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

Susan Rubin Suleiman
was born in Budapest and emigrated to the U.S. as a child with her parents. She obtained her B.A. from Barnard College and her Ph.D. from Harvard University. Suleiman has been on the Harvard faculty since 1981, where she is currently the C. Douglas Dillon Research Professor of the Civilization of France and Research Professor of Comparative Literature. She retired from full-time teaching in 2015. Suleiman is the author or editor of numerous books and articles on contemporary literature and culture. She lives in Belmont, Mass.

Prehistory Expert

Christine Desdemaines-Hugon
has worked with the scientific community, lectured on prehistoric art and shared her knowledge and enthusiasm for the Dordogne region of France with visitors for nearly 30 years. Her first visits to the caves of Dordogne sparked a passion for the subject of Paleolithic art, and she went on to earn a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Anthropology. Christine has written a book on the five major cave sites in Dordogne and the evolution of Paleolithic cultures.

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.

Cruise the Dordogne River aboard a 19th-century wooden gabare.

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TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
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.
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 forested 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 Bible carvings. (B,L)

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Savor a lunch of regional specialties in a restaurant in Rocamadour.

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.

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)

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
- Enjoy a guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory with prehistory expert Christine Desdemaines-Hugon.
- House in a 13th-century castle, it contextualizes the area’s cave paintings, fossils, and early tools.
- See L’Abri du Cap-Blanc’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated prehistoric cave friezes.

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.

TO BOOK A TRIP CALL 800-422-1636. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
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

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.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Bordeaux / U.S.

Check out of the hotel and continue on the Bordeaux 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 Hôtel
- 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 VILLAGELIFE® 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 HOTEL 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 HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES and the GRAND HOTEL DE L’OPERA 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  

Cruising Alaska’s Glaciers & the Inside Passage on Le Soleal  

JULY 29–AUG 5, 2020  

Harvey Fineberg & Mary Wilson  

Great Lakes on Le Champlain  

SEP 12–19, 2020  

Great Southern Africa Adventure on Zambezi Queen  

MAR 12–28, 2020  

Leeanne Alonso & Alfonso Alonso  

European Coastal Civilizations: Lisbon to London’s Tower Bridge on Le Dumont-d’Urville  

APR 27–MAY 6, 2020  

John Stewart

RIVERS & LAKES

Southern Africa Adventure on Zambezi Queen  

JUNE 18–27, 2020  

James Simpson  

Japan Family Adventure (Tokyo, Kyoto & Hiroshima)  

JUNE 27–JULY 8, 2020  

Theodore J. Gilman
Terms & Conditions

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: Taxes; all transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s); all activities, excursions, entrance fees, accommodation, and meals per detailed itinerary; gratuities to hotel personnel, local guides, and drivers; tour manager throughout; $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS: International airfare from the U.S.; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air taxes; associated local taxes, airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Inclusions” section; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); passport fees; visas and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, and Internet access unless otherwise specified; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel (Pre/Post-Programs); optional sightseeing excursions; meals and alcoholic beverages not listed in the “Inclusions” section; and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Inclusions” section.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person (plus $200 per person Pre- and/or Post-Program). Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the Form presented in this publication.

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/travel/trips/dordogne-2020. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

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QUESTIONS: Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

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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?

- [ ] PROGRAM NAME START DATE
- [ ] FIRST PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH
- [ ] EMAIL ADDRESS
- [ ] STREET ADDRESS
- [ ] CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE
- [ ] HOME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE
- [ ] NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD
- [ ] EXPIRATION DATE 3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE
- [ ] CHECK (please enclose check)
- [ ] MASTERCARD
- [ ] VISA
- [ ] CARD NUMBER
- [ ] NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD
- [ ] METHOD OF DEPOSIT
- [ ] CHECK (please enclose check)
- [ ] MASTERCARD
- [ ] VISA
- [ ] CARD NUMBER
- [ ] EXPIRATION DATE 3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE
- [ ] NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD
- [ ] I/WE CONFIRM THAT I/WE HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS TOUR, INCLUDING REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL.

SIGNATURE
- [ ] I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE ALBI AND TOULOUSE POST-PROGRAM (PER PERSON)
- [ ] $1,395 SINGLE OCCUPANCY
- [ ] I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE SPLENDORS OF BORDEAUX PRE-PROGRAM (PER PERSON)
- [ ] $895 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
- [ ] I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A ROOM WITH:

ACCOMMODATIONS
- [ ] DOUBLE ROOM
- [ ] SINGLE ROOM
- [ ] SHARE A ROOM WITH:

ROOMMATE

EXTENSION PROGRAM
- [ ] I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE SPLENDORS OF BORDEAUX PRE-PROGRAM (PER PERSON)
- [ ] $895 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
- [ ] $1,395 SINGLE OCCUPANCY
- [ ] I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE ALBI AND TOULOUSE POST-PROGRAM (PER PERSON)
- [ ] $1,545 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
- [ ] $1,895 SINGLE OCCUPANCY