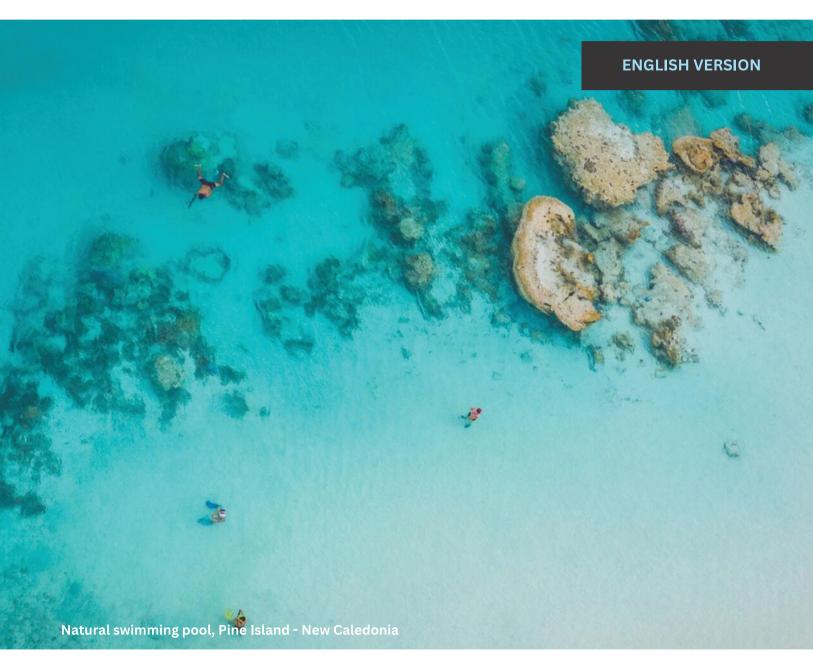
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE CHANDIGARH

LAPLUME



OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

DISCOVER THE FRENCH DROM-COM

CHIT CHAT WITH REINA, A FORMER STUDENT OF AF CHANDIGARH WHAT'S NEW IN OUR MEDIA LIBRARY BACK TO OUR PREVIOUS EVENTS IN PICTURES



SUMMARY

LET'S DISCOVER FRANCE	
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Parade in traditional dress to mark the 60th anniversary of Wallis and Futuna's status, 29 July 2021

La France

METROPOLE



Comp Comp

Martinique



Guadeloupe



La Réunion



Guyane



Mayotte



COM



Walliset-Futuna



Polynésie Française

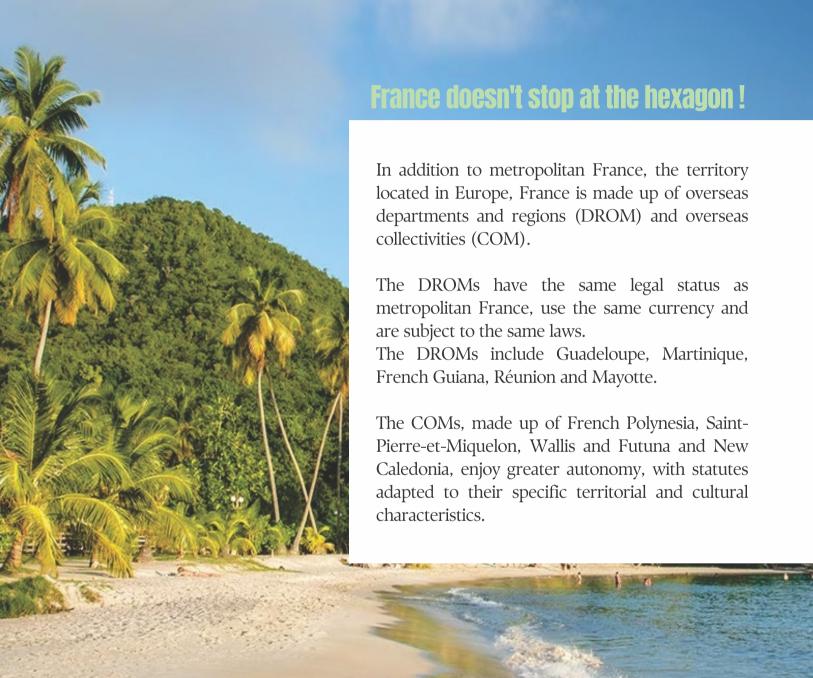


Nouvelle-Calédonie



St-Pierreet-Miquelon

LET'S DISCOVER FRANCE



Today, a wind of revolt is blowing through certain DROM COMs, with many residents complaining about the relentless rise in prices, the lack of consideration shown by the metropolis towards the population and the lack of public services.

