2020
HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS
DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

Village Life® in Dordogne
May 14-22, 2020
with Study Leader Susan Rubin Suleiman
Prehistoric Art

You will find the greatest concentration of prehistoric art sites of anywhere in the world in the enchanting département of Dordogne. Limestone caves and rocky overhangs here provided Ice-Age humans with not only shelter, but also a vast canvas for extraordinary paintings. In Lascaux and Rouffignac, the two most well-known caves, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, extinct aurochs, wild stallions and antelopes painted approximately 25,000 to 17,000 years ago still prance, preen and gallop before your eyes. The original Lascaux cave itself has been closed to the public since 1963 for preservation purposes; however, the incredible replica in the International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux allows you to experience these thought-provoking cave paintings interactively, providing a realistic, stimulating representation of the exuberant colors that have faded in the original cave.

Rouffignac cave offers up-close views of over 250 deft prehistoric drawings and paintings that cover a six-mile gallery of cavernous walls and ceilings, including the famous friezes of two bison ready to engage each other in battle and 10 mammoths in procession—one of the largest cave paintings ever discovered.

Near the village of Les Eyzies, visit the original Cro-Magnon rock shelter and UNESCO World Heritage site of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, showcasing the rare, life-size frieze of horses and bison sculpted in limestone. An expert-guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies helps put this vast network of prehistoric art into context.

See well-preserved cliff dwellings along the Dordogne River, where prehistoric troglodyte villages once flourished.
Experience provincial Dordogne, where the authentic character of Southern France is distilled into one of Europe’s most beautiful medieval villages, Sarlat-la-Canéda. Immerse yourself in the rich local culture in the heart of this charming département, and learn more about the history of early humans who painted their stories on its cave walls, the largest concentration of prehistoric art in the world.

Our carefully designed itinerary and excursions explore five impressive UNESCO World Heritage sites: the dramatic cliffside monastic village of Rocamadour; the archaeological sites of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc, Rouffignac cave and Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil; and the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine. Visit the state-of-the-art International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux. Exclusively arranged, enriching presentations and the Village Life Forum provide personal perspectives on la vie in the villages of Dordogne.

Your “home,” ideally located in the quaint medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda, will be the family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, a restored 19th-century townhouse. This hôtel de charme features an old-world ambiance with modern accommodations and amenities.

Activity Level 2: 🚄🚶‍♂️🚶‍♀️🚶‍♂️🚶‍♀️

LOW KEY
Though moderately paced, this program visits medieval villages and hilltop towns, many of which consist of uneven cobblestone streets. You may be asked to climb several flights of stairs, some without railings, and walk at leisure for several miles on more active days.
Schedule by Day

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
MAY 14 AND 15
U.S. / Bordeaux, France / Sarlat-la-Canéda
Depart the U.S. for Bordeaux. Upon arrival, transfer to Sarlat-la-Canéda and check into the Plaza madeleine Hôtel. Enjoy dinner in the hotel Friday evening. (d)

SATURDAY, MAY 16
Sarlat-la-Canéda
Your charming “village home” is in the pre-French Revolutionary capital of Périgord Noir, a wooded corner of the Aquitaine region, located between the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers. It is a bon vivant’s dream, renowned for truffles, wild mushrooms, and duck, and close enough to Bordeaux to procure the finest wines directly from vintners’ cellars.

Sarlat has one of Europe’s greatest concentrations of medieval, Renaissance, and 17th-century façades. Stroll along cobblestone streets illuminated by gas lamps and lined with Renaissance-style houses. The artful blend of flamboyant and subdued styles is most evident in the architecture of the townhouse of writer Étienne la Boétie. The heart of Sarlat is the Place de la Liberté where one of France’s most storied markets is held, a tradition dating from the Middle Ages.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure and attend the welcome reception in the hotel. (b,r)

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: During the program, immerse yourself in the joie de vivre of Sarlat.

SUNDAY, MAY 17
Rocamadour / Souillac
Tour Rocamadour, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated village built on the face of a sheer 400-foot cliff, which has one of the most dramatic settings of any village in the world. During the Middle Ages, pilgrims flocked here from across Europe to perform penance by ascending the 216 steps of le Grand Escalier (the Grand Stairway) on their knees and sought miracles from St. Amadour by visiting his crypt. Embedded in the cliff above the doorway to the Chapelle de Notre Dame is a sword said to be that of the heroic knight Roland.

