



VILLAGE LIFE® Dordogne

Uniquely designed 9-day/7-night itinerary featuring our exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® forum and specially arranged excursions through the heart of medieval Sarlat

September 7 to 15, 2023



Immerse yourself in the authentic provincial character of the Dordogne region in Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of France's most beautiful and well-preserved medieval towns. Discover charming villages, medieval castles and prehistoric treasures through specially arranged excursions, including Sarlat's famous open-air market; the pilgrimage site of Rocamadour; the English-style gardens of Eyrignac; the fascinating prehistoric cave paintings of Cap-Blanc; the perfectly reproduced cave art at Lascaux and Rouffignac; and a specially arranged *gabare* cruise on the Dordogne River. Enhance your experience with the Bordeaux and Saint-Émilion Pre-Program and/or the Albi and Toulouse Post-Program Options.



9-Day/7-Night Itinerary

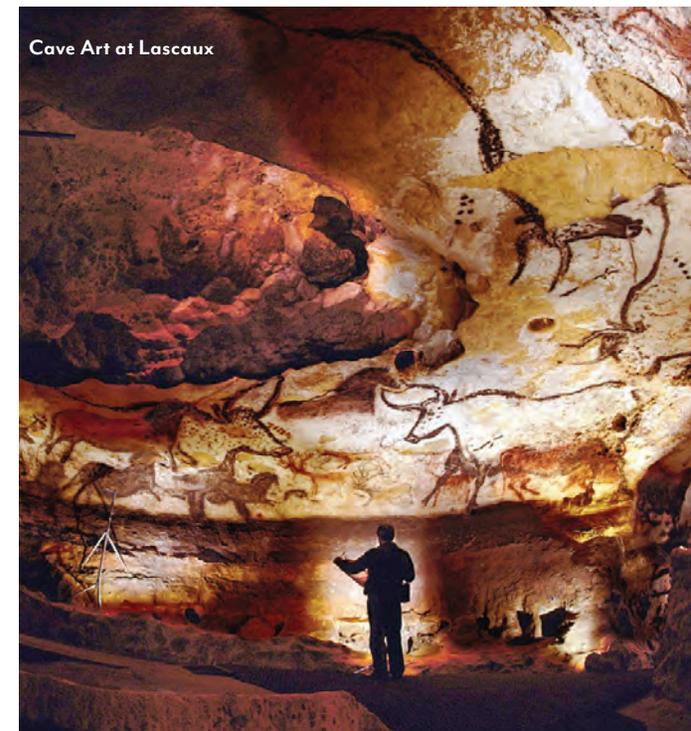
- 1 Depart the U.S. or Canada**
- 2 Bordeaux, France/Sarlat-la-Canéda**— Arrive in Bordeaux and transfer to Sarlat-la-Canéda. Check into the PLAZA MADELEINE HÔTEL.
- 3 Sarlat-la-Canéda**—Your charming “village home” is in the pre-French Revolution capital of Périgord Noir. It is a bon vivant’s dream—with close proximity to Bordeaux. Stroll through cobblestone streets illuminated by gas lamps and lined with Renaissance-style stone houses. The cultural heart of Sarlat is the Place de la Liberté.
- 4 Rocamadour/Souillac**—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 on their knees—seeking miracles from the sacred 12th-century statue of the Black Virgin and Child at the crypt of Saint Amadour. 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.
- 5 Eyrygnac Gardens/Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil/L’Abri du Cap-Blanc**—The Eyrygnac 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 gardens in France. Enjoy a guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies and see L’Abri du Cap-Blanc’s UNESCO-designated prehistoric cave *friezes*. In Sarlat this evening, meet *dordognais* in the VILLAGE LIFE® forum.

