



"Compagnons Bâisseurs" is an NGO which was founded about fifty years ago (1957). Its aim was to help a population that had been hard hit by the effects of World War II, to reconstruct those homes destroyed during the conflict. From the very beginning up until today, Compagnons Bâisseurs has been putting the principle of solidarity into practice in the form of workcamps, as well as promoting peace and better understanding between people from all over the world.

Compagnons Bâisseurs is now composed as a network of one national organization and 6 regional organizations in France :

- in Rennes, Brest, Saint-Malo and Lanester in Brittany,
- in Tours in the Center,
- in Bordeaux in Aquitaine,
- in Montpellier in Languedoc Roussillon,
- in Marseille in Provence,
- in Saint Denis in Reunion island (Indian Ocean)



It carries out 3 activities throughout the year which are:

➤ Technical, financial and social support supplied to families or people in need, those often marginalized from society and to organizations dedicated to collective interest projects, regarding the improvement of housing. The aim is to work along with the owner or renter of the house or flat, and with neighbourhoods' networks

➤ Professional integration into building trades through construction site, training course... The aim is to help people with social or professional difficulties to re-enter the job market.

➤ Promote voluntary experiences : The national organisation is in charge of voluntary activities as the network's coordinator :

- coordinating Long and medium term volunteers (LTV and MTV) projects. Each regional organisation (except in Reunion Island) hosts between 2 and 11 volunteers, men and women over 18 years old who come from France or European Union. The volunteers work together with families and neighbourhoods' networks to help them renovating their house and reinvesting their homes.
- offering the possibility to participate in workcamps (2 or 3 weeks) in France and abroad, most of the time in the field of housing, ecological constructions, surroundings and standard of living. Workcamps' projects deal with construction and renovation of buildings such as social centres, community buildings or heritage buildings (old fountains, washhouses, wells, old stone bread ovens...).
- encouraging the participation in voluntary actions of a diversity of people from CBF network: LTV, MTV, STV from workcamps, volunteers from the Executive Committee, families who participated in the renovation of their home, neighbourhoods' networks, people coming from professional integration activities... The aim, is to encourage mobility and participation inside the CBF network and also abroad through Alliance and CCIVS networks. We work on the development of each people involvement with different tools like the European voluntary project AMICUS, EVS ST, workcamps, etc. We are looking to develop projects for older people and families.

## WORKCAMPS WITH CBF:

### ➤ Projects :

Compagnons Bâisseurs' network focuses its workcamps activity on building activities to support projects of general interest: historical renovation, social housing, building and ecological constructions in France and abroad are the support of the pedagogical approach.

Building work is a tool to encourage people to learn from each other, to learn how to live together and share common values about voluntary, tolerance, peace, solidarity, sustainable society, etc.

### ➤ Public :

CBF organises adult workcamps (up to 18 years old), young people workcamps (18 to 25 years'old) and teenage workcamps (from 16 to 18 years old).

Groups include from 8 to 12 participants. We try to balance groups as much as possible regarding nationalities, gender and age criteria. Usually 2 or 3 French people are part of the group, sometimes more when the workcamps are prepared with young local groups.

Opening the workcamps to everyone and especially to persons who have fewer opportunities and disadvantaged backgrounds is a priority for Compagnons Bâisseurs. The organisation is part of the Alliance Access for All working group and has previous experience with EVS short term projects within the Alliance.

Volunteers do not need to have particular skills but good willing and a voluntary attitude.

### ➤ Practical information :

#### PERIOD :

At the moment, in France workcamps are proposed during the summer and last 2 or 3 weeks. The idea is to be able to organize and offer workcamps all along the year either for one weekend, one, two or three weeks. It means that volunteers teams are mixed and international but can also be composed mainly by french people (above all during workcamps that last for a weekend in France). We may also propose bilateral workcamp.

#### WORK:

CBF workcamps are organised with local communities and include a concrete work for a useful project for the community requiring approximately 32 hours per week. Volunteers won't be asked more than they can physically give. But we rely on their good will, in order to achieve the practical aim of the project, even if the project and its goals can be adapted regarding to the group capability.

#### DAILY LIFE :

Each workcamp include itself in a sustainable attitude which means that the project should take care of sustainable development conditions and the daily life on the workcamp has to consider human impact on the environment looking at their attitude and habits with consummation, waste, transport...

#### LEADERS :

All camps generally have 2 group leaders : one for the group life and one for the technical work. They act as coordinators and facilitators between the responsible of the project and within the team of volunteers. They help volunteers to carry out the work and take part to the different activities.

A workcamp means an intensive group experience with intercultural exchanges bringing together people from different social backgrounds and different countries. Teams are as much as we can mixed and international. The group life (rules, domestic tasks, leisure...) are decided in common, the leaders are facilitators and always use communication and talkings to help taking decisions and handle conflicts.

ACCOMMODATION : is not always the same. Sometimes in premises and often in tents with basic access to sanitary rooms, cooking and resting places...

LEISURE TIME : groups may have a small budget for leisure activities. Leisure time is not planned before, but will be organised by the group and be based on the discovery of the region. Most of our camps are located in small isolated places and there is not always a car available. Furthermore, we really encourage the relationships with the local population.

LANGUAGES : generally English and French are used.

