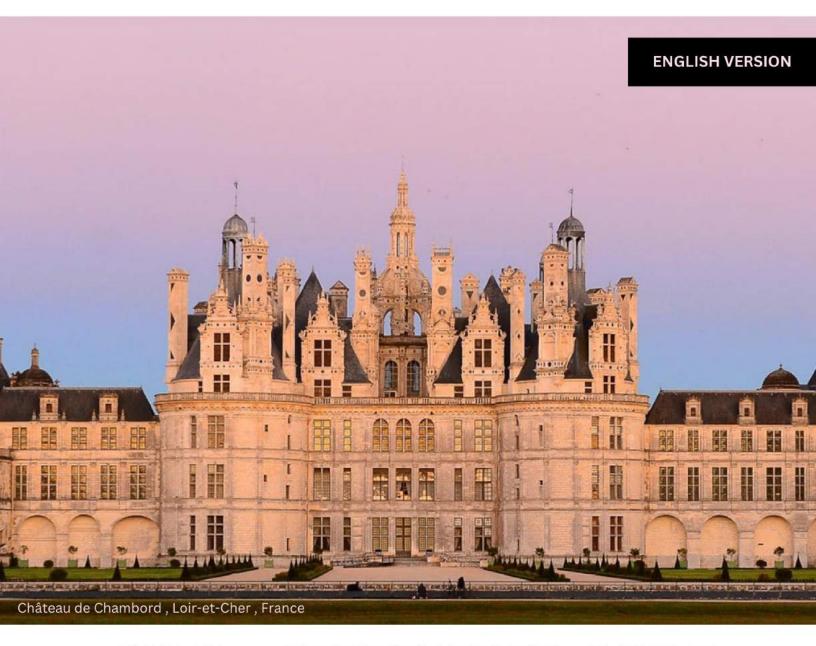
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE CHANDIGARH

LAPLUME



JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

ITW OF ANJUM MOUDGIL QUALIFIED FOR THE PARIS OLYMPICS

DISCOVER LA Loire by bike CLAFFOUTI RECIPE BACK TO OUR PREVIOUS EVENTS IN PICTURES



SUMMARY

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THE MAJOR EVENTS OF SUMMER 2024

The Olympic games and the Paralympics games of Paris 2024



The Olympic games and the paralympic games are the major event of this summer.

The respective schedule is from 26 July to 11 August 2024 and from 28 August to 8 September 2024, this event will attract the athletes and the spectators from the entire world. The French capital expects about 15.3 millions of visitors and nearly 10,500 of athletes, representing 206 National Olympic Committees that will be competing. It will be Grand and Amazing!

New disciplines add a modern touch to the competition

This year, The Olympics will obviously feature the classic, essential disciplines such as athletics, swimming, and gymnastics.

There will also be recent sports, which will add modernity to the competition.



Surfing, introduced for the first time at the Tokyo 2020 Games, will be present for the 2024 Games. This year, the competition will take place on the waves of Teahupo'o in Tahiti (a paradisiacal island in French Polynesia). The judges will rate the speed, variety, and difficulty of the figures performed on the waves.



Skateboarding will also make a grand return. Athletes will compete in two disciplines: Park and Street. The Park takes place in a curved bowl-shaped terrain, allowing athletes to gain speed and perform aerial tricks. The Street competition is held in a setting that replicates street elements.



Breakdancing will make its debut at the Paris Games. The events of this new discipline will take the form of one-on-one dance battles. The breathtaking dance moves combined with the energy of the crowd will make it a moment that is both festive and impressive.







Famous athletes will be present

About 200 French athletes will be participating, including:

Kevin Mayer (decathlon): The decathlete, world champion and Olympic medalist.

Marie Wattel (freestyle, butterfly): European champion and world medalist swimmer.

Teddy Riner (heavyweight judo): Double Olympic champion (2012 and 2016) and multiple world champion.

Allison Pineau (handball): Olympic champion at Tokyo 2020 and multiple world champion.









And around a hundred Indian athletes will also be present to represent India, including:

Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw): The javelin thrower, gold medalist at Tokyo 2020. **PV Sindhu (badminton)**: Silver medalist at Rio 2016 and bronze medalist at Tokyo 2020, multiple world champion.

Mirabai Chanu (weightlifting 49 kg): Silver medalist at Tokyo 2020 and multiple world champion.

Amit Panghal (flyweight boxing): Silver medalist at the World Championships and gold medalist at the Asian Games.