Nearby, visit the quaint town of Souillac and its 12th-century Abbaye Sainte-Marie, a treasury of Romanesque statuary and Biblica carvings. (b,l)


In Sarlat this evening, meet dordognais (local residents) in the Village Life® forum, and hear candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in a medieval village.

MONDAY, MAY 18
Jardins d’ Eyrignac / Les Eyzies / L’Abri du Cap-Blanc
Designated a national monument, the Eyrignac Manor has been the family residence of 22 generations spanning over 500 years.

Admire the perfectly preserved Château de Beynac, the most authentic and evocative of Périgord’s feudal castles.

On this 17th-century estate located just outside of Sarlat, view what many consider the finest jardins (gardens) in all of France. Originally an 18th-century Italian design, the landscape was converted a century later to an English-style, coniferous garden, and has been manicured since that time to preserve the topiary patterns. Lunch is included in the hotel.

France’s capital of prehistoric humanity, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, is home to unprecedented fossils of Early Modern Man. At approximately 35,000 years old, these fossils are some of the earliest known evidence of human life in Europe. (b,l)


In Sarlat this evening, meet dordognais (local residents) in the Village Life® forum, and hear candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in a medieval village.

TUESDAY, MAY 19
Lascaux / Saint Amand-de-Coly
See the carefully replicated works of Lascaux cave, repository of the most stunning works of prehistoric art and today a UNESCO World Heritage site.
Visit petit Saint-Amand-de-Coly, one of the “most beautiful villages” in France. Its dominated by the 13th-century abbey church, an unusual fusion of Roman and Gothic styles. Traces of the Hundred Years’ War remain in the ramparts and towers of the fortress-like church and the remnants of its abbey. (a,o)

**Cultural Enrichments:** Attend a private, specially arranged presentation on preserving Sarlat’s medieval architecture.

Sample regional cheese and wine in an épicerie in Sarlat. Explore the perfect reproduction of Lascaux with prehistory expert Christine Desdemaines-Hugon in the International Center for Cave Art, where the Paleolithic age is reanimated through interactive exhibits.

Savor a specially arranged three-course dinner in an authentic French bistro.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20**

**Rouffignac / La Madeleine**

Enjoy a morning at leisure.

Visit Rouffignac, “Cave of a Hundred Mammoths” with prehistory expert Christine Desdemaines-Hugon and marvel at the “giant kettles,” dome-like rock formations forged by swirling currents.

Carved beneath a cliff overlooking the Vézère River, the prehistorical troglodyte village and UNESCO World Heritage site of La Madeleine offers unique insight into the semi-nomadic Magdalenian culture, which prevailed in southern Europe from 15,000 to 9000 B.C.

**Cultural Enrichments:** Enjoy a private, 19th-century French folk music and dance performance after a three-course dinner. (b,d)

**THURSDAY, MAY 21**

**Beynac / Domme**

The Château de Beynac, perched 500 feet above the Dordogne River, commands a medieval village of golden stone houses tucked into the hillside. This masterpiece of medieval military engineering was a stronghold of Richard the Lionheart. Traverse its elaborate stone walls and passageways to an interior decorated with a 17th-century staircase and delicate 15th-century frescoes.

Domme is an authentic medieval bastide (fortified village). Enter through its original ramparts and see graffiti etched by the Knights Templar on the inner village walls. The beauty of the 13th- and 14th-century architecture of Domme is surpassed only by its exceptional views overlooking the Dordogne River. Dinner is included in the hotel this evening. (b,l,d)

**Cultural Enrichments:** Cruise the Dordogne River aboard a private 19th-century gabare, traditional Périgord transportation for more than 150 years, followed by a lunch of Périgord specialties in a local restaurant overlooking the river.

**FRIDAY, MAY 22**

**Bordeaux / U.S.**

Check out of the hotel and continue on the Albi • Toulouse Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (a)

**What is Included:**

- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by Harvard Study Leader Susan Suleiman and prehistory expert Christine Desdemaines-Hugon
- Seven nights in the charming, family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hotel
- Regional wine served with each included dinner
- Exclusive Village Life® Forum with local residents who will discuss life in France’s Dordogne département
- Private, specially arranged gabare cruise along the Dordogne River
- All activities, excursions, entrance fees, and meals per detailed itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities to hotel personnel, guides, and drivers
- Complimentary bottled water provided on motorcoaches during excursions
- Services of a tour manager throughout the program
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, Sarlat-la-Canéda

