

# Berridge Programs

Find yourself in France.

## Creative Explorer

Program Structure and Curriculum

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Creative Explorer is a gap year program designed to ignite creativity, foster self-expression, and deepen connections through art and culture. Set in Normandy's inspiring landscapes, participants explore Photography, Painting, Writing, and Film while guided by professional artists. Through personal projects, collaborative workshops, and cultural immersion, the program encourages creative confidence and a fresh perspective. By blending artistic mentorship with exploration of French traditions and community, participants leave with renewed purpose and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world.

### **DAILY SCHEDULE**

8:30: Breakfast

9:30: Community Hour

11:00: Collective Explorations

12:30: Lunch

1:30: Personal Pathways

4:00: Culture Clubs (Tuesday/Thursday)

6:00: Dinner

8:00: Evening Activity (Optional)

## **PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

### **MORNINGS**

#### **Community Hour: Contributing and Connecting**

Community Hour offers you the chance to engage with the heart of our household, actively contributing to the vibrancy of our shared space. Whether you're chopping vegetables in the kitchen, tending to the garden or organizing the program library, you'll participate in meaningful tasks that support daily life. Choose from a variety of roles that spark your interest, building new skills while fostering connection and collaboration with others. Every job is hands-on, fun, and designed to enrich the community experience.

#### **Collective Explorations: Discovering Inspiration Through Art and Connection**

*Collective Exploration* sessions are designed to inspire connection, creativity, and artistic growth by diving into France's rich artistic heritage. Through collaborative workshops, participants explore pivotal movements like Impressionism and French filmmaking, uncovering techniques and stories from masters like Monet, Cartier-Bresson, and Méliès. These sessions foster meaningful bonds with fellow creatives, encouraging the exchange of ideas and the discovery of new creative directions. By engaging deeply with history, culture, and community, participants refine their voice and broaden their artistic perspective.

Samples of Collective Explorations include:

#### **The Decisive Moment: Capturing Life in Motion**

Explore the art of seizing the perfect moment through the lens of Henri Cartier-Bresson, the master of the "decisive moment." Learn to create dynamic, spontaneous compositions that reflect the essence of your surroundings. Through guided photography walks, build a collective gallery that celebrates the beauty and movement of daily life.

#### **Impressionism: Painting Light and Life**

Dive into the history of Impressionism and its foundations by studying the works of Monet, Sisley, and Renoir. Paint in the very landscapes that inspired these masters, from Monet's gardens in Giverny to the shores of Étretat. Discover how capturing light and atmosphere can transform your approach to painting and drawing.

#### **Visual Diaries: Creating Your *Carnet du Voyage***

Combine art forms to craft your personal *Carnet du Voyage*, a travel journal blending painting, drawing, photography, writing, and collage. Inspired by the French tradition of documenting travels, create a rich visual narrative of your journey through Normandy, capturing its culture and scenery in your unique voice.

#### **En Plein Air: Painting Outdoors in Normandy**

Immerse yourself in the Impressionist tradition of *en plein air* painting, inspired by Normandy's captivating light and landscapes. Study Monet's process and techniques, and

experiment with capturing the essence of changing skies, water, and countryside in your own outdoor work sessions.

### **Women of Impressionism: Perspectives and Legacies**

Explore the contributions of women artists like Berthe Morisot and Blanche Hoschedé-Monet, Monet's granddaughter, to the Impressionist movement. Examine their unique perspectives and creative approaches while reflecting on the role of women in shaping art history.

### **Storytelling in Art: Finding Your Narrative**

Uncover the power of storytelling in visual arts through workshops that challenge you to identify the stories you want to tell. Using inspiration from artists like Dorothea Lange and Gordon Parks, learn how to craft compelling narratives through photography, painting, and film.

### **Filmmaking in France: Past, Present, and Future**

Trace the origins of filmmaking in France, from Georges Méliès' groundbreaking works to the innovation of the French New Wave with directors like Godard and Truffaut. Participate in experimental filmmaking workshops, drawing inspiration from these iconic movements to create your own short films.

### **Visual Storytelling: Photography and Film**

Discover the art of visual storytelling by studying the works of Sebastiao Salgado, Agnes Varda, and other masters. Experiment with photography and filmmaking techniques to craft stories that blend imagery and emotion, capturing both the everyday and the extraordinary.

### **Writers of Paris: Finding Inspiration in Words**

Draw inspiration from the literary giants of Paris, such as Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein. Study their work and explore how they captured the vibrancy of French life. Through writing exercises, reflect on your own journey and create pieces that merge observation and imagination.

## **AFTERNOONS**

### **Personal Pathways: Crafting Your Creative Journey**

As a core element of *Creative Explorer*, *Personal Pathways* provides a dedicated space to follow your passions, discover new directions, and explore what truly inspires you. Dive into mentored studio practice, where you can develop a portfolio or experiment across mediums like writing, photography, painting, or filmmaking. Whether honing a single discipline or blending techniques, this time encourages you to express your personal creative style and explore what feels meaningful to you.

Guided by resident artists and mentors, *Personal Pathways* is an opportunity to play, refine your voice, and push creative boundaries. The experience culminates in a capstone project, where you'll share your journey in a form that resonates with you, such as a gallery, anthology, or film. This is your time for self-discovery, artistic growth, and celebrating your unique perspective.

## **LATE AFTERNOONS**

### **Culture Club (Optional)**

Immerse yourself in the essence of France, exploring its language, history, cuisine, and artistic spirit. In this weekly club, discover the luminous landscapes of Impressionists like Monet, the daring energy of modern artists like Basquiat and Hockney, and the profound impact of the Norman Conquest on French and English history. Learn French basics and uncover stories of France's past while enjoying hands-on cooking classes that celebrate traditional Norman flavors. Together, we explore the rich creativity, traditions, and resilience that shape France's unique identity.

## **EVENINGS**

Optional clubs and activities include:

### **Film Club: A French Perspective**

Explore French cinema, from classics to contemporary films, focusing on the artistry and cultural depth of French filmmaking. Discover iconic directors like Godard and Varda, and engage in discussions about narrative techniques, visual storytelling, and French cultural themes.

### **Baking Club: The Art of French Pastry**

Learn the art of French baking, mastering pastries, breads, and sweet treats like croissants, macarons, and baguettes. Guided by expert bakers, discover traditional techniques and bring the flavors of France into your kitchen.

### **Games Night: A French Twist**

Enjoy a fun, social evening with French-inspired games, from classic board games like *La Bonne Paye* to trivia and card games. Test your creativity and knowledge of French culture in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

**Mindfulness Club:** Explore the foundations of Buddhist philosophy and practice through meditation, mindfulness, and the study of teachings from ancient wisdom to modern interpretations.