

ATLANTIC COAST TO MEDITERRANEAN SEA: A SIGHTSEEING ESCPADE FROM BORDEAUX TO BARCELONA

ESCORTED TOUR - 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, come and discover some of the most beautiful provinces of southern France on this unique 9-day tour that will take you from Bordeaux to Barcelona. Meet 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 mighty medieval fortresses, the area also offers breathtaking landscapes and is a major destination for viewing Paleolithic Art. Move on to the Languedoc area to discover Albi and its remarkable Toulouse-Lautrec museum as well as the medieval fortress of Carcassonne surrounded by 2000-year-old ramparts. Finally, after visiting one of the most beautiful coastal villages of France, renowned for its natural 'light' that has attracted painters such as Henri Matisse or André Derain, reach Barcelona one of the most exhilarating cities of Europe.

ITINERARY



DAY 1 – WELCOME TO BORDEAUX

Arrival in Bordeaux

Arrive in Bordeaux on and check in at your hotel located in the center of the city. Enjoy a dinner on your own in the lively streets of Bordeaux.

DAY 2 - BORDEAUX GOURMET TOUR / MEDOC WINE TOUR

Breakfast at your hotel.

10.00am Pick up at your hotel.

Experience Gastronomical pleasures & Cultural Highlights of Bordeaux

This morning, depart for a guided walking tour of Bordeaux featuring a mix of historical landmarks and local culinary delights. Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the port city boasts more protected buildings than any other French city after Paris. Discover big-ticket attractions such as Saint Andrew's Cathedral or the neoclassical Grand Theater. Between landmarks you will have the opportunity to stop and savor some regional delicacies, including the famous canelé pastry. After the tour, your guide will lead you to lunch at a local restaurant specializing in French cheese where you will have the opportunity to sample several varieties along with wine pairings.



Discover the Magic of the Medoc Wines

In the afternoon, head towards one of the most renowned wine producing areas of Bordeaux, the Medoc. As you follow the 'Château Road' that is lined with some of the most famous wineries of Bordeaux, stop and participate in a visit & wine tasting session at Château du Tertre in the Margaux appellation. This winery is one of sixty in the Medoc region that was classified as a Bordeaux 'Grand Cru' in 1855 at the request of Emperor Napoleon III for the World's Fair in Paris, a status still retained today. Upon arrival, enjoy a private visit of the Château as you tour the grounds, see the vines, discover the Vat House and cellar. This exclusive visit also includes a vertical tasting of three vintages of Château du Tertre wines.



Our next stop will be at Château Siran also located in the Margaux area. Here, you will follow the "Wine Lover" tour to discover the old wine cellar, today an exhibition area for a superb family collection of over 300 wine-related objects. Then visit the "Bacchus Bunker" and discover the Château's wine collection that spans from 1912 to 2012. Your visit will end with a comparative tasting of 3 different wines.

6.30pm Return to Bordeaux and night at your hotel.

DAY 3 – ST EMILION WINE REGION FULL DAY TOUR

Breakfast at your hotel and check out.

9.00am Pick up at your hotel.

Today the wine region known as the Libournais is on your program. Located on the right bank of the River Garonne, you will discover the beautiful region and village of Saint Emilion, a UNESCO world heritage site also famed for its Merlot based wines.





Mix Incredible Wines & the Enchanting Village of Saint Emilion

Concerning the wines of Saint Emilion, known as the right bank, the Romans were the ones who originally planted the vineyards as early as the 2nd century. Reminders of the Roman techniques of wine planting can be seen in some of the estates such as chateau Bellevue, owned by world famous Angelus winery.

Begin your tour with the visit of a carefully selected Winery that elaborates complex Merlot based red wines. After a short introduction about the history of the domain, you will follow a short tour through the technical installations of the winery, ending with an explanation about the oak barrels and the aging process. Your tour of the winery will end with a commented tasting of the Chateau wines that will reveal the different characteristics and aromas of the wines produced here.



