

Paris in Winter

February is the best time for uni students to do a bit of travel around Europe because it's cheap.

Because it's a European winter it's cheaper, and unless you're on the slopes, it's off peak time for travel. A bit of rugging up never hurt anyone. Besides – if it's cold – you'll walk faster, meaning you'll come back sexier.

It was because of a navy dress, red cardigan and dazzling gold shoes that I booked Paris. I just felt I looked a bit Parisian that day, and liked the vibe I was getting. I waltzed into Student Flights, uttered a "Bonjour" and began to investigate how much it would cost to get to Paris.

"When?" they asked.

I didn't know, I hadn't planned this, I had no idea. They suggested February and after looking at an itinerary that had my name on it, with words like Emirates, Charles de Gaulle airport and Dubai

stopover, I began to mentally pack.

"Yes, I'll book it!"


I gave them all the money I had as a deposit, and promised to come back with the rest.

I figured, it was November and February was still three months away. That's ages! If I worked really hard, I could pay off the air ticket and save a couple of grand for living and eating. Uni was over, and I worked a lot, in retail and also in a nightclub dreaming of Parisian adventures.

Finally, I was on my way. I was in Paris! It was winter, it was freezing, but I didn't care. Parisians looked as fashionable as I imagined, wrapped up in stylish coats, berets, managing to make even umbrellas look tre chic. I stayed in hostels, which is very cheap.

I ate croissants, pastries, and

crepes off street vendors. Bought cheap takeaway and supplies from the supermarket. I met some friends at the hostel and we shared cheap champagne on the Eiffel Tower at night. One day I rugged up in my scarf and hat, put some music on, and walked everywhere in Paris, ditching public transport. Because it was so freezing, it felt wonderful to walk, and at least that night I had no trouble sleeping in the noisy hostel.

A couple of times, I got into venues including the Louvre for free because Parisian ticket inspectors were on strike. My new friends and I visited parks and cemeteries, including a famous one where Jim Morrison and Oscar Wilde are buried. 

Anna Kosmanovski



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