

ReCreation

Return to the Village



“It felt like stepping into sacred stillness—where the noise of daily life fades and something deeper begins to speak.”

Insha and Rahim, June 2025

About Us

ReCreation

Recreation reimagines the family experience by blending creativity, nature, and community. Hidden in a wild river valley, our transformed silk factory invites families to step away from the everyday and explore new ways of being together—where creativity flows, curiosity is celebrated, and nature is a guiding force. In vibrant, family-designed spaces, both children and parents thrive as creators—not consumers—immersing themselves in experiences that reconnect them with the beauty of nature, the warmth of community, and the joy of learning.



Location

Where the Mountains Meet the Med

Nestled in the heart of the UNESCO-designated Monts d'Ardèche, this rugged, untamed landscape—shaped by ancient volcanic peaks, rolling river valleys, and chestnut forests—is more than just a backdrop. It's a place where nature and heritage thrive together, inviting families to step into a world of wild beauty and .french rural charm.



“An amazing team, fantastically creative, eternally patient and daringly adventurous, making these magic days and evenings, filled with activities from which dreams are made of!”

Samantha Iaccobacci

The Venue

The Old “Silk Factory”

A former silk factory transformed into a spacious, boho-inspired haven—a slice of Berlin teleported to a serene river valley.

Dine at our farm-to-fork restaurant, where seasonal, local ingredients are prepared by a passionate team who know how to create food that delights both children and adults.

Relax in our café and shop, showcasing the work of local makers and offering ethically minded essentials, or settle into our co-working space designed for parents who need a moment to focus.

Celebrate with festival-inspired in-house theatre and music performances, or simply soak up the beauty of our interiors—a thoughtful blend of natural furnishings and playful vintage design.



Book Your Experience Now?

A min one week stay during school holidays

Festival Stays

Our Festival Stays are short, joy-filled immersions where children rediscover freedom and families reconnect. Each morning, children join our signature creative rhythm — original music sessions, confidence-building drama games, forest school play, natural crafts, and hands-on Grow-Make-Eat garden cooking where they make their own whole-food snacks. It's a daily burst of creativity, movement, and outdoor exploration that lifts their confidence from day one.

Afternoons open into our “Village Within a Village” — PlayStations, maker corners, dyes, river studios, and semi-supervised creative zones where children choose their path and follow curiosity. Evenings gather everyone back together for long-table dinners, music, cinema, and festival rituals. Festival Stays are playful, autonomous, and restorative — a reset for families who arrive tired and leave remembering how to live together.



From four to twelve week journeys

A Living Season

Our Living Seasons run in gentle 4–8 week blocks and offer families a slower, more rooted way of being here. There's no heavy schedule — just a daily rhythm that gives parents time to work, rest, and breathe while children follow longer creative arcs with our mixed-age educator. Instead of dipping in and out of workshops, children build something meaningful over time: a dome, a den, a forest installation, a market stall, a performance, or a piece of story-led craft that unfolds week by week.

It's learning by living — steady, hands-on, and deeply reassuring. Families still enjoy the freedom and play of the Village Within a Village, but with the added richness of a project that grows day by day and culminates in a whole-village celebration. A Living Season isn't “more” than a Festival Stay — just different: a way to settle, contribute, and feel part of something that becomes yours.

www.ReCreationNation.org

Our Philosophy

Knowing The Child

At Recreation, we recognize that every child is unique, with different backgrounds, learning styles, and neurodiverse needs. Our approach focuses on understanding each child's strengths and challenges, helping them feel comfortable as they navigate their learning experiences. As experienced educators, we draw from a rich selection of activities and adventures that foster genuine connection and engagement. We know that clear boundaries, natural discipline and deep attachment are essential. When the children thrive so can their parents.



Our Experiential Learning Programme

Nature Inspired Creativity

We design purposeful moments in nature, anchored in the rhythms of the seasons that will spark each child's imagination. Your child will be guided by educators, artists and makers who help channel their creativity into meaningful, child-led projects.

Community Dining & Evening Celebrations

Celebrate!

Evenings at Recreation are a time for parents and children to come together. Share a meal at our farm-to-fork restaurant, enjoy wood-fired pizza by the fire, or join us for live music and storytelling. These gatherings aren't just events—they're moments of celebration where families connect, laugh, and create lasting memories.

