



♥ My Paris
Life

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The Louvre



One of the big advantages of my student life in Paris is that we have access to numerous museums and various cultural activities. For example, the Louvre, which is famous worldwide for its collections as well as for its outstanding transparent pyramid-like structure. As a student under 26, I can enter it free of charge, which is really cool.



One of the most famous pieces must be the Mona Lisa. She smiles with a quiet but mysterious expression. There are always so many people waiting to see it. However, the people themselves almost become part of The Wedding at Cana. These are the most impressive works for me.

Food



Before arriving in France, I had already heard about the French baguette. French people are very proud of this typical national food. However, my first impression of it was not good. I bought one from the supermarket, and I found it was just too hard for my teeth, especially compared with the Chinese traditional bread mantou, which is extremely soft. I also saw the kind of jokes saying that it can be used as a weapon because it is too rigid. 😊

Nevertheless, things changed one day when I walked by a boulangerie where I saw a queue for baguettes. Driven by curiosity, I joined them. This time, with the warm bread and the aroma of cereals, I discovered its true taste.

Another food that caught my attention is escargot. It reminds me of Chinese river snails. They do have quite a similar form and texture.

School life

In China, parents always say: "As a student, studying is your first mission." Compared with my experience at ESPCI, it seems half right and half wrong.

On the one hand, the most direct difference from my expectation is the density of classes: we have classes during nearly all working hours. On the other hand, I am also amazed by the flexibility of class attendance, because for most classes, attendance is not mandatory. We can choose whether to go or not. However, we also have a number of TPs, which are obligatory practical classes.

Besides, what impressed me is the responsibility and initiative of the students. When talking about how to improve the teaching process, a number of students share their reflections, even though it may be hard to put them into action. But we are already in the process of achieving it.

Last but not least, I really admire the attitude of my classmates when they raise their hands and express their opinions. As an introverted person, this is what I want to become.

I feel honored to be together with them.

People

Actually, I have heard about a theory saying that American people are like peaches: easygoing at the beginning but hard to reach their hearts. French people, on the other hand, are like coconuts: they may seem hard at the beginning, but their inner part is quite gentle. Even though this is a kind of stereotype, I find that it somehow reflects reality.

As I am timid and usually don't have the courage to start a conversation, I usually begin by observing people's facial expressions. But with time, I find that those who appear to be serious often turn out to be warm-

hearted and easygoing.

To be honest, I feel a little regret for not being very active in talking with new people at the beginning. At that time, I always had in mind that my French was not good enough, and I felt a little ashamed to always ask people to repeat themselves during conversations. However, my classmates are understanding. They also said that if I spoke Chinese, they would understand nothing.

Although I missed the beginning, it is never too late to make new friends. And now I have more courage than before.