



Ripon Grammar School

6th September 2023

RGS Year 8 Activities Trip to the Ardèche – July 2024

We are delighted to be able to offer students in Year 8 the opportunity to take part in an activities trip to the Ardèche in the South of France at the end of the school year in July (in the first week of the school holidays).

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 the Base du Cros campsite by the beautiful Ardèche River near Pont D'Arc. The trip is organised through Voyager School Travel. We took a very successful similar trip in July 2023. Voyager have been running residential school trips all over the world for many years. More can be found out about Voyager and this trip at <https://www.voyagerschooltravel.com/tours/ardeche-watersports-school-trip/>

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 this and similar trips in the South of France. All adventurous activities will be led and supervised by qualified instructors.

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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Draft itinerary

July 2024	Activity	Sleeping
Fri-19-July	depart from Ripon on coach, travel overnight to Ardèche, South of France	on coach
Sat-20-July	arrive at Base du Cros, Ardèche; arrival activities/games	tents at Base du Cros
Sun-21-July	raft-building; stand-up paddle-boarding; trekking	tents at Base du Cros
Mon-22-July	day at waterpark (Wave Island, Monteux)	tents at Base du Cros
Tue-23-July	day 1 of descent down Ardèche river in kayaks	either tents at Base du Cros or bivouac at site along river
Wed-24-July	day 2 of descent down Ardèche river in kayaks	tents at Base du Cros
Thur-25-July	trek through the Ardèche gorge	tents at Base du Cros
Fri-26-July	Survivor challenge set off on coach to travel back through the night	on coach
Sat-27-July	arrive back in Ripon	

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

Cost

The trip cost is expected to be £980 per student. If the total cost is less than £980, we would refund any monies due back to you after the trip. The £980 is fully inclusive of the following:

- return coach travel from school
- 6 nights accommodation in France
- meals from arrival in the Ardèche until departure from the Ardèche
- travel insurance through the local authority's school travel insurance
- 7 days of activities including 1 day at a waterpark
- services of site 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.

Important requirements

Please note that, although buoyancy aids will be used on the river, 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.

Securing a place on the trip

We can take a maximum of 50 students on this trip. A deposit of £100 should be paid by Friday 22nd September if you wish your son/daughter to go.

Please note that the deposit will not guarantee your son/daughter a place on the trip. If more than 50 students pay the deposit, names will be drawn out of a hat. Full deposits are refundable should your child not be offered a place.

Payments schedule deadlines (via ParentPay)

Friday 22nd September	£100 (deposit)
Friday 3rd November	£300
Friday 2nd February	£300
Friday 3rd May	£280

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 and this activities trip is offered partly 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.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr David Rudland & Dr Richard Grime (trip organisers)