MAJOR EVENTS

The Fet Kaf

Commemorations of the abolition of slavery in Réunion

La Réunion, an island in the Indian Ocean, is French because of its colonial history: It was annexed by France in 1642 under the reign of Louis XIII and has remained under French authority ever since.

Today, it is a French overseas department and region (DROM).



After France took possession of the island in 1642, French colonists started growing coffee and sugar cane. Thousands of slaves, mainly from East Africa and Madagascar, were forced onto the island to work on the plantations.

It was finally in 1848, after decades of struggle and revolt, that the abolition of slavery was proclaimed on Réunion.

The abolition decree, signed on 20 December 1848, is celebrated every year on the island during Fet Kàf. More than just a day of celebration, it's a day of collective remembrance!



What does 'Fèt Kaf' mean?

The word 'Kaf' comes from Reunionese Creole and is derived from the term 'Cafre' or 'Caf', which was used in colonial times to refer to people of African origin, particularly slaves.

And 'Fèt' is simply the Reunionese Creole version of the word "fête", party in French!

The Fèt Kaf is a message of tolerance and fraternity celebrated by Reunion islanders all over the island.







On this festive day, the locals parade through the streets in traditional dress, accompanied by floats and local instruments. There are also dance performances and concerts, with the Maloya music resonating everywhere in the island!

Maloya is a musical genre and traditional dance from Réunion, closely linked to its slave history.

Created by slaves of African and Madagascan origin,
it was a way for them to express their suffering, their hopes and their resistance to the inhuman
exploitation to which they were subjected.



MAJOR EVENTS

Hawaiki Nui Va'a

Great annual Va'a race (traditional pirogue) in French Polynesia



French Polynesia is a group of 5 archipelagos in the South Pacific Ocean.

These islands have been part of French territory since they were colonised in the 19th century.

France imposed a protectorate on Polynesia in 1842, mainly because of its strategic geographical location, facilitating trade with Asia and America.

Today, French Polynesia is an overseas territory (TOM). This status gives it autonomy to manage its internal affairs, such as the economy, education and culture, while remaining under French sovereignty. The inhabitants are therefore French citizens who take part in national elections, but the local currency is the Pacific franc, not the Euro.

A race between lagoon and open sea

The event brings together Va'a enthusiasts from all over the world; every year, more than 2,000 participants compete on the turquoise waters of Polynesia!

This year, the competition will take place from 30 October to 2 November 2024.

The Hawaiki Nui Va'a is a canoe race on the high seas and in the lagoon, divided into three successive stages (one per day). Teams of va'a canoeists, either solo or in teams, must travel between the islands of Huahine, Raiatea, Taha'a and Bora-Bora. Endurance, strategy and synchronisation are all needed to win the competition!

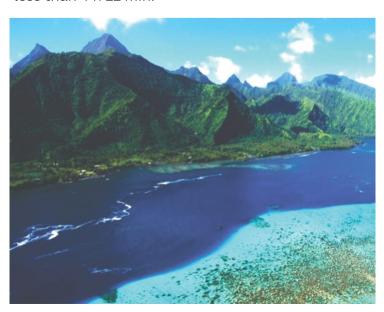


Participants cover an average of 124.5 km in less than 10 hours over 3 days:

1st step: Huahine to Raiatea: 44.5 km on the high seas. Record in 2010: 3 hrs 11 min.

2nd step: Raiatea to Tahaa: 22 km in the lagoon around Tahaa. Record in 2013: 1 h 50 min 26 s.

3rd step: Tahaa to Bora-Bora: 58 km on the high seas, finishing on Matira beach. Record in 2018: less than 4 h 11 min.





A traditional boat

Va'a is a Samoan, Hawaiian and Tahitian word meaning 'boat' or 'canoe'.

In the 19th century, it was a daily means of transport for the locals.

