

Bulletin 5: Having dinner with local people

What can we offer in our regions?

This week, we will present you different concepts of dining with local people.

Dine with locals - what is it?

The concept of having dinner with local people has already spread to different countries and cities. In France you find "Voulez-vous dîner", in the Netherlands it is "Dine with the Dutch" and in Denmark "Dine with the Danes".

These concepts offer visitors from foreign countries the opportunity to get to know a country's culture by dining in local people's homes. Hosts are specially selected concerning certain criteria such as their open-mindedness, their appreciation of foreign culture, their languages and their multi-cultural experience. Furthermore, they are happy to welcome visitors of different nationalities into their homes around a typical gourmet dinner in order to share and exchange their culture and language.

Hosts themselves prepare and cook typical dinners for guests. Each is a 3-course dinner and consists of a starter, a main course, a desert and drinks. A home dinner takes usually about 3 to 4 hours. The prices of a dinner vary from 50 to 65€ per adult and from 35 to 40€ for children under the age of 12. The quality of the meal is guaranteed and creativity is not limited. Beside the quality service, further values like a friendly welcome, a multicultural and international exchange, authenticity and the development of friendships all around the world are tried to consider.

Hence, "Dine with locals" is a unique way for both, guests and hosts, to find out more about foreign cultures and lifestyles by getting in touch with the regional and traditional cuisine. It is a specially organized evening that responds to guests' individual requests so common interests



Source: <http://medias.voyageons-autrement.com/gallery/2011/08/voulez-vous-diner-dot-com.jpg>; <http://www.only-apartments.com/images/guide/big/603/Dine%20with%20the%20Dutch.jpg>

(hobbies, sports, professional activities, etc.) can be specified when booking the dinner to allow more similarities between guests and hosts. In the case of France, the Netherlands and Denmark all bookings of the dinners are arranged via the reservation system of a website (e.g. <http://www.voulezvousdiner.com/reserver-un-diner.php>).

Adaption to CULTrips

"Dine with locals" allows visitors to get in touch with local people, discover their culture and lifestyle by getting introduced into the traditional cuisine and share unique experiences with them. Besides, the concept represents for locals a good opportunity to have an additional source of income. Consequently, dine with locals corresponds with CULTrips not only because of the contact to locals and sharing experiences with them but also because visitors learn about and experience regional culture in an authentic way.



Source:<http://www.springwise.com/img/uploads/2011/04/likeALocal-640x238.jpg>

Please refer to the following links to get more information about dining with locals:

<http://www.dinewiththedutch.com/>
<http://www.voulezvousdiner.com/>
<http://www.dinewiththedanes.dk/main/default.asp?mid=12>

Read here in the guestbook about the experiences of participants at Dine with the Dutch:
<http://www.dinewiththedutch.com/guestbook/>

Get an impression of a Danish dinner and typical Danish food by watching the following movie:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJbMtBoe2kl>

On hellomagazine.com there is an interesting article about Dine with the Dutch:
<http://www.hellomagazine.com/travel/201105195442/dine-with-the-dutch-amsterdam-holland/>