

## **JUNIOR STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **MORZINE**

Morzine is a picturesque traditional mountain town which is also a ski resort in the winter and a summer holiday resort in the summer months and offers a huge array of sports and activities. It is a typical Savoyard town which is kept very traditional through a strict planning regime, but remains vibrant and charming with a friendly and helpful local community.

#### **What's unique in Morzine ?**

- Beautiful scenery surrounded by stunning mountains, forests and lakes
- Typical and lively French village with its traditional shops and local heritage (boulangerie, market..)
- Very safe and easy to explore at any time of day thanks to its size
- A local community who welcomes tourists and foreigners in their village
- Variety of shops, restaurants, bars, souvenir shops as well as a cinema, swimming-pool, an ice rink, a skate park
- An extensive range of amazing outdoor activities (beautiful swimming pools and lakes, tennis, football, summer sledging, adventure trails, mountain-biking, white-water rafting, trekking...) on your doorstep.

#### **What's the weather like in Morzine ?**

The weather in Morzine in July and August tends to be sunny and dry with an occasional thunderstorm which can be quite impressive to watch and tend to occur early evening! Temperatures range between 18°C and 30°C although can be cooler at night and can peak at 40°C in really warm periods! Don't forget your sunscreen and a lightweight waterproof jacket!

#### **How can I get around Morzine ?**

Morzine is a small village, easy to discover on foot. For all activities and excursions organised by Alpine French School, transport is organised.

#### **What can you do in the area ?**

##### **Leisure activities**

*If you like to relax and enjoy the surroundings, you can go for any of the following (entrance fees apply according to activity)*

- Gentle walks
- Cinema during high seasons
- Impressive Indoor/outdoor swimming complex with sunbathing/picnic areas and beach volleyball courts
- Crystal-clear lakes and their summer beaches for sunbathing and swimming
- Tennis courts
- Summer sledging
- New skate-park
- Ice-rink
- Pavement cafés & mountain restaurants with sunny terraces for soaking up the sun and atmosphere

## Daily Life on our Junior Programme

**The day starts** with a hearty breakfast in the junior holiday centre, with other students of different nationalities served by the local French family who run the centre. They have children themselves and have run the centre for many years so they are great hosts and provide good food that juniors love!

**In the morning, children follow lessons**, for 3 hours with a 30-minute break for them to have a run around! Lessons are designed to be fun yet educational, are taught in French by dynamic French native-speaker teachers. There are plenty of games, quizzes, songs and interactive activities to initiate them to fun language learning!

**Lunch** is served at the centre or as a picnic lunch or barbecue depending on what the afternoon activity is. Serge, the chef, cooks some local specialities too to introduce French and local specialities but he knows which ones are popular with juniors and which are too unusual for their tastes! Plus he makes great desserts :)

**In the afternoon, our activity leaders organise activities** such as sports tournaments, football matches and pétanque competitions (French bowls) in the lush gardens and sports pitches of the holiday centre. Some afternoons will involve beach volleyball and swimming at Morzine's great aquatic centre, or games and swimming at a local mountain lake. The mountain summers are surprisingly warm! During such activities, juniors get the opportunity to practise their language skills outside of the classroom and really bring the language to life. This is an essential part of language study which rarely gets taught in schools and awakens an interest in languages and other cultures!

**Our Option + scheme** enables students to choose additional activities that interest them such as mountain biking (Morzine is a mecca for mountain biking!), adventure activities (white-water rafting, adventure park, climbing, mountain biking, summer sledging) or private tuition (perhaps in preparation for an exam).

**Dinner** is served at the centre, either in the dining hall or as a BBQ! Children can fill up on great food before taking part in evening activities.

**Evening & language activities:** in the event of a rainy day and in the evenings, the holiday centre has several large rooms where our experienced teachers and dynamic activity coordinators come together to run fun language activities such as blogging in French/English, journalistic projects, theatre workshops and arts & crafts. Evening activities include karaoke nights, discos, quiz nights and BBQs.

**Accommodation:** Students will stay in a junior holiday centre designed for study travel trips for juniors and teenage groups. The centre is managed by an experienced local family who have been welcoming school groups to the area for more than 15 years. Students are housed in modern en-suite rooms sleeping 2-6 people. Our activity coordinators stay on-site in the student residence to provide supervision, to ensure a convivial atmosphere, to lend a sympathetic ear if needed. Internet access is available in the centre allowing easy contact with home.

