

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AUVERGNE IN CLERMONT-FERRAND, FRANCE

INFORMATION RESOURCE:

PLACES OF INTEREST, TRANSPORTATION, LODGING & DINING



Prepared by the Library & Technology Center

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Introduction

The [University of Auvergne](#)¹ is located in the capital city of [Clermont-Ferrand](#)² in the departement of [Puy-de-Dome](#)³ in the [French Region of Auvergne](#)⁴ in central France. Auvergne, among many things, is famous for its volcanic landscape, natural spring water from thermal springs, the heroic figure, [Vercingetorix](#)⁵, Gallic chieftain who led an unsuccessful war in 52 B.C. against Roman Rule under Julius Caesar, and the [Marquis de La Fayette](#)⁶, friend and supporter of the American Revolutionary War.⁷ The mathematician and philosopher, Blaise Pascal, is also from the city of Clermont-Ferrand.

The region of Auvergne covers an area of about 26,000 km² (16,156 sq.mi.) with a population of approximately 1,315,000 and is located midway between Paris and the Mediterranean.⁸ Auvergne is made up of four departements, similar to the way the states are divided into counties. The four departments of Auvergne are: Allier in the north, Cantal in the southwest, Haute-Loire in the southeast, and Puy-de-Dome in Auvergne's center. The capital city of Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, is located in Puy-de-Dome. Puy is the French word for a volcanic summit and the Puy-de-Dome, from which the departement takes its name, is a major natural monument, an extinct volcano rising 1,465 meters (.91 miles: almost a mile).⁹ Tourism is important in the departement of Puy-de-Dome with attractions including mountain spas and winter resorts, Romanesque churches, medieval castles,¹⁰ and the historic monument, the basalt Gergovia Plateau, south of Clermont-Ferrand, where Vercingetorix fought Julius Caesar in 52 B.C.¹¹

Clermont-Ferrand is a major industrial center with a population of approximately 140,000 and home to the Michelin tire company, the largest producer of tires in France.¹² Clermont-Ferrand is host to an annual short film festival, the Festival International du Court Metrage de Clermont-Ferrand in its 30th year. The town itself offers sightseeing walks highlighting interesting sites, buildings, and life in olden times, as well as museums, shopping, restaurants and cultural events.¹³

The University of Auvergne is a French public university, one of two public universities in the Academy of Clermont-Ferrand, the other being the Universite Blaise-Pascal. The French educational system is divided into 35 academies. The division into academies governs admissions, although the heads of the academies have no administrative authority over the universities.¹⁴ Attending classes through the Florida Coastal Summer Abroad Program at the University of Auvergne will give the students the experience of living the student life in a typical French city with all the history and culture that Europe has to offer.

Places of Interest in Clermont-Ferrand

Tourist Office¹⁵: Place de la Victoire
63000 CLERMONT-FERRAND
Tel: + 33 (0)4.73.98.65.00 Fax: +33 (0)4.73.90.04.11

Roman Art Space Gallery¹⁶: Gallery exhibiting medieval art with images from Roman sites.

Notre Dame du Port¹⁷: Romanesque Basilica dating from the 12th century. Selected as one of **UNESCO World Heritage**¹⁸ sites.

Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption de Clermont-Ferrand¹⁹: French national monument. Seat of the Archbishops of Clermont. Made entirely from black lava stone, much of the construction dates back to the 12th century.

Roger-Quillot Art Museum²⁰: Designed by the French architect Adrien Fainsilber is located in the old Convent of the Ursulines. Its collection ranges from early medieval to contemporary.

Places of Interest in Puy-de-Dome and Auvergne

Chateaux Dauphin at Pontgibaud²¹: The chateau was a fortress during the 12th through 14th centuries and is a beautiful example of medieval architecture. The chateau is currently the residence of the Le Comte et La Comtesse Gabriel de Germiny. The chateau is open in July and August every day except Monday and during the off season the Chateau is open on Sundays and holidays.

