



## FRANCE

# DISCOVER BORDEAUX AND THE DORDOGNE VALLEY (TOUR CODE: 12409)

### STARTS AND ENDS

Bordeaux to  
Sarlat

### TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 2023 - 31 Oct 2023

### EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine  
Cultural

### TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

With this exciting 8 day journey, you will not only taste the finest wines of Bordeaux but also visit hidden gems of the Dordogne region.

## Highlights

- Admire the prestigious Bordeaux Châteaux like **Châteaux Margaux, Palmer**
- Taste some of the **renowed wines of Saint Emilion** region
- Enjoy a drive along the **Dordogne Valley!**
- Explore historic **Cave Paintings** and cruise the River Dordogne

Start your journey in **Bordeaux**, one of the most vibrant French towns classified a “City of Art and History” and home to one of Europe’s largest collection of 18th-century architecture. The area is also world famous for the quality of its wines and the tour includes visits and tastings in carefully selected châteaux.

Then, discover the exquisite **Dordogne** region. Scattered with quaint villages and medieval fortresses, the region also offers breathtaking landscapes and is a major destination for viewing Paleolithic Art.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support

- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

## INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Bordeaux at Hotel De Seze - 4\*
- 4 nights in Sarlat at Hotel Plaza Madeleine - 4\*
- Arrival Private transfer from Station to hotel in Bordeaux
- Private transfer from Bordeaux to Sarlat
- Daily Breakfast
- Small Group Tour (max 8 people) to Medoc with 3 tastings
- Small Group Tour (max 8 people) to Saint Emilion with 3 tastings
- Gourmet walking tour of Sarlat
- Half day small group tour (max 8 people) of the villages of the Dordogne Valley
- Full day Small Group tour (max 8 people) of the Paleolithic Art of the Caves
- Half day Small Group Tour (max 8 people) of Rocamadour

## ITINERARY

Day

1

### Bordeaux

Welcome to Bordeaux and you will be met by a representative at the station and be transferred to the hotel, right in the heart of the historical center.

Overnight stay in Bordeaux at **Hotel De Seze**.





## Bordeaux Saint Emilion Bordeaux

After breakfast at the hotel, meet at 9.30am at the Tourist Office of Bordeaux. Discover the Magic of the 'Right Bank' Wine Region of Bordeaux.

The wine region of **Libournais** encompasses much of what is referred to as the Right Bank. Named after its historical capital, the expression Right Bank typically refers to wines from the Pomerol and St-Emilion areas of the Libournais. There are several villages around the region that share the Saint-Émilion name, such as Montagne-Saint-Émilion and St-Georges-Saint-Émilion that are named the satellite appellations.

The area is bordered to the west by Pomerol. Merlot is the dominant grape in this area, followed by Cabernet Franc and a very small quantity of Malbec that is tending to disappear. The climate and damp, cool soils of the area make it difficult for Cabernet Sauvignon grapes to fully ripen and, as such, they are less often used. Mix Incredible Wineries with the Enchanting Village of Saint Emilion.

Today, depart for the Saint Emilion wine region and enjoy a visit and wine tasting in a famous **Classified growth Chateau of the Saint Emilion** appellation or surrounding (Pomerol, Fronsac, Lalande de Pomerol...). Then, arrive in the village and participate in another visit of a Classified Growth Chateau, followed by some free time for personal discovery and lunch. In the afternoon, after a walking tour of the village, experience another visit and wine tasting session in a local winery of the Saint Emilion appellation or surrounding (Pomerol, Fronsac, Lalande de Pomerol...). The wine tasting fees, the guided walking tour of the village and bottled water in the minivan are all included.

5.30pm return to Bordeaux.

Overnight stay in Bordeaux at **Hotel De Seze**.

Breakfast



## Bordeaux Medoc Bordeaux

After breakfast, you will start your day with a winery located along a **Full Day Including Visits to 3 Renowned Estates**.

The Medoc area covers approximately 5,700 hectares of declared vineyards, annually producing on average 300,000 hectoliters of wine. Of the grape varieties permitted, 50% of the viticultural area is planted with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, and to a lesser extent Petit Verdot and Malbec. Also allowed within the AOC regulations are the varieties Cabernet Franc and Carménère. Taste Fabulous Wines, Guided by a Knowledgeable Hand.

