hands carefully before each meal.

6. What are the emergency numbers in France (like 911 in the USA)?

Police: 17

Fire station: 18

Ambulance (SAMU): 15

(Note- they usually don't speak English. Your coordinator is available to you in case of an emergency.)

7. What kind of support will be provided in case of an emergency?

Your coordinator is available for you in case of an emergency. The coordinator's cell phone number will be stated on your group's itinerary and emergency card. Your coordinator also lives at the Château.

8. What will happen if I get lost or need help?

If you always have your cell phone on hand and you get lost, you can call your coordinator. (as will be discussed at orientation)



9. What is the emergency contact information for my family (e.g. email, fax, and telephone numbers)?

A detailed itinerary will be provided for you by CEPA for your orientation meeting before you leave for Europe. There will be a list of emergency numbers stated in the itinerary: Château information, CEPA contact information, coordinator's cell phone number. Thus, it would be good to leave a complete itinerary which your parents/family.

10. Are there any particular security concerns beyond the normal for US students?

Strasbourg is a relatively safe place, but there are still some things you need to watch out for as a tourist. Never leave your belongings unattended and be aware of your surroundings as pickpockets and thieves are very active in tourist areas. The only crime-free place is heaven, so use your common sense and always be aware of your surroundings and don't leave your belongings unattended at any time.

11. What is the contact information for the US Embassy in Strasbourg?

United States Consulate
15, Ave. d'Alsace
67082 Strasbourg
France
Telephone Numbers (calling within France):
Embassy Strasbourg: 0388 35 31 04

Opening hours: Monday – Friday;
9:00 am – 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
After opening hours, emergencies will be forwarded to the embassy in Paris.
Internet: www.amb-usa.fr/strasbourg/default.htm

12. What is the attitude towards Americans?

French people may seem rude to you since the majority of French people might speak English but still prefer to communicate primarily in French. Any attempt to speak to the local people in their own language will be greatly appreciated, even if it is just a "bonjour" it shows a sign of respect and openness to their culture. Also, remember that you are in a different country and not everyone will speak your language.

13. What is the time difference between France and the United States?

France runs on Central European Time (+1 GMT)- so that is a 6 hour time difference from Eastern Standard Time in the U.S. When it is lunch time in Strasbourg, it is still the early morning back home, so take this into consideration if you want to call home.

14. Do they use the same weights and measures in France as in the US?

No, France like the rest of Europe and many other parts of the world, uses the metric system so measurements will be made in cm, meters, speed measured in kilometers per hour, temperature will be measured in Celsius, etc.

15. What are the road and driving conditions?

Road conditions in Europe differ slightly from those in the U.S. Roads in France are comparable to those in the U.S., but traffic signs are not very plentiful so people are always making last minute maneuvers and driving more aggressively. You should be aware of this when you are crossing the street. In Strasbourg, many people use bicycles to get around. There is a large network of bike paths in town, which you can recognize by the green color and the white bike signs on the ground. WATCH OUT for bicycles, people ride them aggressively and don't like pedestrians using their bike paths!

On a different note, the trams in Strasbourg run on street level and on electricity so they are therefore very quiet. Be sure to always look both ways before crossing the streets in the city.

16. Do they drive on the right hand side of the road in France like in the USA?

Yes, they drive on the right side.

FAQ's – General Questions @ France

1. How easy is it to communicate in English if I can't speak the local language?

The common spoken language in Strasbourg and this region of France is French. Most shop owners and/or locals can speak and understand French and some degree of English. Most locals will know a little English in the city, but once you go outside of the city it will be hard to communicate with anything other than French. Should you need assistance with communication during your stay, please ask your coordinator or faculty leader for help. Please always try to address people in French, learning an introductory sentence like "I am sorry I don't speak French" helps a lot to cross barriers.

You will also receive a 20 hour crash course French lessons at the beginning of your semester at the Château.

2. What are the local customs and cultural norms?

Many cultures overlap in France. The Alsace changed the nationality (German – French) four times between 1870 and 1945 and finally, in 1945, Strasbourg became the seat of the first European institution, as a symbol of the reconciliation. The culture in Strasbourg has become one of cordiality and character - you will find an international atmosphere of beauty and friendliness above that, which is usually found in European cities.

