

## Fieldwork, Personal Development & CAS in the Cévennes



### General Information

The Eagle's Nest was a former 'Colonie de Vacances', which was converted into a field studies centre by Discover Ltd. in 1986. It provides the perfect base to explore and study this beautiful area of France. The Centre is at an altitude of 1312m, on the south side of Mont Lozère. Situated on the edge of the core zone of the Cévennes National Park, it is in an area of diverse landscapes, exceptional natural beauty and high species biodiversity.

The Cévennes National Park was designated in part due to this high biodiversity, the result of three geological zones within the park – the metamorphic schist rocks to the south, the hard igneous granites of Mont Lozère and the sedimentary limestone of the Causses plateaus to the south and west.

More than half of the plant species in France are found in the Park, which is also home to a huge range of wildlife including vultures, wild boar, black woodpeckers and lynx.

A cross-road between alpine and Mediterranean zones, and with a permanent farming population (a factor unique amongst French National Parks), the area gives unrivaled opportunities to study natural environments and landforms, from rivers to peat bogs and from periglacial environments to coasts. The centre is also well-positioned to access settlements from the smallest deserted hamlet to the county-capital city of Mende, in which we can investigate a diverse range of issues from deprivation and inequality to tourism and sustainable development.

### Biology at the Eagle's Nest

With such fantastic biodiversity, a biology fieldtrip to the Eagles Nest is a privilege! 20+ study units for all levels of the curriculum including:

- ✓ Forest management
- ✓ Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- ✓ National Park and Nature reserve management
- ✓ Energetics, food webs and energy flow
- ✓ Nutrient cycling and decomposition
- ✓ Statistics, data analysis and interpretation
- ✓ Farm productivity and conservation
- ✓ Primary and secondary succession
- ✓ Species, population and community biology
- ✓ Species conservation and genetics (bison, vulture and capercaillie reintroduction)



## Geography at the Eagle's Nest

Fieldwork in the Cévennes offers access to an unparalleled range of contemporary geographical issues and fantastic environments which inspire 'awe and wonder'. 30+ study units for all levels of the curriculum including:

- ✓ River morphology and flood hazards
- ✓ Urban inequality and regeneration
- ✓ Crowded coasts and coastal management strategies
- ✓ Urban morphology and planning
- ✓ Sustainable development in urban areas
- ✓ Rural settlements and deprivation
- ✓ Tourism and honey pots
- ✓ Environmental impact – skiing and forestry
- ✓ National Park management
- ✓ Cold environments and arid environments



*Other activities: Team building, outdoor pursuits, Duke of Edinburgh and Creativity, Action, Service (CAS).*



A residential stay is an excellent way to bring your group together, and we have a range of activities to challenge and inspire, develop leadership skills and foster group support. Activities include problem solving and team building sessions, rafting, a high ropes course and hiking. For students following the IB, many activities are suitable for the Action component of CAS. We are also able to arrange service activities working with National Park rangers and with local communities, where, of course, students will also be able to practice their French! We also offer opportunities for students to complete their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions at Bronze, Silver & Gold level.



## A Quality Learning experience.

At the Eagle's Nest we believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstance. Discover Ltd is a signatory organisation to the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto and subscribes to its vision and aims. The Eagle's Nest was awarded the **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge** (Study Tours) in May 2009, in recognition of the high quality of the learning experiences which it provides. Our full time tutors are trained geography and biology teachers, with wide-ranging experience in field studies and the local area. They have the experience, commitment and enthusiasm to inspire your students.



## Fieldwork with Discover Ltd.

### Why come to the Cévennes?

Discover Ltd. has been offering fantastic fieldwork opportunities 'further afield' to students of all ages for over 30 years. Few locations in Britain can offer the beauty or variety of the Cévennes, ranging from granite tors to some of Europe's most dramatic limestone gorges and caves. Whilst we cannot *guarantee* good weather, the climate of southern France is considerably more predictable than that of the UK. In particular, we benefit from a settled Mediterranean climate during the summer months. Finally there is the added advantage of a residential stay and the excitement of foreign travel. While this is clearly not a part of any specification, its socio-educational benefits are not to be underestimated.

Choose from a huge range of study units specifically written for all the major UK exam specifications including IB, and enjoy the flexibility of a pricing structure which reflects our teaching input. Choose a fully tutored, partly or untutored field work programme, and be confident that our reputation for academic excellence will ensure that you and your students receive the best fieldwork experience that is available. A field studies trip to the Cévennes offers students and teachers the opportunity to learn fieldwork techniques for practical exam papers, collect data for coursework, assemble case-study material, and prepare for exams.

### Accommodation:

The Eagle's Nest is a purpose-built field study centre that can accommodate 90+ students and accompanying staff, and we can accommodate an additional 150 people at a nearby ski resort during busy periods, and for schools who bring away whole year groups of students.