This morning, head towards the famous Medoc wine region with your small group tour. On this full day tour, experience 3 visits and wine tasting sessions in Classified Growth or Cru Bourgeois Wineries that have been carefully selected for their exceptional setting and quality of wine. During these visits you will learn all there is to know about the history of the estates, the wine making process as well as the techniques used during the winemaking. The visits are followed by a wine tasting session. The wineries are usually located in Margaux, Saint Julien, Pauillac or the Haut Medoc appellations. Stop along the famous Route des Chateaux for great photo opportunities.

During the day you will inevitably drive along the D2 road or Route des Chateaux as it is known locally. It is along this route that some of the most famous Wineries such as Chateau Margaux, Chateau Palmer, Chateau Latour or Chateau Pichon Longueville are located. Depending on the timing of the tour, your guide will certainly make a stop in front of one of these world renowned wineries so that you may have the opportunity to take some photos. At 6.00pm, your guide will drop you off at 12 cours du 30 Juillet, (Bordeaux) which is just at 3 minutes walking from your hotel.

Overnight stay in Bordeaux at **Hotel De Seze**.

Breakfast



Day 4

## Bordeaux Sarlat

After breakfast, private transfer from your hotel in Bordeaux to **Sarlat**.

Upon arrival in Sarlat, check in at your accommodation and rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight stay in Sarlat at **Hotel Plaza Madeleine**.

Breakfast





## Day 5

### Sarlat Domme La Roque Gageac Beynac Sarlat

After breakfast, experience the best of historic Sarlat with a 2 hour **walking tour**.

With your guide, tour the city's most notable landmarks like the **Lantern of the Dead**, a small stone tower located behind the Cathedral. Lanterns were once used to mark the location of a cemetery. The little apertures at the top of the structure where the light was shown at night gave them the name Lanterns. According to folklore, the Lantern of Sarlat was constructed to commemorate Bernard de Clairvaux's trip through the city in 1147. Another theory is that the Lantern is a representation of the dome of *the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem* as it has been depicted from the 4th century: a circular tower with an entrance on the first level and a second level covered by a canopy with 12 columns.

Continue with a visit to **Saint Sacerdos Cathedral**. The Cathedral is mainly Gothique or northern influence. The bell tower dates back to the 12th century and is the oldest part of the building with the bulbed belfry at the top being more recent as it was added in the 19th century.

Then, discover the **Old Sainte-Marie Church**, the construction of the Church dates back to the middle of the 14th century and was consecrated in 1507. By 1794 the church was abandoned and transformed into a bakery, a post office and finally sold in 1805. In 1834 the town of Sarlat bought back the land and the church was renovated. In 2001 the Church was again transformed, into the covered market you see today.

Visit **the House of La Boétie**, built in the Italian Renaissance style in 1525 and it is the birthplace of Étienne de La Boétie, a magistrate, writer, jurist, and philosopher. The façade of this Private Mansion's principal architectural characteristics are wide mullion windows flanked by pilasters carved with big medallions. In 1899, the house was designated as a historical landmark.

In the afternoon, jaunt through the breathtaking **landscape and traditional medieval villages of Dordogne Valley**.

Begin with the **Bastide Village of Domme**. The village is classified as one of the Plus Beaux Villages de France or "The Most Beautiful Villages of France". Drive to La Roque-Gageac and enjoy a peaceful cruise on the Dordogne River on board an authentic Gabarre to admire the mighty castles that line the river. The boat ride lasts about one hour (*tickets not included*) and comes highly recommended. The Gabarres are traditional flat-bottomed boats that have been used for transporting goods along the Dordogne since the Middle Ages.

Finally, **arrive at Beynac** to take in the sights of the hamlet and castle. This Middle Age structure, with its austere aspect, sits on a limestone cliff, commanding the town and the Dordogne River's north bank. The Lords of Beynac (one of Périgord's four baronies) erected the fortress to seal the valley in the 12th century. See architectural phenomenon, aided by nature, and discover more about the history of this unusual city on this half-day tour!

Return to your accommodation in Sarlat at 5:30 pm.

Overnight stay in Sarlat at **Hotel Plaza Madeleine**.

