Authentic Language & Cultural Immersion

Students who participate live with a local, volunteer host family. The family and student share meals, routines, and traditions, while communicating in the target language. This complete language and cultural immersion creates a learning environment that you would not otherwise receive through more traditional travel programs. The personal connections made during this unique travel experience can last a lifetime!

Languages Offered
- FRENCH
- GERMAN
- SPANISH
- MANDARIN CHINESE

What Students Are Saying

“It was incredible how much experience I gained by speaking Spanish 24/7 with my host family. I learned both a lot about myself, the language and the culture, and it is an experience I will never forget.”
— Margaret, Spain Participant

“It was amazing to get to know the family and experience a completely new culture first-hand. I was extremely nervous and it took me a while to get up the courage to speak to them more. In the end though, I felt really comfortable with them and it was difficult to say goodbye!”
— Jenna, France Participant

The Family Stay Experience™

Xperitas has been arranging Family Stay Experiences for over 47 years. We believe that spending time with a family, speaking their language and participating in their customs is the best and most authentic way to experience another culture. Our families have a strong interest in sharing not only their home, but their way of life. The fact that they voluntarily open their hearts and home, makes our programs different from other student immersion travel experiences. We’re not surprised when our participants say that spending time with a family was the best part of their immersion experience abroad!
FAQS

The overwhelming majority of our students rate their Xperitas Family Stay Experience as the best, most rewarding part of the program. With over 47 years experience in placing students with volunteer families we know you might have some questions about the program. We have collected some of the most frequently asked questions for you here.

HOW ARE HOST FAMILIES CHOSEN?
In each of our Family Stay communities, we have a designated Family Stay Coordinator. This person is often a teacher or someone connected to local schools and parent-teacher organizations through which they can help find families to host our participants. The Family Stay Coordinator ensures that the homes are suitable and is available to help with any issues that may arise during the Family Stay Experience. Many of our Family Stay Coordinators have been placing Xperitas participants for many years.

WHAT ARE THE HOST FAMILY REQUIREMENTS?
- Must have the means to provide a safe and caring environment for the duration of the student’s stay
- Provide the student with meals
- Provide the student with their own bed and own room (if gender is different from host sibling(s))

ARE THE HOST FAMILIES PAID?
Our host families are volunteers. Although our host families in Asia and Latin America do receive a small stipend to offset costs, they are still considered volunteers. Xperitas host families aren’t motivated by money. They have a genuine desire to share an enriching cross-cultural experience.

WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD DO WITH THEIR HOST FAMILY?
The U.S. student is to be treated as a member of the family, and participate in the activities of the host household’s routine. If the host family does not have a teenager, contact with teenage peers may naturally occur through neighbors, relatives, or friends of the family. Attending school may be an option, but can’t be guaranteed in all situations. Families are not tour guides and are not expected to arrange special excursions.

WHAT MAKES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY STAY EXPERIENCE?
Every family is unique and every Family Stay Experience is different. Students can do their part to make their experience a success by: having an open mind, practicing daily courtesies, demonstrating interest in their host family and their customs, and engaging in conversation with all family members. Students who retreat to the privacy of their room and unfairly compare the host family with their family back home, or with their peer’s host families, often struggle. Students should focus on activities with their host family to benefit fully from the Family Stay Experience.

WHEN WILL YOU KNOW THE DETAILS OF YOUR PLACEMENT?
We strive to relay information about host families two weeks prior to your group’s departure. The host family may reach out to a student first, and if they do, the student should respond. However, it is perfectly acceptable to make the first contact. If a response is not received within a week, please contact us so that we can verify the host family’s contact information.

WHEN IS A STUDENT’S HOST FAMILY CHANGED?
The safety and welfare of our students is our top priority. Students must contact their group leader immediately with any safety concerns. In the unlikely event that it is necessary to move the student due to safety reasons, the group leader will contact the Family Stay Coordinator to facilitate the process. Parents and the group leader will be notified of any changes in the student’s living situation.