St. Emilion village

Continue to one of the most charming villages of the region, enjoy a tour on your own. The history of the village goes back to medieval times and the whole jurisdiction is classified as UNESCO World Heritage for its natural landscape. St Emilion is made up of fascinating Romanesque churches and ruins stretching all along steep and narrow streets. The village was named after the monk Émilian, a traveling confessor, who settled in a hermitage carved into the rock in the 8th century. Enjoy a lunch at leisure in the village.



Transfer to the Dordogne Region

After lunch, reach the Dordogne region, which is renowned for its numerous medieval castles and magnificent caves housing prehistoric works of art. By late afternoon you will reach the town of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil where you will be based to discover this fascinating area.

5.00pm Arrive in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil and check in at your hotel.

7.30pm Diner at your hotel.

DAY 4 - SARLAT MARKET & THE DORDOGNE VALLEY

Breakfast at your hotel.

9.00am Pick up at your hotel.

A Lively Morning at Sarlat's Market

This morning, depart for a guided walking tour of Sarlat. A picturesque tangle of honey-colored buildings, alleyways and secret squares make up the lovely town which boasts some of the region's best-preserved medieval architecture.

Today is also market day in Sarlat, a perfect opportunity for you to taste and shop for local specialties that will be enjoyed later in the day during a picnic lunch. After free time for shopping at the market, head for the Dordogne valley to view some of the most beautiful villages of the area.



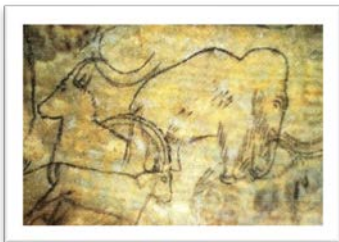


A wonderful afternoon exploring the marvellous Dordogne Valley

Arrive in the village of La Roque Gageac and settle down in a shaded area for a picnic lunch to enjoy the local delicacies that you bought during your Sarlat market tour. The setting is perfect with the Dordogne River on one side and the medieval village, built alongside the steep limestone cliff, on the other. After lunch, embark on a traditional Gabarre, or flat-bottomed boat, that was used for transporting goods along the Dordogne since the Middle Ages. As you slowly cruise down the Dordogne River, admire the Castles of La Malartrie, Castelnaud as well as the Gardens of Marqueyssac. After the boat ride, you will be taken to the village of Beynac.

Beynac village, classified as one of the most beautiful villages of France, has managed to retain all of its medieval charms. As you stroll through the paved and steep little lanes, reach the top of the village where the imposing medieval fortress of Beynac awaits. Here, as you walk along the ramparts you will certainly be stunned by the amazing view over the Dordogne Valley, probably one of the most emblematic the region has to offer. Here you will have some free time for personal discovery.

5.00pm Return to Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil and night at your hotel.



DAY 5 - PALEOLITHIC ART IN THE VEZERE VALLEY

Breakfast at your hotel.

9.00am Pick up at your hotel.

A full day Understanding the History of Cave Paintings

Our first stop of the day is the Rouffignac Cave that possesses original and authentic etchings and drawings. Famous archaeologists like Henry Breuil, André Glory and Martel had visited the cave in the early 20th century, but it was only in 1956 when Louis-René Nougier and Romain Robert visited the cave that the Paleolithic Art was confirmed. Here, you will be taken to the prehistoric art on an electric train, a journey deep into the cave that lasts about an hour. The most striking aspect of the art in this cave is the sheer number of mammoths. In Europe, there are about 350 caves with prehistoric art in them – about a third of all depictions of mammoths are in the cave of Rouffignac.

