



SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



SWISS
GAP
EXPERIENCE



A Swiss Gap Experience

A very warm welcome to Surval Montreux, an exceptional international boarding School, exclusively for girls aged 12 to 19 years.

Situated above Lac Léman with breathtaking views across the water and mountains, and easy access to Geneva with its network of opportunities, this is the perfect location for our students to explore, learn and grow.

Celebrating excellence in girls' education for over 55 years, Surval enjoyed a long-standing reputation as a successful Swiss Finishing School. Whilst our study programmes have expanded, Surval has remained true to its roots, continuing to offer courses in Etiquette, international Savoir-vivre and languages.

At Surval, we embolden our students with the confidence, tenacity and resilience to find their own path and success in life. We offer a modern, forward-thinking bespoke experience. Our core values of courage, curiosity, honesty and openness equip our girls for their tomorrow – promoting a culture of courtesy, consideration and care.

The Surval Swiss Gap Experience provides a unique education, preparing young women to play an active part in our increasingly global society. Our aspirational and inspirational programme motivates, challenges, encourages and supports each student. We celebrate a culture of achievement that sets no limits, and which enables each and every student to become the best she can be.

Surval Montreux is a much-loved home for up to 60 girls. We are one big family living under the one roof of our beautiful house. We offer an outstanding package of care within a nurturing family atmosphere. Surval is a very special School offering unparalleled opportunities. Every girl that joins us is prepared for a call to adventure.

A Surval Swiss Gap Experience girl can walk into a room anywhere in the world and know how to conduct herself. This 'Globalising' of our girls is not just from what is taught in the classroom, it's a way of life.

I warmly invite you to come and discover Surval Montreux and look forward to welcoming you here.

Patricia Woodhouse

Patricia Woodhouse
Principal

● PARIS 3HR
● MILAN 3HR

● ZURICH 2HR 20
● BERN 1HR

GENEVA 1HR 20



Montreux (population c.25,000) is a safe, friendly and cultured town with excellent transport links, ideal for our girls.

Programme Details

WHO THE PROGRAMME IS FOR:

Young women aged 17 to 19 looking for an international programme of languages, culture, personal development, new experiences and travel before embarking on their chosen career or educational path.

PROGRAMME LENGTH:

Six months up to two years. We recommend at least one year to develop fluency in French, and to take full advantage of Surval's extensive opportunities.

QUALIFICATION:

Girls will gain a course certificate for completion of their year at Surval. They may if required take SATs, IELTS or TOEFL, and the DELF examinations as well as adding one or more IGCSE subjects to enhance their university applications.

SURVAL SWISS GAP EXPERIENCE

Languages

- Intensive French (16 lessons per week)
- DELF examination preparation
- English for academic purposes
- **Optional afternoon languages:** English, Italian, Spanish, German, Russian, Japanese

Social Enterprise

- Young enterprise business ventures
- Events management
- Charity and volunteer projects

Arts and Culture

- International relations
- Global perspectives
- Art

Personal Development and Wellbeing

- Etiquette and Savoir-vivre
- Cookery and pastry
- Fashion and style analysis
- Makeup
- Sports and activities

Communications

- Media skills
- Blogs and podcast

Pre-University Preparation

- IELTS, TOEFL preparation
- Visits to university campuses and participation in open days/ university fairs
- Guest lectures from leading universities
- Individual counselling

Weekend and Independent Travel

- Friday afternoon – Sunday evening
- Choose your destinations and dates
- Select your transport and hotel
- Pack your bag and off you go!



Language, Arts and Culture

Survall Swiss Gap Experience students are immersed in language in and outside the classroom.

With intensive French lessons each morning (English upon request) in small classes, students are prepared for internationally recognized French DELF exams. Our Swiss Gap students also visit a small, local home for the elderly, participating in many happy occasions with the residents, sharing songs, dancing, poetry and drama in French.

The Surval family is a magnificent melting pot of diverse cultures and languages. Our popular programme of Savoir-vivre combines Art, Culinary Arts and Etiquette, complemented by international travel.

Students also undertake various communications and media projects throughout the year, aimed at developing new skills and fresh perspectives in writing, giving presentations, critical thinking, analysis and creativity, which will serve them well in their future paths.

“**To me, Surval is a life experience that I will never forget. Surval is like a tool that helped me to meet new people, discover new cultures, go to new places and made me a better person.**

Survallienne, Mexico”

Social Enterprise and Charity

Survall girls develop their business and entrepreneurial skills through initiatives which change the world for the better, with charity at its core.

Our student-led Charities Committee is a driving force, fundraising for and volunteering in a diverse range of local, national and international charities and projects.

