

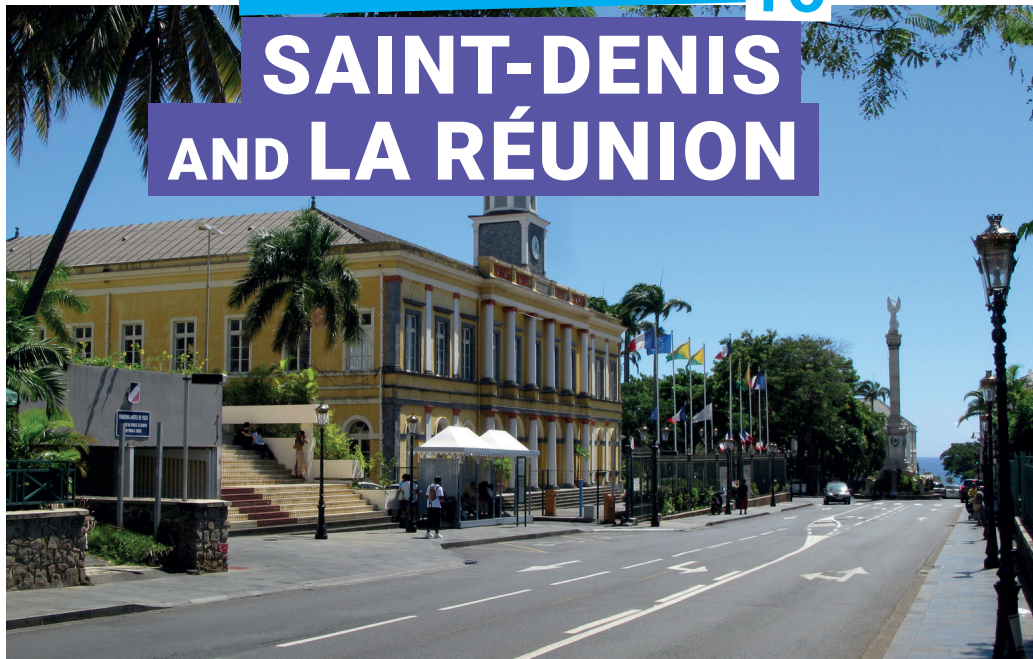


## DISCOVER YOUR CITY



Campus France will guide  
you through your first steps  
in France and exploring  
**Saint-Denis and La Réunion,**  
your new home.

# WELCOME TO SAINT-DENIS AND LA RÉUNION





## YOUR ARRIVAL IN SAINT-DENIS /

### ♦ Student Welcome at Université de La Réunion

At Université de la Réunion, the Direction des Relations Internationales (DRI) is responsible for supporting international students who are attending the university within the framework of an official exchange programme.

The Direction des Etudes et du Pilotage des Formations (DEPF) is responsible for supporting international students who have come to the university as free movers (outside the framework of a structured programme).

A Welcome Day and a Thursday Campus Tour will be organised to introduce you to the university, help you with your administrative procedures and support your integration.

Students who have come to the university as part of an exchange programme may be entitled to an individual pick-up at the airport (depending on their day and time of arrival).

**Address:** Université de La Réunion, Campus du Moufia (main campus), 15 avenue René Cassin, 97490 Sainte-Clotilde.

**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm.

**Contact:** 02 62 93 80 80 (switchboard) or 02 62 93 83 21 (DRI)

- for exchange students: [international@univ-reunion.fr](mailto:international@univ-reunion.fr)  
- for free movers: <https://www.univ-reunion.fr/scolarité/admissions>

### Learn more:

- check out the **pages on international students**, whether exchange students or free-movers (non-exchange students), on the University website: <https://www.univ-reunion.fr> > International > Venir étudier à La Réunion.