It is a traditional outrigger canoe with oars. The va'a is used mainly for fishing and short-distance journeys between each of Polynesia's islands.

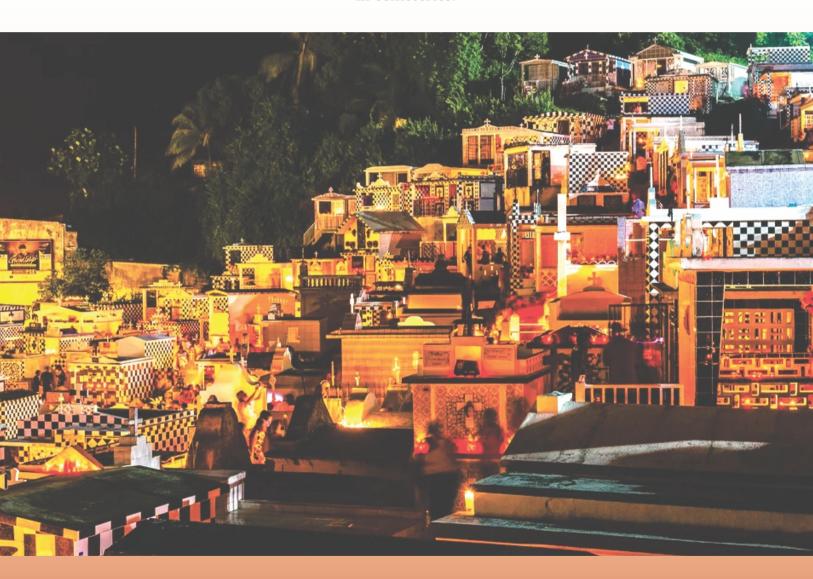
There are different sizes of va'a, from the V1 (1 person), V3, V6, to the V12 (12 people).

MAJOR EVENTS

TOUSSAINT IN GUADELOUPE

On 1 November, people all over France celebrate the dead and and pay tribute to them

Toussaint is a Christian festival celebrated on 1 November. Its name comes from the expression 'all the saints', as it pays tribute to all the saints, known and unknown, who have marked the history of Christianity. In France, it is a public holiday on which families gather to pay tribute to their deceased loved ones, decorating their graves with flowers, usually chrysanthemums, and paying their respects in cemeteries.



Guadeloupe, in the Caribbean, is a French DROM. It was colonised by France in 1635, mainly because of its fertile land. The history of Guadeloupe is deeply marked by the slave trade, in which African slaves were deported to work on plantations (sugar cane, cotton, etc.).

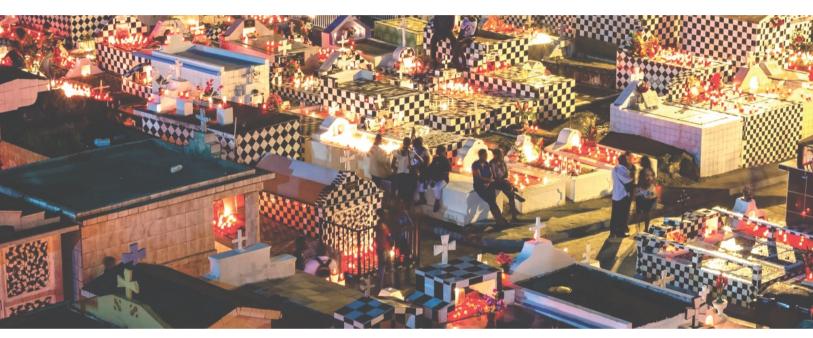
Today, Guadeloupe is predominantly Catholic, a legacy of French colonisation.

But religious practices are often mixed with local traditions, with African and Caribbean influences.

One of the most important celebrations in Guadeloupe

In Guadeloupe, Toussaint is much more than a simple religious commemoration; it's an essential time for remembering and honouring the dead. Preparations begin with a major clean-up of the graves, with each family ensuring that the graves of their loved ones are spotless. The cemeteries are then lit with candles and adorned with flowers, creating a warm and spiritual atmosphere of contemplation.

Unlike in other cultures, in Guadeloupe All Saints' Day is not synonymous with sadness, but with life, family and conviviality, making it one of the island's most important celebrations, alongside Mother's Day.



