National Trust for Historic Preservation
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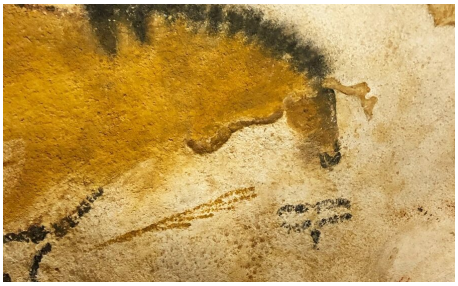
Village Life France

May 4, 2028 - May 12, 2028



Program Overview

Journey into the heart of France's Dordogne region, where centuries of history, remarkable landscapes and authentic traditions create an unforgettable travel experience. Known as the Périgord Noir, this captivating corner of southwestern France invites you to wander through charming medieval villages, explore dramatic castles overlooking the Dordogne River and uncover the stories of humanity's earliest inhabitants. Stroll the cobblestone lanes of Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of France's most beautifully preserved towns, where golden stone buildings, lively markets and historic landmarks reveal the region's rich heritage. Discover prehistoric wonders at Lascaux IV and La Madeleine, explore magnificent gardens and experience the timeless beauty of hilltop villages like Domme and Beynac. Beyond its breathtaking scenery, the Dordogne is a feast for the senses. Savor the flavors of the region through traditional cuisine, local wines and culinary experiences that celebrate the area's renowned truffles, foie gras, cheeses and farm-fresh ingredients. This is a journey where every village, meal and moment reveals the authentic spirit of southwestern France.



Lascaux cave, France



Dordogne, France



Beynac et Cazenac, Dordogne

Program Highlights

- 7 nights in Sarlat-la-Canéda, France, at the Plaza Madeleine Hôtel.
- Created in our tradition of innovative programming and educational travel.
- Included excursions throughout your program, including market visits, a cooking class and vineyard visit throughout the Dordogne Valley, offering authentic opportunities to savor the region's renowned culinary traditions and local flavors.
- Enjoy 3 visits through 2 UNESCO World Heritage sites — Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France; village of Rocamadour, and Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley, including Rouffignac Cav and Lascaux IV.
- Included meals | 1 reception, 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners.

Day-by-Day Program Itinerary

- The Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands.

Mild excursions involve:

- Walking for 1.5 hours or more over uneven terrain
- Walking on challenging surfaces: cobblestones, uneven paths and/or pavements
- Climbing stairs and hills and crossing rail tracks
- Ascending and descending narrow (and sometimes steep) gangplanks
- Stepping on and off motorcoaches with 3-6 steep steps

Moderate excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking for 3 hours for distances of a mile or more
- Walking on uneven terrain: narrow cobblestone streets, stone floors, and/or slippery surfaces. There may be several flights of stairs, some without railings

Active excursions could involve the above, plus:

- Walking on uneven terrain: sandy or rocky beaches and/or steep inclines
- Standing for 2 hours or more at a time, possibly without areas to sit
- Climbing 100 stairs or more
- Additional challenges, such as long jeep rides, bumpy boat rides or hikes

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives to active excursions may be available.



Day 1 | Depart Home City

Depart for Bordeaux, France.

Day 2 | Bordeaux, France | Sarlat-La-Caneda

Arrive at Bordeaux–Mérignac Airport. Meet a representative from Gohagan & Company and transfer to Sarlat-la-Canéda. (Note: This is a three-hour transfer with a comfort stop. We will provide water and snacks.)

Upon arrival in Sarlat-la-Canéda, check in to the Plaza Madeleine Hôtel & Spa, which offers easy access to the town's historic streets, markets, shops and restaurants. Settle into your room, familiarize yourself with the hotel or head out for lunch.

Welcome Reception: Gather later for a welcome drink and reception in the hotel's lounge.

Dinner is at the hotel tonight. Sarlat-la-Canéda is a culinary heartland of the Périgord region, celebrated for its rich, rustic cuisine and exceptional local ingredients. Regional specialties include duck confit, foie gras, walnut-based dishes and, when in season, prized black truffles.

