



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM 2020 FRANCE



Service
Volontaire
International
www.servicevolontaire.org

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM 2020



ABOUT THE SVI





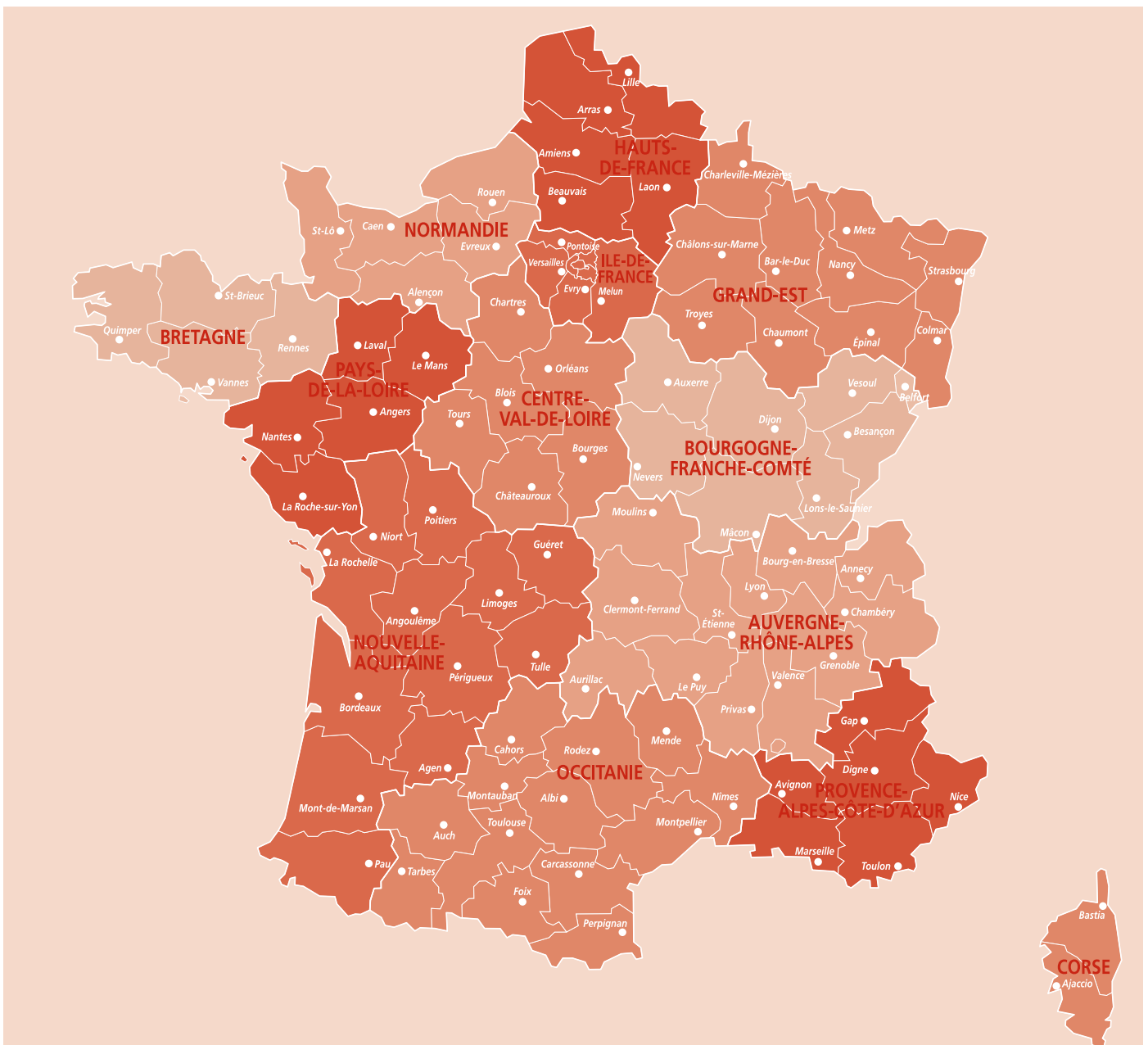
ABOUT THE SVI

The “Service Volontaire International” (SVI) is a Franco-Belgo-Vietnamese non-profit, non-religious, non-political association created by and for volunteers. The SVI is officially recognised as a youth organisation by the Belgian Ministry of Youth and accredited by the European Commission to send and coordinate Erasmus+ and European Voluntary Service (EVS) programs. The SVI takes part in international exchange programs in more than 80 countries, including Belgium and France.

Our main focus is to prepare, send out, and welcome volunteers who wish to take part in international projects/work-camps organised by other local, non-profit associations.

Background

The SVI was founded in 2009 by former volunteers and aid workers. The SVI is the independent branch of the Vietnamese NGO SJ Vietnam which was created in 2004 in Hanoi thanks to the com-



mitment of both United Nations Volunteers and the Belgian Development Cooperation in which Pierre De Hanscutter, co-founder of SJ Vietnam and founder of the SVI, was working.

In 2013, the French branch of our organisation was created by former volunteers. Its offices are located in Lille and since the beginning of 2017 one employee works there full-time.

Our main activities

The SVI is actively involved in international exchanges with both the North and South. Its main aim is to prepare, send and welcome young volunteers in the context of international projects implemented by local and non-profit associations.

Our public

We are a youth organization. Our main target group is therefore between 18 and 35 years old. However, many of our European local partners offer the possibility to go on a volunteering project from the age of 16. Our offers can be for individual projects as well as for groups (youth movements, school groups, families...).

Our will is to make volunteering accessible to all. This is why we work a lot with Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps in order to reach a wider public and especially to give young people with fewer financial, social or cultural possibilities the opportunity to try this experience. In this way, we hope to make a wider contribution to "educating" responsible, critical and supportive citizens.

Almost 1,000 young Belgians and French people take part in a volunteering project every year, as well as about a hundred volunteers who come from all over the world to come and live the same experience in Belgium or France.