Immerse yourself in the Incredible Lascaux IV Cave Complex

Arrive in the town of Montignac and enjoy some free time for personal discovery and lunch. Then depart for the nearby Lascaux IV, which has been initiated to conserve the integrity of the original cave complex, permanently closed to the public since 1963, while ensuring that visitors can still appreciate the remarkable Paleolithic paintings within. Inaugurated at the end of 2016, the reproduction of the cave of Lascaux is the focal point of the International Center for Parietal Art in Montignac, in which state of the art digital technologies are used for presentation and interpretative purposes. Begin the tour on the observation deck located on the roof of the building where you will appreciate expansive views over Lascaux's surroundings. From here you will follow a slightly sloping path as if walking on the edge of the forest until you arrive at the entrance to the replica, which has been designed to reproduce the setting and experience of the four teenagers when they found the cave in 1940. Then reach the actual replica that covers 100% of the original cave. Inside it is dark, damp and the sound is muffled; just as it is in the real cave. The visit ends with the Cave Art World Tour gallery where images from painted caves around the World are projected onto interlocking domes and an interactive gallery that explores the link between cave art and modern art.

4.00pm Return to Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil.





7.30pm Meet in the lobby of your hotel and depart for dinner at a nearby rustic inn that offers local, homemade cuisine in their restaurant situated next to an old mill and a babbling brook.

10.00pm Return to your hotel and night in Les Eyziez-de-Tayac-Sireuil.



DAY 6 - ROCAMADOUR / CAHORS / CORDES / ALBI

Breakfast at your hotel and check out

8.30am Pick up at your hotel.

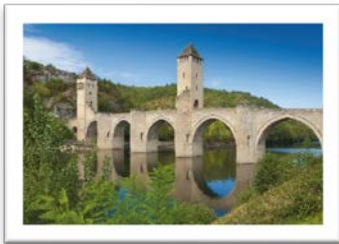
Picturesque Villages and Historic Monuments Of the Quercy Region

Today you leave the Dordogne region to discover some of the most charming villages that the Midi-Pyrénées region has to offer. Your first stop will be in the breathtaking village of Rocamadour that has attracted visitors because of its incredible setting in a gorge above a tributary of the Dordogne River. The village is renowned for its historical monuments and its sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which for centuries has brought pilgrims from every country.

Then, depart for the town of Cahors for lunch at a traditional restaurant serving local specialties. With its dramatic location on a U-shaped bend in the Lot River, Cahors has a long history with roots dating back to Celtic times before the Romans conquered it around the year 50 BCE. It quickly became one of the largest Roman cities and contains many ancient ruins that can still be seen today. Nowadays the town is also appreciated for its delightful medieval quarter whose highlight is the fortified 14th-century Valentré bridge, which you will have the chance to see before heading to your next destination.

Your final visit will be that of Cordes sur Ciel. The village is a living piece of history and art, holding alive in its stones the memory of all those who have passed through it since its creation in 1222 by the Count of Toulouse. Its exceptional site and remarkable architectural heritage make it one of the most significant medieval cities of France.

5.30pm Arrive in Albi and check in at your hotel.



DAY 7 - ALBI / CASTRES / CARCASSONNE

Breakfast at your hotel and check out.

9.00am Pick up at your hotel.

Visit the Birthplace & Dedicated Museum of Iconic French Artist Toulouse-Lautrec

This morning, follow your guide on a private walking tour that will take you through the Episcopal City of Albi centered around two immense medieval buildings: The Saint-Cecile Cathedral, the largest brick-built cathedral in the world, and the Berbie Palace, the former fortified residence of the bishops of Albi now the home to the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum, the largest public collection of the artist's work. More than 1,000 works, including his famous posters, are housed in this impressive 'palace' museum. Follow your guide for the visit of the museum and then stop for lunch in the town of Castres before departing for the walled city of Carcassonne.

4.00pm Arrive in Carcassonne and check in at your hotel.





Get the expert take on wonderful Carcassonne

While your luggage is being brought to your hotel, follow your guide on a private walking tour of the Carcassonne Citadel - one of the most striking walled settlements in the whole of Europe – during which you will discover the amazing stained-glass windows of the Saint Nazari Basilica, the lists, the Roman walls...