- download the **trilingual "Guide for foreign students"**, which has comprehensive information on all subjects: <https://www.univ-reunion.fr/en/network/come-and-study-at-the-university-of-reunion/>

### ♦ Welcome and orientation for researchers and doctoral students

Researchers and doctoral students travelling to Université de La Réunion within an official framework should contact the International Relations Service. The main point of contact for researchers and doctoral students travelling without an official framework is the Research

### Centre.

Contact: 02 62 93 80 05

or [pole-recherche@univ-reunion.fr](mailto:pole-recherche@univ-reunion.fr)

### ♦ Buddy System

Support is available at the Université de La Réunion:

- through the **ISRUN association (International Students Of Reunion Island)**, which helps international students with their administrative procedures, and introduces them to local students and to their culture by organising parties and cultural and historical outings.

**Contact:** [isrun@univ-reunion.fr](mailto:isrun@univ-reunion.fr) and on Facebook.

- through the **Buddy System** offered by the Université de la Réunion.

**Information and registration:** <https://www.univ-reunion.fr/international/le-buddy-system>

### ♦ Welcome and orientation in other institutions

Depending on the institution, two information services are available:

- Service Relations Internationales (international relations) – accueil et orientation (welcome and orientation).

- Service Scolarité (admissions) – inscriptions et démarches administratives (enrollment and administrative procedures).

For more information, go directly to your host institution website.

### ♦ National Services

- Students: [www.etudiant.gouv.fr](http://www.etudiant.gouv.fr)

- doctoral students, researchers:

<http://www.euraxess.fr/fr>



Making you feel at home is a major concern for all French higher education institutions! The **Welcome to France label** is awarded to institutions that fulfil exacting criteria in the way they take care of their international students.



## ACCOMMODATION

Finding somewhere to live is not always easy.

Rents are often high, and landlords require financial

guarantees (such as a deposit).

Nevertheless, there is a wide range of accommodation on offer: halls of residence that are exclusively reserved for students and managed by the CROUS, student halls and private lodgings, rooms in private homes, flatshares...

**The main thing is to start preparing for this as early as possible, before leaving your home country.**

- **Le Guide des étudiants étrangers**, the guide for international students published by Université de La Réunion provides advice and addresses:

<https://www.univ-reunion.fr> > International > Come study at the University of Reunion > Home.

- **The regional youth information center** (CRIJ La Réunion) publishes a number of guides covering different types of accommodation on the island: <https://www.crij-reunion.com/>

## A FEW TIPS

### ♦ Short-term housing

- **Check out the guide published by CRIJ La Réunion** (see above), which includes several pages on short-term accommodation:

<https://www.crij-reunion.com/>

- **For other types of short-term accommodation, please use the search engine on the Reunion Tourist Office website:** <https://www.reunion.fr> > Planifier > Où dormir ?

### ♦ Long-term housing

- **La Réunion CROUS** (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires - Regional Center for University Services) for **student housing**.

Address: 20 Avenue Hippolyte Foucque, 97490 Sainte-Clotilde.

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8am to 12:30pm and 1pm to 3:30pm ; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am to 12pm.

Contact (central services): 02 62 48 32 32

Site: <http://www.crous-reunion.fr/>

Site *Trouver un logement*:

<https://trouverunlogement.lescrous.fr/>

There are also student halls at the campuses in Le Tampon and St-Pierre, to the south of the island.

### • Private Housing Platforms

Other offers for student lodging, managed by private organisms, are also available in La Réunion.

Try these **sites**:

- <http://www.amireunion.com/>

- <https://www.immojeune.com>

- <https://housinganywhere.com>

Don't forget to check websites that republish ads from **local real estate agents**, like those listed on the following portal:

<http://www.immobilier-en-reunion.com/> (ads and list of agents).

- There is also a **site managed by the CROUS, Lokaviz**, which includes a listing of student accommodations in private homes:

<https://www.lokaviz.fr/>

## GETTING AROUND ON LA RÉUNION



**La Réunion has 2 airports** (close to St-Denis and St-Pierre):

- in the North, Roland Garros airport in Saint-Denis, the main airport on the island: <https://www.reunion.aeroport.fr/>

A shuttle service provides transport between the airport and the bus station in St-Denis every day.