Tchit-Tchat with Anjum Moudgil



Meet Anjum Moudgil an Indian sport shooter, from Chandigarh, qualified for the Paris olympics game!

Anjum Moudgil, born on January 5, 1994, in Chandigarh, is a Indian sport shooter representing Punjab. Supported by the GoSports Foundation through the Rahul Dravid Athlete Mentorship Programme, she began shooting at Sacred Heart Senior Secondary School in sector 26, Chandigarh.

She graduated in humanities from DAV College (sector 10), and holds a master's degree in sports psychology.

Anjum is also an avid abstract artist and serves as a Sub Inspector in Punjab Police.

I Anjum, how are you?

Hi, I'm fine! I've just come back from a shooting competition in Munich, and now I'm getting ready for the Olympics!

What inspired you to take up shooting?

My mother has been sports enthusiast since her school days, and she was the one who introduced me to NCC through which I was able to try the Shooting sport.

The thrill of shooting bullets was the first thing that really attracted me, and that is the reason I could play this sport.

How did you feel when you found out you were selected to represent India at the Paris Olympics?

I was thrilled to shoot all the selection trials that were held to select the athletes for the Paris Olympics.

I finished all my trials with the best possible physical, mental and technical knowledge, and I had some amazing results to qualify for the team. The best part was informing my family and friends about this selection, and this really gave me lot of confidence to do my best ahead. There was a lot of mental effort put in for the work to get selected.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced on your way to becoming an Olympic shooter?

I have been blessed with the best teachers and the staff at my school and college to have supported me through my journey. The basic challenge was the financial challenge I faced in obtaining my equipment at the initial stage, so I had to use the rifle and Shooting Equipment that was shared by five other Shooters from NCC. I would say all the challenges that I have faced were part of my journey, and the biggest learnings that made me grow into a mature athlete.

Could you share a typical day in your training regimen as you prepare for the Olympics?

Typical day of my training routine we go for the technical training in the morning and train for 4 to 5 hours at the Shooting range and then come back and have lunch post that for some mental training sessions, and then in the evening, we have the physical training sessions and some rest, and then we have dinner.

In some of period I love to paint or go for long walks



How do you stay motivated and focused during intense training periods?

The will is to get better with each shot and each training session, and learn from all the mistakes that we make. Whenever, we feel not that motivated, the best is to just get back to the basics and start from the beginning and think why we love this sport.

Are there any particular traditions or rituals from Chandigarh or your family that you keep with you as you travel and compete?

I don't think there is any tradition or ritual that I follow, but I am sure my mom must be following some rituals. Just being from Chandigarh gives me enough confidence and happiness to be where I am, and I just feel so proud to be part of this beautiful city and, just coming back to Chandigarh after every trip or competition gives me the recovery and immense calmness that I would need at my time off.



What aspects of your culture are you most proud to share with the international community at the Olympics?

I think the main culture of staying with the family with the adults of the family and respecting each and everyone no matter the age is something I'm very proud of us being an Indian.

And apart from the culture, I feel the people really admire our cuisine and also appreciate our Indian attire.

"No matter how hard it gets, it's the experiences that you face in your sporting career that will be the biggest lessons in your life apart from your sport a well. Feel proud to work hard each day, no matter how difficult getting a result is."



What are you most looking forward to about the Paris Olympics, both in terms of competition and experiencing the city?

I am really looking forward to experience each and every moment at the Olympic city and my competition. Being part of the Indian team representing at the Olympics is an honor for me, and I am ready to give my best.

Of course, France has some amazing places to eat and experience the local history, and I

am open to do that in Chateauroux , place where the shooting sport will take place.

I have a wish list in which I would love to win a medal for India and carry that to the top of the Eiffel Tower and click a picture with that.

What are your goals and aspirations beyond the Paris Olympics?

I have always been inclined towards making new records and you know, out growing myself, and I have really worked hard for that.

Apart from Shooting, I would really like to open up my personal hand painted merchandise, and which I have been doing for sometime, and I love painting apart from Shooting during my time off. And my wish is to make a place for athletes where they can get any type of support they need to follow their sport at the beginning stage of

their career.

What message would you like to share with young athletes who dream of competing in the Olympics one day?

No matter how hard it gets, It's the experiences that you face in your sporting career that will be the biggest lessons in your life apart from your sport as well. Feel proud to work hard each day, no matter how difficult getting a result is.

It's always the people who get back up after a fall that inspire me and have inspired the

generations, so I really wish that whatever you do you must enjoy. Get back up and not take

the lows seriously but learn from them and get back and enjoy the journey.