Day 3 | Sarlat-La-Caneda

After a satisfying breakfast buffet, join a local expert for an enriching lecture on the architecture of Sarlat. Then, begin discovering this region!

History and Flavors of Sarlat-la-Canéda. Step into the medieval charm of Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of the Dordogne region's most enchanting historic towns, where golden-stone buildings, winding lanes and lively squares reveal centuries of French heritage. A highlight of your visit is the opportunity to explore the local market with a knowledgeable local guide who will introduce you to the region's culinary traditions, seasonal produce and artisanal specialties. Learn about the ingredients and flavors that define the Dordogne, from walnuts and truffles to duck delicacies, cheeses and other regional favorites, while experiencing the market's vibrant atmosphere and discovering how local food traditions remain an essential part of daily life.
Continue your exploration with a view of the elegant Italianate townhouse of Étienne de La Boétie, the 16th-century cathedral of Saint-Sacerdos and the beautiful Romanesque Chapel of the White Penitents. In Place de la Liberté, admire the surrounding medieval architecture, with its distinctive corbelled towers, steep rooftops and warm ocher façades. Together, the town's remarkable landmarks and its bustling market offer an authentic introduction to the history, culture and gastronomic traditions of the Dordogne. (Moderate)

Local Tastings at Fleuron de Terroir. Next, enjoy specialties at Fleuron du Terroir, a shop showcasing the culinary treasures of southwestern France. Renowned for its prized black truffles, the Dordogne is celebrated for its rich gastronomic heritage and exceptional regional products. Discover the unique aroma and flavor of Périgord truffles, considered among France's finest delicacies, alongside an enticing selection of local cheeses, wines and other artisanal specialties. Learn about the region's food traditions and the ingredients that have shaped its cuisine while sampling products that reflect the character of the surrounding countryside. This flavorful experience offers a delicious introduction to the culinary traditions of the Dordogne and a chance to appreciate the exceptional tastes of

this celebrated region.

Free Time: Appreciate an afternoon at leisure at the Sarlat-la-Canéda market. Stalls overflow with artisanal cheeses, fresh produce and traditional delicacies, while nearby vineyards provide wines to complement the region's hearty fare. Be sure to sample a walnut cake or another traditional pastry for a delicious taste of southwestern France.

Dinner is at leisure this evening. The region around Sarlat-la-Canéda offers a delicious variety of traditional specialties beyond its famous duck and truffles. Sample pommes de terre sarladaises, potatoes sautéed in duck fat with garlic and parsley, or savor earthy wild porcini mushrooms known as cèpes. Local cheeses, including creamy Cabécou goat's cheese, showcase the region's artisanal traditions, while sweet Périgord strawberries appear in seasonal desserts. For a delightful finish, try a rich walnut cake or delicate apple-filled pastry, both reflecting the region's love of fresh, local ingredients and time-honored recipes.

Day 4 | Rocamadour

Following breakfast, embark your coach for a ride to Rocamadour. Dramatically perched along a sheer limestone cliff above the Alzou Valley, Rocamadour is one of France's most extraordinary medieval villages and a celebrated pilgrimage destination. For centuries, pilgrims have traveled here to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Rocamadour, home to the revered Black Madonna, and explore its remarkable collection of chapels and churches. Winding lanes, ancient stone buildings and the hilltop château add to the village's timeless charm, while sweeping views of the surrounding countryside make this a truly memorable destination.

Rocamadour Tour, a Medieval Pilgrimage Site. Visit the extraordinary village of Rocamadour, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed pilgrimage destination dramatically perched against a sheer limestone cliff in southwestern France. Built in tiers along the rock face, this remarkable village has drawn pilgrims for centuries with its sacred shrines, spiritual traditions and breathtaking setting. Ascend the 216 historic pilgrim steps to the Chapel of Notre-Dame, home to the revered Black Madonna, a centuries-old wooden statue of the Virgin and Child. Discover the legends surrounding the chapel's mysterious bell, said to ring miraculously, and see the legendary sword of Roland, the heroic figure of medieval French tradition. The chapel forms part of an impressive complex of seven sanctuaries and a hilltop château, creating an exceptional collection of medieval architecture. Throughout your visit, enjoy the village's atmospheric stone pathways, fascinating religious heritage and spectacular views across the Alzou Valley. ((Moderate)

Enjoy a leisurely two-course lunch together, with an opportunity to discover more culinary traditions of the region and time-honored approach to French cuisine.

