

ISC PARIS SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

SPRING 2013



Paris is a city enriched with memorable history and culture, yet overwhelmed with luxuriousness of modernism. It is the city of light that never sleeps. The excitement and adventure begins just right after stepping off the airport. Everything seems to become alive! Paris is a mysterious city with an endless road for discovering. There are so many to explore. With five months dwelling in this city of love and wine, I have had enough experience and tips for surviving to share with you:



Landing in Paris

Once you arrive, always keep in mind that you are in a city of pickpocket and scams. Wherever you go, do not just pay attention to yourself or what you are doing without any observations on people and things around you. Beware of the gypsies and the Romanian people. They always gather around Paris's famous attractions such as Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower, and especially at Metro. They may come in groups and play tricks on you. I am not trying to freak you out but it is better to acknowledge you beforehand. Both of us have never been pickpocketed even once for the entire stay because we travel around with lots of carefulness, and we also adopt another technique of "blending in" by dressing up and acting like Parisians. And guess what, it really works! At least to not to become the target!

Now, let me send you to your accommodation. If you arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) you may take Roissy Bus, which is a shuttle bus from CDG to the Opera, the heart of Paris, followed by taxi, metro, or bus. However, the way of transportation that is the most costly but the same time, most convenient is by catching Taxi directly from CDG all the way to your cozy home. I highly recommend this. If you come with hundred backpacks and luggages with thousand things in them, just take Taxi. Plus it is the only safest way even during the night time.



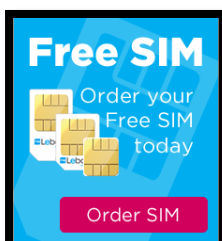


Studying at ISC

ISC provides the renowned luxury branding management during spring semester. It is one of the interesting courses of ISC. I would say studying here is a lot easier. However, do not take it for granted. Just do your best because you will not have a slight of clue of how the professor is like or how does he/she give grade like you would always do back in BBA from the talk of Ruun P or friends. In addition, it will be beneficial for your survival in Paris if you take French course. From what I experienced, recently, some Parisians are able to speak English well enough. However, you would find it a way better off knowing some French vocabularies that are used in daily life, since there is no English sign or label in Paris. Even when you go to the restaurant, you can rarely find the one with English menu. French people really like it when we speak little bit of French to them.

Transportations

French metro system is very well organized. Its network scatters all over almost every part of Paris. It is a very convenient and easy transportation in daily life. A "Navigo Card" is an interesting option if you get to commute a lot. It costs around 62 Euros per month. It is applicable to both metro and bus. Above of all, do not forget to download an "RATP" application into your smart phone. It can take you to everywhere and definitely will ease up your travel. RER is another kind of train that will take you out to nearby town. Its connection and route are more complicated, and you will need to buy an additional ticket for it. If you are looking for a grand ride, the answer is taxi. Paris taxi is considered to be the safest way to travel for party girl/guy who would like to commute in the late night. You can also book taxi in advance by calling Taxi G7 33 1 47 39 47 39. Luckily, they are able to communicate in English : -)



Get a Sim Card

"Lebara" is an interesting choice because you can order its free sim card online, with a free delivery directly to your place within a week. This sim card is also available at the supermarket, such as Carrefour. Lebara phone network is less complicated comparing to other French phone networks such as Orange, SFR, and so, because Lebara operates through prepaid card, not by subscription. For other network, you will need a French account in order to attach a phone subscription onto it. The whole procedure will take around a

couple of weeks to be done. However, with Lebara, your phone will be ready to use under 3 simple steps: get the sim card, activate it online, and pay for the top up. In addition, calling among Lebaras has no charge at all.



Lifestyle and Activity

French people will be really glad become very lovely toward you if you treat them properly according to their culture. When going to the restaurant, if you need anything, do not call on the waiters! Instead, you should make an eye contact with them and (maybe) give a beautiful smile whenever you want to order or check. And then they will come to you. The rumor says that French people are moody, arrogant, and overconfident. I would say that it is not 100% true. Most people we met turn out to be the sweetest creatures.

There are many must-visit attractions in Paris such as Eiffel Tower, Champs Ellysees, Arc de Triomphe, Cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris, La Basilique du Sacré Cœur de Montmartre, Musee du Louvre, and many more. As an Erasmus student (Exchange student) who carries Schengen visa, you can enter to most museums in Paris without any entrance fee by showing our passport to the officer. (Including Musee du Louvre) During spring, French people love to go to the park. One of the most extravagant parks in Paris is Luxembourg.

Bon Voyage

Going exchange is one of best experiences in life. It is not a surprise thing having a culture shock at the beginning, living in such country with culture and tradition so different from hometown. However, you will eventually find a way out and gradually find a right place to fit in. It is one of the best memorable moments in life. Thank you BBA for giving me such great opportunity.



Chawisa Chong-A-Phiromsakul (Mild) & Jirapon Chiwaisaragun (Mink)