SUMMER WALK





This year, the trend is towards eco-friendly vacations!

To reduce our impact on the environment, we avoid excessive air travel and car use. Instead, we prioritize more sustainable modes of transport like biking and train travel. These alternatives allow us to discover lesser-known but stunning corners of France. Whether pedaling along the 'Loire à Vélo' or hiking in the Pyrénées-Orientales, eco-friendly vacations offer a fresh perspective on the territory and add a challenge to your stay!

La Loire by Bike

Nature, culture, and beautiful adventure



The 'Loire by Bike' is a 900 km cycling route that follows the Loire River, the longest river in France. This route is specially designed for cyclists, whether beginners or experts. You can choose to ride the entire route or just a part of it depending on the time you have, the type of landscape you want to see, and your abilities.

There are plenty of opportunities to rent bikes along the route. Additionally, accommodations range from campsites to hotels, providing options for every budget.

Everything is set up for you to enjoy this beautiful ride and escape through the French landscapes!

The castles of the Loire, the must-see stop.



LE CHÂTEAU DE CHAMBORD

While cycling through the Loire Valley, you can visit the famous castles of the Loire. The Château de Chambord, built in 1519, is one of the most majestic. It is particularly famous for its double spiral staircase designed by Leonardo da Vinci, allowing two people to ascend without crossing paths. With its 440 rooms, 365 chimneys, and extensive French gardens, Chambord is one of the largest and most impressive castles in the Loire.



LE CHÂTEAU DE CHENONCEAU

Built in 1513 and partly spanning the Cher River, it is nicknamed the 'Château des Dames' (Castle of the Ladies). Indeed, its splendor is attributed to two women who influenced the life of King Henri II: Diane de Poitiers (the king's favorite) and Catherine de Medicis (the king's wife). Diane de Poitiers initially lived in the castle and supervised the construction of the bridge. After Henri II's death, Catherine de Medicis expelled Diane de Poitiers and transformed the bridge into a twostory gallery, giving the castle its iconic appearance. It's a kind of remarkable example of collaborative effort!



LE CHÂTEAU DE SULLY SUR LOIRE

This fortress, located on the banks of the Loire, is a magnificent example of medieval and Renaissance architecture. from the 14th century onwards, it served as a fortified residence for several dukes of Sully. Surrounded by moats and gardens, this imposing castle is known for its large tower and dungeon. It played a strategic role during the Wars of Religion and hosted illustrious figures such as Joan of Arc.

The GR10 in the Pyrénées-Orientales

Magnificent, unique, and a little demanding!

You may already know that France has over 300 GR (Grande Randonnée) trails. These are long-distance trails that allow hikers to traverse most of the French regions. Typically spanning over a hundred kilometers, they can be completed in one long journey or in selected stages.

Among these GR trails is the GR 10, also known as the 'Trans-Pyrenean Hiking Trail' or the 'Great Pyrenees Crossing'.

The GR10 is a roughly 900 km long trail that connects the town of Banyuls-sur-Mer on the Mediterranean coast to Hendaye on the Atlantic Ocean coast. This trail takes you across the entire Pyrenees mountain range, separating France from Spain. It's a very long journey, totaling about 368 hours of walking, which equates to around 15 days of non-stop walking... Fortunately, you're not required to do it all at once!

Unlike the Himalayas, the Pyrenees have generally lower altitudes (the highest peak reaches only 3,404 meters), and the climate is more humid, making the Pyrenees a lush and green natural environment.



While hiking on these trails, you can observe numerous animals such as the Pyrenean ibex, famous for their massive horns, or the chamois (small mountain goats). You might also spot the bearded vulture, a large scavenger bird that feeds exclusively on bones and can have a wingspan of up to 3 meters! You might catch a glimpse of a brown bear, although they are very elusive creatures.

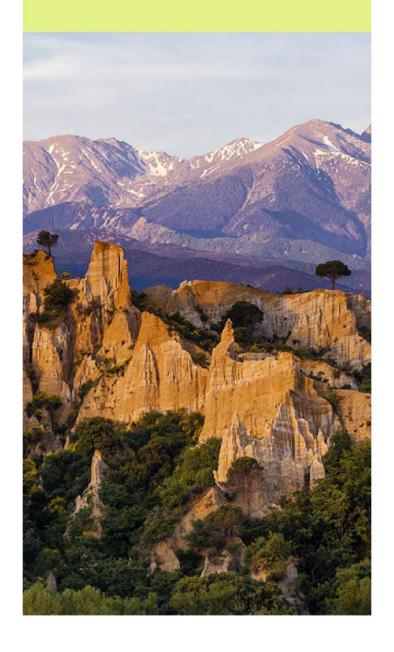
As for flora, you'll admire vast alpine heaths covered with heather and rhododendrons, as well as blueberry bushes you can taste when in season. Near wetlands, it's not uncommon to encounter carnivorous plants, especially sundews.

