

UPDATED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BELOW FOR BEGINNER FRENCH + CONVERSATION ADD-ON — SESSION DETAILS FOR BOTH ON LAST PAGE.

Beginner French for Travelers

Planning a trip to France—or simply dreaming of one?

This course is designed for adult learners who want to build practical “survival French” skills while deepening their understanding of French culture, customs, and everyday life.

The class emphasizes **conversational French**, **reading authentic and adapted texts**, and **guided discussion of cultural highlights** in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Students will practice language you can use immediately while traveling—whether dining out, shopping, sightseeing, navigating public transportation, or interacting with locals.

Grammar is introduced as a **practical support tool**, helping learners move beyond memorized phrases and develop the confidence to read, understand, and create their own sentences. The focus is on comprehension, communication, and cultural awareness rather than perfection.

Topics may include:

- Foundational grammar concepts taught and practiced in context, such as present tense verbs, gender and agreement, basic sentence structure, question formation, negation, and the near future.
- French cultural norms and expectations, including *la politesse*, greetings, and social etiquette
- Dining culture: reading menus, ordering food and drinks, tipping customs, and café vs. restaurant etiquette
- Shopping and market culture: interacting with shopkeepers, bakeries, boutiques, and open-air markets
- Guided reading practice using signs, menus, schedules, short articles, and travel-related texts
- Discussion of cultural highlights such as regional traditions, daily routines, holidays, and contemporary French life
- Similarities and differences between French and American habits and behaviors
- Navigating public transportation, including the métro and its modern evolution
- Asking for and understanding directions; recognizing common places around town
- Telling and understanding time and dates; making plans and reservations
- Getting help while traveling: pharmacies, basic emergencies, and polite problem-solving
- Pronunciation strategies and listening tips to improve comprehension and confidence

By the end of the course, learners will feel more comfortable reading French in real-world contexts, participating in conversations, and engaging thoughtfully with French culture—making future travel experiences more enjoyable, meaningful, and independent.

Please note: Pacing, depth of coverage, and specific topics may vary based on the overall level, needs, and interests of the enrolled students. Sessions are designed to be responsive and may shift from week to week in order to best support learners’ progress and engagement.

Conversation à la Carte — ADD-ON TO BEGINNER FRENCH COURSE

An optional 30-minute conversation extension to the “Beginner French for Travelers” course for learners ready to speak more confidently.

This add-on is designed for experienced beginners to low-intermediate learners—students who already have a grasp of foundational French skills and are ready to use grammar to expand their speaking abilities. It is not suitable for complete beginners or students who are brand new to French, as it builds on skills and vocabulary learners are expected to already know or be familiar with. Each session focuses on guided conversation, fluency-building, and practical, real-world speaking practice in a supportive, low-pressure environment.

Every meeting will center on a specific conversation theme, giving learners a chance to apply vocabulary and grammar in meaningful contexts. A conversation schedule outlining weekly topics will be shared shortly before the start of the session, so students can see what will be discussed and come prepared to participate.

This extension is ideal for learners who want to move beyond structured exercises, actively practice speaking, and gain confidence using French in everyday situations.

SPRING 2026 SESSION DETAILS:

Beginner French for Travelers

Dates: March 5th - May 14th — 10 sessions (we will not meet the week of March 16-20)

Cost: \$200

Time: 6 - 7:30pm

Location: TBA

Communication: Madame Grounds will send out details about the course/where we will meet no later than one week prior to the course starting.

***Minimum of 7-8 students needed for the course to make.**

Conversation à la Carte

Dates: March 5th - May 14th — 10 sessions (we will not meet the week of March 16-20)

Cost: \$70

Time: 7:30 - 8pm

Location: TBA

Communication: Madame Grounds will send out details about the course/where we will meet no later than one week prior to the course starting.

***Minimum of 2-3 students needed for the extension course to make.**