



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

6th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 9 L'ARDECHE ADVENTURE TRIP – 18th JULY 2025

For a number of years pupils from KJS have had the opportunity to experience this challenging water sports and adventure holiday in the south of France but it came to an end in 2020 after COVID hit. We now feel the time is right to offer the trip once more as it has always been a favourite of students over the years. We have maintained our contacts with our original travel firm, Acorn Adventure who are a school's adventure tour company, fully bonded with ABTA and members of the Federation of Tour Operators (as well as the schools version of this).

I have made a provisional booking for an eight-day trip at the end of the summer term. **The trip will depart Friday 18th July @ 12.30pm and return Saturday 26th July 2025 @ 4pm** (the first week of the summer break). The trip is based in the L'Ardeche region, France. We will leave Knaresborough on Friday afternoon and travel for approximately 24 hours where we will arrive at the tour company's centre at Labeaume.

During our stay we will make a 30km, two-day descent of the L'Ardeche river which runs through a spectacular gorge with sides that rise to 300 metres in places, above the river.

The descent can be made without previous experience. We are led by a river team of instructors who will create an enjoyable and safe atmosphere by providing excellent instruction and encouragement to every party member throughout the trip. We use high quality, robust canoes and each member receives a buoyancy aid, helmet, paddle and waterproof barrel (one between two). Groups receive an introduction to canoe techniques and safety procedures. Then pupils move to the top of the river to begin the descent. After the first day, a night is spent under the stars (literally without tents) on the riverside bivouac site, complete with evening barbecue. White water sections are always carefully controlled, being negotiated only after the instructors have positioned themselves strategically to ensure safety.

Pupils MUST be able to swim 50 metres unaided in T-shirt, shorts and trainers.

Acorn Adventure state that all their activities are operated along national governing body (NGB) guidelines and with regard to the DFE publication 'Safety in Outdoor Education'. They have designed their activities with reference to the guidelines from the Department for Education 'Safety in Outdoor Activity Centres', along with the United Kingdom Activity Centre Advisory Committee's: Code For Outdoor Adventure Providers.

The total cost of this 'Adventure Holiday' Package is: £1,030.00

Included in the price of the trip will be:

- Travel by executive coach
- Fully comprehensive, adventure holiday insurance
- Use of equipment such as canoes, buoyancy aids, helmets, activities etc.
- Tents and site fees
- Three meals a day
- Full instruction and supervision of all activities
- Personalised tour baseball top

Not included in the price of the trip will be:

- Your own sleeping bag and pillow

- Pocket money for optional activities, drinks and snacks (plus food for the journey)
- Towels
- Clothes for both warm and cold weather (just in case)

Paperless Communication

The school prefers to send all correspondence via email (or text) where possible, to support reduction of the planet's carbon footprint. If you wish your child to be considered for the trip, please email me (I will use this for all future communications) to register your interest at: bolgera@king-james.co.uk

Please include the following in your email:

- **Subject: Ardeche 2025**
- **Your full name**
- **Your child's full name(s) (as it appears on their passport)**

The deadline for all expressions of interest is **4pm on Friday 13th September**. Any applications after this point will be placed on a reserve list. In the event of the trip being oversubscribed, a ballot will take place at breaktime on Wednesday 18th September to allocate places. From experience, these trips are very popular hence the reason for the draw. If unsuccessful, your child will be placed on a reserve list, which I draw places from every year due to students dropping out.

Following this selection process, I will email to let you know if your child has been successful; and you will then be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of £150 by Friday 27th September, in order to secure your child's place on the trip. Payment for this trip should be made online through ParentPay (www.parentpay.com).

Travel requirements

Whilst most European countries no longer have COVID-19 travel requirements, any future associated requirements or costs are not included in the trip price. You should also be mindful of the EU passport requirements which require at least two empty pages, it should have been issued within the last 10 years and be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date on which we intend to travel back. Like all travel insurance, failure to meet the above requirements will not be covered by your insurance. We will keep you updated in the time leading up to the departure date. You are recommended to read through the full guidance for travel to France for full detail and updates:

[Entry requirements - France travel advice](#)

Insurance cover

From the moment the booking is accepted there is only insurance cover available for cancellation on medical grounds (with a valid doctors note). We must make you aware that, should you withdraw your child from the trip at any time, you will lose all payments in line with the tour operator's terms and conditions which is usually your first deposit (total £150) as a minimum and, as tour operators run a sliding scale, possibly more depending on how close it is to the final deadline. If the school is unable to fill the vacant place with a reserve, the total charge from the tour operator may be applied.

Behaviour

Participation on the trip is conditional on good behaviour and attendance which is determined by the school. Any pupil failing this criteria will be withdrawn from the trip or arrangements made to be returned home. This may lead to additional, full or partial loss of payments (which will be determined by the tour operator withdrawal policy) unless the place is filled by another pupil.

Please do think carefully before making a commitment to this trip. If you decide to withdraw your child, there may not be a student willing to take their place, I will do my best on your behalf however, loss of all or part of your payments can result.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any points you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Bolger

Party Leader Ardeche 2025