



## **LOCATION AND COURSE INFORMATION – Plélauff, France**

The following contains very important information to help you pack and prepare for your stay at the TEFL school in Plélauff, France, as well as details regarding the training location and training course itself. Please read this thoroughly and keep it for future reference.

### **Final Payment**

Cash on arrival is the only system of payment accepted. This must be made IN EUROS on the morning of Day One to the Lead Trainer/Course Administrator at the Centre. No exceptions are permitted.

If payment has not been received by the end of class on the first Wednesday, you must gain permission from [france@teflife.com](mailto:france@teflife.com) to remain in the course.

### **Visa and Passport Information**

All visitors to France are required to carry a passport valid for at least six months after arrival date.

Citizens of the US, Canada, UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa can obtain a 3 month (90 day) tourist visa upon arrival into France. All other trainees need to contact the nearest French Embassy to clarify their French visa status.

If you are an EU passport holder you must register for a residence permit (carte de séjour de ressortissant de l'Union Européenne) from the Aliens Department of the police within 3 months or as soon as work is found.

If you are not an EU passport holder finding legal, full-time employment will be difficult. Most schools will be unwilling to go through the lengthy visa application process and the application often must take place before you depart your home country.

Most people get around this by teaching on a part-time basis. In fact, there are thousands of Americans and Canadians teaching in France on a part-time basis.

Many of the lessons available are privates. Luckily, the TEFL International certificate includes the Student Profile, giving you training and experience working with individuals. Typical pay for privates is 18 euros per hour.

Additional job placement assistance and suggestions will be included during your four weeks of study.

### **Job Information**

If you are planning on seeking work following the course, it may be a good idea to bring copies of your educational diplomas and birth certificate, as these may be useful for work or residence visas.

There are many job opportunities throughout France and Europe. However, depending on the particular location, obtaining a job within the community could be a complex process for non-EU residents, and may involve quite a bit of paperwork.

### **Transportation upon Arrival**

Transportation to Plélauff (via Rennes) from outside Brittany. Flights arrive at the closest airport (Rennes) from Manchester, Southampton (Flybe), Exeter, Belfast, Dublin (Aerlingus), Madrid (Iberia) as well as various French cities including Paris-Orly and CDG airports. You can also fly low-cost from London to Dinard (Ryanair), which is an hour and a half northeast of Plélauff, or to Brest, the same distance but to the northwest.

### Transportation from Paris to Plélauff

Plélauff is not on a train line. If you are arriving from Paris by train, catch the TGV high speed train from Paris Montparnasse Station to Saint Briec Station. It's a three-hour ride for direct routes and a three and a half to four-hour ride via Rennes and trains leave every 60 to 90 minutes. Cost is between 31 to 65 euros (depending on class). From Saint Briec you take a Tibus bus, Line 5 to Rostrenen Bourg Coz – the last stop, see link below (cost will be 2 euros). There you will be met by Centre staff and taken to Plelauff.

Tibus Line 5

[http://www.tibus.fr/horaires\\_ligne/index.asp?rub\\_code=6&thm\\_id=534&gpl\\_id=0&lign\\_id=500&ens=1&date=01%2F02%2F2008](http://www.tibus.fr/horaires_ligne/index.asp?rub_code=6&thm_id=534&gpl_id=0&lign_id=500&ens=1&date=01%2F02%2F2008)

### Directions from Rennes (closest train station/airport) to Plélauff

Take the train from Rennes to Saint Briec. ). From Saint Briec you take a Tibus bus, Line 5, to Rostrenen Bourg Coz – the last stop, see link below (cost will only be a few euros). There you will be met by Centre staff and taken to Plelauff.