La Batisse Castle²²: Located at the foot of the famous Gergovie Plateau, La Batisse Castle built between the 15th to 18th centuries is surrounded by French-style gardens, ornamental lakes, and a famous path leading to four waterfalls. Inside the castle visitors can view a beautiful suite of apartments decorated with frescoes and tapestries, and interesting pieces of XVIth, XVIIth and XVIIIth century furniture. The studio of the Auvergnat painter, Jean de Chasteaunef, uncle of the present owners, is open to the public where a collection of his paintings can be seen. July and August the castle is open Monday through Friday. The gardens are open on Sunday.

Chateau de Saint Saturnin²³: This castle is an example of military medieval architecture including moats, patrol roads and battlements. Architectural additions were made through the Renaissance and past owners include, Catherine de Medici, Marguerite de Valois, and Louis XIII. The Chateau has been classified as an historical monument since 1889. The beautiful gardens and parks lead up to the hills of the Natural Park of the Volcanoes. Open weekends in May and June and daily July through September.

Vulcania theme park²⁴: A day of exploration for the entire family. Over 30 live events and projections to experience the Earth's Adventure. Visitors should plan on spending 5 to 7 hours exploring Vulcania: over 5 000 sq m in attractions and shows are offered on 3 levels, with more than 30 attractions, 2 movie theatres and outside walkways spread across 57 hectares

[Nature parks of the Auvergne](#)²⁵: Extending across the Massif Central, the Volcanoes of the Auvergne and the Livradois-Forez parks have a grandiose beauty mixed with old-fashioned rural charm.

Festivals in Clermont-Ferrand and Auvergne

[Medieval Festival of Montferrand](#)²⁶: Programs and food celebrating the region's medieval history. May 30th, 31th and June 1st, 2008.

[The European Taste Festival and the Goudot Awards in Aurillac](#)²⁷: A celebration of food, bringing producers, chefs, and food lovers from all over Europe together to experience local Auvergne specialties. June 27th, 28th, 29th, 2008.

Keeping up with current events in Clermont-Ferrand

[Ville de Clermont-Ferrand](#)²⁸ is the official site for the city of Clermont-Ferrand. The website viewer can select the English version from a link in the upper right-hand corner. (British Flag symbol). This site includes information on tourist sites and culture as well as the city's economy, employment, environmental and social services.

[CityVox for the city of Clermont-Ferrand](#)²⁹ is a comprehensive commercial resource with links to sightseeing, restaurants, concerts, movies, and art exhibits among many other points of interest. These links provide access to pages which include opinions submitted by users reviewing attractions, restaurants, etc., and links to Google map showing their exact location in Clermont-Ferrand. This site also allows you to subscribe to email updates or RSS feeds for Clermont-Ferrand. There are many other areas of interest to explore on this site covering all aspects of culture and entertainment in Clermont-Ferrand. (Some info is translated to English, opinions are in French usually)

[Cyberbougat](#)³⁰ is a Webmagazine all about Clermont-Ferrand. This site is in French and includes tabs to the Webmagazine's articles, a schedule of events in Clermont-Ferrand, a guide of the city (BestofClermont.com) along with many other helpful and interesting sources of information on Clermont-Ferrand.

How to get around

By plane:

[Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne Airport](#) (Aulnat)³¹ is one of the top ten French international airports outside Paris with an average 110 flights a day with 6 flights daily to Paris.³²

By train:

[SCNF train station](#)³³ (Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français) in Clermont-Ferrand offers eight trains daily to Paris (3.5 hours) with [direct daily services](#)³⁴ to Lyon, Dijon, Marseille, etc.

By car:

You can hire a car at the [Clermont-Ferrand tourist office](#)³⁵, and through [EasyTerra](#)³⁶ and through [Auto-Europe](#)³⁷ car rental service in France. Both of these services offer various pick-up and drop-off locations such as the Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne Airport (Aulnat) and the SCNF train station.

How far from Clermont-Ferrand to

London, England

Driving - 9h22min. 545.62 mi. (Must catch the ferry over the Channel.)

Train- 7h is shortest trip.

Plane- London to Paris is 1hr. Paris to Clermont-Ferrand is 1h5min.

Paris, France

Driving - 3h39min. 263.41 mi.

Train- 3h.11min by TEOZ

Plane- 1h5min

Geneva, Switzerland

Driving – 3h19min. 221.22 mi.