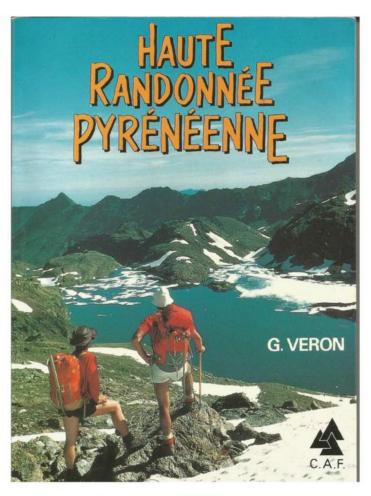




"Generally, the GR10 is well-equipped with guesthouses and shelters all along the route. However, if you prefer a more 'authentic' experience, you can bivouac along the trail!

For more information, you can visit the website gr10.org. Make sure to plan your expedition carefully before embarking on the journey! But once well-equipped and prepared, the reward will match your efforts..."





"For those seeking a sporting challenge, the route has a variant called the 'Haute Randonnée Pyrénéenne' (HRP), which stays along the ridgelines without descending into the valleys (a challenging itinerary for experienced athletes)."



SUMMER RECIPE

A refreshing summer with local and seasonal products



In summer, we forget heavy recipes and refresh ourselves with fresh fruits and vegetables!

During this season, France is abundant with delicious fruits like juicy and sweet peaches, apricots, melons, strawberries, and cherries. It's also the time for colorful vegetables such as tomatoes, zucchini, bell peppers, and eggplants. Consuming seasonal produce allows you to enjoy their freshness, flavor, and often more advantageous prices. Take advantage of these summer delights to prepare simple and flavorful dishes!

The Ratatouille

Ingredients for 8 people:

- 1 bay leaf
- -1 sprig of thyme
- 6 tablespoons of olive oil
- 500g ripe tomatoes
- 350g onion
- 350g red and green bell peppers
- 350g zucchini
- 350g eggplant
- 3 cloves of garlic
- Salt & pepper



Here are the steps to make ratatouille:

- 1. Peel and quarter the tomatoes. Slice the eggplant and zucchini into rounds. Slice the bell peppers into strips, and the onion into rings.
- 2. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large pan or skillet. Sauté the onions and bell peppers until they are tender.
- 3. Add the tomatoes, minced garlic, thyme, and bay leaf to the pan. Season with salt and pepper. Let it simmer gently for 45 minutes.
- 4. Meanwhile, prepare the eggplant and zucchini. Heat the remaining olive oil in a separate pan and cook the eggplant and zucchini for about 15 minutes, until they are tender.
- 5. Check the tenderness of the vegetables in the tomato mixture. Once they are softened, add the cooked eggplant and zucchini to the tomatoes. Continue cooking over low heat for another 10 minutes.
- 6. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot. Enjoy your ratatouille!



The Cherry clafoutis



Ingredients for 8 people:

- 60g granulated sugar
- 100g flour
- 40g semi-salted butter
- 600g cherries
- 4 eggs
- 200ml milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla sugar
- Icing sugar
- A pinch of salt

Instructions:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 210°C (410°F, Gas Mark 7).
- 2. Wash and stem the cherries. You can also pit them if desired.
- 3. Melt the 40g of butter in a small saucepan over low heat.
- 4. In a large bowl, mix together the flour, sugar, salt, and vanilla sugar.
- 5. Gradually add the eggs, mixing well, then slowly pour in the milk while continuing to mix.
- 6. Add the melted butter and stir until smooth.
- 7. Butter a baking dish and place the cherries in it. Pour the clafoutis batter over the cherries.
- 8. Bake in the preheated oven at 210°C (410°F) for 10 minutes, then reduce the temperature to 180°C (350°F) and bake for another 20 minutes.
- 9. Serve the clafoutis cold or warm, dusted with icing sugar.



FRENCH EXPRESSION ABOUT SUMMER

Ce n'est pas la porte à côté

= C'est loin
An imaginative way to say that a destination is not close to where one currently is could be: It's "miles away".