Survall Swiss Gap Experience students travel to Kenya every year to volunteer in partnership with the Habitat for Humanity charity. Our girls' mission on this journey to Africa is to build houses and help transform the life of a family. Our girls say that this is also a journey of self discovery – a thought-provoking, emotional and life-changing experience.



Pre-University Preparation

At Surval, we prepare girls for university and their future careers.

Students benefit from our personalised approach university guidance and support giving each girl all the tools to make informed decisions about her future.

We develop our students as independent learners and thinkers, prepared for study at university or college. Many of our students go on to excellent universities and colleges worldwide, and we maintain strong contacts with some of the world's leading universities.

“**My year at Surval has been truly exciting and full of new experiences. Surval offers you many different life learning lessons that I will keep with me forever.**”

Survalienne, South Africa





The Surval Community

Surval students are happy and fulfilled – they make friendships that last a lifetime and gain confidence and independence to face future challenges.

Surval girls develop as leaders, team-players ready to 'have a go' and learn from all we offer. In our international community, made up of students and staff from across the world, girls grow in understanding of other cultures and customs and take their places as world citizens who will have a positive influence and impact on the lives of others.

Surval is a much-loved home to our international family of full-boarders from around the world. All of Surval's students live at the school. We are committed to ensuring every girl feels safe and secure, well cared for and happy here. We celebrate our diversity of nationalities; part of the fun of living in Surval is learning about, enjoying and sharing each other's background – our languages, customs and traditions.

Housed in a former hotel, Surval Montreux offers the comfort and luxury of Swiss hospitality within a warm, friendly family atmosphere. Bedrooms, all with en-suite shower room and balcony, are typically shared by two to three girls and enjoy stunning views of the mountains and lake.

Our striking, majestic setting guarantees an awe-inspiring view wherever you are, and the alpine fresh air is crystal clear, heightening a sense of mindfulness and wellbeing. Girls can relax and unwind in the comfort and space Surval affords, both indoors and out, and really enjoy their home from home existence.

Enrichment Opportunities

Surval offers a vast range of enrichment opportunities:

Sports, activities, clubs and societies, cultural excursions and international trips, giving girls every opportunity to explore and discover their passions and talents, try new things and have a go, with many initiatives being student-led. This is a vital area of the Surval experience, integral to the personal development, growth and wellbeing of each and every student.

SPORT

Surval benefits from its own tennis court, dance studio and fitness room. A small campus; we also make full use of the wonderful surrounding environment for our rich sporting programme. We offer a wide range of individual and team sports. Winter brings the opportunity for skiing, snowboarding, ice skating and exploring various Swiss resorts and slopes. With the warmer weather comes the opportunity for water sports on nearby Lac Léman, as well as rafting and water-canyoning high up in the Swiss mountains and horse riding at a local equestrian centre.

WEEKENDS AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Surval takes the weekends seriously! Our extensive Weekend Activity programme includes cultural excursions, extreme sports experiences and in-house projects. Students on the Surval Swiss Gap Experience are able to use their weekends for Independent Travel, a component of the programme. This involves planning a trip departing Surval on Friday afternoon, returning on Sunday evening. Having chosen their destination and dates, girls select their transport and hotel, pack their bags and off they go!

Surval girls love to travel. Our fantastic location makes travel very accessible, with Milan and Paris only three hours away. The international trips organised by Surval cover the globe, and typically take place during Public and School holidays.



Once a Surval Girl, Always a Surval Girl

"Once a Surval girl, always a Surval girl" on completing the Surval Swiss Gap Experience, our students join a global network of 'Survalliennes' – impressive, empowered women making their own distinguished and distinctive difference in the world in their own special way.

Our alumnae network is made up of inspiring, able women who have gone on to have exciting adventures, careers and lives across the globe. All from different countries, cultures and backgrounds, Survalliennes have one thing in common – Surval has helped to shape their future, whichever path they have taken.



We are delighted to be growing our contact with this vital group, connecting Survalliennes with the school and each other for milestone birthdays, personal and professional achievements, career guidance and local reunions, led by our regional Survallienne Ambassadors.

Wherever Survalliennes are, whatever they are doing, our cherished collective history as a bespoke international girls' boarding School in Switzerland is a treasured bond. Each Survallienne, through her life, manner and attitude inspires so many others – the Surval students who follow, and everyone she meets in the world.

“I decided to come to Surval for my gap year to open my mind to new things, meet new people, and at the same time learn about important things such as English Literature, Art and Etiquette.”

Survallienne, Dominican Republic

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