Accommodation is in small dormitories for students, with separate bedrooms and facilities for staff. Accommodation for teacher's spouses and children can be arranged at a small extra cost. There are 4 fully equipped classrooms (each with a computer and a range of commercial and in-house software, digital projector, overhead projector, video and whiteboards) and a resources room. The centre also has a shop, drying facilities, games room, common room and bar.

We have an extensive range of fieldwork, ICT and written resources available to all groups at the Centre. Our detailed work units, produced on DVD and supplied in advance of your course, cater for the range of KS3, GCSE, AS/A2 and IB courses, studying in groups or following individual projects. Our study units

place emphasis on sound enquiry and fieldwork skills, as well as covering the widest possible range of topics.

### Transport arrangements for fully inclusive tours:

*Group Size 10-35 Paying Places:* Travel will be by shared coach (depending on availability)

*Group Size 35+ Paying Places:* Travel will be by continental touring coach. 35 paying places guarantees that the coach is used exclusively by your group.

*Group Sizes of Less Than 10:* By special request.

*Stopovers and visits on route:* Provided that you are not sharing a coach, or all parties sharing a coach are in agreement, it is possible to tailor your journey to your requirements. Using the main Dover-Calais crossing, the route to the Cévennes takes you close to Le-Puy-en-Velay and its famous volcanic plugs, or you can arrange a stopover in Paris or other towns en route to visit places of interest, including Vulcania or battle field sites. Please let us know your requirements so that we may cost them for you.

### Cost for fully-inclusive tours:

The cost is based on a minimum group size of 10 paying places, with 1 free staff place per 8 paying students. The final invoice price is fully inclusive and includes:

- ✓ All transport to and from your school to the Cévennes, including ferry (Dover-Calais-Dover), fuel costs and road tolls. (Providing your school is within EU driving time from the Centre and applies to groups of 35 paying places or more). Small groups will travel by shared coach (depending on availability)
- ✓ Full personal travel insurance
- ✓ One free staff place per 8 paying students
- ✓ Three meals per day whilst at the Centre. We provide a cooked breakfast, packed lunch and three course evening dinner each day. We are happy to cater for vegetarians or special diets followed on religious or medical grounds. Meals are not included on your outward or return journey unless the Vulcania option is taken, in which case a packed lunch is provided
- ✓ Leaders' resource pack; DVD containing fieldwork units, risk assessments and safety management systems; access to the centre's extensive ICT and fieldwork equipment and resources;
- ✓ For fully-tutored courses, all tuition, both in the classroom and in the field; for untutored courses, support from our academic team and typically a group leader to offer logistical support and assistance during the day.

### **Travel arrangements for non-inclusive tours:**

Typically, schools either:

Arrange all their own transport using a local (to them) coach company. This coach then remains with the group throughout their trip and is used to transport the group to field sites whenever necessary. The school arranges and pays for their transport independently of Discover Ltd.

Or/

The school arranges transport to the nearest TGV station (Nimes) or airport (normally Nimes, Marseille, Montpellier or Lyon), independently. From the UK, Ryanair and EasyJet fly to these airports. For mainland UK schools only, Discover can arrange flights on your behalf, for a small agents' fee. Onward travel and transport to field sites can then be arranged on your behalf by Discover Ltd. using a local coach company. For French schools, this is then invoiced directly to the school by the coach company. For mainland UK and other European schools, this is invoiced directly to school in advance of the trip.

### **Insurance:**

Discover Ltd. can only arrange travel insurance for UK residents, and the cost of our fully-inclusive tours automatically includes insurance. Non-UK residents need to arrange travel insurance themselves. Everyone who participates in a Discover Ltd. tour/fieldtrip must be insured.

### **Important information:**

Due to the physical nature of our typical itineraries, a reasonable level of mobility is required. Please contact us should anyone in your group have special needs such as learning difficulties or reduced mobility.

You will be asked to provide medical and dietary information prior to your tour. This will be treated in confidence and it is important that this information is returned to us not more than one month before the trip commences.

### **Making a Booking:**

Discover Ltd. combines all the financial security of a large company (we hold an ATOL license and are fully bonded members of ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) with the personal service that makes you feel special. We take the worry out of the administration and travel arrangements for your tour, provide a homely centre for your group, and support your programme of work, visits and activities guaranteeing a successful and highly productive and enjoyable trip.

The next step is to contact us to make a provisional booking, so that you know your dates are secure and you can begin to recruit your group. We will normally hold your provisional booking for one month.

If you have any queries, wish to discuss your trip in more detail or wish to make a provisional booking which we will hold whilst you recruit your group, please contact **Kate Crofts** at the Discover Ltd. UK office. Normal Office hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm:

Tel: 01883 744 392

Fax: 01883 744 913

[kate@discover.ltd.uk](mailto:kate@discover.ltd.uk)

Further information about the many services offered by Discover Ltd. can also be found by visiting our website:

[www.discover.ltd.uk](http://www.discover.ltd.uk)

