ITINERARY

Bordeaux and the Dordogne: Great Wine, Fine Cuisine, and History Come Alive
Led by Wendy Allen, Professor Emerita of French, and Richard Allen, Professor of Computer Science
September 24–October 5, 2018

This itinerary is subject to change due to circumstances encountered while making reservations or on-site. B, L, and D indicate included group meals.

Monday, September 24  Depart USA
Individual departures from your home town.

Tuesday, September 25  Arrive Bordeaux (D)
Upon arrival in Bordeaux, make your way to the group hotel. The program officially starts with introductions and a group welcome dinner.

Hotel x 3 nights: Hôtel Majestic (or similar), 2 rue de Condé, 33000 Bordeaux. Tel: +33 (0)5 56 52 60 44. Web: hotel-majestic.com

Wednesday, September 26  Bordeaux (B, L)
Embark with our national guide, who accompanies us throughout the program, and a local guide on a one-hour walking tour of Bordeaux. River cruise with lunch, followed by another neighborhood walking tour, and then a wine tasting. Return to our hotel by boat or tram and on foot. Evening free with dinner on your own.

Thursday, September 27  Bordeaux/Day Excursion (B, L)
This morning our motor coach takes us about 25 km to Chateau Giscours for a guided tour and wine tasting. We’ll then travel to the seaside town of Arcachon for a group lunch and guided tour. On the way back to Bordeaux, we’ll stop at Pyla Dune, “the Sahara of France,” to experience this unique phenomenon of the French Atlantic Coast.

Friday, September 28  Bordeaux – Sarlat (B, D)
We start our day with a guided tour of Saint Emillion, a charming medieval village in the middle of Bordeaux’s wine country, and the Monolithic Church, constructed in the 12th century. After lunch on your own, we’ll enjoy a wine tasting in a Grand Cru Classé vineyard. Then, transfer to Sarlat. After check-in, we’ll have a group dinner in a local restaurant.

Hotel x 7 nights: Plaza Madeleine (or similar): 1 place de la petite Rigaudie, 24200 Sarlat. Tel: +33 (0)5 53 59 10 41. Email: contact@plaza-madeleine.com. Web: plaza-madeleine.com

Saturday, September 29  Sarlat (B, D)
This morning we’ll explore our second home base with a guided walking tour including Maison de la Boétie, the fountain of Sainte-Marie, and 14th-century Hôtel Plamon, among other sites. Free time for lunch – you may wish to visit the local market, which runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We begin our afternoon on a truffle farm with an initiation by the owner Edouard, and then you can try out your newly acquired hunting skills. Finish the visit with a truffle tasting and, of course, a glass of wine. Finally,
we’ll make a visit to the cave of Cap Blanc, where, more than 15,000 years ago, our predecessors carved animal images into the limestone cliffs. We’ll cap this full day with a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Sunday, September 30  
Sarlat/Day Excursion (B, L)
Travel to Les Milandes for a guided tour. This castle is forever linked to the extraordinary personality of Josephine Baker, but is an exceptional chateau in its own right, built in 1489. We’ll enjoy a group lunch of traditional local cuisine in one of the most beautiful villages in France, Domme, followed by a guided tour of this Bastide (fortified town). Then, we’ll sail on a gabare, a traditional flat-bottomed boat originally used on the Dordogne River for transporting goods. We’ll disembark and take a guided tour of the castle of Castelnau, built in the 12th century and offering magnificent views across the surrounding countryside. Return to Sarlat for dinner on your own.

Monday, October 1  
Sarlat/Day Excursion (B, D)
We’ll start today by traveling about 22 km to the town of les Eyzies for a guided tour of the National Museum of Prehistory, features unique archaeological collections primarily discovered at the most prestigious excavation sites in the Vézère Valley. Lunch on your own in les Eyzies. Then we’ll take a guided tour of Font de Gaume, an UNESCO heritage site. First discovered in 1901, the site brought a complete revolution in the understanding of Cro-Magnon’s abilities. The polychrome animal drawings are beautifully preserved and rival those of the more well-known Lascaux, which we’ll see tomorrow. We’ll finish our day with a visit to Saint Léon sur Vezere. Group dinner at a local restaurant.

Tuesday, October 2  
Sarlat/Day Excursion (B, L)
This morning we’ll travel to Lascaux for a guided tour of the magnificent cave paintings. After a group lunch in Montignac of traditional local cuisine, we’ll continue to Rouffignac for a guided tour of the caves there, on the comfort of an electric underground train. We’ll then move to La Roque St. Christophe for a visit. Return to Sarlat for dinner on your own.

Wednesday, October 3  
Sarlat/Day Excursion (B, L)
Travel to the east about 50 km to the town of Rocamadour for a guided tour. For nearly a thousand years, the narrow, lonely canyon of the Alzou has been home to a cluster of buildings clinging to the rock halfway up sheer cliffs. Pilgrims are drawn to the Black Madonna statue. Group lunch in a local restaurant in Rocamadour. Continue to the village of Collonge la Rouge for a guided tour, including the Roman church. Return to Sarlat for dinner on your own.

Thursday, October 4  
Sarlat (B, L, D)
Today we head north about 26 km to visit the charming village of Saint-Amand-de-Coly, a traditional Dordogne village, for a guided tour. Then, we’ll visit the Castle of Losse, built in the 16th century and showcasing the grand lifestyle of the Marquess Jean II de Losse. We’ll continue to Eyrignac for lunch featuring local produce. We’ll then tour the Garden of Eyrignac, with 10 hectares of sculpted plants and a perfect example of the art of topiary in France. Return to Sarlat for our farewell dinner.

Friday, October 5  
Sarlat – Bordeaux (B)
Our motorcoach returns us to Bordeaux for individual flights home.