Train- Connects through Lyon, 4h44min is shortest trip.

Plane- 45min

Nice, France (French Riviera)

Driving - 5h30min. 394.84 mi.

Train- 7h is shortest trip.

Plane- 1h

Madrid, Spain

Driving – 12h10min. 679.78 mi.

Train- no direct link

Plane- 1h40min

Milan, Italy

Driving - 6h31min. 329.09 mi.

Train- Must go up through Paris, 12h.30min is shortest trip.

Plane- 1h5min

(All train information was found on <http://www.sncf.co.uk>. All flight information found on <http://www.clermont-fd.cci.fr/aeroport/horaires/horaires.php>.)

Lodgings in Clermont-Ferrand

HotelRooms.com³⁸: Clermont-Ferrand hotels: 65 hotels from 32 Euros per night.

Ville de Clermont-Ferrand Hostels³⁹: Official city website information for hostel lodging in Clermont-Ferrand.

Food and Drink in Clermont-Ferrand

Dining in Clermont-Ferrand⁴⁰: Tourist Office website list of restaurants.

¹ Université d'Auvergne. Clermont FD1, <http://www.u-clermont1.fr/?Lang=en> (accessed on Feb. 20, 2008).

Additional sites:

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. List of Public Universities in France,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_public_universities_in_France_by_academy

² Wikipedia: the free encyclopedia. Clermont-Ferrand, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clermont-Ferrand> (accessed on Feb. 18, 2008).

Additional sites:

Clermont-Ferrand, <http://clermont.auvergne.free.fr/>

Clermont-Ferrand: a town in the heart of the volcanic region, http://www.clermont-fd.com/index_uk.htm

CityVox: Clermont-Ferrand, http://www.eng.cityvox.fr/guide_clermond-ferrand/CityHome

Epic Trip: Clermont-Ferrand Travel Guide, <http://www.epictrip.com/Clermont-Ferrand-travel-158240.html>

³ Auvergne: France's best kept secret, <http://auvergne-web.com/> by going in to the "four departments/counties" link in the center of the page (accessed on Feb. 20, 2008).

Additional sites:

Rentals France: Puy-de-Dome, http://www.rentalsfrance.com/departments/puy_de_dome

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Puy-de-Dome (mountain), [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puy-de-D%C3%B4me_\(mountain\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puy-de-D%C3%B4me_(mountain))

Planete Puy-de-Dome, <http://planetepuydedome.com/articles/six-territoires-a-decouvrir-44-1.html>

⁴ French at a Touch: Everything about the French speaking countries. Introduction to the Region of Auvergne, http://www.french-at-a-touch.com/French_Regions/Auvergne/auvergne_3.htm (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

⁵ Wikipedia: the free encyclopedia. Vercingetorix, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vercingetorix> (accessed on Feb. 18, 2008).

⁶ Wikipedia: the free encyclopedia. Gilbert de Motier, Marquis de LaFayette, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marquis_de_Lafayette (accessed on Feb. 18, 2008).

⁷ FWP: Internet Gateway to France. Regional Information about Auvergne, France, <http://www.france-pub.com/region/auvergne.html> (accessed on Feb. 20, 2008).

⁸ Francekeys. Helping you discover the keys to France. Auvergne Region, <http://www.francekeys.com/english/regions/auvergne.shtml> (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

⁹ Francekeys. Helping you discover the keys to France. Auvergne Region, <http://www.francekeys.com/english/regions/auvergne.shtml> (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

¹⁰ Icefa: history and monuments., <http://www.univ-bpclermont.fr/CONGRES/icefa2007/histoire-monuments.html> (accessed on Feb. 22, 2008).

¹¹ French at a Touch: Everything about the French speaking countries. Introduction to the Region of Auvergne, http://www.french-at-a-touch.com/French_Regions/Auvergne/auvergne_3.htm (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

¹² French at a Touch: Everything about the French speaking countries. Introduction to the Region of Auvergne, http://www.french-at-a-touch.com/French_Regions/Auvergne/auvergne_3.htm (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

¹³ Office de Tourisme et des Congres de Clermont-Ferrand. Clermont-Ferrand: a town in the heart of a volcanic region, http://www.clermont-fd.com/index_uk.htm (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

¹⁴ Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. List of Public Universities in France, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_public_universities_in_France_by_academy (accessed on Feb. 20, 2008).

