



HELP IN FRANCE

Assistance for British people moving to or living in France

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The FROG's NEWSLETTER #16 February 2009

Seeking Host Families in England and France



French employers are increasingly demanding that their employees have the ability to speak English. So much so that many French university students and young workers are now actively seeking ways to improve their level in the English language and thereby their job prospects.

As a result of this, we have been asked in recent times by the French to arrange stays with English families both in England and France. The outcome of these has been very successful.

Our students are all over 18 and many of them already in responsible employment. It can be a very rewarding experience for all concerned and also provide the host families with extra income.

Some of our French guests have also been looking for English lessons as well as a stay in a British family so we would also like to hear from qualified teachers of English.

Some of you have already asked to be included in our host family list and we are now seeking out other potential families in order to give our guests a wider choice of stay.

Do please then write to us here at Help in France if you are interested and we will supply you with more information and a short form to fill in.

SAVE 10% IN MARCH

Our TRANSLATION Offer

To get the new season off to a good start, we here at Help in France, are offering a 10 % discount on all translation work ordered during the month of March.

Please write to Help in France and we will supply you with a no obligation quote.

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Could you be a Cosmofil host???

Three years ago, I founded Cosmofil to help my adult students practice their French while on holiday in France. So many told me that French people either replied to them in English or ignored them that I thought I should do something to help them, for what is the point of learning Holiday French if you can't use it when on holiday in France? I guess it might sound a tad overprotective but I really wanted them to have the opportunity to speak the language they struggled to learn, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and also to meet some real French people, not just people working in the tourist trade.

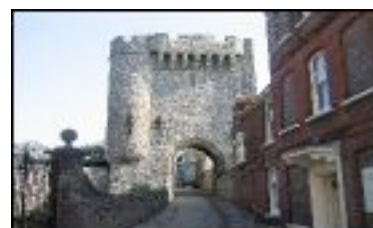


Now the Cosmofil website has nearly 30 hosts in France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Panama, who help their Cosmofil guests to "tune in" to their language, introduce them to their culture and facilitate contacts with locals. We also have Cosmofil hosts in the UK who help their guests avoid making some of the funniest mistakes they may make, such as asking for "a blond" at the pub! ... or maybe they don't!

Do you think you have the making of a Cosmofil host?

Do you have a spare bedroom, a gîte, a small hotel or a bed and breakfast? A barge, a small campsite, a château, a manor house?

Would you like to share your passion for your native or adoptive country with French visitors in the UK or



British visitors in France?

Whatever the accommodation you have to offer, it is you, the host(s), who matters. If you think you can offer your guests an introduction to your native or adoptive culture and language, please contact me as soon as you can.

For more information, please read the About Us pages on the Cosmofil website.

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The English Speaking Network

We would like to thank all those who have responded to our request for details of English speaking services in France. This has helped us to help you. ☺

We are still looking for people such as lawyers, solicitors, insurers, accountants, notaires, architects, decorators, doctors, dentists, vets, renovators and builders, plumbers, electricians, gardeners, even baby sitters and dog walkers so please keep sending us those contact details. We'll always be pleased to receive them.

CPAM or Sécurité Sociale

CPAM stands for 'Caisse Primaire d'assurance maladie', also called 'sécurité sociale, or more commonly known in France as 'la sécu'.

A CPAM number is the equivalent in France of the British National Insurance Number. If you live in France, a CPAM number is indispensable. You will be asked for it all the time and of course, you'll need it to obtain reimbursement for medical treatment (unless you still use your British medical cover). Everyone you see in French administration will want to know your 'Numéro de sécurité sociale (CPAM number).

Your Medical Insurance Number

We have often asked our customers to supply their medical insurance number and been given the wrong number. So we'll describe it to you so that you will recognize it in the future.

Here is an example of a sécurité sociale number : **1 56 08 32 115 037 23**

- The first figure (1 in this example) means that the number belongs to a male. If the number starts with a 2, it belongs to a female (If the first number is 7 or 8, this indicates that the number is a provisional number)
- The two figures (56) are the year of birth
- The two figures (08) are the month of birth
- The number 32 denotes the département of birth (32 in the example is Gers) (will be 99 for foreign countries, including United Kingdom)
- The 115 stands for the town or country of birth
- 037 means the 37th child to be born on that month or year in that area
- The final two figures are the key number (but we don't really know what that means) 😊

But how do you get this number? Well, we've found a very informative website that can answer this and many other questions in both French and English. Congratulations to Department 87 (Haute-Vienne) for having the idea to do it. <http://www.cpam87.fr/SiteWeb/anglais/>

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