Être comme un poisson dans l'eau

= Être très à l'aise dans une situation ou un environnement particulier It's an expression that evokes the ease of a fish swimming in water, its natural habitat.

Dormir à la belle étoile

= Dormir dehors It's a poetic expression that evokes sleeping under the stars, meaning without a roof, outdoors.





Faire la grasse matinée

= dormir jusqu'à tard dans la matinée It's a way of saying that one slept longer than usual.



CCOMMODATION BENEFITS

France provides students with substantial accommodation support, including rent allowances up to 30% from CAF and international student-specific residencies from CROUS, easing financial strains.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

France prioritizes student safety and health, offering social security covering 70% of medical expenses, ensuring access to healthcare without significant financial strain.

NTERNSHIP AND TRAININGS

France prioritizes practical learning with internships, some paid, and apprenticeships, allowing students to work while studying, fostering hands-on experience and financial support for enriched educational experiences.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FRENCH

French, second most taught and fifth spoken globally, enhances communication, adds value to CV, and broadens job prospects and cultural insight.

POST STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

France offers post-study opportunities, including a two-year APS for job-seeking or entrepreneurship and a five-year Alumni Circulation Schengen Visa for master's graduates.

AND OF OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATION

France, home to global giants like UNESCO, Airbus, and L'Oreal, provides students diverse industry exposure and career prospects. With access to 26 Schengen countries, it fosters innovation and multicultural collaboration, evident in its 13th rank in the Global Innovation Index.

STRONG INDO-FRENCH RELATIONS

Indo-French relations, spanning 25+ years of partnership, feature mutual degree recognition, fostering academic and professional exchanges. Economic ties thrive with 1000+ French companies in India and 150+ Indian firms in France.



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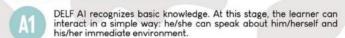
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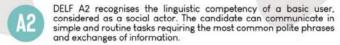


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WELCOME HANNA!



Hello everyone! This is Hanna Uma speaking, a newcomer to the Alliance Française of Chandigarh.

For the past three months, where I've been volunteering at the recently opened rooftop café. I graduated in geography and urban planning in Paris and worked several years on ecological urban planning projects and urban cooperation for the City of Paris and other municipalities in France.

Involved in community work,

I notably chaired the association of young urban planners in France for a year, an experience that allowed me to meet students from over 15 cities in France and abroad!

My favorite dish?

It all depends on my mood... and the season! In summer, I'm obsessed with watermelon and cantaloupe, while in winter, I can't do without pumpkin soup. But my staple food remains simply... rice! As a vegetarian, I appreciate its versatility and universal appeal. Some of my favorite rice-based dishes include pad thai (flat rice noodles, Thailand), masala dosa (rice flour crepe, South India), vegetarian mafé (peanut sauce served with pilaf rice, West Africa)...

What I love about Chandigarh?

You either love it or hate it, but I've personally gotten used to the "sectors" which make navigation in the city much easier! For food, I highly recommend the South Indian restaurant Chhota Banaras in Sector 17 (run by our partners from Back to Source) for delicious idli or vada pav.

The objective of the cafe?

I now wish to engage in a different type of intercultural cooperation, that of gastronomy and culinary exchanges with the development of the café! While keeping in mind the environmental and nutritional impact of our menu, as well as local and seasonal sourcing. An ambitious project led as a team with the Alliance staff, including Ram Sarup, who has been cooking at the Alliance for nearly 20 years, Shiv Shankar, a lively apprentice chef, and Dhiraj, our super barista!



WORK IN PROGRESS AT THE CAFETERIA

Revamping the cafeteria and theater spaces: a new initiative for the Alliance Française of Chandigarh!

The pressing demand from students and the public frequenting the Alliance Française of Chandigarh for an authentic French gastronomic experience has led to an ambitious project to reconceptualize the cafeteria and theater spaces.

Our vision for this new concept was shaped by a series of observations on how the Alliance Française could enhance the cultural offerings for the residents of Chandigarh. We noted a lack of expression spaces for young performing artists. Additionally, it is important to highlight the absence of French restaurants in Northern India, which limits access to this aspect of French culture.

The central idea of this project is to create alternative cultural spaces, offering authentic French cuisine as well as fusion cuisine, to weave connections between Indian and French cultures through culinary art. Moreover, this renovation aims to adapt our spaces to a changing cultural landscape, ensuring that the Alliance Française remains at the forefront of cultural innovation.