Missions and values

The organisation mainly focuses on intercultural exchanges between young people (from 16 to 30 years old) across the world, trying to give them the opportunity to take part in a volunteering project, regardless of age, gender or skills. In other words, the SVI's main goal is to make international volunteering accessible to the greatest number of young people. By doing so, the SVI seeks to encourage young people to be active and proactive in the society they live in, empower them and help them to become citizens of the world who are ethically and socially aware, critical, as well as sensible. Thus it promotes not only solidarity, but also active citizenship.

The SVI's ultimate goal is to make young people aware of the challenges of our globalized society and get them to understand the reasons why solidarity, diversity and development are important in such a society.

The SVI believes that the youth should be the first ones to benefit from opportunities such as international volunteering because they represent the future and will play a key part in tomorrow's society. The SVI also believes that volunteering should not be a way to make profit but to support local associations, to strengthen one's faculty to adapt to foreign cultures but also break out of one's comfort zone, learn about others and oneself. The SVI also believes that everyone can contribute to a project, whether they are from the North or from the South and that cultural exchanges can be made from North to South and the other way around.

The SVI has been a member of Youth Organisation's federation Lianes Coopération since 2015. Lianes Coopération is the multi-stakeholder regional network for international cooperation in Hauts-de-France. Moreover, France Volontaires and the Service Volontaire International have been partners since June 2015. France Volontaires' main mission is international voluntary, it brings public authorities, associations and regional authorities together to promote, highlight and develop international voluntary.

What does volunteer mean for us?

First of all, voluntary work has to be distinguished from humanitarian work. Indeed, the volunteers sent to international work-camps do not need any specific skills apart from their motivation (and sometimes a basic knowledge of English, which is the main language spoken on most work-camps) whereas humanitarian actions are carried out by professionals such as doctors or teachers in a crisis situation.

Secondly, the SVI actively stands up against what is often referred to as “humanitarian tourism” or “voluntourism”. The SVI strongly believes that volunteering and tourism are two completely different things. Voluntourism is a form of alternative tourism and refers to a combination of tourism and volunteering whereby people go to developing countries on holiday while also volunteering for a charitable cause during their stay, usually for a large sum of money (the prices can vary from €700 to over €2,000 and do not include transportation). The SVI is deeply convinced that this is morally unacceptable, as the host organisations on the spot do not receive any financial support. Furthermore, the companies belonging to this sector pretend to function like associations by using similar communication strategies. They organize voluntary projects according to their clients' demand without taking into account the needs of local populations. Thirdly, as far as the SVI is concerned, volunteering is not about saving the Third World or bringing culture to poor countries. It is not a trip either; it is simply about bringing a financial and human support to a local organisation and community.

Volunteering does not mean adding a new line to one's CV, although it can be a real plus for one's future professional life. It is a personal commitment. It means having to learn and adapt to another culture, language and country, but also to other people and other customs and that will eventually lead to the development of critical thinking and open-mindedness. It also means getting involved in something, sharing one's knowledge, skills and experience, being responsible, organised and learning to trust and respect others. International volunteering also leads people to ask themselves what they could learn from

other people, cultures or countries and that gives way to a better mutual understanding and learning. Thus, through volunteering, one can become a brand-new person who can understand oneself and the world we live in better. In a nutshell, volunteering is not only about a “project”, it is also learning to live together with people who have different habits and way of living.

Team organization

Since the creation of the SVI and for a few years, Pierre De Hanscutter had been the only full-time member. However, in April 2015, two more people were hired to help him ensure the smooth running of the SVI. Five people are currently full-time employees at the office, including the director. Apart from those five employees, trainees and volunteers are taken on each year, thus following the SVI's way of thinking: its activities should be **managed by and for young people**, giving them the key to success, regardless of their backgrounds, beliefs and gender.

The SVI consists of several different departments but everybody, whether working full-time or part-time, plays a key role within the organisation and works towards achieving shared goals. The different departments are the following: coordination (outgoing volunteers and groups going to Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America, Oceania; incoming volunteers and groups going to Belgium and France); communication (external and internal); human resources; administrative service; legal service; accounting; translation; partnerships (with non-profit-making and profit-making organisations); education and training sessions; IT; community outreach; funding and EU affairs and SVI France.



SERVICE VOLONTAIRE INTERNATIONAL FRANCE

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Skype	service-volontaire-international
Facebook	www.facebook.com/servicevolontaireinternational/
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communication coordinator	communication@servicevolontaire.fr
outgoing coordinator	europe@servicevolontaire.fr
erasmus+ coordinator	erasmus@servicevolontaire.fr
civic service coordinator	servicecivique@servicevolontaire.fr
Incoming coordinator, pedagogic coordinator	pedagogie@servicevolontaire.fr
Language projects	language@servicevolontaire.fr

ABOUT OUR FRENCH PROJECTS

Volunteers who want to participate in a project in France will have the choice between short-term and long-term projects.

Each of our local partners has committed to the IVS to welcome young people from all over the world to the project. We organise regular meetings with them in order to raise awareness and inform the teams hosting the volunteers about the challenges and difficulties of such a project.



ABOUT OUR PROJECTS

How to apply for a project in France?

1- One of the volunteers would like to participate in a volunteering project proposed by the SVI: what should he/she do?

At SVI we believe that volunteering should be an experience that is prepared in advance.

It is therefore essential that any young person wishing to take part in such an experience should go through a sending association.

The role of the sending associations is essential in accompanying the volunteers.

The coordinators will be able to help the young person to choose the right project and will be in the front line in preparing the young person for this experience.

The SVI, on the other hand, assumes its role as a coordinating association. We are the link between the sending association, the volunteer and our local partners. We guarantee that our local partners are aware of our philosophy regarding the hosting of volunteers. We are the contact person in case of problems and ensure communication between everyone.

We always advise you to do this at least 2 months in advance to take into account all the preparations: preparation for departure in the sending association but also administrative formalities before arriving (insurance, passport, Visa, etc etc). The SVI is of course supported for Visa applications and we provide the invitation letters if necessary.

Each volunteer who wishes to apply must therefore go through his or her sending association. Our coordinator of the projects in Belgium and France will then send an application form that he or she can complete.