**Weekend excursions** include a day trip to lake-side towns on Lac Léman (Lake Geneva) such as Evian or Yvoire with a town trail and some time at the beach. On the other day, we organise an adventure activity such as white-water rafting or mountain biking with a picnic. Morzine hosts many events and we include these in our junior programme if they are suitable for juniors. Here is a range of local events taking place throughout the year in Morzine. Fireworks on public holidays, Bastille Day shows, carnivals and lakeside festivals all animate the summer calendar!

**Student welfare** is of utmost importance to us. All of our staff are qualified to work with junior groups as activity leaders or language teachers. All students will be met at Geneva airport or Thonon train station by a representative from our partner transfer company. Accommodation and activities included in this programme are all accredited by the French government (Ministère de Jeunesse et Sports) to welcome junior groups. Students will be supervised during all tuition, breaks and activities and our activity coordinators stay on-site with the juniors. Timetables are put up on notice-boards in the centre and you will be briefed by our camp leaders each morning and evening. Just ask them if you have any questions!

## Staff

Our junior programme is run by Alpine French School staff :

Helen Watts	School Director, Junior Reservations Manager
Christelle Thorel	Director of Studies, Junior Programme Coordinator
Deborah Maire	Adult Reservations & Logistics Manager

Our Camp Director, Activity Leaders, Teachers and Staff at the Study Residence all play an essential part in our Junior Programme. All are highly skilled in their chosen field and are all experienced and qualified to work with juniors on language study camps.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### What to bring

#### **For lessons:**

Pens, notebook, language dictionary. All course materials are provided.

#### **Clothes:**

You don't need to dress up in Morzine, so casual clothes are fine!

Swimming costume \*\*boys must wear swimming trunks not board-shorts in the swimming pool, board-shorts are ok in local swimming lakes so you can bring these too.

Sandals

Casual trainers/flat shoes

Comfortable appropriate summer outdoor clothing, eg:

Shorts/skirts

Trousers/jeans

T-shirts/tops

Cardigans/jumpers/fleeces for evenings

Light-weight waterproof jacket

#### **Misc:**

Sunscreen (high-factor as we are at altitude so the sun is surprisingly powerful!)

Sunhat

Sunglasses

Toiletries

Insect repellent & after-bite cream

Power adaptor for European plug sockets (2-pin plug)

Chargers for electrical items

Small rucksack to take on excursions

#### **For activities:**

Study trainers or walking boots that you don't mind getting wet/muddy

Swimming costume for watersports (to wear under a wetsuit)

Beach towel

\*Morzine has a good selection of general + sports shops should you forget anything

## PAPERWORK + OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

You will need the following for your time in France :

*We recommend you make 2 photocopies of the main pages, one at home with your family and one for the school to keep.*

- A valid passport : Make sure that your passport is valid for the whole length of your stay (and ideally 3 months after).
- Your visa (if you need one). For EU residents & residents of the Schengen zone, this is not necessary. For other nationals, please check on the following website to find out more : [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france/coming-to-france/getting-a-visa)
- Students must have health insurance & civil liability to cover claims for damage or injury involving third parties, including accommodation providers.
- Plane tickets and itinerary. Please let us know as soon as possible if any changes occur in your travel arrangements.

## MONEY

The currency in France is the Euro. All meals and activities are included in the cost of our junior programme. Students should bring a small amount of spending money for :

- Snacks/treats/ice-cream when out and about
- Souvenirs

We recommend cash not traveller's cheques as these can be difficult to change at times, simply due to opening hours.

Please note that neither the accommodation nor the School are responsible for your money or documents so please don't bring unnecessary amounts of cash. Passports, travel tickets and large amounts of money will be taken from students and stored in the safe at the study residence. Electronic devices such as iphones and ipads will be handed in to our activity leaders each morning and given back for free-time periods and in the evening. This is for safe-keeping and to ensure that students give their full attention to lessons and activities allowing for maximum enjoyment during the camp for everyone ☺. Students will get daily time to use wi-fi and contact friends and family.