Free Time: Enjoy free time to explore Rocamadour. wander the village's narrow medieval lanes, browse small shops selling regional specialties and souvenirs, or stop at a café to enjoy French pastries and local cuisine.

On the return home, stop for a photo shop at L'Hospitalet, a small historic hamlet situated on the plateau above Rocamadour in southwestern France. Its name means "little hospital," reflecting its historical association with welcoming and caring for pilgrims traveling to the nearby religious sanctuary. Today, it is known for its viewpoints overlooking Rocamadour, which clings dramatically to the limestone cliffs below.

You are free to choose your own dining arrangements this evening.

Day 5 | Sarlat-La-Caneda

Fuel up over breakfast; then spend a morning at leisure.

Free Time: Enjoy a morning at leisure. Spend time looking for souvenirs in local boutiques and artisan shops. Look for regional delicacies such as preserves, pottery, linens and French-made gifts. Browsing small shops is a pleasant way to explore beyond the main squares. You may also wish to visit the Manoir de Gisson, a historic mansion with period interiors. Of course, simply watching the daytime bustle from a café is a great way to pass the time. Then, find a local spot for lunch on your own.

Wine Tasting. Enjoy a delightful wine-tasting experience near Sarlat, discovering the flavors and traditions of southwestern France. Sample regional wines, including selections from nearby Bergerac and other vineyards of the Dordogne, while learning about the grapes, winemaking techniques and distinctive characteristics that shape each vintage. Paired with local specialties, this tasting offers a wonderful opportunity to savor the region's rich culinary heritage and appreciate the art of French winemaking. (Moderate)

Indulge in a group dinner this evening.

Day 6 | Lascaux

A breakfast buffet is served this morning, followed by time at leisure to follow your own path in town.

Cooking Class with Lunch. Discover the culinary traditions of the Dordogne during a hands-on cooking class inspired by the flavors of the Périgord region. Learn to prepare traditional French dishes using fresh, locally sourced ingredients, which may include walnuts, seasonal produce, regional cheeses and the area's celebrated duck specialties. Along the way, gain insight into the recipes and techniques passed down through generations, then savor the delicious results of your efforts. It's a wonderful way to experience the region's rich food culture and bring a taste of southwestern France home with you. (Mild)

Saint Amand de Coly and Lascaux IV. Journey into the rolling, wooded countryside of the Périgord Noir to the charming village of Saint-Amand-de-Coly. Nestled in a secluded valley, this picturesque village is known for its traditional stone houses crowned with distinctive lauze roofs and its magnificent abbey church, whose imposing architecture reflects the region's rich medieval heritage.
Next, explore the remarkable world of prehistoric art at Lascaux, a UNESCO World Heritage site in southwestern France. Famous for its extraordinary Paleolithic cave paintings, Lascaux offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives, beliefs and artistic achievements of early humans. The vivid depictions of horses, bulls, deer and other animals, created thousands of years ago, reveal an astonishing level of detail and artistic expression. Visit the carefully recreated cave interiors to experience these masterpieces while helping preserve the fragile originals for future generations. Please note that the sightseeing schedule may be adjusted on the day of your visit. The group plans to arrive at Lascaux as soon as the site opens, after which the final timing and allocation for the remaining sightseeing will be determined. (Moderate)

Village Forum: Immerse yourself in the local culture and traditions in a conversation with local residents.

The remainder of the evening is free to explore and dine as you wish.

Day 7 | Rouffignac Cave | Tursac, Madeleine Village

After breakfast, enjoy time at the market.