2- What skills will he need to show in order to access a project?

Volunteering is participating in a project for which only the motivation counts. We are not involved in humanitarian projects that require specific knowledge, but in a voluntary participation with the aim of contributing to a project and wanting to meet other cultures.

This is why, in the application form we ask the volunteer to clearly fill in his or her motivations.

3- How long will I have to wait after he / she send the application?

Our policy is to ask our local partners to reply within 10 days of our sending. If the local partner does not reply, we invite the volunteer to choose another project. For our part, we regularly make our local partners aware of the need to respond quickly in order to take into account the needs and expectations of young people.

4- What are the steps after sending this form?

When our local partner's response is positive, we invite the volunteer and the local partner to eventually participate in a Skype in the presence of the incoming coordinator.

This Skype aims to clarify the project, explain the expectations of each and see if it can be suitable for everyone. For short term projects, a collective video-conference can be organized.

The final decision will not be taken during this Skype but will be communicated a few days later by both the local partner and the volunteer.

If both parties confirm the project then we can start the confirmation procedures.

You should never book a plane ticket before the confirmation has been given after the Skype.

5- The project is confirmed: what now?

Once confirmed, the SVI will send a series of documents to be completed by both the volunteer and the host association.

The volunteer might be asked to provide the SVI with these documents:

- Proof of flight tickets.
- A copy of his passport, visa.
- Proof of insurance.
- A certificate of good conduct.
- A certificate of good health.

All these documents must be sent before arrival on the project.

Our long term projects

Each volunteer will be welcomed on arrival by an SVI member who will be able to take him or her to his or her volunteering project or by a member of the local association. In the coming days, the volunteer will have an interview with the incoming project coordinator if he or she cannot be present on arrival.

Our partners always make sure to welcome the volunteers as well as possible in order to put them in the best conditions to start their project.

For each volunteer staying more than a month in France, it is requested to participate in one of our preparation weekends.

This is an excellent way to meet the SVI team but also young Belgians and French people who are embarking on the adventure of volunteering.

We also regularly invite our volunteers from other countries to take part in the life of the SVI association: our dinners, our evenings with young people, our events organised by the SVI volunteers, etc.

Volunteers are an integral part of our association and as such are invited to all our activities.

Regular evaluations will be carried out informally but also more formally with the incoming project coordinator and the local partner. These evaluations will be forwarded to the sending associations.

Our specific long term projects

The Civic Service is a program set up and funded by the French state. The Civic Service is a voluntary commitment to the service of the general interest, open to all young people from 16 to 25 years old, extended up to 30 years for young people with disabilities. The Civic Service offers volunteers the opportunity to commit themselves to a collective project by carrying out a mission of general interest to an associative structure or an administration in France or abroad.

The types of missions fall under one of these 8 themes: solidarity, health, education for all, culture and leisure, sport, environment, memory and citizenship, international development.

Since 2018, the SVI has been launched in the civic service program. Since then we have created civic service missions in Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Russia, Togo, Switzerland, Senegal, Vietnam accessible to volunteers of French nationality or resident in France. In 2020, we also want to do reciprocity, that is to say allow partner associations to send their volunteer to France to volunteer. The project is being accepted.

Civic service is an opportunity for young people who are far from mobility to have a long-term volunteering experience in order to gain experience. These young people receive a monthly allowance from the French state, they are fully covered by insurance during their mission. The same is true for volunteers in reciprocity.

Important things to know

1- Visa

European citizens only need a national identity card or a passport.

Non-European citizen may need a visa. The visa must be requested at the embassy or French consulate of the country where you live.

If there is no embassy or French consulate in the country where you live, you should contact the French Embassy, which is responsible for your country. This one is usually located in a neighboring country.

The procedure for visa application can sometimes take a long time.

Therefore, you must apply for a visa at least four weeks before their departure.

If you need an invitation letter, you can contact us at incoming@servicevolontaire.org

In order to send you a letter of invitation, we need the following information:

- Last name.
- First name.
- Date and place of birth.
- Address.
- Passport number with date of issue and expiration.
- Nationality.
- Start and end dates of the project.

2- Seven days prior to departure

You need to confirm your trip seven days before departure by sending a confirmation form to your sending association (at home).

This confirmation form is sent by the incoming SVI coordinator to the sending association who will forward it to the volunteer (see the end of this brochure for the correct forms).

Volunteers need to know that their sending association is allowed to require some subscription fees independently from the project in France. These fees allow them to work and provide them with volunteering projects. For more information, volunteers need to contact their sending association.

3- Health

You need a health insurance to cover your entire trip (however usually the host has an insurance to cover your working time). Your sending association may help them find a suitable one. No vaccine is required but if you are going to do some physical work, we recommend that you take the vaccines against lockjaw and hepatitis. Make sure that you have seen a dentist before leaving home.

You must bring all the medicines you need. It might be complicated to buy them if you do not have the necessary documents to get it. Furthermore, the medicine you need might have a different name from the one it has in their country.

European volunteers need their [European Health Insurance Card](#) up to date. You can get it for free!

4- How to prepare your luggage

It is crucial that you bring all your stuff in a backpack and not in any other type of suitcase, which might become very uncomfortable to move after a long journey.

France is a large country and the climate varies greatly from one region to another. For each project, the volunteers will have detailed information on the climate and therefore the clothing to bring.