- in the South, Pierrefonds airport in St-Pierre mainly offers regional flights within the Indian Ocean: <http://www.pierrefonds.aeroport.fr/>



The **Citalis** public transport network (buses) serves the various different neighborhoods in St-Denis: <http://www.citalis.re/>

Other bus networks serve the island's other towns and cities:

- in the West: <https://www.karouest.re/>

- in the South: <https://www.alterneo.re/> and <http://www.casud.re/>

- in the East: <http://www.cirest.fr/>



For travelling around the island, use the **Cars Jaunes**, a bus network with around twenty inter-city lines managed by the Regional Council: <https://www.carjaune.re/>



La Réunion Region has created the **Réuni'Pass Étudiant** offering preferential rates for travelling all over the island: <https://www.regionreunion.com> > Aides et services > transports/étudiants.



For ride-sharing, refer to the collaborative websites

- national website: <https://www.blablacar.fr/>

- regional sites: <https://covoiturage.regionreunion.com/> or <https://www.rundrive.re/>



Although the island's steep slopes are not always ideal cycling terrain, you can rent a bike from a private rental company, for example: <http://www.evelo.re/>

• **Shared Leases:** consult *La Carte des Colocs*, a national site for shared leases that's free and simple to use: <https://www.lacartedescolocs.fr/>

• **Other solutions are available on the Campus France website:** [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) > Getting Organized > Accommodation.

#### ♦ If you need a guarantor to secure your lodging

Visale is a new and free guarantor system: [www.visale.fr](http://www.visale.fr)

#### ♦ If you want to file an application for APL funds (Aide Personnalisée au Logement, or personalized housing aid),

CAF (Caisse des Allocations Familiales) can check your eligibility: 32 30 or [www.caf.fr](http://www.caf.fr)

#### ♦ If you need housing adapted to your special needs

Contact the CROUS Social Services which will take action with your institution.  
Some establishments have specialized services for students with disabilities (assistance for housing, and also transportation and tuition).

**At Université de La Réunion, Mission Handicap** has been set up to provide personalized support for disabled students: <https://www.univ-reunion.fr/vie-etudiante/egalite-des-chances/bien-vivre-son-handicap/>

#### The CROUS, at your service everywhere

Do you need any help and/or advice, somewhere to eat or to live, a job - or do you just want to find out all there is to know about student life? Then the CROUS is what you need!



The CROUS (Centre Régional des Œuvres Universitaires et Scolaires - Regional Centre of University and School Services) has branches in all major French university towns.

It manages university halls of residence and canteens, allows you to meet social workers, and offers cultural activities and job opportunities.



## FIRST THINGS FIRST /

### ENROLLMENT IN YOUR INSTITUTION

#### ♦ CVEC

Before you can enroll in your institution, you must download proof of payment of the Contribution Vie Etudiante et de Campus (CVEC) – the student and campus life contribution fee.

- Log in at: <https://cvec.etudiant.gouv.fr/>

- For additional information and special cases: <https://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized > CVEC.

#### ♦ Confirm Registration

Take note! Even if you have a pre-registration letter, you are not officially enrolled. You must confirm your enrollment with the institution's Service de la Scolarité (Admissions) as soon as you arrive.

### RESIDENCE PERMITS

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

• If you have just arrived in France on a long-term VLS-TS student visa: you must **validate it online as soon as you arrive in France**, on the ANEF (Administration numérique pour les Etrangers en France - Digital Administration for Foreigners in France) website. This validation must be carried out within the three months following your arrival: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

• If you have Algerian citizenship or you are a student holding a “concours” visa or a visa bearing the mention “carte à solliciter dans les deux mois” (“card to be requested within two months”): your request for a residence permit must be carried out at the Préfecture.

• If you hold a “mineur scolarisé” (“minor in education”) visa and you have since attained your majority, you must request a residence permit directly on the ANEF website or at the *préfecture* of your place of residence within the two months following your attaining the age of legal majority: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Please note: if you wish to renew your residence permit or VLS-TS, you must make your request during the third month preceding the date of end of validity of your current residence permit, on the following website: <https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

The following tutorial can help you with this procedure: <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/tutorials-to-help-international-students-in-their-application-process>

• Your institution's student support services can assist you in case of any difficulties.