¹⁵ Office de Tourisme et des Congres Clermont-Ferrand. La Maison du Tourism, http://www.clermont-fd.com/uk/HTML/maison_tourisme/p2.htm (accessed on Feb. 20, 2008).

¹⁶ Espace art Roman: Roman art gallery, http://www.clermont-fd.com/uk/HTML/maison_tourisme/p22.htm (accessed on Feb. 20, 2008).

¹⁷ JeDecouvreLaFrance. Auvergne: Puy-de-Dome. Inheritance, Religious Monuments, <http://www.jedecouvre-la-france.com/f-3460.puy-de-dome-basilique-clermont.html> (accessed on Feb. 22, 2008).

Additional links:

Auvergne Romane (19): Notre Dame du Port, <http://www.art-roman.net/ndport/ndport.htm>

¹⁸ UNESCO.org. World Heritage Center. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/> (accessed on Feb. 22, 2008).

¹⁹ Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Clermont-Ferrand Cathedral, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cath%C3%A9drale_Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption_de_Clermont-Ferrand (accessed on Feb. 22, 2008).

²⁰ Office de Tourisme et des Congres Clermont-Ferrand: Guided tours in the town, http://www.clermont-fd.com/uk/HTML/Quelques_jours/p411.htm (accessed on 2/13/2008).

²¹ Chateau Dauphin a Pontgibaud: au coeur de L' Auvergne, <http://www.chateaudauphin.com/> (accessed on Feb. 29, 2008).

²² The La Batisse Castle, http://www.route-chateaux-auvergne.org/Chateau_de_La_Batisse_anglais.htm (accessed on Feb. 29, 2008).

²³ The Chateau de Saint Saturnin, http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.route-chateaux-auvergne.org/Chateau_de_Saint_Saturnin_francais.htm&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=8&ct=result&prev=search%3Fq%3Dsaint%2BSaturnin%2Bpuy%2Bde%2Bdome%26hl%3Den%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117ADBf (accessed on Feb. 29, 2008).

Additional castles in Auvergne:

Historical tour of Auvergne's castles, http://www.route-chateaux-auvergne.org/index_anglais.htm

²⁴ The new Vulcania: the adventure of the Earth <http://www.vulcania.com/index.php?lang=en> (accessed on Feb. 29, 2008).

Additional sites:

France: volcanoes at Vulcania, <http://www.abelard.org/france/vulcania.php>

²⁵ Walkingworld: Nature parks of the Auvergne, <http://www.walkingworld.com/home/index.asp?id=34&nid=292> (accessed on Feb. 29, 2008).

Additional sites:

WalksWorldwide; The Auvergne volcanoes: a Grande Randonnee, http://www.walksworldwide.com/holiday/the_auvergne_volcanoes_a_grande_randonnee.html

Paris, passion, property: Welcome in pure Auvergne, <http://www.papaty.co.uk/auvergne.php>

Walking in the Cantal: Cantal, Auvergne Volcanoes National Park, <http://www.cantal-walking.com/volcanparc.html>

Auvergne: 200 volcans et 200 randos, <http://rando.auvergne.free.fr/>

²⁶ Office de Tourisme et des Congres Clermont-Ferrand. Fairs and Festivals, http://www.clermont-fd.com/uk/HTML/Grand_rv/p63.htm (accessed on Feb. 22, 2008).

Additional sites:

Il etait une fois Montferrand, <http://www.montferrandmedieval.org/>

²⁷ Les Europeennes du Gout, <http://www.entreprendre-aurillac.com/gout/> (accessed on Feb. 29, 2008).