You would better not forget some useful things when you are thinking about traveling to France:

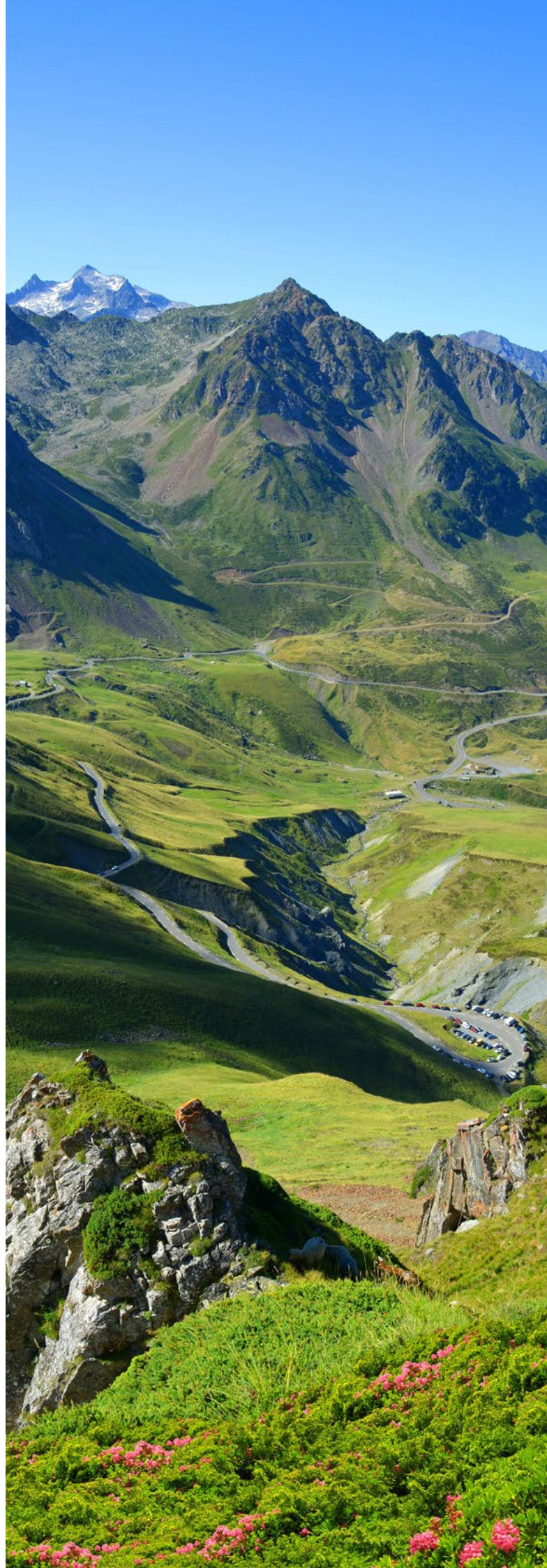
- Sleeping bag, sheet and pillow, mat (if specified in the info-sheet of your project), towels.
- A TENT (if specified in the info-sheet of your project).
- Sun cream, a hat.
- Clothes and shoes adapted to various weather (even in summer!) and outdoor activities.
- Your mobile phone (if you stay here for a long time it is convenient to buy a French Sim-card).
- Some things about your country (posters, music, postcards, map, video, food) and your family.
- Pocket money.

- Personal pharmacy.
- If possible, bring only ONE bag to have more space in your dormitory. Backpacks are the best!

5- Emergency phone numbers

If you encounter any trouble related to your volunteering project, call the SVI:

- +33 3 66 72 90 20 Office
from Monday to Friday
between 09h and 18h30
- +33 3 66 72 90 20 Director
De Hanscutter Pierre
- +33 6 31 00 30 34 Incoming Coordinator
Haine Sophie



ABOUT FRANCE



ABOUT FRANCE

France – Key figures:

- Surface area: 633,186 sq. km.
- Population 66.6 million.
- Capital city: Paris.
- Official language: French.
- Currency: Euro (EUR).
- System of government: Republic.
- Founding member of the European Union.
- Permanent member of the UN Security Council, NATO, OECD, OSCE, G8 and G20.
- Time zone: UTC/GMT + 1 hour in winter; UTC/GMT + 2 hours in summer.
- National day: July 14.

Climate

The climate in mainland France is **temperate**, with quite significant regional differences. Temperatures are relatively mild and rainfall occurs throughout the year. Regional variations occur due to latitude and differences in distance to the sea or mountainous areas. Temperature variations are less pronounced on the French coast than in the rest of the country, but rainfall is higher.

Cost of public transport in France

There are modern, efficient and affordable transportation services across France.

National and inter-regional transport is covered by the state-run railway network, the SNCF, as well as by inter-city flights operated by the Air France group and budget carriers who have struggled to establish new routes in Air France territory.

The major French cities offer at the least adequate and often comprehensive public transport as a cheap alternative to the use of cars, which many urban authorities are increasingly discouraging.

The public transport system in and around Paris is probably the best of any city in Europe in terms of geographical spread, speed, upkeep and tariffs. The capital is criss-crossed with publicly-run services by bus, underground (or subway) and overhead rail

and trams, which are all grouped under one authority, called the RATP.

You can buy one-journey tickets or the cheaper travel passes that allow you to use any of the services as often as you please. The pass commonly used by commuters in and around the capital is called the *carte orange*, which covers transport across an area of up to some 50 kilometres around the capital.

A contactless magnetic pass allowing passengers to pass through gates smoothly is now available and if combined with a direct-debit '*Integrale*' subscription provides roughly 10 months unlimited travel within the zones selected for the price of 12 with a conventional ticket.

Most employers will pay 50 percent of the cost of any travel pass.

The Paris underground *métro* lines serve virtually every small neighbourhood in the capital, and run from 5.30 AM until around 1 AM. A revamped night bus service linking central Paris to destinations all over the city and the Ile de France region will get you home during the small hours.

The average frequency of *métro* trains is around every five minutes. The *métro* lines are designated by number, and the direction is indicated by the name of the terminus station.

There is also an express commuter train service, the RER, which links regions outlying Paris with the centre of the capital, where it runs underground.

Tickets for travel within the city limits cost EUR 1.40 each (*un ticket*) or EUR 10.90 for a set of ten, *carnet de tickets* (2006 prices). One ticket gives you access to either the bus or metro, and for the duration of one uninterrupted journey only, although in the case of the metro you can ride as many lines as necessary to get to your destination.

Plans are currently afoot however to introduce a ticket allowing unlimited travel for a period of 60-90 minutes.

Prices for the carte orange vary according to the geographical zone you choose, but start at EUR 52.50 per month for Paris only and rise to EUR 142.70 per month for the entire Paris region. There are also weekly and inter-suburban rates.