You will also have the opportunity to follow your guide along the ramparts to discover the Cité from above with the visit of the Counts castle included. Afterward enjoy some free time for personal discovery and dinner on your own, perhaps sampling the local dish known as cassoulet.



DAY 8 – COLLIOURE VILLAGE / BARCELONA

Breakfast at your hotel and check out.

9.00am Pick up at your hotel.

Collioure village discovery and arrival in Barcelona

This morning, depart for French Catalonia and arrive in the small fishing village of Collioure. The small Catalan port is sheltered by a creek where the waters of the Mediterranean meet the rocks of the Pyrenees mountain chain.



An exceptionally sunny climate ensured by the Tramontana wind from the north makes Collioure a unique location that has inspired many painters and artists. Picasso, Derain, Dufy, Chagall, Matisse and Marquet have all stopped in Collioure to capture its special light and to immortalize the small harbor in their works. Called the City of Painters, the village continues to host artists from all backgrounds and is home to more than 40 art galleries.

After a guided walking tour of the village, we have organized a special farewell lunch as the end of the tour approaches. Celebrate the culmination of your journey while dining on fresh seafood in an exceptional location overlooking the sparkling waters of the Mediterranean with a direct view of the magnificent Royal Castle of Collioure. After lunch, depart for Barcelona.

4.30pm Arrive in Barcelona and check in at your hotel.



DAY 9 - BARCELONA

Breakfast at your hotel and end of our services.

MAP OF ITINERARY



DAY 1 > ARRIVAL IN BORDEAUX / WELCOME DINNER

DAY 2 > GUIDED GOURMET WALKING TOUR OF BORDEAUX / MARGAUX HALF DAY WINE TOUR

DAY 3 > SAINT-ÉMILION HALF DAY WINE TOUR & TRANSFER TO LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC-SIREUIL

DAY 4 > SARLAT GUIDED WALKING TOUR / DORDOGNE VALLEY TOUR

DAY 5 > PALEOLITHIC ART OF THE VEZERE VALLEY

DAY 6 > ROCAMADOUR / CAHORS & CORDES-SUR-CIEL VILLAGES / TRANSFER TO ALBI

DAY 7 > ALBI GUIDED WALKING TOUR / TRANSFER TO CARCASSONNE & GUIDED WALKING TOUR

DAY 8 > COLLIOURE FISHING VILLAGE VISIT & FAREWELL LUNCH / TRANSFER TO BARCELONA

DAY 9 > BARCELONA END OF OUR SERVICES

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATION



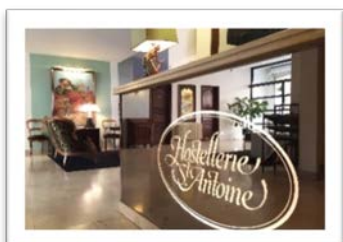
BORDEAUX – HOTEL DE SEZE** Superior room**

Located at the corner of the Allées de Tourny and Rue de Sèze in Bordeaux, the Hôtel de Sèze, a well-known local landmark, is delighted to welcome you to their 4-star universe. The beautiful 18th century Hôtel de Sèze, with its illuminated façade, splendid corbels and wrought-iron balconies, proudly stands out from surrounding buildings.



LES EYZIES-DE-TAYAC-SIREUIL – HOTEL LE CENTENAIRE***

Le Centenaire combines the warmth and charm of a private home with the refined character of an upscale hotel in the heart of the village of Les Eyziez-de-Tayac-Sireuil. The hotel opened in 1964, one hundred years after the discovery of the first prehistoric site, and is ideally situated nearby the caves and decorated grottoes that give this area the title of Prehistoric Capital of the World. Fully renovated in 2013, Le Centenaire provides fantastic views of the surrounding cliffs and offers a large heated swimming pool, shady terraces and a cozy lounge bar.