In this endeavor, we also aim to support Chandigarh's emerging artistic scene by regularly organizing gastronomic and cultural events, thus creating essential rendezvous for culture and fine cuisine enthusiasts.





In April 2024, we opened the rooftop area, which we have named La Terrasse Bleue. It's serving a simple menu featuring French sandwiches, bowls, and salads, along with a selection of beverages and pastries. By the end of the year, we will inaugurate the indoor space, which includes the theater area and will offer a more elaborate cuisine.



IN OUR MEDIA LIBRARY

NEW BOOKS FOR ALL LEVELS

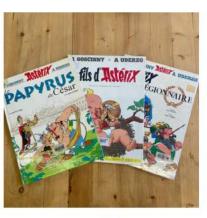




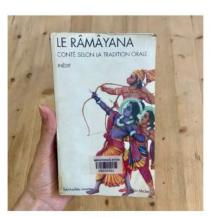


A2 B1 C1

AND MUST-READ BOOKS







A2 B2 C

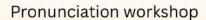
You can borrow books for free if you are a student of the Alliance Française de Chandigarh! Ask Fanny in the library for more information.

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Read out loud competition











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If you have an idea or a need for a workshop, ask Fanny at the media library or Sara at the culture office.

OUR EVENTS

PREVIOUS EVENTS

more photos on Instagram @alliancefrançaisechandigarh

French Ambassador, Thierry Mathou, visits our branch in Leh





And the Alliance Française Chandigarh





We inaugurated the rooftop café









and organized the student party on it!





In our Art gallery, we inaugurated the exhibition -Yet Again by Vishu Arora





And for the Fête de la Musique, we organized a talent show













The Fête de la Musique continues with DJ Greg at The Backroom (sector 34)



















UPCOMING EVENTS

Photo exhibition about Bastille Day celebrations in France

Special events for the Olympic Games

And as always, there will be film screenings, workshops in the media library, special theme menus in the cafeteria and exhibitions in our art gallery!

Our events are free and open to all, so tell your friends and family!



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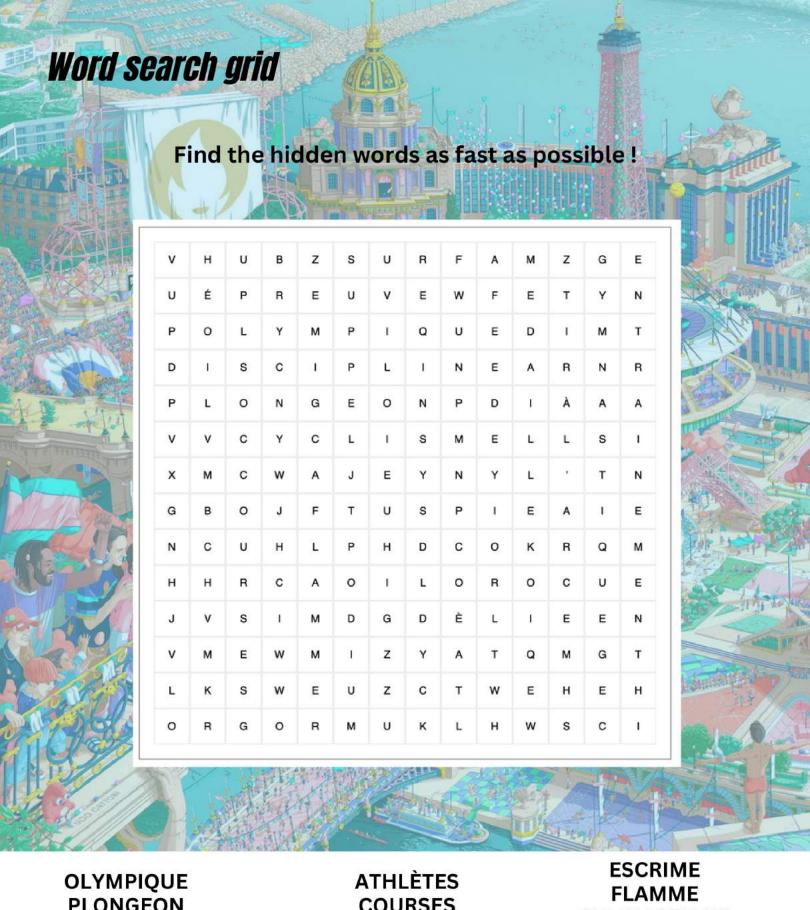
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RECEPTION OPEN

WEEK DAYS
9 AM to 1 PM - 3 PM TO 6 PM
SATURDAY
9 AM TO 1 PM







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