

Living with a french host family

Azurlingua's little know-how of communal life

1. Host Family choice and community life rules.

The host family home is not a hotel and therefore does not have hotel attributes or functions. Choosing to stay with a host family is important while it means some involvement from both sides: Being in a host family does create some responsibility and means sharing some of their private life; it also means that you will need to integrate a new life style. Common host family rules are simple. They are the same for everybody:

- Respect meal times
- Do not forget to lock the main door with your key when you leave the house.
- Switch off lights and turn down heaters when you leave a room.
- Respect other people's rest time and take care not to make noise after 10:00pm. Take care not to make noise when you return home late at night.
- Respect the property of others and that of house cleanliness (clean your room, mop up water when you leave the bathroom; hang wet towels out on the dryer, etc.)
- Clotheshorses are at your disposal to hang your wet clothes on.
- Be considerate in the time that you spend in the bathroom which others may also need to use.
- Always remain decently covered when you come out of your room, the bathroom or when in the presence of other family members.
- Bed linen will be changed regularly by the family.
- It is important no to waste water. When having a shower, try to be reasonable (no longer than 10 minutes once or twice a day, in relation to the time of year).
- Take good care of your keys. The family is trusting you with a spare one, do not lose it. If stolen or lost, you will be charged for its replacement, or the change of lock in case of security keys.
- For understandable security reasons, friends and relatives are not welcome in the host family home. In case of violating one or more of these rules, you will initially receive a warning. If the situation reoccurs, calling for a second warning, you will be excluded from the host family without any refund.
- Money and valuable items must be placed in a safe place (e.g. in a case with a padlock). Azurlingua takes no responsibility for theft from one of our residences.

2. Duration of stay

All students arrive on Sundays and depart on Saturdays. We ask you to double check that your departure date has been well registered. You must let us know if you want to stay one extra night or week.

3. Meals

We propose two formulas: Breakfast and Half board (breakfast and dinner).

A) Breakfast usually tends to be a European type

meal: i.e. milk, hot chocolate, coffee, tea, crackers, French bread, butter, jam, yogurt, cereals, ... depending on will. We do not suggest that all this is should be placed on the table at the same time each morning. A simple discussion on the first night should help you to determine the ideal breakfast with your particular family.

Breakfast is an important meal to get you started for the day; therefore it must be big enough!

Families can give you some special space in their fridge for any special goods that you may wish to provide yourself. We do understand that some people work early in the morning and consequently cannot always eat their breakfast with the student. In that case an agreement must be reached in order to establish a plan for breakfast and clearing up afterwards. Please note that during weekends, the whole family eats breakfast together. In case of a late wake-up, the host family will leave ingredients for you to prepare by yourself.

B) Dinner is always eaten together as a family.

Dinner is considered to be one of the most important aspects of family life. This is the best time to exchange information, discuss what has happened during the day, talk about tomorrow's program, etc. Dinner is eaten at a regular time, not too early or late (usually the French dining time ranges between 7,00pm and 8,00pm). Should you wish to eat out, **please let the family know within reasonable delay.** However, under no circumstances will there be a refund for meals not taken.

4. Phone use

Any call without authorisation is forbidden, unless >>>>

>>>> there is an emergency. On the first day, we propose that you purchase a special phone card with a private code, which enables you to use any telephone. You are permitted to receive phone calls in the home of your host family, providing they are at a sociable hour, and of a length considerate to others. Arrangements and regulations concerning phone use can be discussed and decided with the family..

5. Linen and cleanliness

A host family make their own decision as to whether

or not they will take care of your laundry (often this will depend on your manners and behaviour). If not there are numerous laundrettes in town.

The host family will dust and clean your bedroom, but you are expected to make **your bed yourself** and to hang up your clothes in the closet provided for you.

These are a few words that we have learnt from our twelve years of experience. Without being too harsh, these few rules will help you to make the most of your time spent with your host family.

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Special rules for teenagers (minors) in the program for adult

1. Minors are not allowed to drink alcohol.
2. No minors under 16 years of age may go out at night unsupervised by host family, except for school outings.
3. Any minor over 16 but under 18 (even slightly) can go out at night alone until 00.30 a.m, but only on week ends.
4. No minor can travel alone on week ends or longer outside Nice (ex. Paris) or in another country.
5. To do so, we need a release from his / her parents stating the identity and age of the person who will be responsible for them.
6. Immigration Police department frequently controls the student's presence at school.
7. Passports must be deposited in care of the host family upon arrival.
8. Parents are supposed to know these rules before the student's arrival via the agency that sent the booking or through the school's website.
9. We also remind you that host families have to write a letter to the French Embassy of the student's country stating their acceptance of responsibility before the student can obtain his or her visa. By approving and signing the above rules, parents will encourage the host family to carry this responsibility.
10. Please remember these rules are aiming to protect the students, and to ensure their safety during their stay with us.