For information and reservations on the TGV, you can contact France Rail at:

<http://www.voyages->

[sncf.com/dynamic/\\_SvHomePage?\\_DLG=SvHomePage&\\_CMD=cmdHome](http://www.voyages-sncf.com/dynamic/_SvHomePage?_DLG=SvHomePage&_CMD=cmdHome)

[pageUK&WB=HP&rfr=4685ac17fd2e7656e4918c53b246a3f7](http://www.voyages-sncf.com/dynamic/_SvHomePage?_DLG=SvHomePage&_CMD=cmdHome)

### Transportation via Portsmouth, UK to Saint Briec

If you're coming from UK, you can take a ferry ride via Portsmouth Ferry Terminal, it is easily reached from London, the Midlands and the North. Average sailing duration is 10 hours and 45 minutes, once a day, departs Portsmouth, UK at 20:30 and arrives at Saint Malo, France at 8:15 the following day. Some departure and arrival times may vary up to 1 hour due to tidal conditions.

From the Saint Malo Ferry Terminal, it's best to take a taxi to the rail station from the ferry terminal. The SNCF Station is in the Square Jean Coquelin. Trains are available every hour from Saint Malo Station via Dol De Bretagne or via Rennes to Saint Briec Station and the average travel time is two to two and a half hours. Once in Saint Briec, take the Tibus bus to Rostrenen where you will be met by Centre staff and taken to Plelauff.

For more details on the ferry schedule and fare, please visit:

<http://www.brittanyferries.com/>

### **Accommodation Details**

We can offer on-site accommodation at the Centre which you would need to book before arrival. Our accommodation is usually available from the night of Saturday before the first day of the course to the Saturday, after the last day of the course. In addition, houses in nearby villages are available throughout the year – they can accommodate up to 5 people.

A single on-site room including shared bathroom and kitchen facilities costs 10 Euros/night (or 300 euros a month) and a shared room 8 Euros/night.

Your bedding is provided but towels are not.

In terms of accommodation, it may also be possible to stay with a local family. Please let us know if you would prefer this option and we will let you have details.

If you wish to make your own accommodation arrangements we may be able to suggest possible locations.

### **Getting Around Plélauff**

The Camina Centre, where lessons will take place, is beautifully located but remote and isolated. For this reason, our course administration will do their best to ensure you are never stranded although you may need some forward planning!

Bicycles are provided free of charge to you - any damage done will have to be reimbursed, however; our staff will drive you to a town or village Centre after the day's course is over, should you require it, and will also show you exactly where to get the bus from. In addition, there is a reasonably-priced local taxi service which will be on hand to bring you home at night. It is advisable for Trainees to go out together to share the cost of transport in this way.

Plélauff is a country area. If you like a quiet life, French crepes, cheese, baguettes and wine, walks in forests, by the canal, Sunday morning markets, bike rides etc, you'll be in your element. There are clubs and discos, the nearest being in Carhaix and Pontivy. In addition, there are many excellent restaurants - including McDonalds! - cinemas (films usually dubbed into French), go-karting, ten pin bowling etc.

We can help you also with regard to medical/dental services (you'll need your own insurance, of course, as you will have to pay on the spot), chemists, hairdressers, banks, post offices, shops etc. Newspapers are available but you can only get them 1 day after they are published.

Plélauff itself, has 1 friendly bar a 10-minute stroll from the Centre which, as you may know, also offers international dance and horse riding lessons.

### **Smoking and Drinking Policy**

Smoking is not allowed inside any of the rooms at the centre, WHILE public intoxication at the school will not be tolerated.

## **COURSE ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Training Course Schedule**

The first class will take place Monday morning at 12 P.M. The course schedule for the week will be provided on Monday morning. Sessions generally run between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. with appropriate breaks, however variations in schedules do happen. Teaching Practice is often in the evenings.

Trainees are expected to attend all input and other sessions included on the schedule unless they are sick and require medical treatment. This is particularly important for Teaching Practice (TP). It is very difficult to arrange an alternate TP time and there will be an additional fee for rescheduled TP.

### **Course Dress Requirements**

For all input and tutorial sessions at the training location, there are no specific dress requirements, yet we ask that you be mindful of your peers and respectful of the fact that you are a visitor in another country.

During Teaching Practice, however, there are specific dress requirements that adhere to the local working culture and basic ideas of professionalism. All trainees are expected to dress "casually smart" like one would dress to a casual business meeting.

### **Resources**

Please bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes during class. All relevant forms and instructions will be provided, as well as notes from the input sessions.