Enjoy the traditional pace of Village Life® during your stay in the family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, located just beyond the ancient walls of Sarlat-la-Canéda’s medieval quarter, a mere five-minute walk from the village center. A grand 19th-century townhouse, this hôtel de charme has been renovated with tasteful French esprit contemporain. Each of the 39 comfortable, air-conditioned guest rooms features two twin beds or one queen bed with private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television, phone, Wi-Fi access, safe, minibar, and hair dryer. The hotel dining room, where continental breakfast is served daily, is reserved for the exclusive use of hotel guests. There is a brasserie pub with lounge, and private terrace, a petit/lounge with computer facilities and Internet access, a heated outdoor swimming pool, solarium, and spa with Jacuzzi and sauna. The dedicated hotel staff is pleased to provide attentive service.

Tour Cost Per Person:

Double occupancy: $4,795; Single occupancy: $5,495

Taxes and gratuities to hotel personnel are included.

Splendors of Bordeaux
Saint-Émilion • Médoc

PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

$895 per person, double occupancy
$1,395 per person, single occupancy

Long distinguished as the wine capital of the world, France’s verdant Bordeaux region has been growing, fermenting, and bottling the grape since the eighth century. Tucked away in the heart of rolling countryside and endless vineyards, visit the charming village of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for growing the merlot grape. Its medieval Église Monolithe is one of the largest underground churches in Europe. Just north of Bordeaux in the Médoc region, visit a château to enjoy a tasting of distinguished grand cru classé wines. Spend two nights in the deluxe Hôtel Burdigala, in the heart of Bordeaux.

Albi • Toulouse
Cordes-sur-Ciel • Carcassonne

POST-PROGRAM OPTION

$1,545 per person, double occupancy
$1,895 per person, single occupancy

The cobblestone towns of southwest France showcase the region’s storybook charm. Experience the classic medieval allure of Cordes-Sur-Ciel, Albi, Carcassonne, and Toulouse on this four-night Post-Program itinerary, which brims with excursions. Sample Gaillac wines in the Château Bouscaillous; explore cathedrals and old-world villages; admire the largest collection of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s works; and enjoy the incomparable scenery of the bucolic French countryside. Accommodations are for two nights each in deluxe Hôtel Mercure Albi bastides and the grand Hôtel de l’Opéra in Toulouse.

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Trip Sampling

LAND & RAIL

Journey in Greece for Students & Alumni
JAN 10–19, 2020
Keith Stone

Moroccan Discovery
MAY 8–21, 2020
Kay Shelemay

CRUISES

Expedition to Antarctica on Le Boréal
JAN 15–28, 2020
James Salzman

Ancient Empires: Rome to Malta on Le Bougainville
MAY 24–JUNE 1, 2020
Daniel Donoghue

Scottish Isles & Norway’s Fjords on Le Champlain
MAY 30–JUNE 7, 2020
Lizabeth Cohen & Herrick Chapman

RIVERS & LAKES

Southern Africa Adventure on Zambezi Queen
MAR 12–28, 2020
Leanne Alonso & Alfonso Alonso

European Coastal Civilizations: Lisbon to London’s Tower Bridge on Le Dumont-d’Urville
APR 27–MAY 6, 2020
John Stewart

Springtime in Provence & Burgundy (Lyon to Arles) on Amadeus Provence
MAY 6–14, 2020
Sue Weaver Schopf

Great Journey through Europe: The Rhine River and Switzerland on Amadeus Silver III
JULY 17–27, 2020
Christie McDonald

Danube River: Vienna to Black Sea on Amadeus Silver II
OCT 4–16, 2020
Thomas Forrest Kelly

FAMILY ADVENTURES

Greece Family Odyssey: The Peloponnese on Running on Waves
JUNE 18–27, 2020
James Simpson

Japan Family Adventure (Tokyo, Kyoto & Hiroshima)
JUNE 27–JULY 8, 2020
Theodore J. Gilman

Splendors of Bordeaux
Saint-Émilion • Médoc

PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

$895 per person, double occupancy
$1,395 per person, single occupancy

Long distinguished as the wine capital of the world, France’s verdant Bordeaux region has been growing, fermenting, and bottling the grape since the eighth century. Tucked away in the heart of rolling countryside and endless vineyards, visit the charming village of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for growing the merlot grape. Its medieval Église Monolithe is one of the largest underground churches in Europe. Just north of Bordeaux in the Médoc region, visit a château to enjoy a tasting of distinguished grand cru classé wines. Spend two nights in the deluxe Hôtel Burdigala, in the heart of Bordeaux.

