

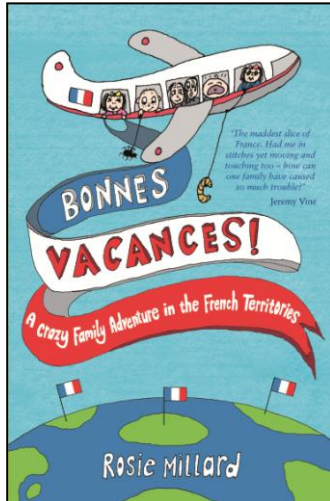
Summersdale New Book Press Release

“Why are the French so totally crazy?” asks Rosie Millard.

Could an extraordinary journey (with four small kids) provide some of the answers?

PUBLICATION DATE: 6th June 2011

The well-known journalist and broadcaster tells the story of her 14-week adventure across five continents to visit the French Overseas Departments and Territories – a journey that only General de Gaulle had ever completed before her. But de Gaulle had it easy. He didn't have a husband and four small children in tow ...



BONNES VACANCES!

A Crazy Family Adventure in the French Territories

Rosie Millard



ISBN: 978 1 84953 149 8 Paperback 320 pages £8.99 6th June 2011

'The general stereotype of the French... is of a voluble, excessively excitable... and somewhat lecherous personality,' ran a wartime document published in Britain. In some people's minds, that viewpoint has not changed one iota.

When I discovered the existence of the DOM-TOMs, I was intrigued and engaged. Any aspect of French life interested me, but this more than most. Something about their wildly distant positions on the globe, alongside a clear determination to remain French, rather touched me. I determined to visit them ... And I wanted my children to come with me.

So Rosie set out on a tour of the French Overseas Departments and Territories (the 'Dom-Toms') with her husband and four young children, partly to make a documentary series but also to show the children that it is actually possible to survive 14 weeks without *Hannah Montana* and 24/7 internet access.



From Martinique to Réunion, crossing five continents, they ate stewed iguana, 400 croissants and – since the budget was small – copious amounts of Campbell's soup.

Candid, darkly humorous and slightly mad, cut with a dash of French history, this memoir offers insights, amusement and hope for anyone who has ever travelled *en famille*.



“THE MADDEST SLICE OF FRANCE. HAD ME IN STITCHES YET MOVING AND TOUCHING TOO – HOW CAN ONE FAMILY HAVE CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE?” JEREMY VINE

“A COMEDIC FAMILY ROMP THROUGH FRENCH LIFE” KATHY LETTE

Please see over for more photos, feature ideas & media opportunities >>>>



Summersdale Press Release continued **BONNES VACANCES!**

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Like de Gaulle before them (but nobody since) Rosie and her family visited all of the following French Overseas Departments and Territories during their incredible, 14-week journey:

✈ ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON ✈ MARTINIQUE ✈ GUYANE
✈ FRENCH POLYNESIA ✈ NEW CALEDONIA ✈ LA REUNION



Feature angles:

- Obvious appeal to any harassed parents who have travelled with their own little angels
- Travelling in French-speaking countries far from Europe
- The logistics of organising a 14-week trip across five continents for a family of six
- New horizons and cultures for adventurous Francophiles
- France and her colonial past: how has this influenced the French psyche? Are there parallels with the British and their own imperial history?
- How do French citizens around the globe view France: motherland or ubermother?
- Rosie's Top Ten Tips for travelling with small children – in particular for dreaded long-haul flights
- If they won't eat sprouts, how am I going to get them to eat iguana? Encouraging children to try unfamiliar foods
- Travel as an education ... even for small children
- And, of course, are the French really crazy? Or are they just like Brits but with much better coffee?



"On-flight nutrition has become extraordinarily important to us already, and not just because it is free on the plane. It's the automatic quality of it. When the trolley arrives, the next hour is taken care of. 'Chicken or beef?' has become a quasi-Pavlovian signal for me to relax. It signifies that someone else is in control. Pip and I have to be in control of so much– the children, the tickets, passports, luggage, all the filming, arranging interviews, marshalling our way through French red tape, even down to remembering to pack the washing line – that the simple event of someone giving us food on a tray is sheer heaven."

**Please see over for more photos plus
media opportunities >>>>>**



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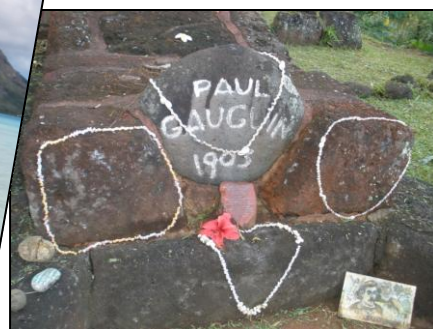


*"A smattering of Napoleon's former grand empire
....enclaves which shall remain French –
Départments and Territoires, enthusiastically flying
the Tricolore and loyal to the Metropole. Their
inhabitants shall be French citizens that are proud to
be French; their language shall be French, their
currency shall be French, their
education French, their legal
system, taxes and social services, French,
all French ..."*



Media Opportunities:

- Interviews ➤ Features
- Extracts ➤ Serialisation
- Photos ➤ Competition prizes
- Delightful children's diary extracts



*"Our shared privation means everyone has stopped arguing.
It has even dawned on my bickering children that the one
thing we must do for sheer survival is pull together."*

Author, Rosie Millard, is a well-known journalist across the spectrum of the British press and commentator on television and radio. She was arts correspondent for the BBC for ten years and regularly writes for *The Sunday Times*. She lives in central London with her TV producer husband Pip Clothier and their four children. www.rosie-millard.co.uk

Rosie Millard is available for interview and/or to write exclusive features for you.

BONNES VACANCES! is published by Summersdale and available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers or by telephoning Summersdale. **To discuss media opportunities, request photos or to be put in touch with Rosie Millard, please contact Elly Donovan: elly@summersdale.com / 01243 771107**



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