You get find tickets, passes and information from any métro station, and carnets of tickets are also available at many tabacs (licensed tobacconist shop).

Every French town and city has a public transport service, and regional coach companies operate bus lines in rural areas. Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Rennes and Toulouse all have metro services. Tickets or passes from the local transport service will cover all travel in your town, city or rural region.

Cost of dining out in France

Eating out is not just something you do to provide your body with sustenance; in France, it's an experience, one that has a few little rituals about it. Because the dining experience is so prominent a part of the culture, you can be over-faced, especially in the larger towns and cities, by the choices available. Fixed price menus.

Almost all mainstream restaurants in France offer you an à la carte menu, plus three fixed price menus. The latter are generally made up of dishes from the former (but not always), and offer a choice of, usually, three courses, at different prices from €20 upwards. The price differences simply reflect the number of courses, the complexity of preparation and no doubt the cost of ingredients, too. Within each menu are a selection of dishes, so it is unlikely that you'll fail to find something you like. What it is unquestionably true to say is that the fixed price menus offer excellent value for money.

Dish of the day (Plat du Jour)

Away from the high-end dining, you'll find that just about every restaurant in a town offers a dish of the day. There won't be any choice; just three courses, sometimes four, and generally quite basic in their choice of ingredients. These are usually priced around €10-€15, and are exceedingly good value for money, and may well introduce you to some dishes you maybe would not have thought of trying. Order a jug of house wine (un pichet), and you'll get change from €20.

Time to eat

Lunch is generally served between noon and 2pm, and dinner from 7pm to 10pm. Outside these times you may struggle to find somewhere to eat, other than in the large cities. Moreover, the smaller the town or village, the more likely it is that you need to be knocking on the door at noon, or you may not get in. Better still, reserve a table, if you can.

Dressing down

Smart casual is perfectly acceptable in all restaurants in France, even the very best – although, to be fair, you may feel a little discomfited in a Michelin-starred restaurant in jeans and a casual shirt, although it has been known. That aside, the important thing to remember is that lunch and dinner are dining experiences, not fashion parades.

Settling up

In most restaurants, you won't be given the bill until you ask for it (L'addition, s'il vous plaît), and certainly not while there's still coffee in your cup. When the bill comes, service and tax will have been included, so there is no need to give another tip – although you can if you wish.

Make note of these important emergency numbers before you land in an emergency in France, plus a number of French helplines for support and information.

France has an infamously long list of emergency numbers for different services but the pan-European emergency number 112 can also be called for any type of emergency and after, an operator will direct you to the appropriate French department. It's advised to **dial 112** when calling from mobile phones. However, it is not possible to call the number from a mobile without a sim card. Callers who don't speak French would also have no problem communicating their issues due to the assistance of interpreters who speak 40 languages.

Emergency phrases and medical terms in French:

- Accident: Accident.
- Emergency: Urgence.
- Ambulance: Ambulance.
- Doctor: Médecin.
- Police: Police.
- Extremely ill: Très malade.
- I need an ambulance: J'ai besoin d'une ambulance.
- I need a doctor: Il me faut un médecin.
- I need the police: J'ai besoin de la police.

Calling codes in France

Pan-European emergency number: 112 or 114 (for hearing assistance)

These general numbers can be called free of charge during any emergency from your mobile phone. As it's a Europe-wide number, you can also ask to be connected to an English-speaking operator. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing could send text messages to 114.

Ambulance and emergency services (SAMU): 15

The SAMU is the coordinated service to call in case of any serious medical emergency. A qualified doctor is always available to determine the type of response that best fits your situation, specifically, whether you need an ambulance. Otherwise, you'll have to **carry the cost of the ambulance transport**. Alternatively, you could request a light medical vehicle (véhicule sanitaire léger or VSL) to get to hospital.

Fire brigade: 18

The French fire brigade, called les *sapeurs pompiers*, can also be called in cases of medical emergen-

cies, such as traffic and domestic accidents. They work closely with the SAMU and employ professional, health, medical and volunteer brigades.

Police: 17

This number puts you in contact with the appropriate emergency police services nearest you, whether that is the *Police Nationale* or the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. For non-urgent situations, make a note of the direct phone number for your nearest police station (*commissariat de police* or *gendarmerie*).

An explanation of national emergency services in France.

There are three main emergency services in France: the **SAMU** (*Service d'Aide Médicale d'Urgence*), the fire brigade and the police. The SAMU is the national, publicly run emergency service that deals only with very serious cases. The SAMU provides both ambulances and specialist medical teams.

It is important to note that the **French fire brigade**, les *sapeurs pompiers*, is also trained and equipped to deal with medical emergencies. They provide an ambulance service with their specially equipped vans. In France, it is very often the fire brigade who are called first to deal with road injuries and domestic accidents and in many areas, especially rural regions, they will be fastest to the scene. They coordinate with all other emergency services and will, if the situation demands, call in the specialised SAMU emergency medical service.

The national police force in France is divided between the **Police Nationale** and the **Gendarmerie Nationale**. Very broadly, the *Police Nationale* is responsible for urban areas while the *gendarmerie* covers the rural regions. The *Police Nationale* is authorised to conduct criminal enquiries, perform security operations like traffic control and identity checks while the military *gendarmerie* also carries out criminal investigations and other security activities involving airports, military locations, coastal areas and the countryside. From wherever you call the emergency number for the police you will be directed to the appropriate service.



SUMMARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS 2020

Code	Name	Place	Dates	Type	N° Vols	Age limit	Remarks
SVI-ACA	Acacia	Eine / Argeles- Sur-Mer	Permanent	EDU – SOCI MANU	10	18+	Motivation Letter.
SVI-ESCA	Escal et Habitat	Blois	Permanent	EDU – SOCI	2	18+	Motivation Letter. Participation Fee: €100/month
SVI-MAN	Manoir Kerassel	Kerassel	Permanent	CONS – ENVI AGRI	14	18+	Motivation Letter.