Two days of festivities

On the evening of 1 November, Guadeloupeans gather in cemeteries to light candles on their graves, marking the start of the festivities.

2 November is also celebrated in Guadeloupe (which is not the case in metropolitan France). This second day of celebration is just as important as the first. Cemeteries continue to be gathering places, with a joyous atmosphere marked by moments of sharing and reunions between friends and families, mixing laughter and memories.

This double celebration, rooted both in the cult of ancestors of African origin and in Christian tradition, reflects the richness and melting-pot of local beliefs.



The importance of Toussaint has created a whole new range of short-term jobs in Guadeloupe. For some years now, the region has been employing young people during the week preceding the celebrations to prepare the cemeteries and clean the graves.

It's an initiative that benefits both young people and those who can't do it themselves, such as the elderly.

WALKS IN THE DROM-COM

Explore the Amazon rainforest in French Guiana



French Guiana, not to be confused with Guyana, is an overseas department and region in South America, bordered by Brazil and Suriname, and bathed by the Atlantic Ocean.

French Guiana became French in the 17th century, when France took possession of it in 1643. Since 1946, it has been an overseas department with the same rights as metropolitan France.

Today, French Guiana is best known for its space centre in Kourou, from where Ariane, Soyuz and Vega rockets have been launched.

Part of the Amazon rainforest is also found here, making French Guiana very popular with adventure-seeking tourists!



October to December is the ideal time to visit French Guiana, as this is the dry season. The climate is much less humid and temperatures more moderate.

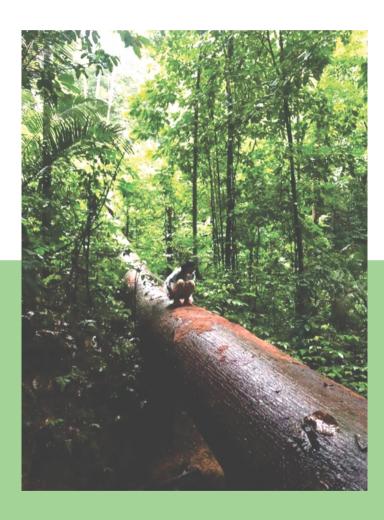
Monkey Mountain walk

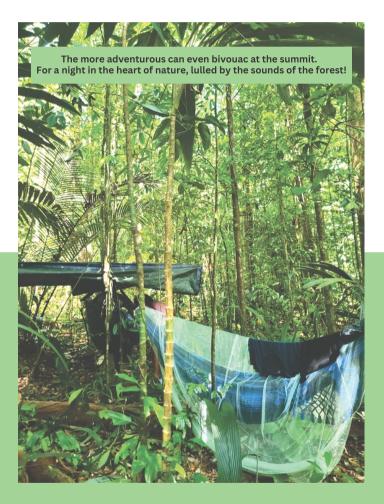
Located near the commune of Roura, the Monkey Mountain hike is one of the most accessible and popular walks for nature lovers. This trail takes you right into the heart of the rainforest!

The trail starts at the foot of the mountain, where a signposted path gradually leads you through the thick forest, between lianas and giant trees. As the name suggests, you may spot monkeys along the way, as well as tropical birds and colourful insects (of varying sizes).

The route, around 6 kilometres round trip, is relatively moderate, but can become demanding due to the humidity and dense vegetation.

The summit, at an altitude of around 300 metres, offers a panoramic view of the Guiana forest canopy.





Saki à face pâle (Pithecia pithecia)



Atèle à ventre jaune (Ateles belzebuth)



Ouistiti pygmée (Cebuella pygmaea)



Capucin brun (Sapajus apella)



Singe hurleur roux (Alouatta seniculus)



WALKS IN THE DROM-COM

Breathe the calm of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

Located 25 kilometres off the Canadian coast, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon is a French overseas territory (TOM). This small archipelago is made up of the island of Saint-Pierre, which has around 6,000 inhabitants, Miquelon-Langlade, with its 600 inhabitants, as well as Île aux Marins and several other uninhabited islets.

Although France lost most of its North American colonies in the 18th century, the archipelago remained under its control after the Treaty of Paris in 1763, mainly because of its strategic position and rich fishing grounds.

