



Zara

from

Burlington Central

to

France

Hi everyone my name is Zara I'm 16 and currently on exchange in France! It has been very exciting so far and it's been almost 3 months since I've been in France! I would say that it's definitely a lot different here in France and I enjoy learning about the culture a lot. Before I arrived, I thought the stereotypes about French people were true, that they were all mean and ignorant. After being in France for just a few days, I knew that wasn't true at all, I made friends very easily who were so open to help me learn French and have a good exchange experience. I never once had an issue with someone here, everyone is understanding about me being an exchange student.

My host family has been great and this weekend I'm going to be moving into my second host family! I'm very excited but also sad that I'll be leaving my first host family as I got really close to them and made a lot of memories. I can't wait to tell you all about my experience in my second host family! I've already gotten to meet all my families, and everyone was very nice. Many have also said my French improved a lot which I didn't notice until people pointed it out.

Recently it was vacation week, I did a lot of shopping and spent time with my family. It was also around the time of my birthday. At that time I was sleeping over at my host grandparents' house. My host family took me to the Baie De Somme, a popular beach where you can see seals and other animals nearby. Because this was my sweet 16th birthday, I think it was a great way to celebrate it as I got to see so many new things. Sadly, I didn't see any seals but I did see farm animals and other amazing scenery. We then walked around a city near the beach and ate at a crêperie.

I've been discovering more of France every day and always trying new things. It's amazing how different the world is depending on the country you're in. A tip for future exchange students, never be afraid to try new things. You can discover so much about yourself by simply talking to more people, going outside your comfort zone and exploring. Always remember that if you do something embarrassing, you'll be back in your home country anyways! So go out there and make good choices, find friends and make memories.

Here are some photos of my vacation birthday weekend!

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