Off site adventures with trusted providers

Adventure Further

Wednesday is our day to venture further in the local area. Discover the Ardèche with trusted guides who know its best-kept secrets. Paddle or zip wire the river gorges, climb rock faces or volcanic summits or cycle to the waterfall for a picnic. We will also help you make the most of your family time at the weekends with tips on local markets selling fresh produce, vintage finds or local crafts.

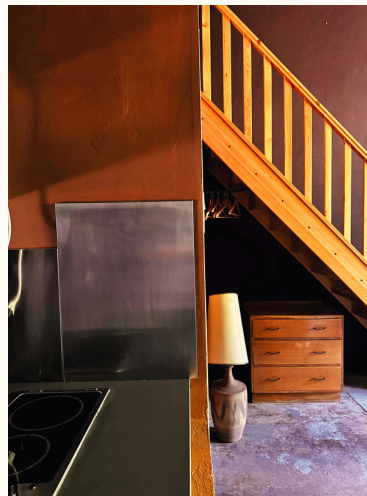
Parent Time

While the children are immersed in their club, parents can take a moment to relax, recharge, or focus. We offer a range of empowering workshops for adults from yoga to cooking and gardening. Unwind in our café and co-working space, swim in our salt pool or mountain river and simply enjoy the stillness of the surrounding nature. This is your time, designed to be as enriching and restorative as the experience is for your children.

Your Family's Private Space







Crafted Learning Journeys for Children...

Experience



Create



Celebrate!



Our Philosophy

At ReCreation, every learning journey begins with **Experience**, flows into **Create**, and culminates in **Celebrate**. This simple yet powerful cycle shapes how children learn and grow across all our programs—from our littlest explorers to our teen campers. Whether they're foraging, experimenting in the kitchen, building community structures, or performing original music, each stage of learning integrates hands-on discovery, creative expression, and moments of joyful recognition.

Experience: Engage with nature and real-life tasks—sensory play, foraging, gardening, exploring rivers, observing wildlife.

Channel new insights into meaningful projects—cooking, crafting, building, making music or art, or designing solutions that benefit the community.

Share and honour these accomplishments—through mini-exhibitions, festivals, market stalls, communal meals, or campfire performances.

By weaving these three phases together, children and teens gain practical skills, broaden their imaginations, and develop a sense of shared purpose with their peers and families.



A Day in the Village

Co-working café opens — 6:00

Quiet work time for early risers.

Breakfast — 8:00

Self-catered, or catered during Festival Stays.

Gather & Play — 9:00

Music, joy, laughter and short check in

Parents hear the plan; little ones feel held.

Nature Club — 9:00–10:30

Ages 3–7 and 8–12 head out for forest games, foraging, music, garden jobs.

Snack & Free Play — 10:30

Nature Club (Build & Make) — 11:00–12:30

Woodwork, natural dyes & printing, apothecary, river science, music/story craft.

Mixed-age teams; everyone has a role.

Lunch — 12:30–14:00

Self-catered, or communal lunch during 6-night Festival Stays.

Rest & Read — 14:00–15:00

Quiet hour. Hammocks, sieste nooks, library baskets.

Village Beats the Screen: devices stay in the co-working space.

Workshops / Nature Club — 15:30–16:30

Depending on your stay:

Garden-to-Table Cooking, Permaculture, or Aqua Randonnée (River Walk).

Dinner — 18:00–20:00

Wood-fired pizza, live music, dancing.

Community dinners 3 nights/week. Kids roam safely; music drifts.

Fridays — The Show

Parents join a celebration of the children's week.



How do we group our children?

Wild Explorers

Ages 3-6



Our youngest learners thrive on curiosity and hands-on wonder. They begin by **Experiencing** the world around them through playful exploration—touching, tasting, listening, and observing nature's magic. Whether they're planting seeds in the garden, gathering wildflowers for the mud kitchen, or building with cob, every day offers new discoveries.



To **Celebrate**, we come together for singalongs, nature-inspired stories, and playful forest school games. Each child's small achievements—like planting a seed or identifying a new insect—are honored, building their confidence and sense of belonging.



Guided by their experiences, children **Create** simple yet meaningful projects—mixing herbs into bread dough, making their raw ball snack, or weaving natural materials. These gentle, tactile activities nurture fine motor skills, creativity, and a love of learning.



Justin is the co-founder and wild explorers lead. He brings over 20 years of experience with the early years in nature and loves nothing more to create imaginative and nurturing playspaces for little explorers.