Saint Pierre and Miquelon was mainly populated by French settlers from Normandy, Brittany and the Basque Country. The history of the archipelago is also marked by events such as the Great Fishing, Prohibition and smuggling. The result is a melting pot of cultures that can't be found anywhere else!



A little piece of France in North America

Here, Basque festivals go hand in hand with Breton crêpes, and the accent is reminiscent of that of Quebec! As well as a unique culture, this is a destination of pure nature! You'll be able to get away from it all in these 'land and sea' landscapes, where you'll be lucky enough to spot free-roaming horses, whales, seals and lots of birds.

Pointe aux Canons path

Accessible to all, this one-hour walk immerses you in nature, the ocean and traces of the past.

The walk starts near the port of St Pierre and soon moves away from the town centre to follow the Atlantic coastline. This trail offers a breathtaking view of the ocean, with the Pointe aux Canons lighthouse as a focal point.

All along the path, you'll find cannons and remains of fortifications, evidence of the time when the archipelago played a strategic role in the North Atlantic.

At the end of the walk, a small beach invites you to take a break, enjoy the peace and quiet and contemplate the ocean.

This blend of history and nature makes the walk both captivating and soothing.





Before or after your walk, don't hesitate to visit the Heritage Museum, located in the heart of Saint-Pierre (near the start of the Pointe aux Canons trail).

Housed in a two-hundred-year-old building, the museum offers a fascinating insight into the history of the archipelago.

As its director points out, 'this museum was created to preserve and share the memory of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon'.



DROM-COM RECIPE

Blanc manger coco - The famous dessert from Martinique

Ingredients for 6 portions

40cl coconut milk (unsweetened)

1/2 small tin unsweetened condensed milk

(200g)

100g fine sugar

1 cinnamon stick

Zest of half a lime

4 sheets gelatine or agar agar



Steps to follow

- 1) Pour the coconut milk and condensed milk into a large bowl. Whisk until smooth. If the coconut milk is stiff, continue whisking to blend it in.
- 2) Take about two ladles of the milk mixture and pour into a small saucepan. Add the sugar and heat over a very low heat. Stir until the sugar has completely dissolved and the milk is just lukewarm.
- 3) Once the sugar has dissolved, pour three-quarters of the sugar mixture into the large bowl containing the rest of the milk. Continue to heat the remaining milk in the saucepan without bringing it to the boil.
- 4) In the hot milk remaining in the saucepan, melt the gelatine leaves (previously softened in cold water). Once dissolved, pour this mixture into the large bowl with the milks.
- 5) Grate the cinnamon stick and lemon zest and add to the mixture. Stir well to distribute the flavours evenly.
- 6) Pour the mixture into around 6 ramekins. Then leave to rest in the fridge for at least 4 hours.



Martinique is located in the heart of the Caribbean, is a French overseas department and region. Christopher Columbus was the first European to land there in 1502, on his 4th voyage to the Indies. The island was subsequently colonised by France in 1635.

Today, the island is renowned for its rich flora. Sugar cane, bananas, pineapples, mangoes and guavas are grown here. And spices like cinnamon and nutmeg. Martinique's cuisine is rich and varied, with dishes based on fish, root vegetables and seafood, as well as fruity desserts.

DROM-COM RECIPE

Rice cake from Mayotte - flavoured with spices and caramel



Ingredients for 8 people

1 kg white rice (preferably Basmati)

500 ml coconut milk

400 g sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Zest of half a lime

1 pinch cardamom

1 pinch green pepper

Steps to follow

- 1) Soak the rice in hot water for 1h30.
- 2) Drain the rice, then blend it, gradually adding the coconut milk. Blend until you have a smooth batter, similar to pancake batter.
- 3) Prepare the caramel: melt the sugar in a saucepan over a medium heat. When the sugar has turned a lovely golden brown, carefully add 50 cl of water while stirring. Turn off the heat once the mixture is smooth.
- 4) Mix the cinnamon, lemon zest and pepper into the rice mixture. Then the caramel.
- 5) Grease a cake tin with a little oil or butter. Pour in the batter.
- 6) Bake at 200°C for 15 minutes. Then reduce the temperature to 150°C and bake for about 20 minutes.
- 7) Remove the cake from the oven and leave to cool before unmoulding.

Located in the Comoros archipelago in the Indian Ocean, Mayotte is a French overseas department and region.