ACACIA

Code	SVI-ACA
Name	Acacia
Location	Elne / Argeles-Sur-Mer
Dates	Permanent
Type	EDU – SOCI – MANU – ART
Age	18+
Volunteers	10



The project / The Partner

ACACIA is a voluntary association under the French law of 1901 and was founded in January 2017 in the commune of Elne. It is currently carrying out several solidarity actions for un public coming from priority neighbourhoods:

- **Two Solidarity Grocery shops in Elne and Argeles-sur-Mer** that help more than 1,400 families with food but also with a socio-professional support. The majority of the families come from a poor background in a priority neighbourhood.
- **Spaces to liven the social life up** with a number of workshops aimed to break isolation and to encourage social relations through activities such as, cooking, theatre, computer science, fitness, citizenship, etc.
- **A platform for integration and training** with already 24 people back to employment in only a year and a half. This initiative has been conducted within the framework of the “Programme for Integration through Volunteering activities”.

- **La Plateforme Solidarité Internationale (PSI)** is a Centre for resources, information and trainings for volunteering, mobility and international solidarity. ACACIA wanted to develop this activity to make the different measures present in JAMO’s programme (Jeunes à Moindres Opportunités) or “Youth with Less Opportunity” more accessible.

In 2018, ACACIA met SVI’s team to put forward a cooperation that would allow them to spread their activities in the South of France. Since then, ACACIA regularly hosts volunteers sent by the SVI on its various projects. It also makes its premises available for the preparation to departure week-ends and information sessions.

We would very much like to strengthen this partnership in 2020 and permanently host the SVI within our offices. Moreover, PSI is member of the multi-actors’ network Occitanie Coopération and gives a huge importance to networking and partnership. The various collaborations with institutions, associations and local actors contribute to the public’s awareness that we host to the diverse range of actions of the Social and Solidarity Economy, Volunteering and International Solidarity.

PSI currently works on the opening of a House for Volunteers that would be co-managed with the SVI. It would include a Lab’ and an accommodation space to host the volunteers.

The Lab’

The Lab is a space dedicated to the diffusion and the valorisation of SSE’s* values but also those of the International Solidarity, Volunteering and Mobility. It offers:

- Tools to discover the actors in the areas of SSE, volunteering and international solidarity.
- Workshops and trainings.
- Periods to support project leaders.
- Café-projects, exhibitions and debates.
- Public demonstrations.

House for Volunteers

The House for Volunteers (HfV) hosts the volunteers engaged in short or long term volunteering projects with other associations or local structures partners of PSI in the region of Occitanie. The HfV, social residence for volunteers, (Civic Services, EVS, VSI, etc.) will have rooms and apartments to cater for their needs.

** The concept of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) refers to a set of companies organised in the form of cooperatives, mutual funds, associations or foundations, whose internal functioning and activities are based on a principle of solidarity and social utility.*

Work

During this project, you will have the opportunity to take part in a number of activities. Every volunteer will participate in each activity according to a rotating system. So you will be able to engage in all the association's "services" for a week. At the end of your observation and after a short discussion with your supervisor, the team members and the other volunteers, you will choose the activity of your choice. The different services are the following:

- **The entertainment hub** dedicated to various workshops, digital space and citizen cafés.
- About the grocery shop, the volunteer will be able to participate in the products collection (only for the grocery shop beneficiaries), restocking the shelves, grocery check-out and greeting the beneficiaries. It is important to help them in the shop as the social relations built are part of the association's priorities.
- You can also take part in the administrative work, accounting and stock management, if you want to!
- You may also participate in the association's "communication" department, which is responsible for promoting and enhancing the association's services and objectives.

Every volunteer can find a field that will really interest him/her. We are aware that sometimes the project's description and the reality can be approached differently depending on each individual. This is why we hope that all volunteers will be able to observe and take part to the activities and areas represented in the association for a few days.

Therefore, **communication is essential**. We want volunteers to fully engage in this experience and come out of it with a fulfilled purpose and the feeling of having contributed to a project they wanted to achieve. After these few days of observation, an individual and then collective meeting will be organised to analyse the different objectives and implement them while respecting each other's objectives. This way, a volunteer will be able to choose to participate more in one activity than another while not neglecting other services.

Accommodation

You will be housed in an apartment in the Moulin à Vent district of Perpignan. The apartment has three bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, two toilets and a washing machine. A WiFi connection is also available via a 4G key that offers 50GB of internet per month. The apartment is located a stone's throw from the University of Perpignan and is close to a supermarket, the post office, a bakery, the Sports Park and the municipal swimming pool.



Food

For morning and evening meals, you will have a kitchen to share with the other volunteers in the host house. You will therefore be completely autonomous. For lunch, meals will be served in the grocery shop where a kitchen is available for everyone. You will be able to prepare your meals with certain grocery products made available with other volunteers. You can bring your own lunch if you wish. The grocery shop has products for all diets. Meals can be shared with team members and volunteers.

You will be able to benefit from the grocery shop services through a temporary card (depending on the duration of the project) that will give you the status of a beneficiary. This way, you will be able to buy the products available in the grocery shop at a low price. You will also be able to prepare meals independently in the volunteer house. Grocery products include food, aesthetics/cosmetics and household products. You can benefit from certain products free of charge for lunch (Monday to Friday). Lunch will be a time of conviviality between volunteers and members of the association.

Location, about Perpignan

Perpignan is located in the southwest of France, a few minutes from Spain. You can therefore visit the region or Spain during summer or winter. The Catalan and Spanish cultures represent a real asset for the discovery of a language and culture different from the rest of France.

1. Summer in Perpignan

Summer temperatures in the south of France are quite high and can easily exceed 30°C. Here are some refreshing activities to help you cope with this heat!

You can enjoy the beach of Argelès-Sur-Mer which is a few minutes by bus or car from Acacia.

You can also take a bus to the beach to spend a day in a beautiful setting!

If you like to celebrate, you can go to "La rue de la soif" which is located in Canet en Roussillon. It is a place open only in summer and which gathers several bars with a very festive atmosphere.



During the first weeks of July, you will be able to enjoy the two major festivals, Electrobeach and Les Déferlantes.