Curiosity - Creativity - Resilience

The Village Makers

Ages 7-12



In this stage children become active architects of their own learning. Free from the rigidity of traditional classroom structures, they tackle real-world challenges that spark curiosity, build tangible skills, and foster a deep sense of community. This hands-on, child-led approach empowers them to see the direct impact of their contributions—fueling both their confidence and their passion for shaping the world around them.



After these experiential journeys children are guided by our team to transform their raw materials and newfound knowledge into tangible expressions—turning foraged plants into natural dyes, turning garden fruit into sweets for their shop or soap from wildflowers. Collaboration and problem-solving take center stage, as they learn to adapt ideas and build on each other's strengths.



Our end of journey celebrations here often include small “market days,” pop-up shops, or exhibitions where they can present or sell what they've produced such as ice cream for the cinema night or ceramics for our craft market. These moments affirm their capabilities and foster a genuine sense of pride and accomplishment.

Our Village Makers meet in our forest school space by the river then go off to explore the forest, river and mountain side. Wednesdays the children go off site.



Katherine has a gift for meeting children where they are—calm, playful, and always respectful of their pace. She brings years of experience in education and childcare, creating spaces where kids feel safe to try, stumble, and rise again. With her steady presence, the village becomes a place where children are truly seen, while parents can rest knowing their little ones are held with care and intention.

Passion - Talent - Purpose

The Ikigai Teen Camp

Ages 13-18



Our Ikigai Teen Camp takes the ReCreation cycle to a deeper level, built around the Japanese concept of “ikigai”—finding the intersection of what you love, what you’re good at, and what the world needs. This practical, purpose-driven approach invites teens to discover their passions, refine their skills, and make meaningful contributions.



Inspired by our highly successful UK sleepaway camps for ages 8–16, this special summer program in July and August is exclusively offered to the teens of our guests. Mornings are spent in small groups under the guidance of experienced mentors, focusing on hands-on projects like gardening, natural cooking, or supporting the house café and shop. Teens learn leadership, entrepreneurship, and community engagement in an intimate, supportive environment.



Bell Tent Camp Out - Optional

Some afternoons bring micro-adventures —like volcano hikes or “Aquarandonne” giving teens unforgettable experiences in nature.. Through these shared moments, teens can celebrate their journey through music making or spoken word, and building stronger connections with peers, mentors, and loved ones.

This is a boutique optional experience for teens where if they choose they can sleep in bell tents with comfortable beds and separate showers and toilets in the Sous Sol.



Louisa is a former head of literacy and World Schooling rebel mum of 2. She is a natural storyteller, guide and coach. Perfect fit for inspiring our teen guests.

Farm to Fork Communal Dining

Food -The Great Connector



Sharing a meal is one of the last sacred spaces where we truly come together—crossing divides, celebrating nourishment, and honouring nature's offerings.

From our earliest day camps in London, food has been at the heart of our philosophy. We've harvested vegetables on organic farms, crushed pestos and hummus in a mortar, and roasted sweet potato chocolate mousse over the campfire. This isn't about cupcakes and popcorn—it's about exciting whole food adventures.



At Recreation, that ethos remains, but our facilities have grown. Our 'potager' kitchen garden designed by farm manager and educationalist John Buscarino, is supported by local producers across the Ardèche and southern France. Our Natural Cooks craft seasonal, Mediterranean-inspired menus that nourish families, using:

- ****Organic & Chemical-Free Ingredients**** – Sourced from trusted suppliers.
- ****Local & Seasonal Produce**** – Including wild food and our own homegrown harvests.
- ****Naturally Sweet**** – No refined sugar, using fruits as natural sweeteners.
- ****Gluten-Free & Grain-Free Options**** – Thoughtfully prepared for diverse diets.
- ****Gut-Healthy**** – Diverse, nutrient-rich meals that support digestion.
- ****Child-Centred Recipes**** – A **sneaky veg** and flexible approach for sensitive eaters.



Every meal at Recreation is an experience—one that nourishes, connects, and celebrates the simple joy of eating well together.

