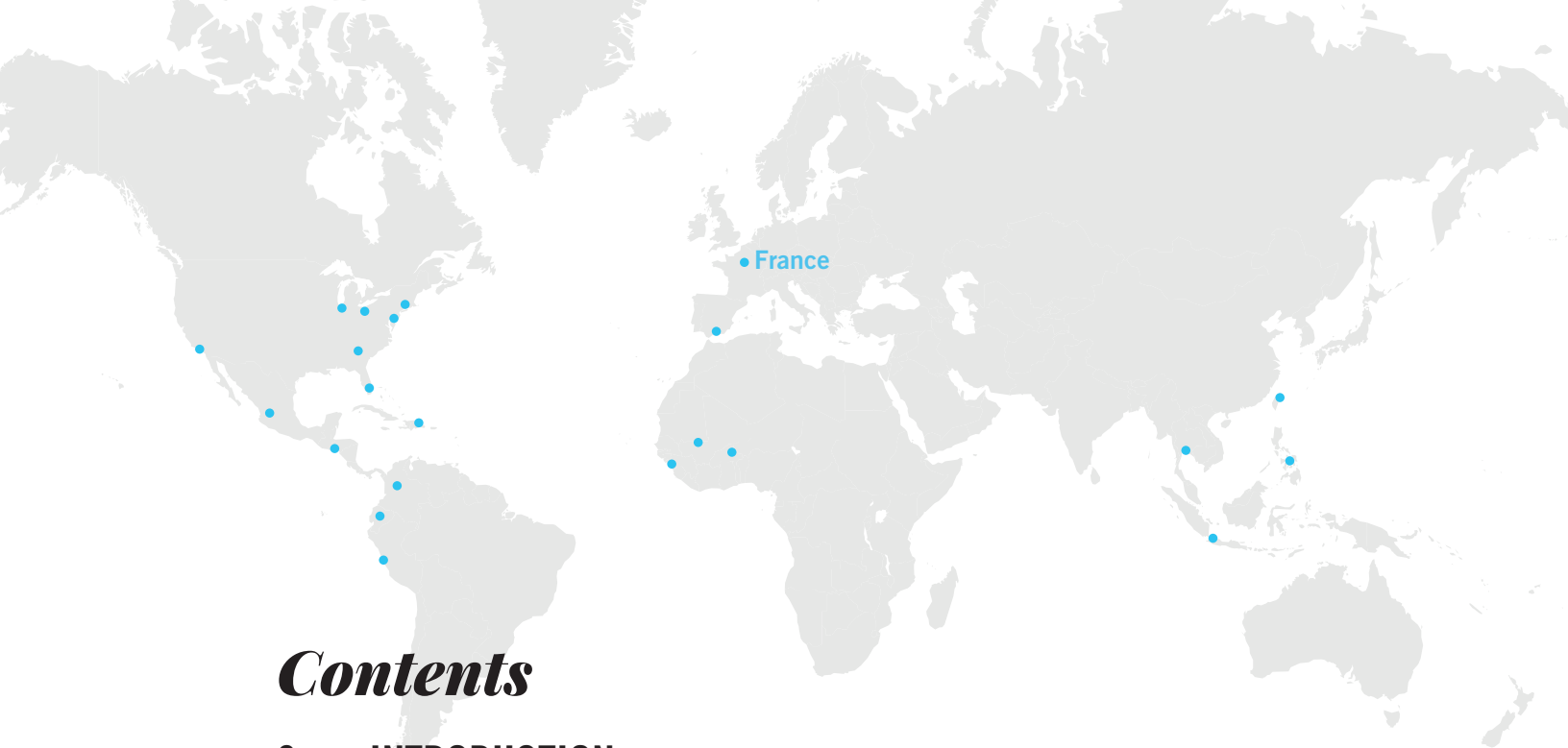




# *France*

ENVISION HANDBOOK





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# ***Introduction***

## **ABOUT THE SITE**

Most ministry takes place in Toulouse, France's fourth-largest city and home to Airbus industries. Toulouse is a multi-cultural city with people from all over the world that are living, working, and studying there. With over 100,000 university students, there are many opportunities to share the love of Christ with those in this stage of life.

