VILLAGE LIFE®

Dordogne

September 17 to 25, 2020
Dear Spartans:

Join a small group of travelers for this unique opportunity to experience provincial Dordogne, still referred to by locals as Périgord. One of France’s most compelling regions, Dordogne offers timeless rituals, epicurean traditions and archaeological treasures that are preserved within a landscape of hills, rivers, limestone gorges and old-growth forests. Here, storybook castles feel like recent history alongside the region’s extraordinary 25,000- to 17,000-year-old cave paintings—the largest concentration of prehistoric art in the world.

Our carefully designed itinerary and expert guided excursions explore five UNESCO World Heritage sites: the cliffside village of Rocamadour; the archaeological sites of L’Abrì du Cap-Blanc, Rouffignac cave and Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil; and the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine. Visit the International Center for Cave Art at Lascaux to appreciate one of humankind’s earliest artistic creations, known as the “Sistine Chapel of Prehistory.” Exclusively arranged presentations and the Village Life® Forum provide personal perspectives on la vie in the villages of Dordogne.

Fall into the rhythms of Dordogne in Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of Europe’s most intact medieval villages and your “home” for seven nights in the Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, a restored 19th-century townhouse. In addition to the included meals in the hotel, dine on regional specialties during traditional three-course dinners in French bistro.

Village Life® Dordogne offers a quintessential sojourn through the timeless southwest of France at an excellent value—and you unpack only once! This enchanting educational travel program is exceedingly popular, so book now while space and Early Booking Savings are still available.

Go Green!

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Office
**Itinerary**

*Bordeaux® Pre-Program Option*

1. Depart the U.S.
2. **Bordeaux, France/Sarlat-la-Canéda**
   - Transfer to Sarlat to check into the Plaza Madeleine Hôtel.
3. **Sarlat-la-Canéda**
   - Walking tour of medieval Sarlat.
4. **Rocamadour®/Souillac**
   - Tour of 13th-century Rocamadour.
   - Visit to quaint Souillac.
5. **Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil®/L’Abri du Cap-Blanc®**
   - Visit to the Jardins d’Eyrignac.
   - Sarlat Village Life® Forum.
6. **Lascaux/Saint-Amand-de-Coly**
   - Visit to Saint-Amand-de-Coly.
   - Specially arranged viewing of prehistoric cave art of Lascaux.
   - Lecture on the preservation of medieval architecture in Sarlat.
   - Sample local wine and cheese pairings.
7. **Rouffignac®/La Madeleine®**
   - Morning at leisure to enjoy individual pursuits in Sarlat such as their quaint twice-weekly market.
   - Specially arranged tour of prehistoric Rouffignac cave and excursion to the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine.
   - Private evening folk music performance.
8. **Beynac/Domme**
   - Tour of 12th-century Château de Beynac.
   - Walking tour of historic Domme.
   - Cruise in a typical gabare on the bucolic Dordogne River.
9. **Sarlat-la-Canéda/Bordeaux/Return to the U.S.**

*Albi® • Toulouse Post-Program Option*

*Available at additional cost.

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**Dordogne**

The region of Dordogne today appears much as it did to Richard the Lionheart in the 12th century. During this comprehensive, small-group travel program, experience firsthand its character, age-old traditions and scenery seemingly lifted from the pages of a fairy tale. Explore the medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda within the oak-forested Périgord Noir and the world’s largest collection of magnificent, prehistoric art. Learn more about the cultural heritage of Dordogne—sample Aquitaine wine and cheese in an épicerie gourmet, engage with dordognais (local residents) and expert local guides, and visit historic monuments and Paleolithic caves that are premier artistic masterpieces of their era.

This one-of-a-kind, custom-designed travel program will immerse you in the pastoral départements of southwest France at just the right pace.

Enjoy views of 19th-century châteaux and villages aboard a flat-bottomed wooden gabare.
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’s vieille ville (old city) 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 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-humanist Étienne la Boétie. The cultural 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.