Education Details

A breakdown of our Nature Club Programme

Children's Nature Club	Timings	Included	Wednesday Off Site
Wild Explorers Ages 3-6	Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 9-Midday *Until 12.30pm July and August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning Snack• Lunch eaten with family	Yes
Village Makers Ages 7-12	9-4pm *Until 12.30pm July and August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning Snack• Lunch eaten with the family	Yes

Accommodation

Loft Living

Stay in our thoughtfully designed loft apartments in our converted French silk factory. Enjoy your private balcony overlooking the river and forested valley below. Each apartment has its own spacious, fully equipped kitchen, family bathroom and lounge with children's area so you can relax and they can play.

“Healthy and delicious—we couldn't get enough. Every day was like a culinary adventure.”

Ciro Chiappini, Giulia's Dad



Outdoor Places to Relax & Play

A River Run Wild

Flowing through the heart of our land, the L'Auzène River is a pristine waterway fed by nearby ancient springs visited by beavers, otters and kingfishers. As the crystal-clear waters flow past the mill our hidden lazy river bank provides a paradise to indulge in wild swimming, sun bathing or plunging into our deep canal. The river's pure waters also feed our infinity swimming pool which is timetabled so everyone gets their time there to rest or play.

Indoor Spaces for Play

The Sous Sol

The “Sous Sol”, the former factory floor, is a cavernous, multi-purpose space we've designed for creativity, community and play. This dynamic area features a library and lounge where children and adults can relax, a workshop space for arts and crafts, and our in-house kitchen and family cooking area. By evening, it transforms into a venue for musical and theatrical child centred performances or vintage cinema nights, bringing families together for unforgettable experiences.

A Dedicated Workspace

Place to Focus

Our in-house co-working café and shop provides parents with a dedicated, quiet workspace featuring strong Wi-Fi and fresh coffee during the week. Our shop offers carefully curated essentials and souvenirs featuring local talent and brocante treasures.



Our in house Resto and Cafe

Whole Food Adventures

We believe in food that nourishes both body and soul. Prepared by our talented team, meals feature fresh, chemical free ingredients, including seasonal produce from our developing garden. Children will often help harvest and prepare their own dishes, fostering a deep connection to their food. Parents can join empowering cooking workshops and memorable dining experiences, from candlelit dinners to shared feasts under the stars.

Wild France

Nearby places to visit on Wednesdays or at the weekend



Explore dramatic gorges by foot or canoe



The Ardeche mountains has many hidden villages waiting to be discovered



Love real food? Discover the local markets and festivals



A day out in the stunning emblem of the Ardeche, Pont d' Arc



Explore the colours of the lavender fields



Spend sunday browsing brocantes full of vintage treasures

A Unique, Historical Venue

Our thoughtfully designed loft apartments in our converted French silk factory.



Experiences & Workshops

Carefully curated for children, families and parents





Our family retreat venue offering!

Beyond the Ordinary

Kids Nature Club

Full or half day nature club led by experienced, award winning educationalists with a child centred approach.

Empowering Workshops

Enjoy workshops with talented educators, artists and chefs or simply dip in our river or relax by the pool.

Naturally Delicious Food

Food that delights parents and children alike cooked by our natural cooks with clean ingredients available communally or in your private space.

Screen Free Zones

We are committed to our shared mission that the village beats the screen! Don't worry, our cafe space has wifi for those who really need it!

Festival Inspired Evenings

Family-friendly gatherings— theatre, live music, campfire feasts, pizza nights and lots more!

CoWorking Space

Co-working Space - Dedicated areas equipped for digital nomads to work efficiently.

Our Seasonal Stories

The Spring Story

Rise!

Festival Stays

Wk 1 · 28 Mar–5 Apr

Wk 2 · 5 Apr–12 Apr

Wk 3 · 12–19 Apr

Wk 4 · 19–26 Apr

Living Season

Makers' Market · 26 Apr–
22 May

Flow · 31 May–28 June



The Summer Story

Festival Stays 2026

8 weeks / Sun–Sat rhythm

Week 1: Sun 5 → 11 July

Week 2: Sun 12 → 18 July

Week 3: Sun 19 → 25 July

Week 4: Sun 26 July → 1 Aug

Week 5: Sun 2 → 8 August

Week 6: Sun 9 → 15 August

Week 7: Sun 16 → 22 August

Week 8: Sun 23 → 29 August



The Autumn Story

Home · 31 Aug–11 Oct
Living Season

Festivals Stay

The Last Witch of the Valley
18–31 Oct

Nov–Dec Location TBC

The Winter Story 2027

(Location TBC in January 2026.
Waitlist available)



All Inclusive Pricing

Festival Stay

(Easter, October & Special Weeks)