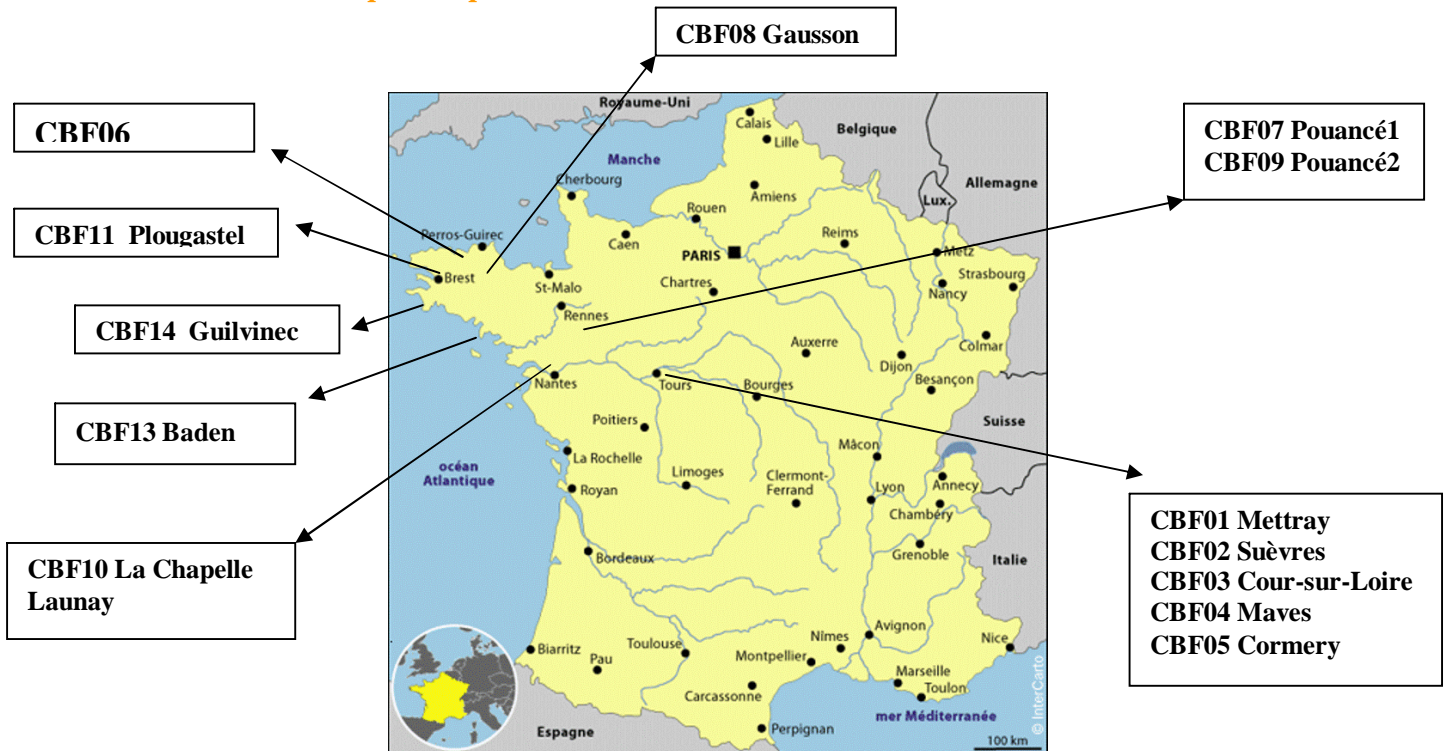
ARRIVAL : it's important that the volunteers arrive on time at the meeting point.

INSURANCE : each participant is insured by our organisation (Civil Liability, Corporal and material Accidents). It comes in addition to the usual social insurance. Be aware that this insurance doesn't cover travel to/from the workcamp.

No extra fee.

Keep in mind that we expect the participation of the volunteers for all the duration of the workcamp.

➤ CBF Workcamps' map



➤ “ Good to know ” to come in France

**TRANSPORT TO FRANCE**

Compagnons Bâtisseurs is willing to get involve in ecology. Let's try not to harm the environment with our behaviour. Let's not only think about the price while planning a trip, but also about nature. Moreover when checking where the airports are located, they are often outside or far away from big cities. So that travellers must join the city centre and pay another transport for it. Not only is it a big cost for environment, but also for travellers' purse and time. So before planning a trip, let's check our ecological footprint! (footprint calculators on [www.wwf.org](http://www.wwf.org) and in French on [www.agir21.org](http://www.agir21.org)). As for your travel's organisation, notice that transports in France are mainly connected to Paris, the French capital.

↳ *By plane*

From your country to Paris airports (it is also possible to join French big cities by plane).

There are two international airports in Paris:

Roissy Charles de Gaulle. Tel: 01 48 62 12 12 / 01 48 62 22 80

Orly. Tel: 01 49 75 52 52 / 01 49 75 15 15

For more information and a plan of Paris CDG and Orly Airport: [www.aeroportdeparis.fr](http://www.aeroportdeparis.fr)

To join Paris train stations from airports, take the RER (Paris regional train) and the metro. For a map of the RER and Metro network, see [www.ratp.fr](http://www.ratp.fr).

↳ *By train*: Joining France by train is possible, especially for person living on the European territory. In France, you have to travel with the national company, the SNCF. For more information, see the following websites: [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com) ; [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com) and [www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com).

↳ *By coach*: To come by coach, have a look at the website [www.eurolines.com](http://www.eurolines.com).

↳ *By road*: Prepare your travel by road with [www.mappy.com](http://www.mappy.com) or [www.viamichelin.com](http://www.viamichelin.com).