Cultural Enrichments: During the course of the program, immerse yourself in the joie de vivre of Sarlat.
Meet dordognais in the Village Life® Forum and hear candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in historic Périgord Noir. Attend a private, specially arranged presentation by a local expert on preserving Sarlat’s architectural monuments.
Enjoy a private, 19th-century French folk music and dance performance. Sample regional cheese and wine in a specialty épicerie gourmet.
Savor two specially arranged dinners, each in an authentic French bistro.

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 to seek miracles at the crypt of St. 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, the Frankish military leader under Charlemagne.

Nearby, visit the quaint town of Souillac and its 12th-century Abbaye Sainte-Marie, noted for its magnificent Byzantine roof domes and treasury of Romanesque statuary and Biblical carvings.

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

Jardins d’Eyrignac
Designated a national monument, the Eyrignac Manor, constructed in local golden stone with a slate roof, has been the continuous family residence of 22 generations spanning over 500 years. On this 17th-century estate 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 by hand to preserve the theatrical topiary patterns.

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

Cultural Enrichments: The exceptional National Museum of Prehistory, housed in a 13th-century castle built into a cliff, provides an ideal primer for exploration of the area’s prehistoric sites.
See L’Abri du Cap-Blanc’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated prehistoric cave friezes that are distinctive for their life-size images of animals emblazoned across entire walls.

Lascaux
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.

Cultural Enrichment: Explore a meticulous simulation in the state-of-the-art International
Centre for Cave Art at Lascaux, which provides a fascinating portal into the history of the site through 600 wall painting facsimiles.

**Villages of the Périgord Noir**

*Petit Saint-Amand-de-Coly*, one of the “most beautiful villages” in France, is dominated by the 13th-century abbey church, an unusual fusion of Romanesque 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. **Cultural Enrichments:** Visit Rouffignac, called the “Cave of a Hundred Mammoths,” and marvel at the “giant kettles”—smooth, dome-like rock formations forged by swirling currents.

Carved beneath a cliff overlooking the serene Vézère River, the prehistoric 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. Important prehistoric carvings discovered at the site include an antler carving of a bison licking an insect bite.

**Château de Beynac**

The fortified Château de Beynac, commanding a limestone bluff 500 feet above the Dordogne River, overlooks a picturesque village of golden stone houses tucked into the steep hillside. The fortress’s strategic position made it a defensive stronghold during the Hundred Years’ War. This masterpiece of feudal military engineering was guarded by Europe’s most illustrious figures, including the chivalrous Richard the Lionheart (1157 to 1199) and Fourth Crusader Simon de Montfort (1175 to 1218). 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**

Among the “most beautiful villages” of France, 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 of the Dordogne River.

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

**Savor the delights of traditional Périgord cuisine, intimately linked to regional agriculture, in Sarlat.**
Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, Sarlat-la-Canéda

Enjoy the traditional pace of Village Life® during your stay in the family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, located adjacent to Sarlat-la-Canéda’s medieval quartier, a short walk from its authentic village center. A grand 19th-century townhouse, this historic hôtel de charme marries traditional features with French esprit contemporain.

Each of the 39 comfortable, air-conditioned guest rooms have been renovated and upgraded and feature two twin beds or one queen bed with private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television, phone, safe, minibar and hair dryer.

The hotel dining room—where continental breakfast is served daily featuring freshly baked breads, pastries and charcuterie—is reserved for the exclusive use of hotel guests. There is a brasserie pub with a lounge and private terrace, a petit lounge with computer facilities, a heated outdoor swimming pool, solarium and spa with Jacuzzi and sauna. Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available throughout the hotel. The dedicated hotel staff is pleased to provide attentive service.

Marvel at the exquisite artistry and ingenuity of the prehistoric paintings in Lascaux.

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 and 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 Centre 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. 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.
Included Features

In Sarlat-la-Canéda

- Seven nights in the charming, family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel.
- Private Welcome Reception in the hotel.
- Breakfast each morning, one lunch and two dinners in the hotel.
- Two dinners, each in a specially selected traditional French bistro featuring table d’hôte menus.
- Regional wine served with each included dinner.

Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments

- Architectural walking tour of the cité médiévale of Sarlat-la-Canéda.
- Admire the magnificent Romanesque sculptures in Souillac’s Abbaye Marie.
- Visit to the exquisite, 19th-century Jardins d’Eyrignac.
- Specially arranged Village Life® Forum with residents to discuss daily life in provincial France’s Dordogne département.
- A lecture on architectural preservation in Sarlat-la-Canéda by a local historian.
- Local wine and cheese tasting at a Sarlat épicerie gourmet.
- Visit to the beautiful village and fortified church of Saint-Amand-de-Coly.
- Visit to the exquisite, 19th-century Jardins d'Eyrignac.
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UNESCO World Heritage Site Highlights

- Excursion to 13th-century Rocamadour, including the crypt of St. Amadour, with lunch.
- Tour of the acclaimed National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil.
- Excursion to see the cave friezes of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc.
- Viewing of the acclaimed simulations of Lascaux’s prehistoric cave art in the International Centre for Cave Art at Lascaux.
- Visit to the prehistoric troglodyte village of La Madeleine, site of the Magdelanian period cave paintings.
- Visit to the impressive Rouffignac cave, featuring one of the largest cave paintings ever discovered.

Always Included

- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- Gratuities to hotel personnel and to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary bottled water on motorcoaches during excursions.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director at your service.
- Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
The magnificent ancient-walled city of Carcassonne was settled more than 2000 years ago.

Splendors of Bordeaux
Saint-Émilion • Médoc
Pre-Program Option
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. Just north of Bordeaux in the Médoc region, visit a château to enjoy a tasting of distinguished Grand Cru Classé wines. Tucked away in the heart of rolling countryside amid endless vineyards, charming Saint-Émilion is a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for growing the merlot grape and its 12th-century Église Monolithe, one of the largest underground churches in Europe. Spend two nights in the deluxe Hôtel Burdigala, located in the heart of Bordeaux.

Albi • Toulouse
Cordes-sur-Ciel • Carcassonne
Post-Program Option
The cobblestone towns and villages of southwest France showcase the region’s storybook charm. Experience the classic refinements and medieval allure of Cordes-Sur-Ciel, Albi, Carcassonne and Toulouse on this four-night itinerary featuring three UNESCO World Heritage sites. Sample Gaillac wines in a lovely château; explore cherished cathedrals and old-world villages, equal parts storied and spectacular; admire the largest collection of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s works; and enjoy the scenery of the bucolic French countryside. Accommodations are for two nights each in the Hôtel Mercure Albi Bastides and the Grand Hôtel de l’Opéra in Toulouse.

The Pre-Program and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

The magnificent ancient-walled city of Carcassonne was settled more than 2000 years ago.
Admire the perfectly preserved Château de Beynac, the most authentic and evocative of Périgord’s feudal castles.

## LAND TARIFF excluding taxes

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Singles are available upon request for an additional $700.*

*Taxes are an additional $295 per person and are subject to change.

### VILLAGE LIFE DORDOGNE RESERVATION FORM

**Send to:** Gohagan & Company  
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446  
Phone: (800) 922-3088 / Fax: (312) 609-1141  
Or, for more information, please call the MSU Alumni Office at (888) 697-2863.

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Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Albi ◆ Toulouse Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $ ______ as deposit. Make checks payable to 2020 Village Life Dordogne.
- 1/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ ______ to:  
  - Visa  
  - MasterCard

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Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by June 12, 2020.

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Office.

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one queen bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

**Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Program Option**

- Double at $895 per person.
- Single at $1395 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

**Albi ◆ Toulouse Post-Program Option**

- Double at $1545 per person.
- Single at $1895 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
- I/We want you to book my/our air, at an additional cost to be advised,‡ from:

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- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

‡ Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.
- 1/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring associations/ organizations, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, officials, agents, subcontractors, and any and all employees, officers, contractors, operators, providers, or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by February 28, 2020. In the event the “discounted” reservation must be cancelled into a “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-rate tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the program including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective unless received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($10 Per/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 119 through 95 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 94 through 45 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariff; from 44 through 22 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, no-show, or early return in the program will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, Trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the program participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States) all increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: It is strongly recommended that you purchase travel insurance. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, travel insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/her or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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Admire France’s finest “English gardens” and their meticulously sculpted topiary art.