By train or bus, you can visit Montpellier or Toulouse which are not very far from Perpignan. These are big cities that are less than 2 hours each from Perpignan.

Mountain activities are also very diverse in summer so you can make the most of them. Access to the mountain is possible by bus.

2. Winter Perpignan.

Skiing is the main activity in winter. You can take advantage of your rest time to go skiing in Les Angles or Romeufontaine, accessible by bus.

The highlight of the Christmas season, the Christmas village of Barcarès! It offers a variety of activities such as attractions, an ice rink and party bars.

3. All year round Perpignan

If you love history and want to learn more about our region, you can enjoy our wonderful cultural heritage such as, the medieval city of Villefranche-de-Conflent, the city of Carcassonne or the Castillet which is a must in the city of Perpignan. Access may be subject to a charge, but you can check the website of the Perpignan Tourist Office for further information.

The covered halls located in the city centre are home to more than twenty food artisans. It is possible to eat on site. They are open from Tuesday to Sunday.

Only 1h30 from Perpignan, you can go to Girona to enjoy its large shopping centre and its beautiful city rich in cultural heritage.

A little further on, 2 hours from Perpignan, you can visit Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia. You will then be able to enjoy this beautiful city very lively and full of culture!

Every year, during the first week of September, the "Visa Pour l'Image" takes place, which is a well-

known photojournalism festival in France. It is located in the centre of the city of Perpignan.

Specific information

To get to the grocery store, you will have to take the General Council bus. The stop is only 5 minutes from the apartment in which you will be staying. You will have a monthly subscription to be able to travel around the city and in the village of Elne. The subscription is included in the project price.

The city centre is accessible by bus (10 minutes) or on foot (25 minutes) and there are several bus stops near the apartment. The centre of Perpignan has many bars and clubs! The best option is to plan evening outings on Thursdays because a night bus runs until two in the morning and drops you off near the apartment.

The buses that run in the city and the night bus are part of the "Sankéo" network. You will have a reloadable bus pass with 30 trips on it, included in the project fees, which will allow you to travel around Perpignan.

Apartment address:

2 Square Saint Marsal 66100 Perpignan

Bus line to the grocery store:

540 Perpignan <-> Cerbere (Broadway stop)

Bus lines to get to the city centre:

A, C, 2, 24 (Villeneuve, Batère stops)

Meeting Point

The meeting point and how to get there will be indicated in the infosheet.

Language

In the south of France, people speak French and often Spanish.

Volunteers who speak English are welcome but it is requested that they speak a few words in French and are willing to learn French.

ESCALE ET HABITAT

Code	SVI-ESCA
Name	Escale et Habitat
Location	Blois
Dates	Permanent
Type	EDU – SOCI
Age	18+
Volunteers	2



The project/the Partner

The association is located in the northern districts of Blois. In a dense urban environment and mainly composed of social housing. A major urban renewal plan launched some fifteen years ago has made this district more attractive and public services are well present. Today the district is inhabited by a population mainly from immigration and its unemployment rate is higher than in other districts of the city. Many cultural and sports facilities are present and cultural and sports associations are very active among the inhabitants.

Next door is Begon House, a social and cultural centre which has just been completely renovated. The Maison de Begon organises concerts and other events throughout the year and at the beginning of the summer, we are partners in a large popular festival which attracts a large part of the local population. For our part, we manage the citizens' council of the city of

Blois, composed of inhabitants and active forces of the district. This body works alongside the city services and the state to improve living conditions in the district and works daily to live better together.

Work

Elaboration once a month in a multidisciplinary team of the program of activities and animations which will be proposed in the evening, at lunchtime or during the weekend.

Communication and diffusion of the program at the beginning of each week: Flyer, posters, social networks...

Preparation and implementation of the activities.

Presence at the reception to welcome the public and inform them about the activities and events.

The young volunteers will mainly be attached to missions of reception of the public in transversality with the tourist service and the young people's housing service. More particularly with young residents, they will have to build on the assets and strengths of young people and develop their potential.

They will have to initiate activities aimed at young people and the mixed public that we welcome:

- Health, prevention, forums, balanced diet...
- Culture and leisure: monthly welcome drinks, cultural meals, evening debates, outings...
- Sustainable development: home made workshop, sorting, issues, actions to build collectively and individually... to raise the awareness of the public welcomed on a daily basis.

Most of its actions are co-constructed with external partners that we have already identified and with whom we maintain regular relations. The young volunteers will also be a source of ideas for activities and events.

Accommodation

We offer accommodation in our young people's residence.



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Specific information

The weather in Paris and the surrounding Île de France region is a result of a temperate climate, which translates into cold, but not freezing, winters and warm, pleasant summers.

Though the capital claims France's lowest rate of annual rainfall, showers are nonetheless a consistent feature of life in Paris and people will quickly learn not to leave home without an umbrella. Thunderstorms tend to be short and sweet, and the sun usually pushes the clouds away in no time.

August is the hottest month in Paris, and January the coldest. Summer temperatures average around 20°C (68°F), although August temperatures can rise to 35°C (95°F). Winter temperatures average around 5°C (41°F).

Meeting point

The meeting point and how to get there will be indicated in the infosheet.

Language

In the residence, people speak French but a volunteer can also speak English. Moreover, if necessary, we offer them French lessons to bring them up to standard.



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Food

Volunteers will have three meals a day which are provided by our catering team. These meals are made every day with fresh, seasonal and mainly local products.

Location, about Blois

Blois is crossed by the Loire and in the heart of the country of the castles of the renaissance: Chambord, Chenonceaux; Cheverny, Chaumont to quote only those...

At 1h30 from Paris by train, the region is very touristic and offers many visits, walks and discovery trips. The Loir-et-Cher is a land of market gardening and vineyards and has a rich historical heritage that is internationally renowned. We also have in the department the 5th most beautiful zoo in the world with the animal park of Beauval.

The town of Blois has just under 50,000 inhabitants, including about 3,000 students, and has cultural facilities such as a cinema, theatre, cultural centre, modern music hall, sports facilities, etc.