You may want to bring a Walkman with you, especially one which records. It is not required equipment, but many trainees have commented that the possession of their recording walkman made the course easier for them (in preparing tapes, interviewing and listening to conversations with students).

Various books are provided for use by trainees, however, no books should be removed from the classroom without specific permission from the Course Academic Director. Inventory of all books will be conducted at the end of the course to ensure that no books have been accidentally removed.

You will be required to prepare materials for your Teaching Practice. The school keeps an initial supply of basic tools necessary to make student materials. However, the trainees are responsible for providing additional poster board, markers, pencil sharpeners, erasers, glue, pens, paper, etc., for creating teaching materials. These can be purchased at a local stationery store.

### **Trainee Course Feedback Sessions**

There will be daily trainee feedback sessions aimed at giving trainees the opportunity to provide feedback regarding anything to do with the course, accommodations, and so on. We welcome

your open and honest feedback so we can continue to improve the training course and the facilities provided at the training location.

Please feel free to give feedback to the Course Director at any time.

### **Problems and Complaints**

We generally feel that, as adults, the best way to resolve problems is to deal directly with those with whom you have the problem. If you do not feel that you can do this, or you have tried to resolve the problem without success, please bring the problem to the Training Coordinator.

If any trainee has a personal problem, which may interfere with course studies, please talk to one of the trainers.

If any trainee has a complaint about any aspect of the course or about any of the trainers, please see the Training Coordinator. If you feel that you would like to keep your complaint anonymous, please write or type your complaint and email it to the Course Director at [brucev@teflife.com](mailto:brucev@teflife.com).

### **Local Weather Conditions**

Continental France is divided into four climatic zones:

Oceanic and humid climate with often cool summers to the west of a line from Bayonne to Lille;

Semi-continental climate with harsh winters and hot summers in Alsace, Lorraine, along the Rhône corridor and in the mountainous massifs (Alps, Pyrenees and Massif Central);

Intermediate climate with cold winters and hot summers in the north, and in the Paris and central regions;

Mediterranean climate with mild winters and very hot summers in the south of France.

Plélauff is a place for all seasons. Comfortably warm in summer, gloriously green in spring, the autumn is also a colorful time here with fallen leaves decorating the canal path. Winter can be bitterly cold, however, so come prepared! The sun has been known to shine brilliantly on the odd day between November and March and, when it does, it provides the perfect backdrop. It rarely exceeds 90 degrees in the summer but can dip to -5 on occasions in the winter. It is perfect walking country-ideal also for joggers and cyclists.

### **Additional Information**

Plélauff is a small bourg or village (population 700). Located in the Cotes D'Armor (Department 22) region of Brittany, it is 122 kms from Rennes, 177kms from Mont St Michel and 234 from Nantes.

Plélauff is an ideal spot simply because it is so central to everything. A charming, peaceful little village designed to truly help you get away from it all, it nonetheless offers a significant number of attractions.

Nearby villages include Gouarec and Plougernevel while the closest towns are Rostrenen (a 10-minute drive), historic Pontivy (20 minutes) and the slightly more distant St Brieuc (40 minutes) which stages the popular Breton rock festival in summer, was a stage of the Tour de France in 2008 and is the nearest main line train station.

The village of Plélauff has a friendly bar, a church, and the Notre-Dame-de-la-Croix Chapel while nearby leisure activities include walking, cycling on road or along the 364-kilometre-long Canal Path, fishing in the same canal, quad biking in Caurel (a 10-minute drive), horse-riding and international dance classes at the Camina Centre; there is a cinema, shops and restaurants in Rostrenen, tenpin bowling and go-karting all under one roof in Carhaix, as well as golf in the same location (a 20-minute drive).

Local French cuisine is of a high standard; there are 2 excellent creperies close at hand, 1 in nearby Gouarec the other not much further away in Bon Repos, the site of an ancient Abbey and scene of regular events throughout the year; an excellent pizzeria, also in Gouarec; and a large number of eateries either en route or in such spots as Carhaix.