Additional information:

This French life: living life the French way. Festivals across France,
http://www.thisfrenchlife.com/thisfrenchlife/2006/03/festivals_acros.html

²⁸ Ville de Clermont-Ferrand, <http://www.ville-clermont-ferrand.fr/> (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

²⁹ CityVox: Clermont-Ferrand, http://www.eng.cityvox.fr/guide_clermont-ferrand/CityHome (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

³⁰ Cyberbougnot, <http://www.cyberbougnot.net/> (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

³¹ CCI de Clermont-Ferrand. Aeroport, <http://www.clermont-fd.cci.fr/aeroport/aeroport.php?PHPSESSID=8a20c999ef0aa9c96c1a3723348edfa5> (accessed on Feb. 21, 2008).

³² Getting here: Mairie de Clermont-Ferrand: by plane, <http://www.ville-clermont-ferrand.fr/By-plane.html> (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

³³ Ville de Clermont-Ferrand. By train, <http://www.ville-clermont-ferrand.fr/By-train.html> (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

Additional information. Helpful train system websites:

EuroRailways: booking and support center, http://www.eurorailways.com/products/trains_tickets/

Corail French train system links:

Bonjour LaFrance: map of SNCF National Railway Network in France,

<http://www.bonjourlafrance.net/france-map/france-train-maps.htm>

Corail trains from Paris to Auvergne in France, <http://www.bonjourlafrance.net/france-trains/corail/auvergne/auvergne-schedule-ticket-prices.htm#Map>

France Corail schedules: Clermont-Ferrand to Paris, <http://www.bonjourlafrance.net/france-trains/corail/auvergne/paris-clermont-ferrand.htm#Clermont>

Railteam Highspeed Europe, <http://www.railteam.eu/en/> (Train schedule in English. Lyon is the closest hub to Clermont-Ferrand (1h58min by car))

Carte du reseau TEOZ, http://www.voyages-sncf.com/design/guide/voyageurs/pdf/carte_Reseau_TEOZ.pdf?rfr=SommaireGuideSNCF_body_
(Map of Train TEOZ (luxury long distance trains in France) that has stop in Clermont-Ferrand Station, but only service is north back to Paris. From Paris can take other TEOZ routes to other cities.)

RailEurope: official site,

http://www.raileurope.com/us/rail/fares_schedules/index.htm?WT.mc_id=google.sncf.cpc&WT.srch=1&gclid=CKfLrKH55ECFQ-QGgodPWSNfQ (official US site).

Corail: TEOZ, <http://www.sncf.co.uk/corail.asp> (Very good rail site allowing to pick departure and arrival cities that include TEOZ and Eurorail routes in English.)

³⁴ Voyages-SNCF, <http://www.voyages-sncf.com/leisure/fr/launch/home/> (accessed on Feb.21, 2008).

³⁵ Ville de Clermont-Ferrand: by road, <http://www.ville-clermont-ferrand.fr/By-road.html> (accessed on Feb. 13, 2008).

³⁶ Easy Terra Car Rental: Car Rental Clermont, <http://www.easyterra.com/france/car-rental-clermont.html> (accessed on Feb. 21, 2008).

³⁷ Auto-Europe, France, <http://www.autoeurope.com/car-rental/France.cfm> (accessed on Feb. 21, 2008).

Additional information:

A75: La Meridienne, l' autoroute Buissonniere,

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.a75.com/au.html&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=1&ct=result&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dhttp://www.a75.com/au.html%2B%2B%26>

[hl%3Den%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117ADBF](#) (Driving direction with routes given to places of interest in Auvergne.)
Mappy road guide: <http://www.mappy.com/>. (Excellent site, gives you information on tolls, estimated gas usage.)

³⁸ HotelRooms.com: Clermont-Ferrand hotels, <http://www.hotelroom.com/pcln/location/en/france/auvergne/puy-de-dome/clermont-ferrand> (accessed Mar. 3, 2008).

³⁹ Ville de Clermont-Ferrand: Hostels, <http://www.ville-clermont-ferrand.fr/Accommodation,434.html> (accessed Feb. 13, 2008).

⁴⁰ Office of Tourism and of Congress of Clermont-Ferrand: Restaurants, http://www.clermont-fd.com/uk/HTML/Quelques_jours/p423.htm (accessed Feb. 13, 2008).

Additional Sites:

CityVox: Clermond-Ferrand, http://www.eng.cityvox.fr/guide_clermond-ferrand/CityHome