3. What kind of food can you recommend to eat in France?

- Baguettes and Croissants
- Crêpes: tasty French pancakes made from wheat or buckwheat
- Tarte flambée- a specialty in the Alsatian region, it is made with thin dough topped with onions, bacon, and sour cream
- Sweets you can't miss: Madeleines, Éclairs

4. How should I behave in public?

Remember that you are a guest and you should behave appropriately. Make sure that you behave in a respectful manner. You will probably also notice that generally people in Europe do not speak or yell loudly in public, especially trains and buses. Observe your surroundings and be respectful of your host country and culture.

5. What is the availability of public toilets?

Public toilets in France are labeled “toilettes” or WC. Dames for Ladies and Messieurs for Men. Café and restaurant owners really don’t appreciate you using the restroom if you are not a paying customer, so if you can’t find a public restroom and it’s an emergency just duck into a fast food restaurant or a large department store.

6. Is smoking allowed in the Château and in general in France?

Smoking is not allowed anywhere inside the Château. In fact, many European countries are undergoing stricter changes regarding their smoking laws. It is now illegal to smoke cigarettes in restaurants, stores, and workplaces in France. So, be extra cautious of non smoking signs as you could be fined if you are smoking in an area where it is not permitted.

7. Where can I find cheap flights so that I can travel in Europe?

Check the Baden Airpark Website -
http://www.badenairpark.de/sub_airport/index-en.html

8. How can I book a train from Strasbourg to Paris?

Check the TGV website <http://www.tgv-europe.de/de/home/>
The French train website: <http://www.voyages-sncf.com/>
or go to the main train station in Strasbourg and buy a ticket at the counter.

FAQ’s – HISTORY

1. When was the Château de Pourtalès built?

In 1750 our Château was first conceived as a small manor house nestled in the neighborhood of Robertsau, an agricultural suburb of Strasbourg. The preeminent construction contractor to the King of France, Joseph Guerault, found himself in need of a quiet place to relax from his arduous duties, building fortifications for the city of Strasbourg. His house served its purpose well. The Guerault family happily enjoyed the home and the tranquility of its surrounding forest until 1802, when it was sold to Baron Paul-Athanase Renouard de Bussierre. The Baron married the daughter of a prominent Strasbourg banker and nobleman, and they eagerly expanded the manor into a gracious Château.

2. What significance does the Château hold to Strasbourg?

Between 1870 and 1914 Château de Pourtalès was an important meeting center of European nobility, whom were invited to the Château by the Countess Mélanie and the Earl Pourtalès. There were many visitors of nobility, some of them you may recognize:

Albert Schweitzer, Franz Liszt, Napoléon III, Queen Eugenie, Princess from Belgium and Russia, Ludwig I from Bavaria, the Grand Duke from Baden and the Duke Metternich, just to name a few.

3. Who was the Countess Mélanie?

The third generation brought Mélanie, the Château's namesake. Daughter of the Viscount and wife to Count Edmond de Pourtalès, Countess Mélanie was exceedingly beautiful and had a reputation for peerless grace. She elevated her social standing to its pinnacle when she became a member of Empress Eugenie's Paris Imperial Court and subsequently associated with many distinguished intellectuals and artists of her time. Renowned for garden parties and receptions she frequently hosted, Countess Mélanie gathered Europe's most notable elite and nobility right here at the Château de Pourtalès for intellectual and cultural exchange.

4. What hardships has the Château faced?

The Château has been persevered through several wars, suffering fire damage during the French-German War in 1870, and serving its duty as an army hospital during that same conflict. The two World Wars were also difficult, for it was held by the Germans in WWI as "enemy property". Private owners closed the Château in 1939 without plans to reopen. During WWII, it was confiscated and forced to house high-ranking German officers, then occupied by Allied Forces for a short period following the war.

5. How is it that I have the opportunity to study at the Château now?

The castle fell to almost complete ruins and spent so many years in such disrepair that it was scheduled for demolition by the City of Strasbourg. Until the year 1972 when Dr. Walter Leibrecht bought the property and began drastic renovations to open it as a new study location for the university. The Château de Pourtalès has remained in the Leibrecht Family ever since. For over 35 years, students like you, from all over the world have studied here.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN STRASBOURG!
CEPA Europe / Château de Pourtalès TEAM**