To find out more about your rights and obligations:  
<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/N110>



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION /

### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

If you stay in France for more than 3 months, it will be much easier day-to-day if you open a bank account, **online or in one of the bank agencies located in La Réunion.**

In France, opening a bank account is a right:  
[www.service-public.fr](http://www.service-public.fr) > Argent > Comptes bancaires (Droit au compte).

### ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

Accessing healthcare in France is almost free, but you must be insured. **You must therefore be registered with the national health insurance programme.**

Please go to the  
<https://etudiant-etranger.ameli.fr> website to register, understand your rights and to carry out the requisite procedures.

Learn more:

<https://www.campusfrance.org> > Getting Organized > Health.

**As a student, you can also take advantage of the university medical services.** In these health services where consultations are free, you'll be greeted by a team of doctors, nurses, and social workers who can give personalized advice in terms of health and prevention.

**This is the case at Université de la Réunion which has a Service de Santé étudiante (SSE), or Student Health Service, at two university sites:**

<https://www.univ-reunion.fr/vie-etudiante/sante-et-medecine-preventive/medecine-preventive/>.

**International students must go for a mandatory health check-up when they arrive at Université de La Réunion.**

Contact:

- Campus Nord: 02 62 93 84 00 or  
[medecine.preventive-nord@univ-reunion.fr](mailto:medecine.preventive-nord@univ-reunion.fr)

- Campus Sud: 02 62 57 95 62 or  
[medecine.preventive-sud@univ-reunion.fr](mailto:medecine.preventive-sud@univ-reunion.fr)

**Students enrolled at other establishments in La Réunion, should contact their place of study.**

### TAKING OUT COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH INSURANCE ("MUTUELLE")

**We recommend you take out complementary health insurance in order to cover the totality of your healthcare costs, which are not all covered**

### by the compulsory and free national health insurance programme.

Please note: options and levels of insurance vary from one insurer to another. In order to choose the complementary insurance that is best adapted to your situation and your budget, you can access more information on a student "mutuelles" price comparison website.

### HOUSING INSURANCE

**In France, housing insurance is mandatory.**

The "garantie risques locatifs" - rental risk guarantee - is housing insurance which you can subscribe with your bank or a private insurance company. Online subscription is also often possible.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**SAMU: Call 15** Emergency Medical Services

**Police emergency: Call 17** in the event of violence, theft, robbery.

**Fire Department: Call 18** in the event of fire, gas leak, water damage, natural catastrophe, or traffic accident.

**Call 112:** European emergency services number that's accessible from anywhere in the European Union in addition to the French numbers above.

**Sea rescue: 02 62 43 43 43**

**Mountain rescue: 02 62 93 09 30**

### LEARNING FRENCH

**Learning French is an opportunity that's not to be missed!**

Find what works best for you:

- by consulting the Campus France site or the Français Langue Etrangère (FLE) - French as a foreign language - centers and universities which offer courses at all levels year-round:

<https://ecolesdete.campusfrance.org/#/main>

- by asking in your institution, at city hall, or in your host city's Maison des Associations - community centers.

### FINDING A JOB OR WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT

**It is important that you have sufficient financial resources to come and study in France.**

Working in France as a foreign student is possible within limits, namely for a maximum duration of 964 hours per year. This can therefore only be a way of

earning **supplementary funds**.

Please note: to work in France, if you are not a citizen of the European Union, you must hold a valid **student residence permit**.

**To help you find a job or work experience placement, useful websites:**

- **The CRIJ (Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse) Réunion**, the regional youth information center, presents several leads for finding a job: <http://www.crij-reunion.com>
- **The Jobaviz website, run by the CROUS**, can help you find a student job compatible with your studies: <https://www.jobaviz.fr/>



## THINGS TO DO ON LA RÉUNION /

### TAKE UP A SPORT

In your institution, contact the Service des Sports for free access to sports facilities.