The Alliance has a long history in France as a multi-ethnic union of churches. Twelve of the churches are French-speaking, nine are Asian, and three are English-speaking. They are mainly located in Paris and the Toulouse area. The city of Toulouse has thousands of beautiful church buildings, but the reality is, most of those churches sit empty. Only 1% of the population of Toulouse recognizes Jesus as their personal Savior.

This is truly a nation without God.



## MEET THE TEAM



**Site Coordinators** Tony and Raeni Roos met in a C&MA church and have known each other for most of their lives. Having served in local churches in the U.S. for 13 years, they arrived in France in 2011 with a desire to reach those in need of hearing the gospel as well as to empower young adults and the local church to follow God fully. They are proud parents of two wonderful daughters.

With a passion for discipleship and spiritual discovery, Tony and Raeni have led Envision France to partner with local French C&MA churches to further the church ministry and reach new people with the hope of Christ. Over the last 10 years, they have seen God move in amazing ways in people's lives around them as well as in their own hearts as Christ continues to call them to Himself.



**Site Associates** Aaron and Kelly Winn joined Envision France in 2021. Aaron spent the previous two decades in a variety of roles including: youth pastor, worship leader, graphic designer, creative director, and communication consultant. He loves discipling and enjoys making music, backpacking, and any kind of remodeling project. Before joining Envision, Kelly taught English, launched a K-12 dance program in an inner-city public school district, and served as an artistic director of a dance studio. She loves big cities, starting new things, and is a life-long learner.

In 2020, God called them to start an expressive arts ministry to introduce people to the hope and healing of Jesus and to equip young artists to do the same. They have two daughters: Kate, who is studying psychology at Crown College and Charley, who is serving with them in France.





## ***General Information***

### **TEAM COSTS**

The general cost is \$1,280 per individual on the ground in the country for 10 days. The in-country expenses cover meals, lodging, laundry, in-city transportation, and travel insurance. Airfare is excluded.

### **INTERN COSTS**

The general cost is \$1,850 per intern on the ground in the country for one month. The in-country expenses cover meals, lodging, laundry, in-city transportation, and travel insurance. Airfare is excluded.

In addition to the monthly cost, there is a one-time fee of \$455 for international travel insurance if your internship is over six months. For internships under 180 days, the international travel insurance is a one-time fee of \$53.

### **HOUSING & FOOD**

Larger teams should plan on staying in hostel or hotel accommodations arranged by the Envision leaders. Smaller teams or individuals will be with Envision team members. If sheets and towels are needed, we will inform the group leader well in advance.

Interns will be housed in separate male and female apartments. This is to provide a sense of community within the ministry team. Interns should plan to cook their own meals.

For teams, meals will take place communally with site leaders and interns. There will be opportunities to experience French culture and cuisine by dining out at restaurants in Toulouse.





We will guide you on where to get needed toiletries and personal items during your stay. Don't feel that you need to bring everything and the kitchen sink. France has most things you could need or want, and brands familiar to Americans are everywhere.

## AIRPORT & ARRIVAL INFORMATION

You will fly into the the Toulouse-Blagnac Airport. You will most likely transfer planes in the European Union, so you will not go through passport control in Toulouse. Follow the crowds to baggage claim to retrieve you bags. Then, follow the signs to the exit. We will be waiting for you just outside the secured area with a sign, so do not worry about finding us.

**IMPORTANT:** When you arrive in Toulouse, there is a very good chance you will be taking public transportation to the place you will be staying. Knowing that, only pack what you can carry as public transportation can include long walks and stairs.

## VISAS

No visa is required for a visit less than 90 days. For visits longer than 90 days, the Envision staff will assist you through the process of obtaining your visa.



## MONEY

The euro is the currency accepted in France. It is available in-country. We suggest using your U.S. bank account or credit card to withdraw euros while you are here. Usually, the fee for withdrawing cash is significantly less than exchanging dollars for euros at the airport or other cash exchange businesses. You can also get euros from your bank in the U.S. by making a request a couple of weeks prior to your departure. We suggest small bills (10s and 20s). Unless you are making a large purchase, vendors will often say they don't have change for large bills. U.S. Visa or Master Cards often work in shops and restaurants, but not always. Discover and American Express are rarely accepted anywhere.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Internet access will be available to you at no cost at the homes of Envision team members.