Breakfast



Day **6**

## Sarlat Les Eyzies de Tayac Sarlat

After breakfast, **discover the Paleolithic Art of the Dordogne**.

Begin the day in Les Eyzies de Tayac for a **guided visit of the National Museum of Prehistory**. Established in July 2004, the museum houses some 18,000 pieces and a collection of six million artifacts. The museum possesses the largest collection of prehistoric artifacts in the world. Follow your guide and discover the main chapters of the Hominids' development through an anthropological frieze and a brief reminder of Africa's history, starting with the early Australopithecus. Visit the permanent exhibit galleries that will plunge you into the mists of time, revealing seven sequences that cover the entire Paleolithic era through an "ideal historiography".

Enjoy some free time for lunch (at your own expense) in Montignac or a village in the Dordogne region. Ask your guide for recommendations.

**Visit the brand new Lascaux IV Cave** in Montignac – which opened in December 2016. Follow your guide and take some time to visit the exhibitions and the Centre for Prehistoric Cave Art.

Complete your journey with a visit to **Rouffignac Cave**, which has state-of-the-art original cave paintings as well as real etchings and sketches. François de Belleforest first described the Rouffignac Cave in 1575. He mentioned "paintings and animal trails" in his "Cosmographie Universelle". The cave was formerly a popular tourist destination in the 19th century. Famous archaeologists like as Henri Breuil, André Glory, and Martel visited the cave in the early 20th century, but it wasn't until 1956 that two prehistorians from the Pyrenees, Louis-René Nougier and Romain Robert, found and validated the cave art.

After the visit, return to Sarlat around 06.00pm.

Overnight stay in Sarlat at **Hotel Plaza Madeleine**.

Breakfast



## Day 7

### Sarlat Rocamadour Sarlat

After breakfast, meet your English speaking driver-guide at Place Pasteur and depart for the village of **Rocamadour**.

Miraculous rock, collection of tales, legends and beliefs, sanctuary of the Black Virgin, pilgrimage site: the Village of Rocamadour is all of this at the same time. The old medieval houses, the towers and fortifications, the oratories all tumble along the steep cliff that dominates the Alzou Canyon. The whole site is topped off by the castle and its dungeon and the seven sanctuaries. Your guide will certainly stop here for a breathtaking view of the whole site that make for fantastic photo opportunities.

You will follow a guided walking tour of the village and then enjoy some free time for lunch. Rocamadour is without a doubt one of the most beautiful villages of the area. Classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site as it is located on the way to Santiago de Compostela (St James Way), the main attraction of the village lies in its sanctuaries especially that of Notre Dame that bears a statue of the Black Virgin.

The visit of the village can be difficult for those with walking difficulties due to the step paths and steps, but please note that you may access the sanctuaries by lift (tickets not included in price). For lunch, there are many restaurants & snacks to be found in the village and your guide will make suggestions depending on what type of meal you are looking for.

Overnight stay in Sarlat at **Hotel Plaza Madeleine**.

Breakfast





Day **8**

## Sarlat

Your package ends this morning after breakfast at the hotel.

Breakfast

## OPTIONAL EXTRAS



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## 1 additional Pre-night in Bordeaux

Add 1 extra night at the beginning of your package and extend your stay in Bordeaux!



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

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# ACCOMMODATION

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## Hotel De Seze

### Bordeaux

Located in the heart of Bordeaux, the **Hôtel de Sèze** is part of the great French hotel tradition with 55 rooms (including 3 suites) and plays the card of the cozy spirit with its services: the **Comptoir De Seze Restaurant** and its bistronomic cuisine, the Bar and its lounges , smoking room, and cigar cellar, the Spa , a true temple of well-being exclusively for customers. This elegant hotel proposes rooms that blend harmoniously decorated in the sprit of the 18th century with exclusive furnitures. The color and decoration of bold wallpaper deliver an intimate and cozy ambiance.



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## Hotel Plaza Madeleine

### Sarlat

The hotel is located in the heart of Sarlat with direct access to the medieval city, its market and entertainment. Contemporary, opulent decor, relaxed atmosphere, quality of services, Plaza Madeleine is also recognized in the major national guides. For your enjoyment, it now has a heated pool, a wellness center!





# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
French	EUR

- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.
- The tours included in the package are subject to change upon booking confirmation.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

## Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package