Lake Guerledan, a stone's throw from Plélauff, is a must in summer – apart from lazing around on a beach, you can jet ski, water ski, sail, pedallo, or try your hand at mini-golf. It is also, like many spots in the area, ideal for a winter stroll before you end up in a bar with a roaring fire!

Not to be forgotten is the essential friendliness of the locals who will always do their very best to make you feel truly at home - perhaps the greatest selling point of this magical part of France.

### **Get Acquainted!**

Before your arrival, we highly recommend you purchase a descriptive guidebook or do some online research to familiarize yourself and get acquainted with France and all it has to offer.

### **France (Plélauff and Brittany) Tourist Links:**

For more information about France and Plélauff, we recommend the following sites:

<http://www.brittanytourism.com>

<http://www.westernfrancetouristboard.com/brittany.html>

<http://www.francetourism.com>

<http://www.franceguide.com>

<http://www.cotesdarmor.com/uk/comment-venir.php>

<http://www.camina22.com>

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

*Plélauff, France*

## General Questions

### 1. Where is the center located?

Here is the address and contact numbers for our training center in France:

**TEFL International France  
Association Camina,  
Kergall 22570  
Plélauff, France**

**Contact Numbers:  
+33 296249309  
+33 629414343 (Mobile)**

### 2. What does the tuition for the program include?

Deposit: **US\$500**

Final payment: **940 Euros** (excluding accommodation)

Comprised of:

- **Non-refundable deposit: US\$500**, payable in advance to TEFL International headquarters
- **TEFL Course fee: 940 Euros** payable in cash to Centre Staff on Day One. This amount includes tuition, course materials, certification and moderation fees. Airfares, accommodation and food are not included.

### 3. What are the program accommodations like? Where are they located?

We can provide onsite accommodation located in Association Camina.

Set in a beautiful rural location, the TEFL International Center in France is based at the Camina Centre in Plélauff, Cotes D'Armor. The Centre is, in fact, a collection of buildings used for entertainment/leisure and academic purposes.

The main building houses the bedrooms, basic but comfortable, which can range from a single room to dormitory-style accommodation, with writing tables and wardrobes.

Bathroom facilities, of a pleasant standard, are shared. There is a kitchen in the same building which can be used for self-catering purposes, or meals can be provided at certain times on request, for a small charge.

There is also accommodation provided at houses in nearby at rentals ranging from 300 Euros per person per month to 400 Euros per person per month.

The teaching room and office area lie at the heart of the complex, literally a few seconds from the bedrooms.

A small path leads up from the Centre to a minor road. Turning left down this you can reach the village of Plélauff which is 800 metres away. Scenic views abound of open land and fields – the area is 100% agricultural - although houses are dotted around. After a few minutes you come to the council building or mairie. A right turn and a 5- minute stroll down

the lane will lead to the Nantes-Brest Canal path (thought to be the brainchild of Napoleon Bonaparte and built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century) where you can either walk, run or cycle to your hearts content at virtually any time of year.

**4. When is the school accommodation available?**

Our accommodation is usually available from the night of Saturday before the first day of the course to the Saturday following the last day of the course.

You will need to send us your arrival details as soon as you receive them. Make sure to call us (+33 0 629414343) as soon as you arrive. This way, we can be sure to arrange for someone meet you in the nearest town, Rostrenen, upon your arrival.

**5. Who is the TEFL International Plélauff staff?**

The course trainer/course administrator is Tony Franklin.

**6. What is an average program day like?**

The course is a **very intense**, challenging and fun experience. Classes generally begin at 9:30 and either run until 18.00 on days when teaching practice is scheduled in the evenings or earlier when no T.P. is arranged.

**7. How many students on average are in the program each month?**

On **average** we have around eight students enrolled in each program, most of whom are American or British. They are typically between 22 and 50 years old.

**8. What are the students and classes like with whom I'll be doing my teaching practice?**

Our practice students are adults and children. They usually stay on from course to course and form good relationships with TEFL trainees and staff.

**9. Can I bring my laptop?**

Yes.

**10. Where can I access the Internet?**

We can offer wi-fi at the Camina Centre in the open-all-hours classroom area.