You will also be able to find Wi-Fi at McDonald's, Starbucks, and other similar locations throughout the city. Most of the team members also have free calling to the U.S. at our homes, but please check with your host before making a phone call. Cell phones with international calling plans do work here. Arrange the details with your cell phone provider before leaving the States. Interns and team leaders will be provided cell phones that work in France free of charge if they choose not to bring their own personal cell phone.

Emergency contact information: Aaron and Kelly Winn – +33 7 66 59 70 84

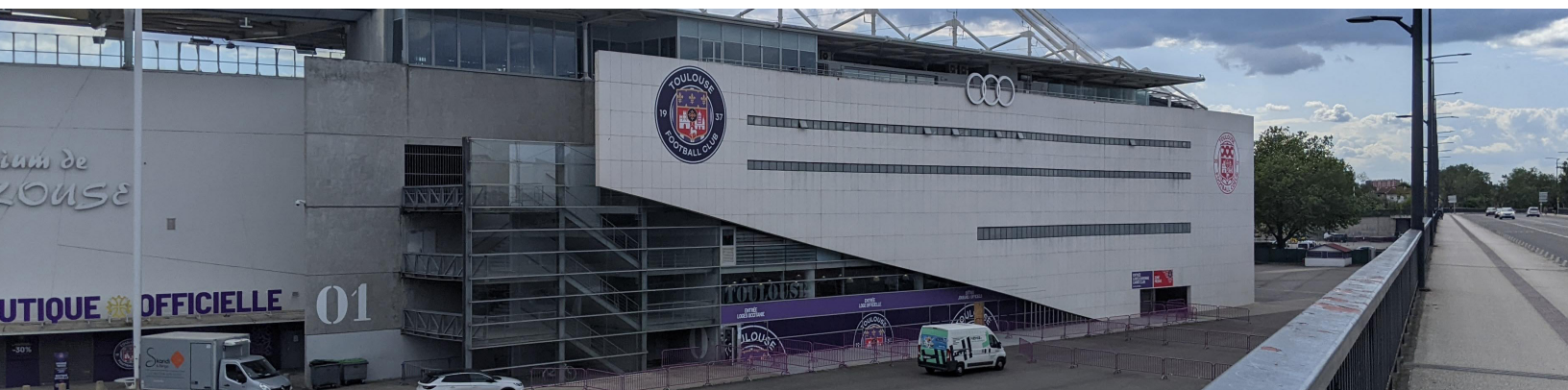
Mail can be sent to: [Name] C/O Famille Winn, 234 Route de Seysses 31000 Toulouse

France has 220-watt electricity (different than the U.S.). If your item is 110 watts, you will need to bring a transformer with you. If your item is equipped to handle 220, please note that you will need an EU adapter to plug it in. Hairdryers are extremely hard on transformers, so make sure your transformer can handle yours, buy one for Europe, or just leave it at home.

## HEALTH & VACCINATIONS

If you have limited mobility, Toulouse might not be the place for you. Each day requires several miles of walking, and stairs are unavoidable. Most of Toulouse is not handicap accessible. No vaccines are required that are specific to France, but the CDC does recommend being current on all standard vaccinations.

COVID-19 requirements change frequently, so contact the site for more information.



# Packing List

- Comfortable, nice clothes
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Rain gear
- Toiletries
- Medications/prescriptions
- Ibuprofen, Dayquil, Nyquil, etc.
- Hand sanitizer
- Feminine products
- Passport and extra passport photo
- Camera
- Spending money
- Water bottle
- Bible, journal, pen
- European plug adapter
- French phrasebook
- Bag with a zipper (for around the city)
- If you are looking to bring small treats for the team, we like ranch dressing seasoning packets, Taco Bell taco seasoning packets, Reeses, Kit Kats, and Goldfish crackers.

## SUGGESTED DRESS CODE

First off, dress modestly. This is particularly important for woman as a friendly American smile can often be misinterpreted as an invitation for men to approach you. While athleisure is becoming more popular, it is not recommended for church or professional functions.

The climate in France is moderate. Toulouse does not get extremely cold or hot. Do expect rain during your visit. During the summer, days are in the 80s while the nights become cool. Most buildings do not have air conditioning, so it is important to dress in layers. Winters are also moderate with lows around freezing. We rarely get snow, but we have a constant mist. The humidity is very high, so it can seem much cooler in the winter.