**At Université de La Réunion, the Service Universitaire d'Activités Physiques et Sportives (SUAPS)**, the university service for physical and sports activities offers students a range of sporting activities, irrespective of ability: <https://www.univ-reunion.fr> > Vie étudiante > Sport.

- **The City of Saint-Denis** organizes major sporting events on a regular basis: <https://www.saintdenis.re> > Agenda > Sports
- **The Réunion Department Council** supports all sports activities and organizes numerous events: <https://www.departement974.fr> > Nos compétences > Sport

### BE ACTIVE

Attend cultural and sporting events, or join a social or community group, through one of the numerous local or national student clubs and associations. To learn more, check with your school (Service de la vie étudiante, Student Services) or visit the following sites: [www.animafac.net](http://www.animafac.net) or [www.letudiant.fr](http://www.letudiant.fr)

**At Université de La Réunion**, student associations organize a range of activities for students, including a number of specific activities and events for international students: <https://www.univ-reunion.fr> > International > Actions associatives envers les internationaux.

### CULTURE AND NIGHTLIFE

Movie theaters, concerts, theaters, exhibitions, and festivals are on the program and most of the time, at reduced cost for students.

Further information can be found on the La Réunion Tourist Office website: <https://www.reunion.fr> > Découvrir > Culture.

**The Service Art et Culture at Université de La Réunion** contributes to artistic education and promoting culture among the student population, by organizing a number of free activities and events: <https://www.univ-reunion.fr> > Vie étudiante > Culture.

**For entertainment or to pick up some culture, you can choose from:**

- around 15 multiplex theaters all over the island (student rates, rewards card).
- 7 museums (4 regional, 3 departmental), including a science museum, the Natural History Museum of Réunion (free entry for students): <https://www.departement974.fr> > Actualité > Muséum.
- around fifteen concert and theater venues, including the National Dramatic Center of the Indian Ocean (CDNOI): <https://www.cdnoi.re/>
- around a dozen bookshops, including Librairie Gérard and Librairie Autrement.
- various municipal libraries and multimedia libraries all over the island, as well as Réunion Departmental Library (formerly "colonial library", open to the general public, free admission) and Université de La Réunion's University Libraries: <https://bu.univ-reunion.fr/>

**Le Quotidien de La Réunion, the region's daily newspaper** is a good source of inspiration for going out in Réunion and keeping up with the latest news. Available from newsagents or online: <http://www.lequotidien.re/>

La Réunion's Tourist Office website is a good way of finding out what's going on locally: <https://www.reunion.fr> > Planifier > Agenda.



## TOP ATTRACTIONS /

**St-Denis in the North, St-Paul in the West and St-Pierre/St-Louis in the South were recognized in 2011 as "Cities and Districts of Art and History". Parc National de La Réunion has been listed as a Natural World Heritage site by UNESCO.**

- Hôtel de Ville in St-Pierre, built as a store by the French East India Company, is an example of 18<sup>th</sup> century colonial construction.
- Isautier distillery in St-Pierre, the oldest family-run distillery on the island, established in 1845, with the Saga du Rhum, Réunion's only rum museum (to be enjoyed with moderation).
- Cité des Arts in St-Denis, a multidisciplinary arts village, dedicated to the culture of Réunion.
- Jardin de l'État in St-Denis, formerly used for acclimatizing plant species imported to Réunion.
- St-Paul market, one of the islands most vibrant.
- Gol sugar refinery, one of the island's last remaining active sugar mills.



- Musée de Villèle, in the family home of a plantation-owner, provides an insight into the history of Réunion.
- Kélonia, scientific observatory dedicated to the protection and reproduction of Indian Ocean sea turtles.
- Piton de la Fournaise, one of the world's most active volcanoes, it is easily accessible with suitable equipment.
- Takamaka waterfalls, a spectacular natural site.
- Cirque de Mafate, only accessible on foot, a must-see for hikers!
- Small Creole villages, dotted all over the island, in the Cirques (Salazie, Mafate and Cilaos), nestled between sea and mountains.
- Grande Anse, a white sandy beach fringed with palm trees.

