



GUADELOUPE: FRENCH CARIBBEAN ADVENTURE

Goyave

13-DAY PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

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



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Guadeloupe isn't a typical study abroad destination, and that's the point. This French Caribbean archipelago sits at the intersection of African, European, and Caribbean cultures, offering an immersive experience that extends far beyond the classroom. Experience the island's unique identity while gaining a deeper understanding of its people, history, and traditions.

Sharpen your French through instruction, conversation, and daily interactions with the local community. Take part in meaningful service projects, hike through lush landscapes to hidden waterfalls, snorkel in a UNESCO-recognized marine reserve, and discover Guadeloupe through its vibrant food and traditions. Each experience offers a new way to connect with the island and broaden your perspective.





PROGRAM ITINERARY

Activities and the daily schedule may vary based on weather, local events, and group needs.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO GUADELOUPE!

Arrive in Pointe-à-Pitre (PTP), where GLA Groups staff will be waiting to welcome you. From there, you'll drive about an hour to the Home Base in Goyave, where you'll settle in and enjoy your first delicious Guadeloupean meal!

DAY 2: ORIENTATION, FRENCH IMMERSION, & GOYAVE

Start the day with Program Orientation, where you'll learn more about the program, meet your fellow participants, and get settled into the experience before diving straight into French immersion. A placement quiz will help place you in the appropriate level, with classes taught by experienced local instructors who bring both the French language and Guadeloupean culture to life through engaging, interactive lessons. After class, take some time to explore the town of Goyave and get familiar with your new home, including a relaxing stop at one of the area's beautiful beaches. In the evening, break into smaller groups for deeper reflection, meaningful conversations, and engaging leadership activities that encourage you to connect with yourself and those around you.



DAY 3: PETIT-BOURG HANDS-ON PROJECTS

Head to the town of Petit-Bourg for a day focused on community engagement and service. Meet with local officials to learn more about the community before rolling up your sleeves for hands-on beautification projects. Past projects have included painting public spaces, building sidewalks, installing recycling infrastructure, and helping with beach clean-ups. Along the way, you'll work alongside local partners and experience a different side of Guadeloupe while making a meaningful contribution to the community. End the day with French class and reflect on what you've learned from the people, places, and experiences you've encountered.



DAY 4: LE CARBET ADVENTURE

Venture into the lush Guadeloupean jungle to explore Le Carbet, a spectacular series of three waterfalls surrounded by tropical greenery and dramatic mountain scenery. Hike through the rainforest as you make your way toward the falls, taking in the sights and sounds of the island along the way. Once you arrive, cool off in the natural swimming pools carved by the rushing water, take a refreshing swim, and soak in the incredible surroundings. It's an unforgettable opportunity to experience Guadeloupe's wild, natural beauty up close and enjoy a day of adventure, exploration, and connection with the island.





DAY 5: COOKING CLASS & COMMERCIAL CENTER

Visit a local restaurant for a hands-on introduction to cassava, a traditional Guadeloupean dish made from cassava root and often sweetened and topped with grated coconut. Learn how this local favorite is prepared while experiencing the flavors and traditions that are an important part of Guadeloupean culture. Later, head to the Destreland Commercial Center for a different glimpse into everyday life on the island. Browse local shops, pick up any essentials you need, and take some time to find a souvenir or two to remember your Guadeloupe experience.



DAY 6: YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Spend the day at a summer camp for local youth, where you'll play games, connect with children, and help teach English to kids from the surrounding community. This is a great opportunity to build meaningful connections while sharing your language and culture in a fun and welcoming environment. Afterwards, join your new Guadeloupean peers at the beach and enjoy some time together by the water. Practice your French by chatting with locals, learning new expressions, and getting a feel for the language in everyday conversations. Through these experiences, you'll gain a deeper understanding of what daily life is like in Guadeloupe from the people who know the island best.