In 1841, Sultan Andriantsouli, of Madagascan origin, ceded the island of Mayotte to France in order to benefit from its protection against attacks from the Comoros. Mayotte then became a French colony.

Mayotte's cuisine is influenced by its geographical location in the Indian Ocean, as well as by the African, Madagascan, Asian and French cultures that have blended together over time. The main crops grown in Mayotte are rice and manioc. There are also plenty of pineapples, mangoes and coconuts, as well as spices such as vanilla and cinnamon.



VOCABULARY

Crénle

Creole is both a linguistic and a cultural term.

Creole language: This is a language born of the blending of several languages, often as a result of contact between different populations, such as European settlers, African slaves and indigenous people.

Each Creole language is unique to its region, for example Reunionese or Haitian Creole. Creole culture: This refers to the traditions, cuisine and practices of a population born of these mixtures.

Melting-pot

= a mixture of different people, cultures or ideas that come together to form a whole. This term is often used to describe a society where people from different backgrounds live together and share their cultures, creating a new common identity.

Canopy

= The upper part of the trees in a forest. It is like a roof formed by the leaves and the highest branches. Many animals and plants live in this area, as it receives a lot of sunlight.

Archipelago

=A group of islands.

Bivoyac

A bivouac is a temporary camp in the open air, often without a tent, used by hikers or adventurers to spend the night in the wilderness.

The verb bivouac means to set up camp for the night.

CHIT CHAT WITH REINA



Hi, my name is Reina, I am 23 years old. I studied at Alliance Française de Chandigarh from 2018 to 2021, up to C1 level. In 2023, I did the English assistant programme in Normandy, I really loved teaching and living in France so I decided to do the programme again in another city.

So this year, I'm an English language assistant in La Réunion, at the lycée and collège in the commune of Saint-Denis.

Why did you choose to go to La Réunion this year?

It's funny because it wasn't my choice to come here to Réunion; I wasn't accepted for my first choice, so France Éducation International (FEI), the organisation that manages the language assistant programme, offered me this placement.

And in the end I'm really happy to be here, it's completely different from Normandy!

Can you tell us about your day here?

The language assistant contract is for 12 hours a week, so I work on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for two to four hours a day. After work, I often go into the city centre to visit museums, go shopping or have a coffee. I go alone or with colleagues. Sometimes I'm invited for meals or dinners, so I can discover the local gastronomy. There are also days when I go to the beach, but it's a bit far from where I live, so I tend to go at the weekend!

It's different from the metropolis. There's no winter here, so the climate is always pleasant and the scenery is really beautiful everywhere, so I spend a lot of time outdoors.

In any case, I'm very happy to be here, because every day is different and there's a very friendly atmosphere at work and on the island in general!

What's your favourite thing in Réunion Island?

I love the Creole food and the peace and quiet of nature, it's really easy to relax here. Another thing I find really interesting about Réunion is that there are lots of people of different nationalities here, so I'm discovering a lot of different cultures!

Any advice or tips for Alliance Française students who want to become English language assistants in France?

Practise your French well!

It's really important to know how to express yourself orally if something happens and you need help. And even for the little things in everyday life, it will help you a lot.

You also need to be open-minded and sociable, so that you can integrate and meet new people.





Who are we?

Campus France is a government agency that operates under the French Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. In India, it operates under the cooperation service of the Embassy of France.



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What do we do?