- 6 Lascaux/Saint-Amand-de-Coly**—In 1940, a quartet of schoolboys stumbled onto the Lascaux cave, a repository of the most stunning works of prehistoric art and today a UNESCO World Heritage site. See a perfect reproduction in the International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux. Continue to the village of Saint-Amand-de-Coly, dominated by the 13th-century abbey church, and then sample regional cheese and wine in a specialty *épicerie* in Sarlat.
- 7 Rouffignac/La Madeleine**—Start your day at Sarlat’s market and attend a presentation in the hotel by a local expert on preserving the village’s medieval architecture. Visit Rouffignac, “Cave of a Hundred Mammoths,” and enjoy a private, 19th-century French folk music and dance performance after a three-course dinner in La Madeleine.
- 8 Beynac/Domme**— Traverse an elaborate series of stone walls, parapet walks, watchtowers and passageways at the fortified Château de Beynac. Cruise the Dordogne River aboard a private 19th-century *gabare*, followed by

a lunch in a local restaurant. Continue to visit Domme, an authentic medieval fortified village. Enter through its original ramparts and see graffiti etched by the Knights Templar on the inner village walls.

- 9 Sarlat-la-Canéda/Bordeaux/Return to the U.S. or Canada**



Highlights

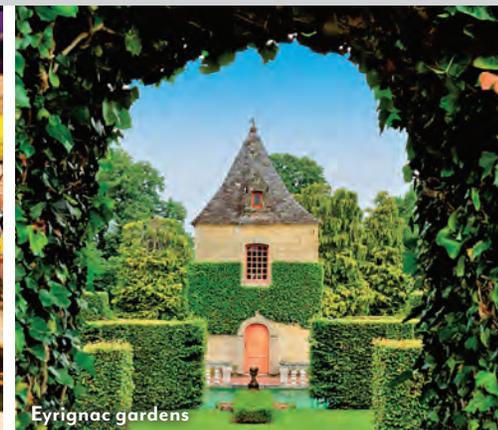
- ◆ Viewing of the acclaimed simulations of Lascaux's prehistoric art cave at the International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux.
- ◆ Meet locals and learn about daily life in Sarlat-la-Canéda during the VILLAGE LIFE® forum.
- ◆ Embark on a private cruise along the Dordogne River, with lunch in the charming village of Beynac.
- ◆ Enjoy a local wine and cheese tasting at a Sarlat *épicerie* gourmet and specially arranged meals highlighting the distinctive flavors of the region.



Domme



Sarlat market



Eyrignac gardens



PLAZA MADELEINE HOTEL



Saint-Émilion



Carcassonne

ACCOMMODATIONS

PLAZA MADELEINE HOTEL

- ◆ Deluxe, family-owned hotel with only 39 stylishly renovated guest rooms, situated just beyond the ancient walls of Sarlat-la-Canéda.
- ◆ Formerly a 19th-century townhouse, this historical *hôtel de charme* marries traditional features with French *esprit contemporain*.
- ◆ Enjoy continental breakfast daily in the hotel dining room, featuring freshly baked breads, pastries and charcuterie.

PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Bordeaux and Saint-Émilion

Start your trip with three nights in the Bordeaux region, visiting a château to taste *grand cru classé* wines. Explore the village of Saint-Émilion, known for the merlot grape and its medieval Église Monolithe. Accommodations are in a deluxe hotel in the heart of Bordeaux.

POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Albi and Toulouse

Conclude your tour with a four-night extension featuring Albi, Carcassonne, Toulouse and three UNESCO World Heritage sites. Sample Gaillac wines; view the works of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec; and admire the French countryside. Spend two nights each in the HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES and the GRAND HÔTEL DE L'OPÉRA in Toulouse.



Authentic, flat-bottomed wooden gabare

2023 DEPARTURE DATES:

Spring: April 20 | April 27 | May 4 | May 11

Fall: September 7 | September 28 | October 5

LAND RATES

Includes Accommodations

Early Booking Savings
(if booked more than six months
prior to departure)

\$3,595

Rate after
Early Booking Savings

\$4,195

Singles are available upon request for an additional \$1000 from Early Booking Savings price.

The Pre-Program and Post-Program Options are available at an additional cost. Details will be provided during the reservation process.