## *Ministry*

Envision France exists to see the Kingdom of God invade the country of France. We do this through strategic partnerships with local churches, developing relationships with lost people, and developing prayer initiatives and artistic initiatives. During your time in Toulouse, your group will partner with local churches to see the advancement of the Kingdom. Many days, you will be involved in English conversation groups, prayer walks, and conversations with locals and internationals.

We partner with two local C&MA international churches, one English-speaking and the other French-speaking, to see the Kingdom advanced in those areas. Using your unique gifts and abilities, Envision France can further the work of the Kingdom as we partner with your church, the local church, and Envision France. During your time in Toulouse, your group will be challenged to see missions through a new lens and step beyond their comfort zone to minister with and to people.

# Schedule

## TEAMS

A week in the life of a team here looks something like this:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Saturday  | a.m.: Arrive, meet the team, and learn about the ministry<br>p.m.: Conversational English   |
| Sunday    | a.m.: French church<br>p.m.: International church   |
| Monday    | Sabbath—use the day to see the city or recharge   |
| Tuesday   | a.m.: Meet other international workers in Toulouse<br>p.m.: Conversational English, prayer walk, cultural activity, boat or bike tour   |
| Wednesday | a.m.: Hear from a French pastor about their ministry and church<br>p.m.: Conversational English or prayer walk  |
| Thursday  | a.m.: Hear from a French believer<br>p.m.: Lead a workshop, prayer walk, connect with a new friend, evening worship (lead worship, share a testimony)                             |
| Friday    | a.m.: Late start<br>p.m.: Lead a workshop, prayer walk, connect with a new friend   |
| Saturday  | a.m.: Hear from an Envision intern and workshop<br>p.m.: Conversational English or lead a workshop, evening event at the local ministry center or cafe (art, games, music, drama) |
| Sunday    | a.m.: Local French church<br>p.m.: Dinner and debrief   |
| Monday    | Depart  |

## INTERNS

Interns can expect to spend their weeks with the following emphases:

- Facilitating teams and/or relational ministry (15 hours)
- Leading English conversation groups (5 hours)
- Staff meeting (2 hours)
- Personal development and discipleship (3 hours)
- Church and small group (5 hours)
- Other ministry specific to your personal calling—refugee, homeless, music, art (5–10 hours)





## *Cultural Sensitivity*

Toulouse is a beautiful city full of art, history, and amazing food. As an international city, young adults come here from all over the world to study or work. At our international partner church, up to 20 different ethnicities are represented on any given Sunday.

France is a country that influences the world. Many trends in thinking, politics, cuisine, and fashion originate in France. Young people are often open to discuss topics such as current events and culture. They are rarely shy to state their opinion.

While in Toulouse, you will get to experience life as a Toulousian—riding the trains, metros, and trams. Buying baguettes and pastries from the local bakeries will be an experience in culture as well as an experience for your taste buds.

The French are much quieter than Americans. While riding public transportation or just walking down the street, it is important to not make a lot of noise or commotion. The French often keep to themselves and do not smile when encountering someone on the street. They often don't say "hello" to someone just passing by. This in no way makes them unfriendly, just more private than Americans. For young women, it is important not to make eye contact with men. Making eye contact can imply that they are welcome to approach you.

It is important to use words that indicate politeness. When entering a shop, it is important to say "Bonjour Madame" or "Bonjour Monsieur." When leaving, say "Merci" and "Au Revoir."

Greeting people: Saying "hello" (bonjour) is very important. When in a French setting, one universal "hello" to the whole room is not sufficient. The French greet every person individually. Also, French greetings often include bisous: kissing the air on the side of each cheek. Don't be surprised when meeting someone for the first time that they lean in—just lean to the left first. This type of greeting is common among men and women (however, if they know you are American, they will often offer you their hand for a handshake instead). Hugging in France is considered very personal—in fact, there isn't really even a French word for "hug." So, be considerate of your French friends as a hug could make them very uncomfortable.



## *Contact Info*



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WEBSITE: [WWW.WEAREENVISION.COM/FRANCE](http://WWW.WEAREENVISION.COM/FRANCE)