VILLAGE LIFE® in DORDOGNE
May 16-24, 2019
with Robert J. Kiely, Professor of English
Cruise the Dordogne River aboard a 19th-century wooden gabare.

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.

Study Leaders

Robert J. Kiely is Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Professor of English, Emeritus at Harvard University. He taught courses on the Victorian, modern, and postmodern novel; as well as on the English Bible and Classics in Christian Literature. For 26 years he and his wife, Jana Moravkova, were Masters of Adams House. On this program Professor Kiely will discuss Michel de Montaigne, the inventor of the personal essay and one of the great thinkers of his time; the play Cyrano de Bergerac; and Francois Fenelon, the author of The Adventures of Telemachus, the most popular and controversial book of the early 18th Century.

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 also wrote a book about the five major cave sites in Dordogne and the evolution of Paleolithic cultures.
Schedule by Day

THURSDAY, MAY 16
Depart the U.S.
Board your flight to Bordeaux.

FRIDAY, MAY 17
Bordeaux, France/
Sarlat-la-Canéda
Arrive in Bordeaux and transfer to Sarlat-la-Canéda. Check into the Plaza Madeleine Hôtel. (d)

SATURDAY, MAY 18
Sarlat-la-Canéda
Author Henry Miller called Sarlat “the Frenchman’s paradise.” Your charming “village home” is in the pre-French Revolutionary capital of Périgord Noir, a lushly forested corner of the Aquitaine region, ideally located between the Dordogne and Vézère Rivers. It is a bon vivant’s dream, renowned for truffles, wild mushrooms, strawberries, walnuts, 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. Meander through cobblestone streets illuminated by gas lamps and lined with Renaissance-style stone houses crowned with pepperpot chimneys. 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 every Wednesday and Saturday one of France’s most storied markets is held, a tradition dating from the Middle Ages. (b,r)

Cultural Enrichment: During the course of the program, immerse yourself in the joie de vivre of Sarlat. Experience the market at leisure among the backdrop of corbelled towers and rich ochre walls.

SUNDAY, MAY 19
Rocamadour/
Souillac
Built on the face of a sheer 400-foot cliff, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated village of Rocamadour 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 to seek 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)

Cultural Enrichment: Savor a lunch of regional specialties in a restaurant in Rocamadour.

MONDAY, MAY 20
Jardins d’Eyrignac/
Les Eyzies/
L’Abri du Cap-Blanc
Designated a national monument, the Eyrignac Manor has been the continuous 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 immaculately manicured since that time to preserve the exquisite topiary patterns.

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. (s,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 21
Lascaux/
Saint Amand-de-Coly
In 1920, a quartet of schoolboys stumbled onto the Lascaux cave, repository of the most stunning works of prehistoric art and today a UNESCO World Heritage site.
What is Included:

- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by Harvard Study Leader Robert J. Kiely 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

Cultural Enrichments:

- Attend the private, specially arranged presentation by a local expert on preserving Sarlat’s medieval architecture. Sample regional cheese and wine in a specialty épicerie in Sarlat. Explore the perfect reproduction of Lascaux 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 in Sarlat.

Cultural Enrichments: Start your day at the medieval Sarlat market. Enjoy a private, 19th-century French folk music and dance performance after a three-course dinner.

THURSDAY, MAY 23
Beynac/Domme
The fortified Château de Beynac, perched 500 feet above the Dordogne River, commands a medieval village of golden stone houses tucked into the steep hillside. This masterpiece of medieval military engineering was once a stronghold of Richard the Lionheart—traverse its elaborate series of stone walls, parapet walks, watchtowers, and passageways to an eclectic interior decorated with a magnificent 17th-century staircase and delicate 15th-century frescoes.

Domme is an authentic medieval bastide, or 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.

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 24
Bordeaux/U.S.
Check out of the hotel and continue on the Bordeaux Post-Program Option, or transfer to the Bordeaux airport for your return flight to the U.S.
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 man 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 the public to experience these thought-provoking cave paintings interactively, providing a realistic, stimulating representation of the exuberant colors that have faded in the original.

The Rouffignac cave offers up-close views of deft prehistoric drawings that cover the six-mile gallery of cavernous walls and ceilings, including the famous frieze of two bison ready to engage each other in battle.

Near the village of Les Eyzies, visit the original Cro-Magnon rock shelter and UNESCO World Heritage site of L’Ari du Cap-Blanc, showcasing the rare, life-size frieze of horses and bison sculpted in limestone. A 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.
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 featuring fresh baked breads, pastries, and charcuterie, 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 Wi-Fi 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: $4,695; Single Occupancy: $5,395
Taxes and gratuities to hotel personnel are included.

Albi • Toulouse
Cordes-sur-Ciel • Carcassonne
PRE-PROGRAM OPTION
$1,395 per person, double occupancy
$1,795 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 Pre-Program itinerary, which brims with enchanting excursions. Sample Gaillac wines in the lovely Château Bouscaillous; explore cherished cathedrals and old-world villages, equal parts storied and spectacular; admire the largest collection of 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.

Splendors of Bordeaux
Saint-Émilion • Médoc
POST-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.

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Trip Sampling
Inclusions section: not specifically mentioned in the section; and all other services not listed in the “Inclusions” section: sightseeing excursions; (Pre/Post-Program); optional gratuities to hotel personnel sickness, trip cancellation, Internet access; accident/visas; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel (Pre/Post-Program); 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 registration form found in the back of this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Deposits may be made by check, payable to Harvard Alumni Association, or with a major credit card. Final payment, payable by check, is due 95 days before departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be made in writing to Harvard Alumni Travels. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre-Post-Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $1,000 ($200 Pre-Post-Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs, and guest lecturers 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. Deviations 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/travel/trips/dordogne-2019. 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: haastravels@harvard.edu.

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Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person, plus $200 per person Albi and Toulouse Pre-Program, plus $200 per person Splendors of Bordeaux 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

METHOD OF DEPOSIT

CHECK (please enclose check)  MASTERCARD  VISA

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE  3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON 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

SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS

CATEGORY PREFERENCE

□ DOUBLE ROOM  □ SINGLE ROOM  □ SHARE A ROOM WITH:

ROOMMATE

EXTENSION PROGRAM

□ I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE ALBI AND TOULOUSE PRE-PROGRAM (PER PERSON) $1,395 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY $1,795 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

□ I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE SPLENDORS OF BORDEAUX POST-PROGRAM (PER PERSON) $895 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY $1,395 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

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