**The Job Market in France; Teaching in France; Paperwork and Documentation**

**1. What is the job market in France like at the moment? Will I have trouble securing employment?**

The job market in France is not good at the moment. If you are diligent and open to a variety of locations you might be able to locate work. The worst time to be looking for work in France is in late summer, since everyone in the country is on holiday and there are no students to be taught, and by the end of September most schools have already contracted their teachers for the year and are no longer hiring.

**2. When do I need to start looking for work in France? Where do I start?**

We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes in the second week of the program, and we can help you with this. There are many language schools in Paris, and many cities in France have a demand for English teachers.

**3. What will TEFL International do to help me secure employment?**

We can give you a list of school web sites in France and help you with resume and interview preparation. We give job placement assistance, but please note that TEFL International doesn't 'guarantee' its graduates employment in France; as with any career, it is ultimately up to you to "sell yourself".

**4. What is the average salary like?**

The average salary in France is about 1200 Euros per month, though of course this varies depending on what type of school or company you work for, whether you work full- or part-time.

**5. Are most positions contracted? Is it important to have a contract?**

If you are a US citizen you will need to secure contracted employment in order to be eligible to apply for a proper work visa. You are not eligible to apply for a visa before leaving the States- you must have contracted employment first. It is difficult to get a legal work contract from a language school in France as schools who hire non-EU citizens will do so without going through the proper legal procedures. If you are a citizen of an EU country, you are permitted to work anywhere in the EU, so this is not so much of an issue for you.

**6. Do most schools provide accommodation for their teachers?**

No, but there are schools that do this. For example, they will provide a room for you, either shared or single, probably in an apartment with other teachers, and provide you with a monthly stipend. However, it varies from school to school.

**7. How many of the TEFL graduates actually find work in France?**

A number of trainees have been able to secure employment in France.

**8. Do schools provide health insurance?**

Yes, if you have a contracted employment. No if you do not. However, some medical facilities in France may accept American insurance plans or you could set up a policy with one of the private French insurance companies. EU citizens need only furnish identification to be seen.

**9. Do schools provide work permits?**

Very few schools will help you secure a work permit, but some will. In order to be eligible for such a visa you must be contracted by your school, and if you are a US citizen you will have to return to the States to obtain the visa. You are not eligible to apply for this visa without already having a job in France to sponsor you, so it is fruitless to go to the Embassy at home before you leave to try to obtain one. (EU members need only their EU documentation to work legally in France or elsewhere in the EU).

**10. What is a typical teaching position like?**

Of course it varies from school to school, but you may be expected to teach a variety of courses, ranging from children to business professionals at all levels, in groups or in private sessions.

**11. Can I return to the States and teach with my certificate?**

Yes, though the requirements for working in ESL in the States are different and tend to require graduate education in ESL.

**Questions about Plélauff; Living in France**

**1. What are the average living expenses in France?**

France is a little on the expensive side. If you do some research you should be able to find something to rent for about 500 Euros a month or less. Obviously if you choose to live in a big city such as Paris, it will be much more expensive (about 700 euros)

**2. How do I find housing subsequent to the program?**

There are a number of newspapers that are published weekly with apartments and rooms for rent. In addition, most towns have agents (agences immobiliers) who deal with rental property

**3. What do I do if I get sick in France?**

If you find yourself requiring medical attention there are doctor surgeries, pharmacies and dentists in all small towns and hospitals and clinics in the larger towns and cities.

**4. What's the public transportation system like in Plélauff?**

There is no public transport system in Plélauff. There is a taxi service in nearby Gouarec (a 5-minute drive). Students can easily book/share a cab to get them places. Fares are around 20 euros to get from Plélauff to Rostrenen, the nearest big town.

**5. What's the climate like? What kind of clothing will I need to bring?**

If you are coming in the winter months (November – March) bring plenty of sweaters, pants/trousers, warm pyjamas, a winter coat, gloves, scarves, etc. Don't forget your umbrella!

**Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.**

**Thank you for choosing TEFL International. We look forward to meeting you in Plélauff, France!**

Email: [france@tefllife.com](mailto:france@tefllife.com)