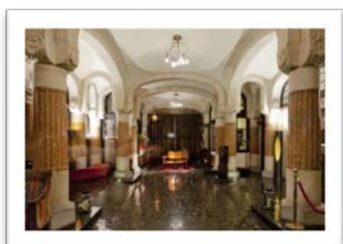
ALBI – HOTEL SAINT ANTOINE** Privilege room**

Five generations of the same family have overseen this unique hotel with its relaxed air of sophistication and palpable sense of ancestral history. Hotel Saint Antoine is located in the heart of Albi on a peaceful little street just a few steps away from the Tarn River. The spacious rooms are decorated with mostly antique furniture to give a whisper of the past while every attention has been paid to providing all the modern comforts one expects of a 4-star hotel.



CARCASSONNE – BEST WESTERN LE DONJON LES REMPARTS** Superior Room**

Experience the medieval city of Carcassonne like a true local during your stay at the Hotel Le Donjon, which is strategically located within the ramparts of the citadel. Superior rooms offer magnificent views of either the hotel's private and luxurious garden or the impressive ramparts that are some of the most well-preserved in Europe. You will surely feel the magic of Carcassonne come alive after dark when you spend the night at this special luxury hotel.



BARCELONA – HOTEL CASA FUSTER*****

Built in 1908 and fully refurbished in 2004, the hotel was born after the renovation of the emblematic Modernist building known as "Casa Fuster", designed by the famous Catalan architect Lluís Domènech i Montaner, whose Modernist works have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. The "casa" was a gift from Señor Fuster to his wife, with the intention of making the city more beautiful. Its chic furniture follows Modernist-style guidelines and is combined with contemporary design to keep in the spirit of the surrounding Eixample district.

TOUR INFORMATION

INFORMATION

- Tour is limited to 16 guests
- Tour is operated in English
- Tour begins in Bordeaux and ends in Barcelona
- This tour is not wheelchair accessible

INCLUSIONS

1. 2-night accommodation in 4* hotel in central Bordeaux
2. 3-night accommodation in 3* hotel in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil
3. 1-night accommodation in 4* hotel in central Albi
4. 1-night accommodation in 4* hotel in Carcassonne
5. 1-night accommodation in 5* hotel in central Barcelona
6. Breakfast from day 2 to 9
7. Travel in recent, comfortable and fully equipped minibus
8. Services of an expert English speaking accredited guide – except on day 2
9. Welcome dinner in Bordeaux on Day 1
10. Private guided gourmet walking tour in Bordeaux
11. Wine & cheese pairing lunch in Bordeaux on Day 2
12. Exclusive visit and vertical tasting at Château du Tertre winery
13. "Wine Lover" Tour visit at Château Siran winery
14. Visit and tasting at Château Siaurac winery
15. Dinner at your hotel in Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil on Day 3
16. Private guided walking tour of Sarlat, Rocamadour, Albi and Carcassonne
17. Visit of Beynac, La Roque-Gageac and Cordes sur Ciel villages
18. Boat ride on the Dordogne River
19. Visit of Rouffignac cave and Lascaux IV center for Parietal Art
20. Dinner at a local rustic inn in Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil on Day 5
21. Lunch in Cahors on Day 6
22. Guided tour of the Toulouse Lautrec museum in Albi
23. Lunch in Castres on Day 7
24. Private guided walking tour of Collioure fishing village
25. Farewell lunch in Collioure on day 8
26. All entrance fees for activities, monuments, museums, wine tastings mentioned in program
27. Bottled water in the minibus

EXCLUSIONS

1. Meals, drinks unless specified in itinerary
2. Social drinks, items of personal nature, room service in hotels
3. Laundry costs, shipping charges including for the return of lost items
4. Personal travel insurance
5. Entrance fees to monuments, museums, attractions unless specified in itinerary
6. Driver/Guide gratuities at your own discretion