Family of 4 from €6,200

- Families stay in spacious double rooms or private apartments within our restored silk-factory.
- All organic meals cooked by Natural Chefs
- Children's half day Nature Club & creative family workshops
- Salt Pool, river, and gardens



Living Season

From €9,500 per month for a family of 4

- Loft apartment in our riverside silk mill (self-catered)
- Children's full day Nature Club & creative workshops (Mon-Fri)
- 5 organic lunches and 3 evening feasts cooked by Natural Chefs
- Salt pool, private river, and gardens

Journeying Together

When families begin and end together, the whole journey settles. Rhythm returns. Children feel held. Parents breathe again. Every season at ReCreation follows a shared beginning and a shared closing — a clear arc — so every family can truly step into the story. Want to understand each journey? Click [here](#) to explore the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Editions.

How To Book

Contact Us

Use this [link](#).

Catherine our family coordinator will be in touch. She will check availability (Only 10 families per stay) and match you with a room.

Discovery Call

She'll arrange a short call with Justin the Co Founder to ensure the season is a good fit.

Secure Your Place

Pay your deposit to confirm your stay and receive the handbook. Book your travel!



Experiences for All

Join Our Nation

Whether you are a worldschooler seeking a long-term stay or looking for a summer holiday that combines the spirit of a festival with the tranquility of a laid-back retreat, we invite you to become part of our community. Immerse yourself in pristine nature, savor delicious food, and connect with our warm and creative team, ready to make your experience unforgettable.

“Still singing and preparing food in the kitchen with such joy in her heart. The freedom of being able to run barefoot in mud, candlelit dinners with animated faces and quiet chatter and laughter. Magical. The kind of childhood memories that last a lifetime.”

Abbie Smith

Weekly newsletter's from the Mill and beyond!

Read our ReCreation stories



Subscribe to “Playgropund Tales” NOW!



“Our children spent 4 amazing weeks every year with Justin and his team! They take our kids into the wild and give them real back-to-nature experiences they will never forget. Wishing to travel again soon from Madrid!”

Mj Llamas



Email our team to begin your journey

joinus@recreationNation.org

www.recreationNation.org

FAQ

Do we need a hire car?

No. We arrange transfers from Lyon or Grenoble (Extra fee).

Once you're here, everything is on-site: Nature Club, meals, coworking, play areas, river, workshops, bedrooms.

What are the rooms like?

Simple, beautiful loft-style rooms and apartments inside a restored silk mill.

Warm colours, natural materials, handmade touches, and plenty of space for families.

Is the mill safe for kids?

Yes but parents are responsible outside of Nature club for the children. The river area is supervised during activities, and the whole site is designed with children in mind.

Parents & Work

Can we work while the kids are in Nature Club?

Yes. That's the whole point.

Mornings (and afternoons in Living Season) are designed for focused work or deep rest.

What's the coworking like?

Quiet, warm, dedicated desks, good WiFi, coffee always on. Parents love it.

Is the WiFi actually strong enough?

Yes fibre optic installed and Justin can bring Starlink if needed.

What meals are included?

Living Season: 5 x lunch + 3 communal dinners.

Festival Stay: All meals included (breakfast, lunch, dinner).

What kind of food do you serve?

Natural, organic child-conscious meals cooked by our natural chefs inspired by the Med and the garden.

Is there laundry?

Yes — a shared laundry room you can use anytime.

What about transport to shops?

We do a weekly supermarket run and families without a car can join. We are working on a child run in house store.

What is the vibe like?

Cool music, med style long lunches, laughter, swims, mud kitchens, crafts everywhere, friendships forming, parents relaxing in a way they didn't know they needed.

Do families mix?

Yes — naturally. Not forced.
The rhythm creates the village.

The Baker Family!



Its a Family Thing



We're a family who believe in the power of community and creative play. After traveling and learning with our own children around the globe, we've poured our passion for nature, culture, and curiosity into this new venture—our very first year at ReCreation.

We know it can feel like a leap to join a budding community, but rest assured: we've seen how transformational experiences in nature and in community can bring families closer together and ignite real learning. We'd love for you to be a part of our story as we grow.

Have questions? Wondering about workspaces, meal plans, or how we handle unique learning styles? Reach out—we're here to help!

From Our Family to Yours,
Louisa, Justin their Rebel Enfants! x



joinus@recreationnation.org
| www.recreationnation.org