For more information, consult the Reunion Tourist Office website: <https://www.reunion.fr>



## IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENTS /

### MARCH

- Big Up 974, a multidisciplinary event in St-Denis celebrating urban cultures (free access).

### APRIL

- Nuits sans Lumière (nights without light), all over the island to raise awareness and fight light pollution (25 nights led by over 130 institutions and private partners).

### MAY

- **Pint of Science**, a European initiative for learning about research in atypical venues.
- La Nuit européenne des Musées (European Museum Night) offers an opportunity to discover museums and other cultural sites all over the island in a new light!

### JUNE

- Sakifo Musik Festival in St-Pierre, the largest music festival in La Réunion and the Indian Ocean.
- Fête de la Musique: Music everywhere in town (free concerts).

### JULY - AUGUST

- The traditional Fêtes de St-Paul, flea market, dances, fireworks, funfair and musical evenings.
- The CimasaRun, a trail race across the 3 cirques, one of the longest-running and most popular races in Reunion.
- Clameur des Bambous, major musical event in St-Benoît, open to all musical styles.
- Fête de la Vanille in Ste-Suzanne, a 5-day celebration of one of La Réunion's most emblematic plants.

### SEPTEMBER

- **Journée d'accueil des étudiants internationaux** at Université de la Réunion, with a student party in the evening.
- **Jeu CampusTour**, every Thursday, tutors at the Université de La Réunion take international students on a tour of the Campus so they get to know it better.
- Les Journées du Patrimoine (heritage days), free visits of cultural venues.
- Manapany Festival, the longest-running music festival in La Réunion based around the surfing community in St-Joseph, concerts and sporting challenges.

### OCTOBER

- The Grand Raid, legendary 100-mile race which is hugely popular in La Réunion.
- Creole Week, celebrating creole music, culture and gastronomy all over the island.

### NOVEMBER

- **Science Festival**, held in 3 Science Villages, in collaboration with the University laboratories.
- St-Pierre Short Film Festival, film showings, meetings with actors and directors, open-air film evening.

### DECEMBER

- On December 20, the entire island celebrates Fêt Kaf, to commemorate the abolition of slavery which took place on December, 20 1848.
- December, 31 15,000 visitors spend New Year's Eve on the beach at L'Hermitage.
- Festival Réunion Métis, seafront event in St-Paul around the theme of "living together".



**& SHARE  
PARTICIPATE**

To stay informed and attuned to others and the world, to share and dialogue with students, follow **social media** where Campus France has an especially strong presence!

*Don't forget to join the **France Alumni** network. Take part in discussion groups on various subjects, take advantage of cultural outings, and consult job and internship offers.*



# THINGS TO KNOW

## REUNION

IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN, in the Southern hemisphere, one of France's overseas departments (DROM) and one of the outermost regions (ORs) of the European Union

### 3 CITIES IN RÉUNION:

**ST-DENIS**, THE ISLAND'S CAPITAL AND MOST POPULATED CITY (153,000 RESIDENTS)

**ST-PAUL** (105,000 RESIDENTS)

**ST-PIERRE** (85,000 RESIDENTS)

### REUNION:

**22,500** students

French overseas region welcoming the highest number of international students

**UNIVERSITÉ DE LA RÉUNION**, the only French and European university in the Indian Ocean,

**18,900** students, including 900 international students, 22 research units, 2 doctoral schools.



**ST-DENIS IN REUNION** was included in a list of the top French cities where it's good to live and study, with a good score for "living environment" (awarded by L'Etudiant magazine)

Most of the information presented in the Campus France City Information Sheets concerns all international students regardless of their institution.

In France, in each of the host cities, most foreign students study at universities. Accordingly, the City Information Sheets attach great importance to them without overlooking the other higher education institutions even if it is not possible to list them all here with their specific information.

### CAMPUS FRANCE

28 rue de la Grange aux Belles 75010 PARIS - +33 (0)1 40 40 58 58 - [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org)