

France

9-19th April



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## My story learning the French language

On the 9th of April 2019, my mum and I woke up at 5:15 in the morning and headed frantically to London Stansted airport where we caught a Ryanair flight to Marseille in the region of Provence. We then rented a Europcar Fiat which we used to drive up the steep inclines and navigate the beautiful but sharp landscape that was before us. Two hours later and a quick stop at a local supermarket left us in the small village of Viens in which we were staying, rich with history from WW2. We then met the wonderful French family that we were staying with.

### Day 2

On the second day we headed into the village in the time we had spare and discovered that there was a small bakery and market in the village. We then went back to our gite to have a homemade soup. I came down with a cold that day and we then drove into the next village where they had a small pharmacy in which we bought a nose spray to help combat my cold, although it was with great difficulty communicating in French as very few people spoke English in this area.

### Day 3

We had a lesson in the morning in which we learned the French words for the various goods that we would be buying the next day in the Lourmarin market with Marina (our French teacher). We then explored the

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medieval Chateau Simiane- la- Ronde and enjoyed translating the French leaflets that we received into English.

## **Day 4**

We were up early again on Thursday as we were on our way to the market where it was up to me to order Marinas shopping in French using what I had learnt the previous days. I managed to get there in the end with help from Marina. We went out for dinner, and I talked to her sons who taught me magic tricks with their own cards. I managed to learn two magic tricks in French before dinner arrived of which my mum and I had to order ourselves.

## **Day 5**

The next day in the afternoon, we headed to the Mines d' Ocre Bruox and explored the picturesque village of Roussillon. We then had to navigate the park map which was entirely in French. We also ordered crepes and drove back in our Fiat.

## **Day 6**

We decided to visit the stone houses in le Village Bories and the Village de Gordes. We had a great time exploring the village and learning about the past of this crazy stone site. We then went to the Abbaye de Sebeque before heading home to practise French.

## **Day 7**

We Had a tour of Veins (the village we stayed in) all day in French, and so had to translate for a long time. Next, we headed home to do more French practise before going to bed. We learnt lots of French words, and about the stunning history of the tiny village. My favourite fact was that the village was occupied by the Germans in WW2, and was the base of French rebel activities against them.

## **Day 8**

In the morning we learnt about all kinds of cooking utensils and ingredients, and put it to practise making our own risotto, fougasse, (french bread) and tarte au citron and learning plenty of French cooking words. we then enjoyed a lunch of homemade French cuisine. We spent the afternoon walking around Provincial Colorado.

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## Day 9

On day 9, I played 'go fish' in French with Marina and my mum and enjoyed learning new French phrases, although my mum won in the end. We were both tired after the day before and after doing my French homework, so we went to bed early.

## Day 10

We went to the Quinson Museum of Prehistory and learned about civilization thousands of years ago in French and looked at a sculpture mammoth, prehistoric animals, and even model buildings from the time. We then observed the gorges Oppedette and read the signs available.

## Day 11

On the last day my mum and I headed to Lourmarin for the last time, and walked around a pretty village before driving all the way to the airport in Marseille where we got a plane back to London Stansted. We were back home at 8:30 pm ready to celebrate my birthday the next day.



Provincial Colorado



Roussilon