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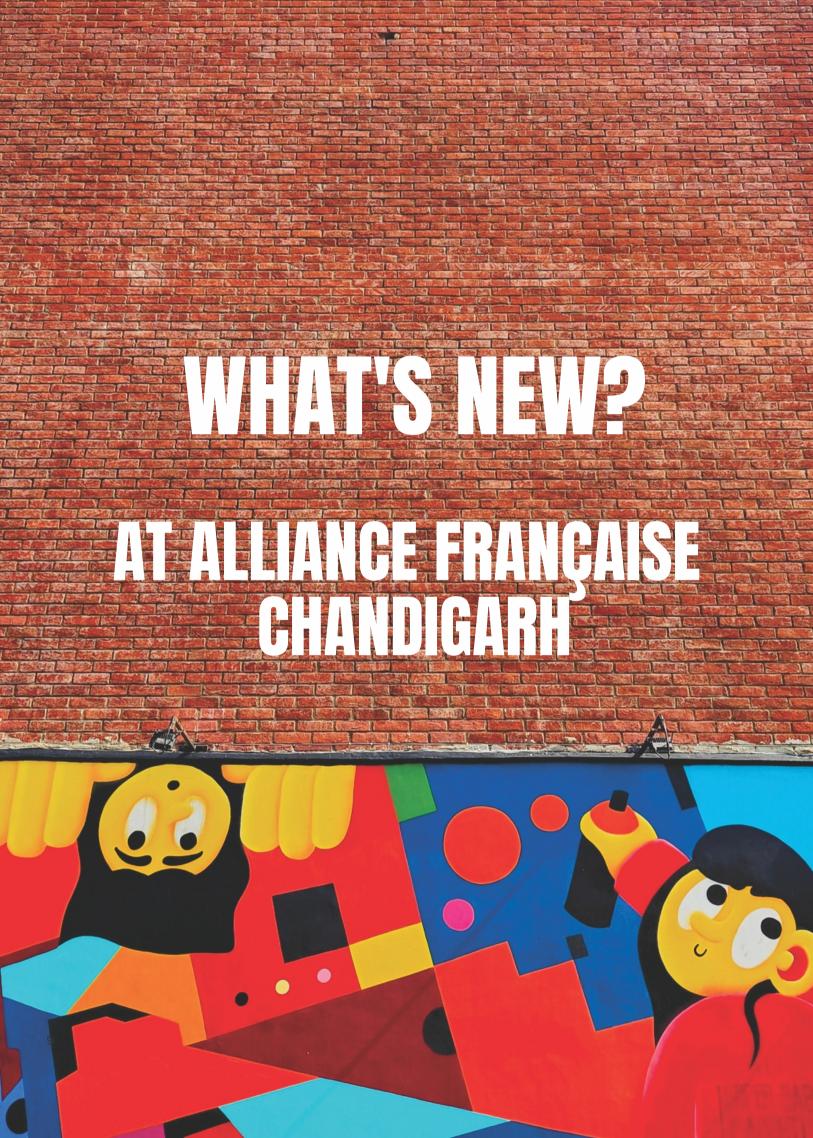
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10 to 14 >> 23 & 24 >> 23 to 27 >> DECEMBER 2024 |
10 to 14

2 SESSIONS DELF JUNIOR PER YEAR

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JULY 2024

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TO REGISTER I



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Sea turtle - Beach in French Guiana

WELCOME JENNIFER!



Hello everyone!

I'm Jennifer, the latest arrival at Alliance Française Chandigarh. For the last two months, I've been teaching French and leading conversation classes.

I have a degree in French as a Foreign Language and Educational Engineering.

I love the field of education, there's always lots to do!

I worked for several years in Morocco where I learned to cook, then in the Dominican Republic where I started Spanish, in Mongolia where I survived at -40°C and in Lebanon where I discovered the military world and a small part of the Indian world through a colleague.

My passion for Shahi Paneer (with tomatoes!) led me to India. I have to try them all, so I think I'll be staying here for a while. For the moment, the prize goes to a small restaurant in the centre of Delhi.

What I like about Chandigarh?

I love the peace and quiet, the practicality of getting around and, above all, all the green! Living in the city but having access to so much nature is really nice. What's more, the mountains are really not far away.

My only concern would be: why can't we swim in the lake?





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15 - 20 october 2024 - Alliance Française Chandigarh **WALL ART FESTIVAL**

16 - 19 october 2024 - Alliance Française Chandigarh **WEEK OF STATE**

25-26 october 2024 - Gallery Alliance Française Chandigarh *PATH OF ENDURANCE*, **EXHIBITION BY GURAMARPREET KAUR**

29 octobre 2024 - Alliance Française Chandigarh **DIWALI CELEBRATION**

10 november 2024 - Rooftop Alliance Française Chandigarh
POETRY READING BY PATRICK WILLIAMSON