Free Time: Set among the town's beautiful medieval streets and golden-stone buildings, the local market brims with local specialties. Meet local producers, discover regional ingredients and sample traditional treats while soaking up the lively atmosphere. More than a place to shop, the market offers an authentic taste of daily life and the rich culinary heritage of southwestern France.

Find a restaurant for lunch on your own today.

Tursac, Madeleine Village & Rouffignac Cave. Travel to Tursac to explore the remarkable Troglodyte Village of La Madeleine, built into the limestone cliffs overlooking the Vézère River. This extraordinary site reveals layers of human history, from prehistoric families who made their homes in natural cave dwellings thousands of years ago to later residents who adapted these shelters for everyday life between the 11th and 19th centuries. Discover how the caves were modified over time and see the remains of a medieval castle built to protect the village's inhabitants. Set amid the dramatic scenery of the Vézère Valley, La Madeleine offers a fascinating glimpse into how generations of people made use of this unique landscape.

Next, witness Rouffignac Cave, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its remarkable prehistoric art. Known as the "Cave of a Hundred Mammoths," this extraordinary underground world stretches for more than six miles and features fascinating depictions of mammoths and other animals that roamed the region thousands of years ago. Marvel at these ancient works of art and the cave's unusual "giants' kettles"—smooth, rounded rock formations sculpted by swirling water currents. This memorable visit offers a glimpse into the artistic achievements of early humans and the natural forces that shaped this remarkable subterranean landscape. (Moderate)

Return to the hotel; then, share dinner and conversation with your group this evening.

Day 8 | Beynac Castle | Domme

After a satisfying breakfast, begin your excursion to Beynac Castle and Domme.

Beynac-et-Cazenac Tour, Gabare Tour and Domme. Explore the rich history and enchanting scenery of France's Dordogne Valley, beginning at the imposing Château de Beynac. Perched high atop a limestone cliff overlooking the river, this medieval fortress played a key role in the conflicts between Richard the Lionheart and the powerful Beynac family. Inside, admire historic features including a monumental 17th-century staircase, a carved wooden chimney and 15th-century religious frescoes.

Next, board a traditional gabarre, a 19th-century trading boat once used to transport goods along the Dordogne River, for a scenic cruise through the picturesque valley. As you glide along the river, admire the lush countryside,

limestone cliffs and medieval villages that line its banks, with views of Château de Castelnaud rising above the landscape. This imposing medieval fortress played an important role during the Hundred Years' War and today houses a fascinating museum of medieval warfare, featuring historic weapons, armor and reconstructions of siege engines.

Continue to Domme, a picturesque medieval bastide town perched atop a limestone promontory. Enter through its impressive 13th-century Tower Gate and wander among historic stone houses and charming lanes. From the ramparts, take in breathtaking panoramic views of the Dordogne Valley, where terracotta rooftops, dramatic cliffs and rolling green countryside create an unforgettable landscape. (Moderate)

This evening, enjoy a final dinner in the company of your fellow travelers. Raise a toast to your adventure!

Day 9 | Bordeaux | Return to Home City

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Accommodations

Village Life - Dordogne

Plaza Madeleine Hotel & Spa

The Plaza Madeleine Hotel & Spa is located just beyond the ancient walls of Sarlat-la-Caneda's medieval quarter, a short walk from the village center. A grand 19th-century townhouse, this historical hotel de charme marries traditional features with French esprit contemporain. Each of the 39 stylish, air-conditioned guest rooms has been renovated or upgraded.



Dates & Rates

Travel Dates: May 4, 2028 - May 12, 2028

All rates are in U.S. dollars per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, and include taxes. The deposit is per person. The Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure. Single accommodations are subject to availability.

The Optional Extension(s) is available at an additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

For Terms & Conditions, visit: natrus.gohagantravel.com/terms/

The Special Savings consist of $500 Early Booking and $250 Pay-in-Full savings. The Special Savings rate is valid if you book by August 4, 2027 and pay in full at the time of booking.

	Standard Rate	Discount Rate		Standard Rate	Discount Rate
Double Occupancy Rates	**$8365.00**	**$7615.00**	**Single Occupancy Rates**	**$8365.00**	**$7615.00**