

Home from home: host family life

privacy culture apartment host foreigners embarking choosing
practical choice life-changing

Moving to a foreign country is an amazing, 1_____ experience. It's an opportunity to meet new people, immerse yourself in a different 2_____ and possibly learn another language. However, before 3_____ on such an adventure, there are some 4_____ decisions that need to be made. One such decision is 5_____ where to live.

Will you stay in your own 6_____ where you can have your own space and 7_____ ? Will you share a flat with other young 8_____ who are in a similar position to you? Or will you do what I did and choose to live with a 9_____ family? For me, choosing to live with a French family was the best 10_____ I made, and here is why.

Firstly, a family can sh_w you around the city or town and help you sttl_ in, stopping you from feeling lonely and overwhelmed. When you're in a new _nv_r_nm_nt with people you don't know who are speaking a language you're still not fl_ _nt in, you might feel lost, tired and h_m_s_ck – I know I did. However, my host family were wonderful and w_l_om_ng; they showed me which buses to take to get to work, cooked dinner for me so we could eat together, and took me with them on t_i_s to the beach, the theatre and even a b_ll_ig_t. These were great o_p_r_un_ti_s to experience French _u_t_re and build r_l_ti_n_h_ps, which in turn helped me feel more co_f_r_a_le and welcome.

Moreover, living with French people has been brilliant for helping me i_____ my language s____s. Being constantly exposed to authentic French c_____ has allowed me to learn new **ph**____s, widen my **v**_____ and even improve my **a**____t. My host family are happy to answer my questions and c_____ me when I say things wrong, which makes me a better and more **c**_____ French speaker.

Finally, the experience of living **a**_____ is one that you will **r**_____ forever, and perhaps the friendships – like the memories – will also last. Your host family might become your friends **f**____ life. You might return for their birthdays, weddings, holidays, and much more. I hope to remain in **c**_____ with my host family long after I leave France because when I was away from my friends and loved ones, they welcomed me and made me **p**_____ of their family.