1-15 november 2024- Alliance Française Chandigarh **DIGITAL NOVEMBER**

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GROZ-BECKERT

FRENCH CROSSWORD

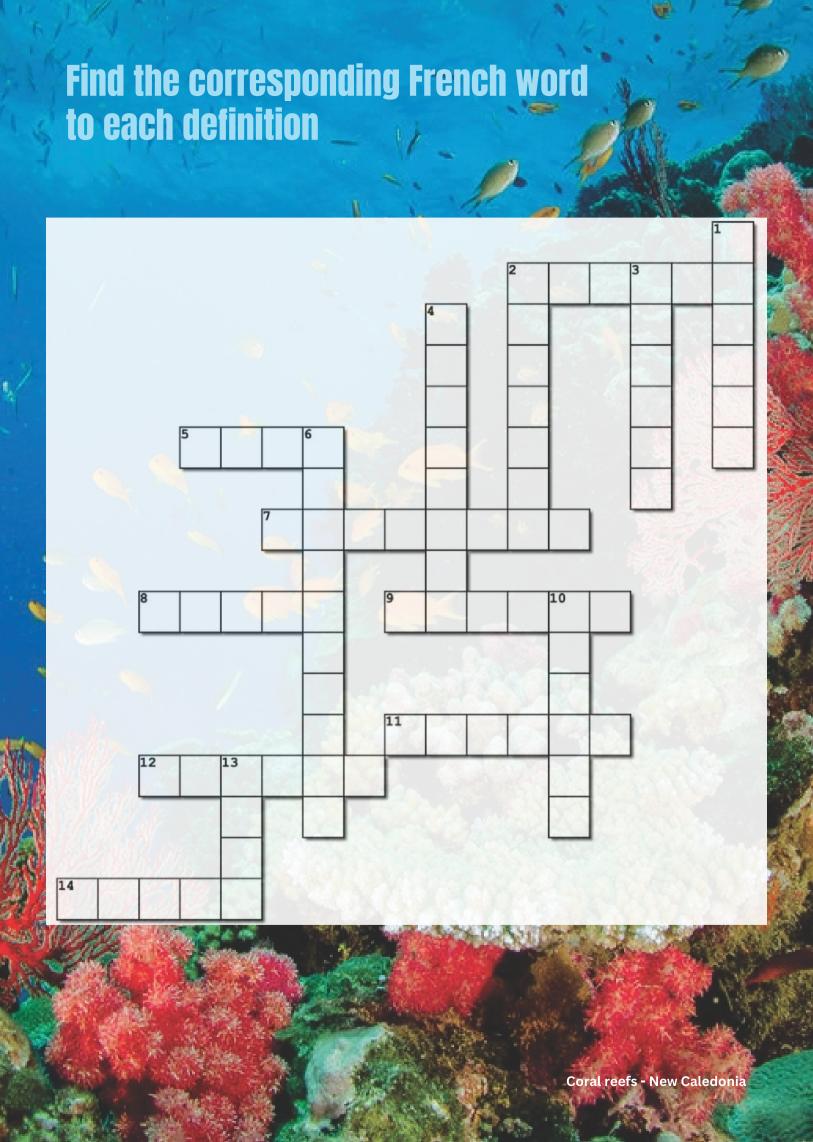
Horizontal

- 2. Natural relief found on the island of Reunion with the Piton de la Fournaise.
- 5. Acronym for the French Overseas Departments and Regions.
- 7. A group of islands, such as St Pierre et Miquelon or Polynesia.
- 8. Fragrant oil, produced in Polynesia from the tiare flower.
- 9. Language spoken in several overseas territories as a result of population mixing.
- 11. City in French Guiana, famous for its space centre.
- 12. Marine reptile that lays its eggs on the beaches of French Guiana and the West Indies.
- 14. Seashore with sand, very common in the overseas territories.



Vertical

- 1. Tropical fruit grown in Martinique and Guadeloupe.
- 2. A spice grown in Mayotte, ideal for flavouring cakes.
- 3. Marine organism that forms reefs in tropical waters.
- 4. Emblematic tree on the beaches of overseas islands.
- 6. Caribbean island, famous for its rum and white sandy beaches.
- 10. Shallow, turquoise-blue waters.
- 13. Flatfish, often found in the lagoons of French Polynesia.







Next to Hibiscus Garden Sector 36-A, Chandigarh

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RECEPTION OPEN

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

HOLIDAYS

2nd October
12th October
30,31 October & 1st November
25th - 31st December

