Smith College

VILLAGE LIFE®

Dordogne

April 30 to May 8, 2020

EARLY BOOKING
SAVE $600 PER COUPLE

RESERVE BY OCTOBER 29, 2019
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends:

Bonjour! One of France’s most compelling regions, Dordogne’s timeless rituals, epicurean traditions and archaeological treasures 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 25,000-17,000-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’Abri 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 bistros.

Village Life® in Dordogne offers a 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.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
Smith College

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.

Smith Faculty Host:
Martine Gantrel,
Professor of French Studies

Born and educated in France, Martine Gantrel graduated from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in 1979. An Agrégée de Lettres Classiques, she earned her doctoral degree in French Literature from the Sorbonne University in 1987. She came to the French Department at Smith in 1980 and has been teaching there ever since. She regularly teaches the Intermediate language course, as well as intermediate and advanced courses in French literature, cultural studies, gastronomy, and cinema. Last year, she served as faculty guest on Smith's alumnae trip to Camon in Languedoc.

Cover photo: Visit the Dordogne River Valley, a rural idyll of hilltop castles and quaint villages. In medieval Dordogne, street lamps along ancient lanes are one of the few concessions to modernity.
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.
   • Specially arranged tour of the National Museum of Prehistory in Les Eyzies and viewing of cave friezes of L’Abri du Cap-Blanc led by Christine Desdemaines-Hugon.
   • 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 led by Christine Desdemaines-Hugon.
   • 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 led by Christine Desdemaines-Hugon.
   • 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.

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 medieval fairy tale. Explore the pastoral départements of southwest France, the medieval village of Sarlat-la-Canéda within the oak-forested Perigord 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 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.

Cruise the Dordogne River aboard a 19th-century, 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 (local residents) in the VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, and hear candid perspectives on contemporary daily life in a medieval village.

Attend a private, specially arranged presentation by a local expert on preserving Sarlat’s medieval architecture.

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 and sought 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 since that time 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 1920, 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 Center for Cave Art at Lascaux, which provides a fascinating portal into the history of the site through 600 wall painting fascimiles.

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 Enrichment: Visit Rouffignac, “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 overlooks a medieval village of golden stone houses tucked into the steep hillside. The fortress’ strategic position made it a defensive stronghold during the Hundred Years War. This masterpiece of medieval military engineering was guarded by Europe’s most illustrious figures, including the chivalrous Richard the Lionheart (1157-99) and Fourth Crusader Simon de Montfort (1175-1218). 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.

Cultural Enrichment: Cruise the tranquil 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.

Domme
Among the “most beautiful villages” of France, 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.

Savor the delights of centuries-old culinary traditions in the village of Sarlat.
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 short walk from the 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, Wi-Fi access, 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 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.

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, 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.
Included Features

- The expertise of prehistory expert Christine Desdemaines-Hugon on noted visits.

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 French country 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 épicierie gourmet.
- Visit to the medieval village and fortified church of Saint-Amand-de-Coly.
- Viewing of the acclaimed simulations of Lascaux’s prehistoric cave art at the Lascaux IV Museum.
- Private 19th-century Périgord cultural folk performance.
- Tour of the medieval Château de Beynac.
- Private, specially arranged gabare cruise along the Dordogne River, with lunch in the village of Beynac-et-Cazenac.
- Walking tour of Domme, with spectacular views of the Dordogne River Valley.
- French language introduction.

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’Abris du Cap-Blanc.
- 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.
- 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.
Saint-Émilion's landscape is devoted entirely to viticulture.

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 and endless vineyards, visit the charming village of Saint-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for growing the merlot grape, and medieval 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 incomparable scenery of the bucolic French countryside. Accommodations are for two nights each in the HOTEL 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 fortified city of Carcassonne dates from the fifth century.
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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<th>Per person, based on double occupancy</th>
<th>$3995</th>
<th>$4295</th>
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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.

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).

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:

_________________________

(fill in departure city)

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

‡ Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

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).

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by January 24, 2020.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring associations/organizations, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, officers, agents, or contractors, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to do provides goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation, rental cars, tour guides or guide services, local ground 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.

Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or care without notice. Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, riots from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overnighting or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to reassign reservations, substitute flights, to remove from a trip without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leading others, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are with the consent of the participant to whom they will be given or enforced by the captain.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any inconvenience, loss, or damage to person or property caused by changes or cancellations.

Discounts apply only to those described in the “Included Features” section of the brochure; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport, hotel, and/or cruise may be subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of increases in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased intercity or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to reassign reservations, substitute flights, to remove from a trip without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leading others, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are with the consent of the participant to whom they will be given or enforced by the captain.

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant 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 as you stroll through the grounds of Eyrignac Manor.