Albi • Toulouse
Cordes-sur-Ciel • Carcassonne

POST-PROGRAM OPTION

$1,545 per person, double occupancy
$1,895 per person, single occupancy

The cobblestone towns of southwest France showcase the region’s storybook charm. Experience the classic medieval allure of Cordes-Sur-Ciel, Albi, Carcassonne, and Toulouse on this four-night Post-Program itinerary, which brims with excursions. Sample Gaillac wines in the Château Bouscaillous; explore cathedrals and old-world villages; admire the largest collection of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s works; and enjoy the incomparable scenery of the bucolic French countryside. Accommodations are for two nights each in deluxe Hôtel Mercure Albi bastides and the grand Hôtel de l’Opéra in Toulouse.

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Trip Sampling

LAND & RAIL

Journey in Greece for Students & Alumni
JAN 10–19, 2020
Keith Stone

Moroccan Discovery
MAY 8–21, 2020
Kay Shelemay

CRUISES

Expedition to Antarctica on Le Boréal
JAN 15–28, 2020
James Salzman

Ancient Empires: Rome to Malta on Le Bougainville
MAY 24–JUNE 1, 2020
Daniel Donoghue

Scottish Isles & Norway’s Fjords on Le Champlain
MAY 30–JUNE 7, 2020
Lizabeth Cohen & Herrick Chapman

RIVERS & LAKES

Southern Africa Adventure on Zambezi Queen
MAR 12–28, 2020
Leanne Alonso & Alfonso Alonso

European Coastal Civilizations: Lisbon to London’s Tower Bridge on Le Dumont-d’Urville
APR 27–MAY 6, 2020
John Stewart

Springtime in Provence & Burgundy (Lyon to Arles) on Amadeus Provence
MAY 6–14, 2020
Sue Weaver Schopf

Great Journey through Europe: The Rhine River and Switzerland on Amadeus Silver III
JULY 17–27, 2020
Christie McDonald

Danube River: Vienna to Black Sea on Amadeus Silver II
OCT 4–16, 2020
Thomas Forrest Kelly

FAMILY ADVENTURES

Greece Family Odyssey: The Peloponnese on Running on Waves
JUNE 18–27, 2020
James Simpson

Japan Family Adventure (Tokyo, Kyoto & Hiroshima)
JUNE 27–JULY 8, 2020
Theodore J. Gilman
Inclusions: Section; and all other services
meals and alcoholic beverages
Post-Programs); optional
to hotel personnel (Pre/
baggage insurance; gratuities
sickness, trip cancellation, and
otherwise specified; accident/
calls, and Internet access unless
such as laundry, telephone
hours of arrival and departure,
sightseeing events, special
programs, and guest lecture
series are subject to change or
cancellation without prior notice.
Harvard Alumni Travels and the
tour operator are not responsible
therefore and are not required
to compensate passengers
under these circumstances.
Departions from the scheduled
Itinerary are at the expense of
the individual. All prices quoted
are based on prevailing fuel
prices, airfare and currency
exchange rates in effect at the
time of brochure printing and
are subject to change. While the
tour operator will do everything
possible to maintain the
published trip price, it may
be necessary to institute
a surcharge.
Insurance: We highly
recommend the purchase of
trip cancellation insurance.
An application for insurance will
be provided by the Harvard Alumni
Travels upon confirmation.
Responsibility: Certain other provisions
apply regarding limitations of
liability and rights of Harvard
Alumni Travels and the
tour operator. The statement
of responsibility is available at
http://alumni.harvard.edu/
If you are not able to access
the Internet, please call
Harvard Alumni Travels at
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.
Disclaimer: Every effort
has been made to ensure the
accuracy of information
presented in this publication.
Harvard Alumni Travels nor the
tour operator is responsible
for errors in or damages
resulting from use of the
information contained herein.
Information contained in this
brochure is subject to change.
Questions: Please call
Harvard Alumni Travels at
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806,
email: haatravels@harvard.edu.
Photo Credits: Alamy,
Estock Photo, Glow Images,
Shutterstock; all images are
rights managed and cannot be
used without permission.
Registration Form
Village Life® in Dordogne
May 14-22, 2020
To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels
with your deposit of $1,000 per person, plus $200 per person
Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program, plus $200 per person
Albi and Toulouse Post-Program.
Please return this form by mail to:
Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011
Please call with any questions:
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806
How did you hear about this trip?