MANOIR KERASSEL

Code	SVI-MAN
Name	Manoir Kerassel
Location	Taule
Dates	Permanent
Type	CONS – ENVI – AGRI
Age	18+
Volunteers	14



The project/the Partner

Our Association STRIDA has 4 main missions:

- To provide free accommodation for bicycle travellers from all over the world at the Manoir de Kerassel.
- To accompany the hikers on the Bretagne region.
- To promote cultural exchanges through mini language courses only by restoring the severely degraded Breton heritage, in the form of participative workcamps.
- To transmit our technical knowledge in order to open the field of the possible for each one but always by the realization of common work and to think in common to finalize an eco place multicultural autumn to the manor of kerassel why by the practical explanation.

Work

- Restoration: Enclosure walls.
- Restoration: Carpentry.
- Restoration: Fireplaces.
- Restoration: Floor.
- Creation: A Permaculture Garden.
- Creation: Roman Bath and Outdoor Wood-fired Heated Bathtub.
- Creation: Phyto-purification.
- Creation: Atelier Artiste Peintre et Sculpture.
- Decoration: Realization of your work to leave a trace of your passage.

Accommodation

Accommodation consists of single rooms and dormitories, depending on the number of participants we will organize the repartition.

Food

Volunteers will have 3 meals a day, 5 days a week. Meals are organized, food is provided and we prepare the meal together with a volunteer chef every day different, for the dishes a schedule is posted for his turn.

With the possibility of vegetarian meals. Eggs, Milk and Buckwheat Flour are available free of charge in the kitchen at all times so that everyone can make pancakes or cakes for the community whenever they want.

Location, about Taule

Taule is situated in the Finistere department and Brittany region, in the north-west of France at 69 kilometres from Quimper, the department capital (general information: Taule is 459 kilometres from Paris).

Popular places to visit nearby include Morlaix at 6 km and Plouezoch at 7 km.

Morlaix is on the northern coast of Brittany, to the south of Roscoff and a few kilometres inland at the southern end of Morlaix Bay. There is a great deal of interest to discover in this Brittany town, with an attractive port area and a quite extensive historical centre with lots of interesting buildings.

Plouezoch (correct spelling Plouezoc'h) is a small town in the Finistere department to the north of Brittany, and a few kilometres to the north of Morlaix. Exploring Plouezoch and region.

Your first port of call when you visit should be the tourist office of Plouezoc'h for details of a guided walk around the town, to ensure you see all the highlights, and also for details of other marked walks in the vicinity.

Other local walks along the coast here include nice views of the small islands just along the coast here - L'île Sterec and L'île Noire among them.

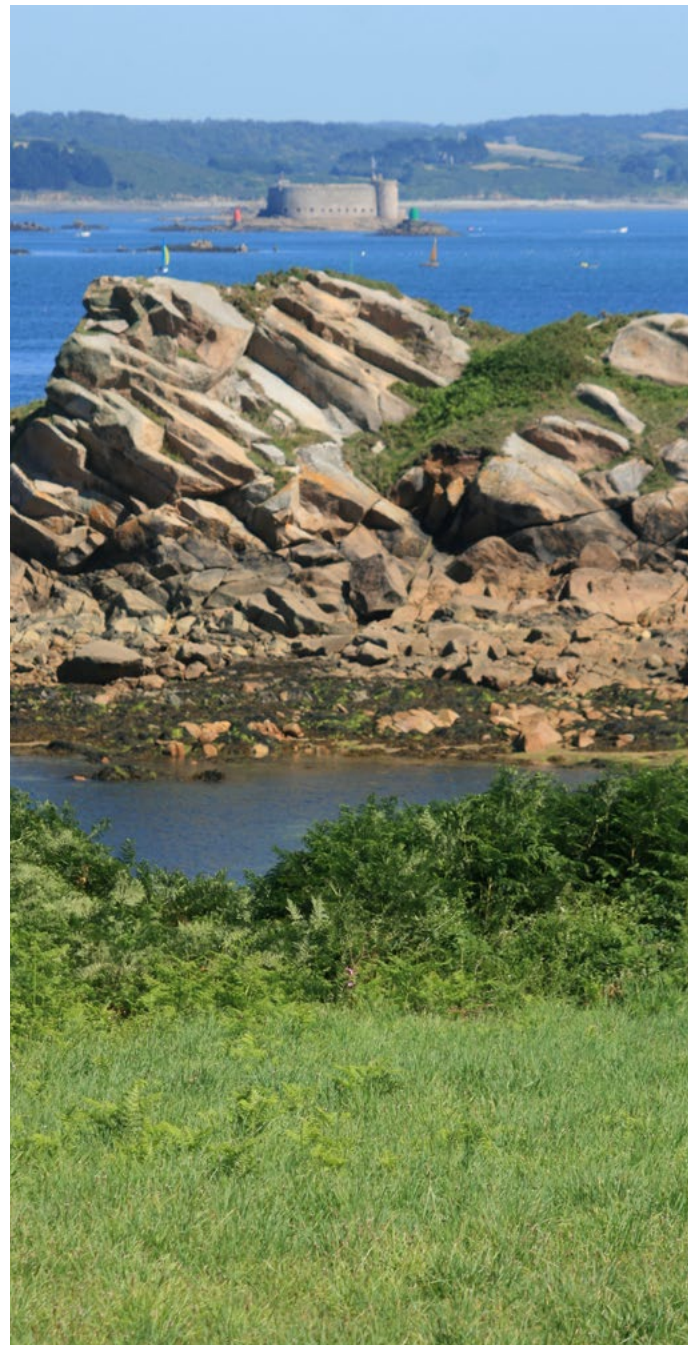
The town has an interesting church – the Church of Saint-Etienne – dating from the 17th century and with an attractive interior. You can see that various modifications to the church over the centuries have left their impact on the various different styles to be seen: the most interesting is the decorative clocher, in the 'Beaumanoir style' that combines gothic and renaissance elements.

Meeting point

The meeting point and how to get there will be indicated in the infosheet.

Language

Volunteers can speak English or French but it is required to be willing to learn French.





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GET INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEERING**