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Ripon Grammar School

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17 February 2022

RGS Watersports Trip to the South of France 2023

Dear parent / carer

We are delighted to be able to offer students in Year 7 the opportunity to take part in a watersports trip to the south of France at the end of Year 8 from Monday 24th July 2023 to Monday 31st July 2023.

The trip features an action-packed itinerary of watersports and adventure activities. Students will enjoy the activities on and off the water, as well as learning new skills, making new friends, growing in confidence and experiencing time in France.



We will be staying at two locations. We will start at the beautiful Ardèche River near Pont D'Arc where we will spend three days on the river. We will then travel further south, via a day at a waterpark, to PGL Mimosa near Valras-Plage on the Languedoc Mediterranean coast. We will spend two days doing a range of watersports at the beach.

The trip is organised through PGL Travel Ltd. PGL have been running adventure holidays for over 60 years and have a very strong reputation. More can be found out about PGL and this trip at <https://www.pgl.co.uk/en-gb/school-trips/secondary-schools/courses/two-centre-adventure>

There will be several members of RGS staff on the trip who have much experience of taking students on overseas trips and direct experience of PGL watersports trips in the South of France.

Headmaster: Mr. Jonathan M. Webb, MA (Cantab).

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Likely itinerary

July 2023	Activity	Sleeping
Mon 24-July	depart from Ripon on coach, travel overnight to Ardèche, South of France	On coach
Tues 25-July	arrive at Domaine de Segries, Ardèche; begin canoe descent of Ardèche	Domaine de Segries farmhouse, Ardèche
Wed 26-July	Ardèche descent day 2	Overnight bivouac
Thurs 27-July	Ardèche descent day 3	Domaine de Segries farmhouse, Ardèche
Fri 28-Jul	Day at waterpark travel to Mimosa, Mediterranean coast	Tents, PGL Mimosa, Valras-Plage
Sat-29-July	Mimosa beach watersports day 1: e.g. windsurfing, sailing, paddle boarding, towed wakeboarding, banana boat	Tents, PGL Mimosa, Valras-Plage
Sun-30-July	Mimosa beach watersports day 2: e.g. windsurfing, sailing, paddle boarding, towed wakeboarding, banana boat Depart for home including overnight travel	On coach
Mon-31-July	Arrive back in Ripon	

In addition, there is a range of evening activities including local visits, challenges, races, discos, etc.

Cost

The trip cost is expected to be £765 per student. If the total cost is less than £765, we would refund any monies due back to you after the trip. The £765 is fully inclusive of the following:

- return coach travel from school.
- 5 nights accommodation in France, including overnight bivouac during Ardèche descent
- meals from arrival in the Ardèche until departure from the Mediterranean
- travel insurance through PGL and the school's own insurance
- 5 days of watersports activities plus 1 day at a waterpark
- services of PGL staff and instructors
- evening entertainment programme

Additional costs that could be incurred by students are the cost of meals while we travel to and from France. Students may bring packed food but we will stop at service stations while we travel. Students may also want a small amount of spending money.

Securing a place on the trip

Please note that, although buoyancy aids will be used, students must be water competent and confident to take part in this trip. The ability to swim at least 25 m unaided and duck their head underwater are essential.

We have a maximum of 40 student places on the trip. A deposit of £90 should be paid by Friday 11th March 2022. This deposit is non-refundable. A second payment of £150 should be paid by Friday 20th May 2022 and the final balance by Friday 21st April 2023. The deposit and all subsequent payments should be made via ParentPay.

If there are fewer than 35 students, the price would be higher. If this is the case, we would contact you to consider what any additional cost might be and whether you would still wish to go ahead.

Please note that the deposit will not guarantee your son/daughter a place on the trip. If there is any over subscription for places, names will be drawn out of a hat. Full deposits are refundable should your child not be offered a place.

Covid cancellation

By booking now we qualify for PGL's "Book with Confidence" policy re Covid. This has Covid cancellation protection. Please see <https://www.pgl.co.uk/en-gb/book-with-confidence-overseas> for more details.

Other residential activity trips for information

In the past, the school has run a trip to Normandy at the end of Y8. This trip is no longer in the school's plans – this watersports trip is offered as an alternative.

For your information, we aim for all of Y9 to go to Bewerley Park at Pateley Bridge in the summer term of Y9 and we look to run a ski trip at February half term that is targeted mainly at Y9/10. However, as recent times have shown, we cannot guarantee that these trips will happen.

Further information

There is a range of information for parents here:

<https://www.pgl.co.uk/en-gb/school-trips/resources/parent-guide/about>

There are also two videos about the trip:

https://vimeo.com/74514296?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=20797427

https://vimeo.com/74515394?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=20797427

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please do not hesitate to contact us by email on grimer@ripogrammar.com

Yours sincerely

Mr David Rudland & Dr Richard Grime (trip organisers)