DAY 7: COMMUNITY PROJECT & FRENCH CLASS

Return to Petit-Bourg, where we'll continue making progress on our community beautification project and work together to make a positive impact on the local area. In the afternoon, take a break from the project and head to the beach for a refreshing swim and some time to relax. Afterwards, return to Home Base for a French class, where you'll build your language skills and practice communicating in everyday situations.

DAY 8: CREOLE COOKING & GROUP ACTIVITIES

Take part in a hands-on cooking workshop where you'll learn how to prepare traditional local Creole specialties from scratch while discovering more about the flavors, ingredients, and culinary traditions of Guadeloupe. Work alongside your group to prepare the meal, then sit down together to enjoy the food you've created and share the experience. Round out the afternoon with fun and interactive French vocabulary games designed to build your language skills and make practicing French engaging. In the evening, come together for a mentor group session to reflect on the day and connect with your peers.





DAY 9: MEMORIAL ACTE VISIT

After morning language classes, visit Memorial ACTe, a contemporary museum dedicated to exploring the history of the Caribbean slave trade and the experiences of the indigenous peoples of the Guadeloupean archipelago. Through exhibits, artifacts, and historical perspectives, you'll have the opportunity to learn more about the region's complex past and better understand the cultural forces that have shaped Guadeloupe today.



DAY 10: ROUTE DE LA TRAVERSÉE

Drive along the Route de la Traversée, the only road that cuts through the dense jungle of Guadeloupe's National Park, crossing the full width of Basse-Terre. Along the way, stop for a walk to a hidden waterfall before continuing to the Guadeloupe Zoo, nestled within the jungle and recognized among the top 15% of zoos for its animal welfare standards.

DAY 11: MALENDURE BEACH

Spend the entire day at Malendure Beach, exploring the crystal-clear waters of the Cousteau Reserve, named after the famous French biologist Jacques Cousteau, who championed the protection of this biodiverse site. Snorkel through vibrant coral gardens and swim alongside schools of brightly colored tropical fish, keeping an eye out for the diverse marine life that thrives beneath the surface. After your underwater adventure, take time to unwind on the beach's distinctive black sand, soak up the tropical scenery, and enjoy the peaceful beauty of Guadeloupe's Caribbean coast.



DAY 12: GWO-KA WORKSHOP & FAREWELL DINNER

After your final French class, immerse yourself in Guadeloupean culture with a Gwo-Ka workshop, a traditional art form combining rhythmic drumming, singing, and expressive dance at the heart of Creole cultural identity. Watch a live performance before learning some of the rhythms and movements yourself. In the evening, gather for a farewell dinner to celebrate two weeks of service, language learning, cultural discovery, new experiences, and friendship. Share stories, savor one last meal together, and reflect on everything you've experienced.



DAY 13: DEPARTURE

After two weeks in Guadeloupe, reflect on your experiences, and learnings in Guadeloupe as GLA Groups staff accompany you to the airport and support your group through security. Bon voyage!



PROGRAM SAFETY



**SAFE
TRANSPORTATION**



**CARING SUPERVISION
& EXPERT LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE**



**24/7 SUPPORT &
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**



**GLA HOME BASE:
SAFE & SECURE
LODGING**



**HEALTHY MEALS &
PURE WATER**

**GLA'S
5 POINT
SAFETY
SYSTEM**



GLA HOME BASE

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



CLIMATE

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



FOOD

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



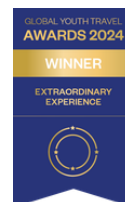
PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

Inclusions:

- Healthy Meals and Drinking Water
- Accommodations in a trusted GLA Home Base
- Safe Transportation - private and public
- Activities and entry fees
- Expert Staff to guide the group
- Secondary medical insurance & emergency evacuation insurance for every traveler

Exclusions:

- Airfare to and from the program
- Additional snacks or drinks outside of mealtimes
- Travel Insurance (lost luggage, etc)



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